



Rate Cap's Effect on Rates

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to remind residents of how the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates program will affect their upcoming rates notice for 2016/17.

A common misconception is that the 2.5 percent rate cap is applied universally to all rate notices. However the rate cap applies to the overall rate revenue collected by Council, not individual properties.

Waste Charges (charged by Council) and the Fire Services Property Levy (determined by State Government) are exempt from the rate cap.

This year rates notices will also be affected by property revaluations as Council is required by law to review valuations every two years based on market movements and recent sales trends.

The overall amount of rates that Council receives will not increase but the percentage residents pay of the overall general rates may change if your property has increased or decreased in value.

South Gippsland Mayor, Councillor Bob Newton said it was important for all residents to be aware of how their rates notice is calculated.

"We want to ensure that residents are mindful of how the rate cap will affect their rates notice to avoid any misunderstanding if they can't grasp the changes.

"Council charges rates equitably by using property values to fairly distribute rates charged across the municipality.

"Rates revenue provides Council with the income to undertake over 150 services for our local community and is vital in maintaining community quality of life," said the Mayor.

Any individuals needing more information about their rates can visit Council's website at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/rates.

PR1879 21/7/16