



CHIEF JUSTICE'S CHAMBERS
SUPREME COURT
MELBOURNE 3000

3 December 2020

Christopher Blanden QC
President
Victorian Bar
Level 5, 205 William Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear President

Rules of the Supreme Court of Victoria - Scale of Costs

The Legal Costs Committee is a statutory authority which has the functions conferred on it by the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Schedule 1 to the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014*). The Committee consists of the Chief Justice (or a Judge nominated by the Chief Justice), one member nominated by each of the County Court, the Magistrates' Court and the VCAT, two members nominated by the Attorney-General, two members nominated by the Victorian Legal Services Board, and one member nominated by each local professional association (the Victorian Bar and the Law Institute Victoria) – section 92 of the Act.

Each year the Legal Costs Committee advises the Judges of the Court on any desirable adjustments to the scales of costs in relation to litigious matters. The Council of Judges then considers whether to amend Chapter I of the Rules of the Supreme Court to alter the Scale of Costs in Appendices A and B. The practice has been to substitute an updated scale of costs for the previous scale each year to commence on 1 January the following year.

The Council of Judges was asked to consider amending Rules at its November meeting based on the advice of the Legal Costs Committee. The Council determined that further information and consideration was necessary before a decision was made. As a consequence, the amendment of the Rules in relation to the Scale of Costs has been deferred as an agenda item to the next meeting of the Council of Judges. This is likely to be held in February 2021.

Accordingly the scale of fees and charges in Appendices A and B for work done in relation to matters in the Supreme Court will remain at their current levels

past 1 January 2021 until further notice. You may wish to inform your members of this fact.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

ANNE FERGUSON
Chief Justice