



**Hon David Templeman MLA
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the
Arts**

Our ref 66-14523

Cr Michelle Rich
President
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
6 Patterson Street
MUNDIJONG WA 6123

Dear Cr Rich

Local Government Response to COVID-19

Earlier this year the Premier and I wrote to local governments calling on them to join forces with other States and the Commonwealth as part of a national response to combat the spread of COVID-19 across our community.

A Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency for Western Australia was declared and a Western Australian Pandemic Plan (Plan) was released.

As the situation developed a range of measures were introduced.

During this period local governments and local government leaders have played an important role, not only fulfilling responsibilities under the Plan, but also providing leadership in their communities to help people through this difficult time.

Local Governments were called upon and responded to the Premier's requests to support their communities with the economic and financial implications for businesses and families. In particular, local government's response to his request to freeze all local government household rates, fees and charges was appreciated and well received. Both the Premier and I thank the sector for their response.

While we are managing our way out of the health crisis, we need to be mindful of the fact that the community is recovering from the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

7th Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth Western Australia 6005
Telephone: +61 8 6552 5400 Facsimile: +61 8 6552 5401 Email:

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The McGowan Government has implemented a \$5.5 billion recovery package to stimulate the State's economy.

Now is not the time to be adding an unnecessary financial burden on the community.

I am seeking your Shire's support to give urgent consideration to deferring the rate review process that you are currently undertaking and to give your ratepayers certainty that they will not be hit with massive increases to their rates during this global pandemic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Templeman', is written in a cursive style.

**HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

8 December 2020

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