

Media Release

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By your side

Union call for end to a wage freeze for local government workers

Australian Services Union spokesperson, Samantha Batchelor today questioned the increase in councillor allowances at a time when seven Tasmanian councils have put a freeze on worker wages.

Councillor allowances will rise in line with inflation by 2.4% from 1 November this year.

According to the Australian Services Union, some of the largest councils in the state have frozen wages of their workers.

Council worker's wages have been frozen at the City of Hobart, Clarence City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Burnie City Council, Devonport City Council, Kingborough Council, and Huon Valley Council.

Ms Batchelor said, "freezing wages hurts workers and the communities in which they live, work and spend."

The ASU also pointed to Acting Premier Jeremy Rockliff, in relation to public sector union negotiated wage increases, saying "we know the Budget and the economy have taken a hit from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, we also recognise the importance of continued local economic stimulus, and any wage increase assists broader spending and confidence in our economy."

Ms Batchelor said all council workers deserve at least the inflation-based increase councillors are receiving - what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

"Councils that have frozen wages have the financial capacity to meet fair wage increases with some even posting substantial surpluses and others able to run modest but sustainable deficits."

"It's time for those councils that have frozen wages to come good on a fair pay rise for council workers," Ms Batchelor said.