



# In The Field

News for Victorian Vegetable Growers



25 Oct 2012

## Fire Services Levy

As of 1 July 2013, the Fire Services Levy will be incorporated into Council Rates rather than tied in with Insurance Schemes.

The change will ensure everyone contributes a fair share to the fire services, not just those who adequately insure their properties, as is the case now.

The Levy will help pay for the budgets of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Country Fire Authority and will be collected by Local Councils as a separate line item on rate bills.

The exact cost and nature of the Levy hasn't been finalised by the Government and will be determined as part of the annual May budget.

What we do know is that there will be 2 levels of Levy:

1. Farmers and other Businesses
2. Residential Property

The State Government has advised that farmers and business will pay a base rate of \$200/enterprise plus about 50 cents/\$1,000 of Capital Improvement Value (CIV).



A fairer way to fund the MFB and CFA

Residents will pay a base fee of \$100 plus 7 - 11 cents/\$1,000 CIV.

The changes could impact severely on many vegetable growers who have large capital improvements like packing sheds, and coolrooms, and disadvantage them compared with broad-acre farmers.

For more information contact :

**Rod Hall**  
IDO – West

0403 215 935

[idowest@vgavic.org.au](mailto:idowest@vgavic.org.au)

**John Runting**  
IDO – East

0417 356 364

**Helena Whitman**

VGA Executive Manager

0407 772 299

[helena.w@vgavic.org.au](mailto:helena.w@vgavic.org.au)

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Mail Box 111, Melbourne Markets  
542 Footscray Road, West Melbourne, Vic, 3003

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Horticulture Australia

Editor: Tony Imeson,

(t): 03 9687 4707

(f): 03 9687 4723

(m): 0414 458 561

(e): [tony.i@vgavic.org.au](mailto:tony.i@vgavic.org.au)

