

HOUSEHOLD FEES AND CHARGES

Household fees and charges will go up 4.8% or \$292 for the 'representative' household. This is the second year of significant increases, with last budget increasing fees and charges for the representative household by \$438 (+7.7%). WA households are clearly struggling with these hikes. The 2016-17 financial year took Western Australia from having the lowest residential energy disconnection rates in the country, to the highest. Synergy recorded their highest number of disconnections since the Economic Regulation Authority began reporting. Considering the hikes in the last two budgets, with no improvements having been made to the adequacy of the concessions system, the number of households struggling to cover bills will only increase.

Electricity

- An increase of 7% to the residential A1/A2 tariff or \$120.57 for the representative household
- This will be followed by followed by 5.6% in 2019-20, 3.5% in 2020-2021 and 1.8% in 2021-22
- Despite the 7% increase in 2018-19, residential electricity tariffs remain 3.1% below cost-reflective levels
- Community and charitable organisations are going to see an increase of 4.7% to their electricity tariff, followed by a further 4.6% in 2020-21

Water

- Tariffs increase by 6% for the majority of services provided by the Water Corporation in 2018-19
- Standard fixed water service charges increased by 3%
- 40% increase for metropolitan residential water customers that consume more than 500 kilolitres of water per annum; and
- 15% increase for country residential water customers that consume more than 300 kilolitres of water per annum in Country South and 500 kilolitres of water in Country North
- It is assumed that water, sewerage, and drainage tariffs increase by 2.5% per annum from 2019-20 to 2021-22

For the 'representative' household that pays a fixed service charge, consumes 240kL, and owns and occupies a property that has an average gross rental value, this will result in a 5.5% increase.

Public Transport

Public transport fare changes from 1 July 2018 will include:

- a 1.5% increase to standard public transport fares (rounded to the nearest 10 cents);
- concession fares increasing from 41% to 42% of standard fares;

There will be no changes to:

- the 70 cent school student fare;
- SmartRider discounts, which will remain at 20% for Autoload and 10% for Other reload; and
- \$2 per day parking fee

Motor Vehicles

- Vehicle licence charge has increased by 5.8% or \$20.48
- Drivers licence by 3.7% or \$3.10
- Motor Injury Insurance by 2.4% or \$9.18
- Recording fees decreased by \$1.10 or 9%

This a total overall increase of 3.8% or \$31.66 for the representative household.

Emergency Services Levy

The Emergency Services Levy is increasing by 10.1% or \$28 for the representative household in 2018-19.

Concessions

- A further \$3.5 million has been allocated to the HUGS in 2018-19 to meet anticipated demand
- An additional \$6 million will be spent on financial counselling services between 2019-20 and 2021-22
- From 2019-20, all applications for HUGS grants will be assessed by financial counselling service providers.

The removal of indexation for the Local Government Rates Rebate cap will generate savings of \$8.5 million from 2018-19 to 2021-22, which will be used to fund an equivalent increase over the same period in payments on grants and financial counselling services associated with HUGS.

Other Fees

Increases to a number of fees administered by the Department of Justice, including court and tribunal fee increases of 7.5% in 2018-19.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE 'REPRESENTATIVE' HOUSEHOLD

	2017-18 \$ level	% change	\$ change	2018-19 \$ level
Motor Vehicles ^(a)				
Vehicle licence charge	353.48	5.8	20.48	373.96
Recording fee	12.10	-9.1	-1.10	11.00
Drivers licence	85.00	3.7	3.10	88.10
Motor Injury Insurance (MII)	382.60	2.4	9.18	391.79
Total	833.18	3.8	31.66	864.85
Utility Charges ^(b)				
Electricity ^(c)	1,722.53	7.0	120.57	1,843.10
Water, sewerage and drainage ^{(d)(e)}	1,642.91	5.5	91.04	1,733.95
Total	3,365.44	6.3	211.61	3,577.05
Public Transport ^(f)				
Student fares	364.00	-	-	364.00
Standard fares (2 zones)	977.60	2.1	20.80	998.40
Total	1,341.60	1.6	20.80	1,362.40
Emergency Services Levy ^(e)	278.00	10.1	28.00	306.00
Stamp Duty ^(g)				
Stamp duty on general insurance ^(h)	177.54	-	-	177.54
Stamp duty on MII	39.18	-	-	39.18
Total	216.72	-	-	216.72
Total Expenditure	6,034.94	4.8	292.07	6,327.02