



The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP
Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations

Cr Katie Milne
Mayor
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

Dear Mayor,

ACT NOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PARKING FINE CONCESSIONS FOR YOUR CONSTITUENTS

In June this year the NSW Government announced plans to make parking fines fairer for residents across the state.

Parking fines play an important role in maintaining order and safety on our streets. But the penalty should not be out of proportion to the offence. At present, parking fines in NSW are much higher than in many cities in Australia and overseas, including Melbourne, Brisbane, London, and New York.

So we are taking action.

As a first step we reduced a range of State Government issued parking fines by 25 per cent.

Many Councils have noted they have no power to reduce parking fine amounts, which are set at a \$112 minimum under State legislation, and the Government has committed to providing Councils the freedom and flexibility to reduce their parking fines too.

Following broad consultation which revealed overwhelming support from the community for fine reductions, I am pleased to advise that the Government has now made the regulatory changes necessary for Councils to reduce their fines.

What are the changes?

Under the new framework, Councils can reduce their fines from \$112 to \$80. These concessions do not apply automatically. To make this change Councils must opt in, by advising me in writing by 1 January 2019. You can do this by completing the slip enclosed.

Councils that opt in by 1 January 2019 to reduce their fines will be recorded in the relevant regulation, which will be published on the NSW Government Legislation website, and will be able to charge lower fine amounts from 1 March 2019. A list of Councils who have opted in will be made public after 1 January 2019.

If you do not opt in by 1 January 2019, you will have further opportunities to opt in at later points in the next year, but the benefits to your constituents will be delayed.

The current arrangements for parking fines to be indexed annually will continue.

Grace Period

As well as reducing fines, I am pleased to advise that the Government will introduce a 10 minute grace period for paid parking of more than one hour, commencing on 31 January 2019.

The new grace period, which has also received overwhelming public support, will apply to all fining authorities, including Councils, and will be subject to certain exceptions in the interests of safety and preventing congestion (such as at the commencement of a clearway zone).

You should advise your parking inspectors of the grace period by 1 January 2019, as the grace period is required to be implemented by all parking issuing authorities from 31 January 2019.

More information about the changes to parking fines can be found in the enclosed attachments, and online at nswfinesreview.com.au. If you have any questions about the changes, please contact Claudia Solomon at NSW Treasury on 02 9228 4774 or FinesReview@treasury.nsw.gov.au.

The NSW Government's reforms to fines will make NSW a fairer place for the people who live and work here, and will reduce the financial burden on citizens across the state.

While Councils have previously been unable to reduce parking fines, there is now an opportunity to do the right thing by constituents and opt in to the new regulations.

I strongly encourage you to fill in the slip provided and return to me by 1 January 2019 so we can put the changes into effect as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Dominic Perrottet MP
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

Attached:

Return Slip to Opt In to Lower Parking Fines

Attachment A – Administrative Arrangements to be listed in Schedule 5A

Attachment B – Parking offences

Attachment C – Grace period for certain parking offences

cc: General Manager of your Council

FILL IN THIS SLIP AND RETURN BY 1 JANUARY 2019

Yes, my council has agreed to opt in to charge lower parking fine amounts of \$80 instead of \$112, indexed annually as per current practices.

I understand that by advising you before 1 January 2019, the changes will take effect from 1 March 2019.

Name of Mayor _____

Name of Council: _____

Date of Council decision/resolution: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

RETURN TO:

The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP
Treasurer
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Or

office@perrottet.minister.nsw.gov.au