

Tasmanians currently pay a fire levy via our annual council rates. The amount we pay no longer covers the cost of fire and emergency preparedness and management.

This does not mean that Tasmanian ratepayers have capacity to foot the bill.

Modelling of these proposals presents an increase to the fire levy we currently pay through our rates of some 378%.

This sort of proposed increase really needs to be addressed at a State level and not just shift it on for councils to message their ratepayers who are already struggling due numerous other to cost-of-living imposts.

This funding requirement is likely to increase as the effects of global warming become more severe. Councils are already expending vastly increased levels of both revenue and capital finance in an attempt to minimise or reduce their impact on the world's environment (paid for through our rates) and a more centralised and better coordinated response to these funding options are needed from our State Government taking a more active lead in directly funding these needs.

Nigel Shearer



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