

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM 12 COUNCILS

18 February 2016

Twelve councils across NSW have officially applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to increase their general revenue above the rate peg in 2016-17.

The rate peg for 2016-17 is set at 1.8%. Councils requiring additional revenue are able to apply to IPART for either single year or successive annual percentage increases above the rate peg. These special variations can be permanent or temporary, and are assessed against guidelines published by the Office of Local Government.

The councils that applied before the deadline this week are:

Council	% total increase including the rate peg and purpose
Clarence Valley	37.0% cumulative increase over 5 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, for maintenance of roads and renewal of related infrastructure.
Great Lakes	20.7% cumulative increase over 4 years to be retained permanently in the rates base to renew infrastructure, maintain services, and improve financial sustainability.
Greater Taree City	49.2% cumulative increase over 6 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, for maintenance and renewal of the road network.
Gwydir Shire	30.0% single year increase to be retained permanently in the rates base to improve financial sustainability, includes replacing an expiring 1-year special variation.
Lachlan Shire	32.3% cumulative increase over 4 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, to improve services and assets, reduce the infrastructure backlog and improve financial sustainability.
Lismore City	3.6% single year increase to be retained permanently in the rates base, to implement the Biodiversity Management Strategy.
Penrith City	27.0% cumulative increase over 4 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, to maintain and improve services and infrastructure, and retain permanently a special variation expiring in 2015-16.
Singleton	45.1% cumulative increase over 4 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, to improve asset maintenance and renewal, and retain permanently a special variation expiring in 2016-17.
Tweed Shire	2.8% single year increase to be retained permanently in the rates base for a levy on residents of a new urban release area to protect bushland near the development.
Wagga Wagga City	5.6% temporary increase to be retained in the rates base for five years, to fund upgrading of levee banks.
Wingecarribee Shire	45.3% cumulative increase over 4 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, to fund operating costs and infrastructure renewal, and retain permanently the Environmental Levy expiring in 2018-19.
Yass Valley	38.6% cumulative increase over 4 years to be retained permanently in the rates base, to improve financial sustainability.

