



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



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COST OF LIVING ATTACK ON ELLENBROOK FAMILIES AND PENSIONERS

The Barnett Government has continued their attack on Ellenbrook families by imposing a 100 per cent increase in the emergency services levy (ESL), Labor Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti said today.

Ms Saffioti believes Ellenbrook families had suffered the greatest cost of living increases in the Perth metropolitan area.

Ms Saffioti said around 12,000 homes in and around Ellenbrook had the massive increase in the ESL imposed on their rates notices issued recently. This is on top of the massive new drainage levy introduced this year for the first time in Ellenbrook.

The increase in the ESL follows a review of the ESL category boundaries by the Government since the opening of the Ellenbrook Fire Station in 2010.

Ms Saffioti said she was surprised and shocked that the Barnett Government chose to make all of these increases in one financial year.

An analysis of increases in household charges this year for Ellenbrook shows that Ellenbrook families have been hit far greater than other households.

State Budget papers show this financial year that the standard WA family is experiencing a \$205 increase in household charges. Meanwhile Ellenbrook families will be experiencing increases worth over \$400 in one year.

On top of this, Ellenbrook residents have been hit with increases in City of Swan rates, partly fuelled by increases in electricity prices by the Barnett Government, who refused to subsidise these increases.

Ms Saffioti said the Barnett Government's decision to apply these massive increases in just one year showed it had completely lost touch with the local community and could have considered transitioning these price increases.

"Instead Ellenbrook families and pensioners have been forced to experience these massive shocks in an extremely short timeframe," she said.

"Ellenbrook is experiencing the worst cost of living pressures under Barnett Government than any other suburb.

"At a time when consumer confidence is low and high cost of living pressures are taking its toll, the Barnett Government has inflicted the highest cost of living pain on Ellenbrook than anywhere else."

Ms Saffioti said it was shameful that the people of Ellenbrook are continually being forced to pay the price for a Liberal Government with no understanding of the financial pain many WA families are under.

"Western Australians have had enough of the Barnett Government's savage increases to household bills," she said.

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**INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT CHARGES FOR A STANDARD HOUSEHOLD FROM
2010-11 TO 2011-12**

	Standard Household	Ellenbrook Household
Electricity	72.14	72.14
Water	67.26	67.26
Sewerage	28.00	28.00
Drainage	2.60	105.25
Emergency Services Levy	10.00	118.56
Other	25.66	25.66
Total	\$205.66	\$416.87

Standard Household figures taken from 2011-12 State Budget Papers, page 299, BP 3 Economic and Fiscal Outlook

Ellenbrook figures are based on a Gross Rental Value of 20,800, based on an average rent of \$400 per week. Drainage levy and ESL are based on this GRV.