

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## City moves to one rating system for all

Townsville now has uniform rates, charges and rebates for all residents across the city.

The City Council completed the post amalgamation process of equalising the rates system in the 2009/10 City Budget handed down today.

Mayor Cr Les Tyrell said everyone was on an equal footing with their rates and utility charges as well as discounts and rebates right across the board.

“My council has followed through on its commitment to iron out the differences in charges and services from the two former councils so that everyone is on a level playing field,” Cr Tyrell said.

“The council has today taken the necessary step to adopt the same rating system for all ratepayers to make it fairer for everyone.

“Just as different areas fared better last year when the water and sewerage charges were equalised, others will be better off in the first year of rate equalisation.”

In addition to equalising general rates, the council is also bringing in fairer pedestal charges and uniform commercial charges.

Just one pedestal charge of \$632 will be applied to properties regardless of whether they have more than one toilet.

The changes will provide big savings for property owners who have been paying for multiple toilets.

Last year the council also expanded the most generous of the existing rebates and discounts of the two former councils to residents across Townsville.

These included the 15% rates discount, the 85% pensioner rebate, and the transport subsidy.

**Media Information >> 4727 9565.**