

At the 1 February 2017, Extraordinary meeting, Council considered an extensive report (**Attachment 3**) following the community engagement and resolved to proceed with a Special Rate Variation. The resolution reads:-

**RESOLVED** MIN17.71

That:

1. Council receive the feedback and results of the community engagement
2. Council endorse a financial sustainability approach that includes continued improvement in our procurement and asset management practices and improving productivity and implementing a Special Rate Variation
3. Council authorise staff to make formal application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and lodge a Section 508A Special Rate Variation (SRV) on general income for an increase of 11.5% in 2017/18 and 11.5% in 2018/19, above rate peg for each of the 2 years in order for Council to financially support the ongoing provision of service levels to the community and increase levels of asset maintenance and renewal.
4. Staff provide a report to the next Ordinary Council Meeting on the establishment of a Citizen's Panel to provide recommendations to Council on priority areas for expenditure related to the Special Rate Variation
5. Council accept the submission from The Shoalhaven Independents on behalf of the ratepayers and residents who attended protest meetings at St Georges Basin, Bomaderry, Huskisson and Nowra as part of the overall submissions and the submission also be reported to IPART.
6. The General Manager report back to Council on how Council could capture any business that is operating from residential premises and re-categorise to business and if there are any legislative hurdles should Council wish to pursue this as an ongoing part of revenue review. This should include the cost for resourcing such a project- this suggestion was put to Council by concerned ratepayers.
7. The General Manager report back if any other Councils apply a levy or any other mechanism to increase rates on those properties that are known to supply accommodation to the tourism industry and are essentially a business- these properties would be those listed by real estate agents and online mechanisms such as Air BnB and Stayz -this suggestion has been raised by concerned business operators.
8. The General Manager also report back on any measures that can be used to essentially pass some of the financial burden of maintaining assets onto the many tourist that come to the Shoalhaven, suggestions that have come through include parking meters for peak tourist times and places and bed taxes. The report should also include any legislative or resourcing issues for such matters.
9. In reporting back could the General Manager please comment on any timing issues that could be foreseen if such mechanisms were to be adopted by Council.
10. Council refer the matters raised by an Independent Auditor in a recent confidential meeting with councillors to Council's Risk & Audit committee for consideration and any further advice.