



2024–25

Budget and Rates

A message from the City of Fremantle

The City of Fremantle delivers hundreds of services, programs, initiatives, events and activities that benefit everyone – whether you live in the city or our suburbs, you run a local business or you've come for a visit.

The 2024-25 Budget reflects the strategic priorities of the community by creating a liveable, thriving, creative, resilient, and inclusive Fremantle.

The City of Fremantle is not immune to global economic conditions, inflationary pressures and increasing costs.

While the City of Fremantle will continue to navigate these high costs to ensure the delivery of projects and services, it will also focus on investing in the renewal of existing assets that benefit the entire community.

In 2024-25, the City will increase rates by 5.4%, which will allow it to strike a balance between rising costs and continuing to deliver for our ratepayers.

The City's 2024-25 Budget is a responsible, balanced budget that delivers for residents and ratepayers today while building a financially sustainable future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Fremantle acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of the greater Fremantle/Walyalup area and we recognise that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important today.



Your rates and charges

The City of Fremantle will apply differential general rates and minimum payments for the 2024-25 financial year as summarised here:

DIFFERENTIAL RATING CATEGORY	MINIMUM PAYMENT	RATE IN THE DOLLAR
Residential Improved	\$1,738	0.083489
Commercial and Industrial General	\$1,738	0.113216
City Centre Commercial	\$1,738	0.113216
Residential Short Term Accommodation	\$1,738	0.113176
Vacant Residential Land	\$1,685	0.144207
Vacant Commercial & Industrial	\$1,738	0.166978

Please note: The minimum payments were re-evaluated in accordance with section 6.35 (3) of the Local Government Act 1995 to ensure the general minimum is applied to no fewer than 50% of the number of properties in each category.

WASTE CHARGES AND SPECIFIED AREA RATE

With the exception of residential rate exempt properties, the City includes the waste charge applicable to a single standard service collection within each property's rate levy. Exempt properties will incur waste charges of \$580.

SPECIFIED AREA RATE	PURPOSE OF THE RATE	RATE IN THE DOLLAR
CBD Security Levy	A safety and security strategy for a specified area of the Fremantle CBD.	0.001456
Leighton Maintenance	To fund the above normal costs associated with maintaining the higher standard of landscaping of the Leighton residential area.	0.006299

SERVICE CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES	PURPOSE OF THE CHARGES	AMOUNT OF CHARGE
Community bore	To fund the associated costs required to maintain the community bore within the WGV development.	\$124
Hilton Underground Power*	To partially fund the replacement of the overhead network with a new underground system.	Variable depending on payment arrangement
1. Network fee		
2. Connection fee		

* fremantle.wa.gov.au/hiltonundergroundpower

PENSIONER AND SENIORS CONCESSIONS

Property owners who hold an eligible Pensioner Concession Card, State Concession Card or both a Seniors Card and a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card may be entitled to:

- A state government rebate of up to 50% off current City rates and underground power, capped at \$750 and 50% off the current state government emergency services levy for 2024-25 or;
- Forgo the rebates and defer them plus any unpaid current City rates, underground power or emergency services levy. Eligibility to defer is where a card holder is entitled to a full rebate. Payment of deferred balances is required where there is a change in property ownership or occupation.

Property owners who hold a Seniors Card may be entitled to:

- A state government rebate of up to 25% off current City's rates and levies and state government emergency services levy, capped at \$100 and \$127 respectively for 2024-25.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A RATES REBATE

There is a joint application form for Local Government rates, Water Corporation annual charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charges rebates.

Eligibility for a State Government rebate or other benefits are subject to the card holder:

- A. Owning and occupying the property at 1 July of any rating year.
- B. Fully paying their portion of the rating assessment no later than 30 June of the rating year.
- C. For pensioners, commencement of an acceptable payment program in clearance of any arrears balances.

Applications are managed through the Water Corporation and are accepted over the phone on **1300 659 951** or online at watercorporation.com.au

Budget highlights

WHAT WE DELIVERED IN 2023-24

- ✓ New playground at Leighton Beach
- ✓ Restored dunes at Port Beach
- ✓ New roof at the Fremantle Arts Centre
- ✓ New footpath linking Victoria Quay and the Fishing Boat Harbour
- ✓ New bowling green at Hilton Park
- ✓ 533 trees and 27,358 plants (native tube stock) planted
- ✓ Road re-surfacing projects in Fremantle, Beaconsfield and Samson
- ✓ Carpark upgrade projects in the CBD
- ✓ Footpath renewal projects in Fremantle, North Fremantle and South Fremantle
- ✓ A reinvigorated Fremantle International Street Arts Festival
- ✓ Popular school holiday activations across Fremantle

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

Stay up to date with the City's 2024-25 budget activities with our handy online project map. Keep informed about what's happening as we maintain and improve our buildings, roads, drainage and footpaths as well as delivering new projects and more than 100 services and programs across the city.

See fremantle.wa.gov.au/budget2024-25

Where do your rates go?

\$14.3m

towards operation of our key community facilities including the Fremantle Library, Fremantle Leisure Centre, Fremantle Arts Centre and Fremantle Community Legal Centre



\$10.7m towards parks, landscapes and natural areas

\$9.9m towards delivery of waste and resource recovery initiatives



\$5.2m towards ongoing maintenance of our buildings



\$2m towards community safety



\$1m investment in our suburbs with upgrades at Samson Park, lighting at Hilton Park (Ken Allen) and continuing to finalise design work for the Hilton Park Masterplan

\$3.2m for the completion of South Beach Changerooms



\$2.9m investment in heritage through the commencement of upgrades to the Town Hall, Fremantle Arts Centre, Moore's Building and Old Fire Station

\$420k for design of CBD public toilet facilities at Collie Street and delivery of toilets at Beach Street



\$2.1m for renewal and upgrade of roads

\$1.2m investment in renewal of plant and equipment



\$2m towards delivery of arts, culture and festivals

\$900k towards renewal of irrigation systems



\$538k towards renewal of footpaths



\$310k for upgrade of BBQs and provision of additional parking at South Beach

\$300k towards renewal of street lighting

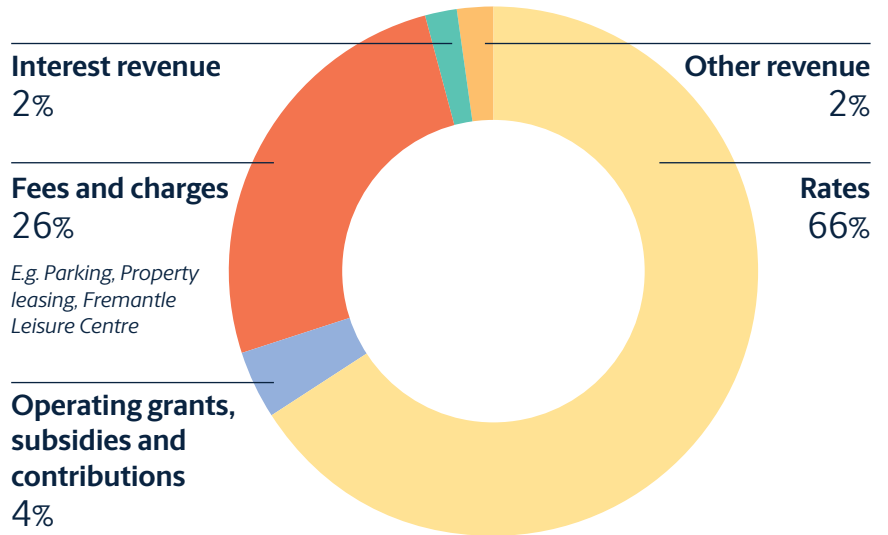
\$350k towards coastal adaptation at Port Beach, replacement of the river wall at John Street and natural area fencing in Booyeembara Park

About your rates

The total operating revenue budget totals \$97m and is comprised of:

Your rates are helping us build a vibrant and liveable city with great facilities, services and support for all.

The City has developed a responsible and balanced budget that delivers for residents and ratepayers today while building a financially sustainable future.

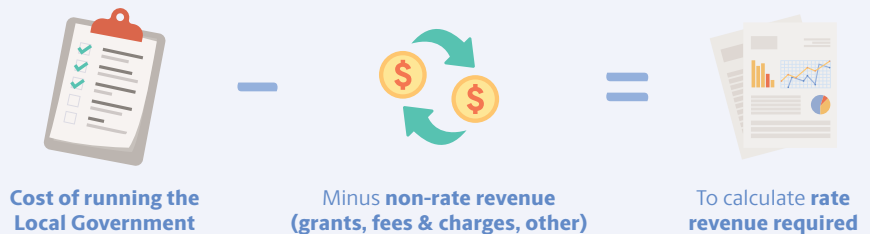


HOW RATES ARE CALCULATED

Rates are calculated by multiplying a property's valuation by the rate in the dollar set by Council. The valuation is determined by Landgate's Valuer General and is a Gross Rental Value (GRV).

Want to know how we work out your contribution to the City's budget? Follow the steps here.

Step 1: The City determines the amount of rate revenue needed to deliver the services, programs and activities we provide.



Step 2: We then work out how this cost should be spread across the City's rateable properties.



Step 3: We then multiply the rate in the dollar by your property's value to calculate your contribution.



Your questions answered

WHY HAVE MY RATES INCREASED?

The past five years have seen the City of Fremantle experience significant milestones in the completion of a once-in-a-generation revitalisation of the city centre, as well as the unprecedented impacts of a global pandemic on the City's discretionary revenue sources.

Since that time, global economic conditions have driven rapid inflation and increasing cost pressures across most developed economies. Western Australia has not been immune to this, and Local Governments have had to absorb significant increases to the cost-of-service delivery and wage growth. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3% in the 12 months to the March 2024 quarter. This lower CPI percentage has allowed the City to have a lower overall increase of 5.4% for 2024-25 as compared to 9% in 2023-24.

While the City will have to continue to navigate these high costs for the delivery of construction and other services, it must also remain focused on investing in the renewal of our existing assets.

To deliver the hundreds of programs, initiatives and activities that help our residents and visitors live, work and play in a city like nowhere else in the world, we need to ensure our revenue sources remain sustainable.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH THE VALUATION OF MY PROPERTY?

If you feel that the valuation applied to your property is incorrect, you can lodge an objection with Landgate's Valuer General's Office within 60 days of the issue of your rates notice.

WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY?

The Emergency Service Levy (ESL) helps fund WA's fire and emergency services, including fire stations, volunteer fire brigades, State Emergency Service (SES) units, the Volunteer Marine Rescue Service and the multi-purpose Volunteer Emergency Service Units. This levy is a State Government charge and is required to be collected on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Service (DFES) by all Western Australia Local Government Authorities. For more information, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/esl

South Fremantle Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP)

The South Fremantle area has been identified by Western Power to participate in its Targeted Underground Power Program (TUPP).

To give ratepayers in South Fremantle and City South more time to understand the benefits of underground power, in June 2024 the City of Fremantle decided to defer the collection of a service charge as part of the 2024/25 rates.

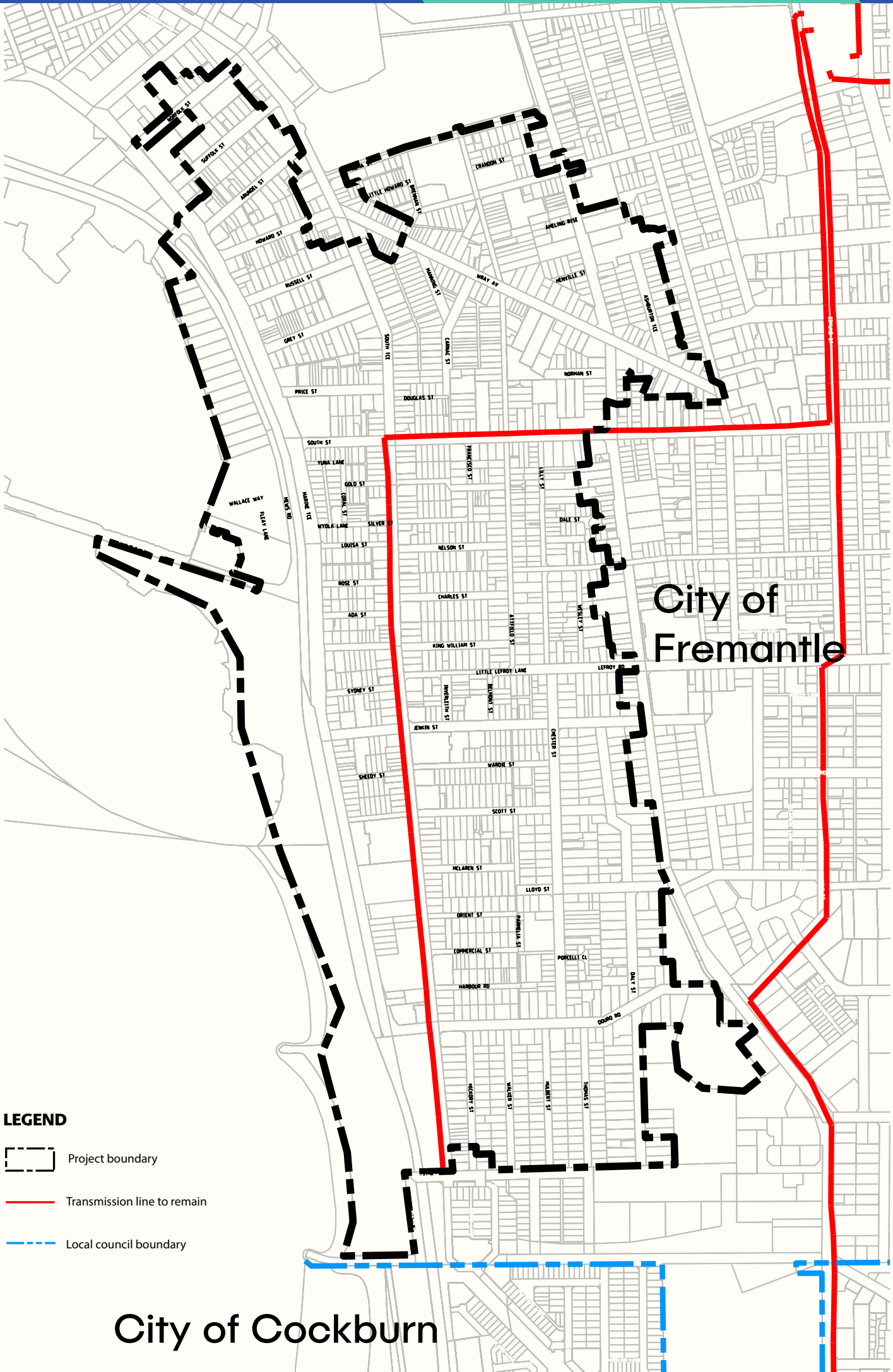
The City will continue to engage with the community and share significant project updates over the next 12 months. This will provide opportunity for a more informed conversation prior to the 2025/26 budget.

To learn more, visit fremantle.wa.gov.au/tupp, email tupp@fremantle.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code below.



For detailed information about the timing of the project, site reinstatement or construction activities, email Western Power at undergroundpower@westernpower.com.au








City of
Fremantle

City of Cockburn

LEGEND

-  Project boundary
-  Transmission line to remain
-  Local council boundary

Easy ways to pay

TELEPHONE

1300 658 371

ONLINE

fremantle.wa.gov.au/payments

You can now make payments using an AMEX card as well as Mastercard and Visa.

BPAY

Via your bank or financial institution. You will find the biller code and reference number on your rate notice.

IN PERSON

Walyalup Civic Centre
151 High Street, Fremantle,
Walyalup Koort
Open Monday to Friday,
8.30am–4.30pm

AUSTRALIA POST

At any Post Office agency or branch (just present your rates notice to pay via EFTPOS, cash or cheque).

GO PAPER-FREE

Sign up to eRates to receive your rate notice via email. No more printed notices means a saving for the environment as well as having the convenience of having your rate notices arrive directly into your inbox.

To register, simply have your rate notice handy and complete the online form at fremantle.wa.gov.au/erates.



ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

In certain circumstances, an alternative payment arrangement may be considered.

You can request this in writing. Please provide your property address and reference number. Any payment proposal should specify the commencement date, payment amount, frequency and date of final payment. Payments should be sufficient to ensure full payment occurs within a period of time acceptable to the City.



Scan the QR code above to submit your payment proposal.

VISIT US

Customer service opening hours
8am–4.30pm (Monday to Friday)

ADDRESS

Walyalup Civic Centre
151 High Street, Fremantle
Walyalup Koort

POSTAL

PO Box 807, Fremantle WA 6959

EMAIL

info@fremantle.wa.gov.au

WEBSITE

fremantle.wa.gov.au

Flexible ways to pay

Choose from a variety of payment options.

PAY IN FULL

Pay in one lump sum by **Friday 6 September 2024**. This is the cheapest way to pay your rates.

TWO INSTALMENTS

Pay over two instalments due **Friday 6 September 2024** and **Friday 17 January 2025**

FOUR INSTALMENTS

Pay over four instalments due **Friday 6 September 2024**, **Friday 15 November 2024**, **Friday 17 January 2025** and **Friday 21 March 2025**

DIRECT DEBIT ARRANGEMENT

Take the hassle out of payments. Direct debit is the easiest way to manage your rates and payments can be made weekly or fortnightly and for all instalment options. Register online at fremantle.wa.gov.au/paymyrates or see the application form included with your rates notice for more information on how to register and pay your rates by direct debit. Check out the updated Terms and Conditions online.

DO IT DIRECT!

EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES?

If you are experiencing financial hardship, financial counselling is a free community service available to all residents across WA. Financial counsellors can assist with money management strategies, advocate with creditors, and provide information about your options and rights. You can find your nearest financial counsellor at fcawa.org or call the national debt helpline on 1800 007 007.

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates, please contact the City to discuss an alternative payment arrangement. We provide a number of payment options including instalment plans. We also have a hardship policy to support those in our community who may be going through a tough time.

We are committed to finding the right solution for you, so contact our friendly team to see how we can help support you.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CITY

-  facebook.com/cityoffremantle
-  instagram.com/cityoffremantle
-  youtube.com/cityoffremantle
-  linkedin.com/company/city-of-fremantle

Alternate formats available upon request

PHONE

1300 MY FREO (1300 693 736)
1300 360 666 (Community Safety/Rangers)

NRS-FRIENDLY

Hearing or speech impaired?
Call via the National Relay Service on 133 677

