

## **MAYORAL MEDIA RELEASE**

**ISSUED 22 APRIL 2016**

Litchfield Council's Mayor, Cr Maree Bredhauer has urged ratepayers who still have not paid their rates for 2015/2016 to contact Council as soon as possible to pay immediately or to discuss a payment plan.

'Council has several options for those experiencing financial hardship, however you need to get in touch with us so we can work out an alternative option', the Mayor said.

'The problem with not paying your rates or not having a payment plan is that you are charged interest from the last day those rates were due. That means you are accumulating an even larger debt and that is not good for you or your credit rating', the Mayor said.

'But there is an even greater problem', said the Mayor. 'The whole community wears it when you cannot pay. If Council does not receive your rates, it cannot afford to spend on the services, facilities and projects that were planned to be delivered'.

Mayor Bredhauer said that 11% of all rates from 2015/2016 were still outstanding, and whilst this is a better figure for outstanding rates than in recent years, it means that 11% of the funds Council anticipated are not in the bank – they are not available for things the community expects Council to deliver.

'I want to say thank you to all those who have paid their rates on time, or in the last month. But to those whose rates are still outstanding I want to say – please get in touch with us. Council is only too happy to work something out'.

'There may be some who have moved in the last year or who have changed their contact details and they have not realised their rates are overdue because they have not received the rates notice. Again I urge them to get in touch with us and let us know', the Mayor said.

Council uses the income from property rates to fund everything from maintaining roads and drainage, building new roads and drainage, weed spraying and slashing, animal management, maintaining Council reserves, running the waste transfer stations, street lighting, community grants and working with the Northern Territory government to ensure planned and sustainable development.

'It is really important for the whole Litchfield community that we deliver what we said we were going to deliver', said Mayor Bredhauer.

'We need those rates, and we need them sooner rather than later'.

To pay your rates or arrange a payment plan, contact Litchfield Council on 8983 0600.

#### LITCHFIELD MUNICIPALITY FAST FACTS

- There are over 8,300 rateable properties.
- Council levies fixed amount rates for residential allotments and valuation based rates for commercial allotments.
- The municipality covers an area of over 3,100kms sq.
- The area boasts seven recreation reserves and three waste transfer stations.

For Further Information:

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