



2016-17 BUDGET

FACT SHEET

HOUSEHOLD FEES AND CHARGES

The 2016-17 Budget includes the following increases in household fees and charges, which take effect from 1 July 2016:

- a 3% increase in residential electricity tariffs;
- a 4.5% increase in the Water Corporation's total water charges (water, wastewater and drainage);
- a 2.5% increase in public transport standard fares (rounded to the nearest ten cents), with the 60 cent student fare remaining unchanged;
- no change in drivers' licence fees;
- a 2.5% increase in motor vehicle licence fees;
- a 2.5% increase in compulsory third party (CTP) insurance premiums;
- the introduction of the Catastrophic Injuries Support Scheme (CISS), which will result in vehicle owners paying an additional \$99 for the average family car; and
- a 4.2% increase in the Emergency Services Levy.

Total expenditure by the 'representative household' on this basket of Government goods and services in 2016-17 is \$5,659.92. This is an increase of \$257 or 4.76% on 2015-16 levels (or a \$158 or 2.92% increase if the previously announced CISS is excluded).

Even after the increases outlined above and prior to other States announcing their 2016-17 Budgets, the representative household in Western Australia has amongst the lowest expenditure on State Government goods and services when compared to other States (see Figure 1). For example:

- Western Australia's 2016-17 utility charges (i.e. water and electricity) are in line with the national average;
- public transport fares remain the lowest in the nation and will remain significantly lower than those of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia; and
- motor vehicle charges are amongst the lowest in Australia.

Despite the increases, the Government will spend \$1.8 billion in 2016-17 on operating subsidies, rebates and concessions for electricity, water and public transport.

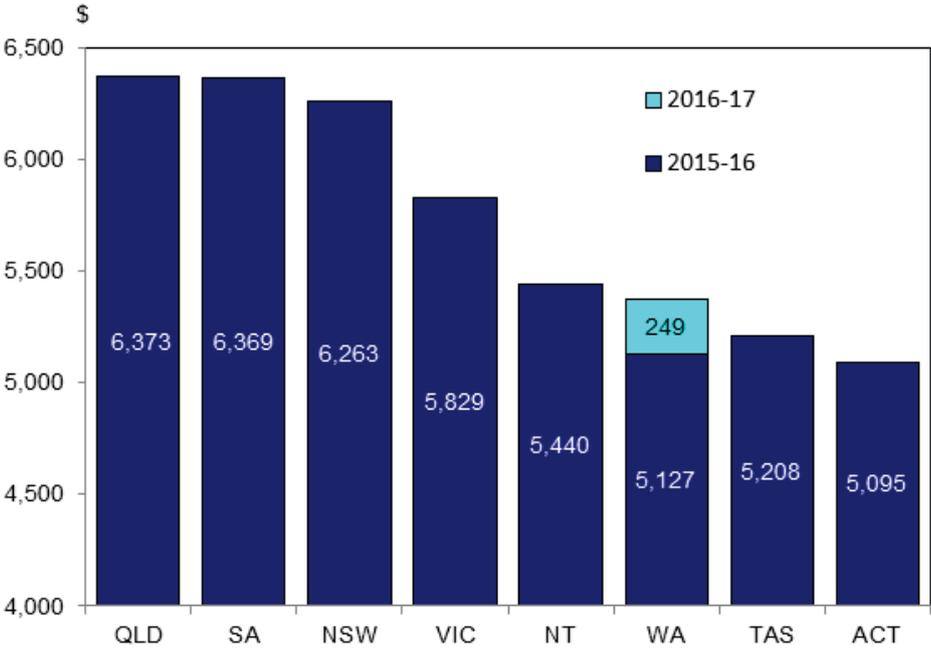
Assistance to Households

The Government recognises that some individuals and families need assistance to pay utility bills. The Government funds the Hardship Utilities Grants Scheme (HUGS) to help people in financial difficulty pay water, gas and electricity bills so that supply is not suspended. To apply for HUGS, customers can contact their electricity, gas or water supplier.

In addition, the Government funds a range of concessions to help low income Western Australian families pay utilities bills, including the Energy Assistance Payment (EAP, formerly the Cost of Living Assistance payment). The EAP is worth \$233.96 in 2016-17 for eligible households.

INTERJURISDICTIONAL HOUSEHOLD FEES AND CHARGES

Figure 1



The interjurisdictional comparison of the household model contains various assumptions including:

- certain Western Australian consumption levels that may not be appropriate in other jurisdictions;
- certain Western Australian fees and charges have no comparable equivalent in other jurisdictions; and
- not all tariffs, fees and charges levied in Western Australia are levied in other jurisdictions.

Furthermore, given that many interjurisdictional fees and charges are released at differing times, the data in respect of other jurisdictions is captured retrospectively.