

ENVIRONMENT PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

BUDGET BRIEF

TOPIC: Fees and charges

Talking Points

- The Directorate will be increasing fees and charges for the 2017-18 financial year to better reflect cost of service, an agreed increase in the Wage Price Index of 2% and specific Budget Cabinet decisions.
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Key information

- Budget Cabinet approved adjustments to several fees and charges, as follows:
 - An increase to the existing Building Levy to fund improved building certification, implementation of building policy reforms and a building audit program. The fee increase is budgeted to generate \$2.2m in additional revenue in the first year;
 - An increase to all campground fees by 20 per cent across ACT Parks and Conservation campgrounds. This fee increase is budgeted to generate \$0.030m in the first year; and
 - The Directorate has increased the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC) by 3% as per the Government's decision in the 2017-18 Budget, this is expected to generate \$2.1m over three years, and this will be passed back to Treasury.
- A new fee is proposed that recognises the reduced workload required for land rent payout applications submitted by a solicitor using the current Unimproved Capital Value. The old fee still applies where the applicant is not a solicitor.
- Estimated revenue collection for 2017-18:

○ Lease Variation Charges	\$22.481 million
○ Development Applications	\$ 6.177 million
○ Lease Administration	\$ 2.256 million
○ Land Revenue	\$20.638 million
- The increase of \$5.501 million in the 2016-17 estimated outcome from the original budget is mainly due to a change in the accounting treatment for revenue transferred to Controlled under the Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Scheme (\$3.624 million). Previously the transfer to Controlled was net off against the revenue from electricity suppliers. It is now shown as an expense item. The estimate for Lease Variation Charge is also higher following an increase in building activity (\$2.162 million).

- The increase of \$44.229 million in the 2016-17 estimated outcome from the original budget is mainly due to the transfer of land revenue from the land release program from TCCS on 1 July 2016.