



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tasmanians for Reform have got it wrong again

“Yet again, Tasmanians for Reform have been deliberately simplistic in their analysis of Local Government,” said Local Government Association of Tasmania Chief Executive Officer, Allan Garcia.

“Far from being massive and unnecessary, council rate increases represent the increasing demands on councils for new or enhanced services, well beyond those they are statutorily accountable for, as well as increasing infrastructure and regulatory costs,” Mr Garcia said.

“The Consumer Price Index is not a good benchmark for council rates and bears no resemblance to council cost structures, which are largely driven by infrastructure and salaries.”

“The Council Cost Index for Tasmania reflects the true cost of doing business for councils and this year, has gone up to 3.05%,” Mr Garcia said.

“The Council Cost Index indicates the average rate increase required to maintain current levels of service, assuming other revenue sources, such as grants, also increase in line with costs.”

LGAT President, Mayor Barry Easter said, “The increasing regulatory requirements for Local Government business are the main driver of salary costs, and a significant factor in infrastructure costs is the depreciation standards imposed which are beyond that required of other levels of government.”

“Councils are very considered when setting rates and must balance budget efficiencies with consideration of community priorities, as identified through strategic planning and long-term infrastructure requirements,” Mayor Easter said.

For media interviews, please contact Mayor Barry Easter on 0408 334 936.