

NSW Government Fire and Emergency Services Levy

From 1 July 2017, the NSW Government will introduce a Fire and Emergency Services (FESL- or in some media articles it is called the Emergency Services Property Levy - ESPL) on all property owners in NSW, including vacant land owners.

The revenue raised from the FESL will go directly to the State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW.

Before 1 July 2017 only insured property owners contributed to funding the fire and emergency services via a levy that is included in the annual insurance premium on the property. Under the FESL all property owners will contribute.

The FESL will be collected by local councils and 100% of the Levy will be passed to the State Government. The Levy Notice will be included as a separate line item in council rates notices from 1 July 2017.

FESL rates are yet to be determined and will be published on the [FESL website](#) on 30 April 2017.

According to the FESL website, a majority of fully-insured residential property owners are expected to be better off under the FESL, with an average saving of around \$47 per year. Discounts will also be available for pensioners.

However, property owners who have insurance policies in the 2016/17 Financial Year (1 Jul 16 - 30 Jun17) may incur a full year charge for fire services levy on their policy regardless of when the policy is taken out or renewed. For example - if you take out a policy on 30 June 2017 you will be charged a Fire Services Levy on the policy (under the old scheme), and from 1 Jul 2017 you will be charged the new FESL and you will not be eligible for a refund.

This would appear to be a double charge for the Fire Levy, but according to the FAQ on the FESL website, the levy charged for 2016/17 is paying for services delivered in 2016/17.

For further information visit the FESL website – [click here](#)