



# Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday, 13 August 2019

### **GOVERNMENT ASSISTS HAWKESBURY CITY, HILLS AND HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCILS PAY EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY INCREASE**

The NSW Government will fund the increase in the emergency services levy for Hawkesbury City Council, Hills Shire Council and Hornsby Shire Council to meet the cost of new workers' compensation for firefighters, Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP said today.

Ms Preston said the Councils would receive \$691,000 between the three of them to assist them to pay the increase in the emergency services levy this financial year to help support firefighters with cancer.

"The Government acknowledges that this additional cost presented some challenges for our local Councils," Ms Preston said.

"We also acknowledge that our local councils had already set their 2019-20 Budgets before the invoices for the increased emergency services levy were issued and this has caused some angst.

"That's why the Government will provide Hawkesbury City Council, Hills Shire Council and Hornsby Shire Council \$149,716, \$283,515 and \$257,795 respectively this financial year to alleviate the immediate pressure on our local Councils.

"I am pleased that our local Councils are receiving this financial contribution which will help keep their 2019-20 Budget in check."

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said the Government would provide \$13.6 million to the State's 128 Councils to assist pay the increase in the emergency services levy to help fund workers' compensation for firefighters.

"Our emergency services have long been funded through a cost sharing arrangement between insurers, Councils and the Government and it's important that this continues to ensure we look after the health and wellbeing of our frontline firefighters," Mrs Hancock said.

"We have listened to the concerns of local Councils and will continue to consult with them to better manage the impacts of the emergency services levy especially on their annual budgeting cycles.

"It is clear that both State and local governments acknowledge the importance of providing support for those emergency services workers who have given so much to protect communities and I look forward to continuing to work with local Councils to ensure this is the case."

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