

Meet our champions



Meet Tina Gogerly, Anthony Sciacca and Garry Smith, our three local water quality champions who feature in the 2015 Waterways Report Card. All three people have been recognised for their individual efforts to improve the health of our lakes and waterways.

Tina is an environmental campaigner from Tuncurry who has single-handedly started a campaign to 'Keep Our Paradise Rubbish Free' and is encouraging others in the community to join her in the rubbish clean up. Leading by example, Tina spends many hours cleaning up all types of rubbish in our local area.

Local oyster grower Anthony has observed first-hand the improvements in waterway health and has been an active member of the Council's Wallis Lake Estuary Committee for 20 years, advocating better stormwater quality,
....continued on page 2

Mayor's Message

This Communicator issue covers some of the highlights of an extremely successful year for Council.

Our Waterways Report Card shows improvement on last year's results and measures the success of many of our environmental works to keep

our waterways clean. We are on par with world best practice.

The announcement by the NSW Government last month that we will retain our current local government boundaries is an endorsement of our sound economic management.

The Australian Government grant of \$6 million announced last month

to build the civic precinct project in Forster was a great Christmas gift for our community. Matching our own \$6 million for the project, this will allow us to provide the library, visitor information and performance spaces that our community deserves.

CR JAN McWILLIAMS
MAYOR

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wetland restoration and catchment management.

As Human Society and the Environment (HSIE) Head Teacher at Great Lakes College's Forster Campus, Garry works with local students to raise awareness of environmental issues and is committed to integrating local water quality examples into the Geography curriculum.

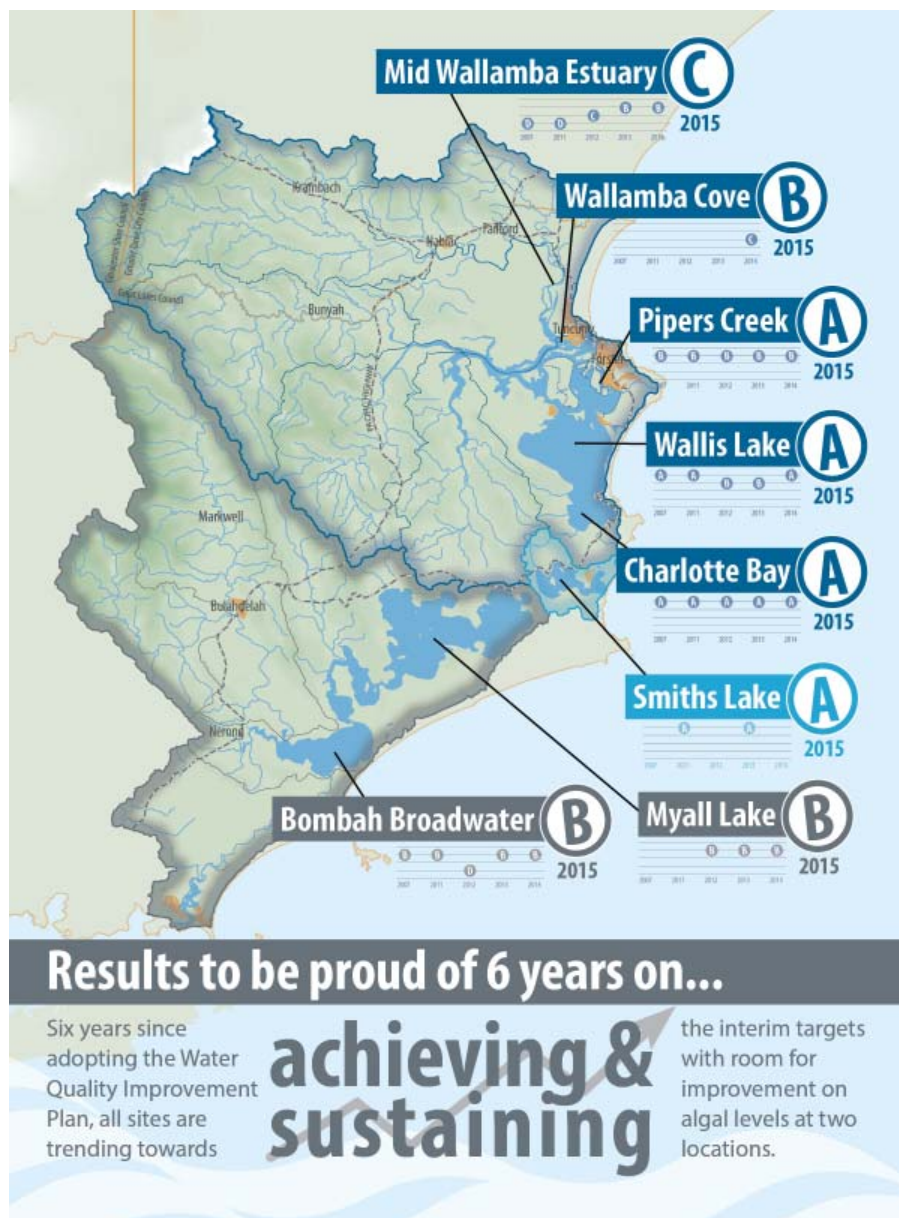
All three champions have made a valuable contribution to improving the health of our local waterways, and Council has produced a video featuring interviews with each of them (see the box below to access the video).

Great Lakes Council says the whole community can take pride in this year's Waterways Report Card results, with long term trends showing improvements in waterway health.

Independent scientific research has revealed that six years since the Water Quality Improvement Plan was adopted, all sites across Wallis, Smiths and Myall Lakes are trending towards achieving and sustaining the interim targets set out in the plan with room for improvement on algal levels at two locations.

Dr Peter Scanes, the Senior Team Leader of Estuaries and Catchments Science at the NSW Department of Office, Environment and Heritage, leads the research team which collects the data from our waterways.

"It is a credit to Great Lakes Council that this monitoring has been ongoing. With six years of data we are now starting to see trends



that we can confidently interpret as improvements in waterway health.

"The waterway management process used by Council that started with research followed by implementing management options and then monitoring the results, is consistent with world's best practice" Dr Scanes said.

Halting decline and maintaining waterway health is a great achievement, however the Report acknowledges that efforts need to continue in order to keep heading in a positive direction and sustain the gains that have been made.

This project has been funded by the Great Lakes Environmental Rate.

View the full Waterway Report Card and champions' video

Visit Council's website at: <http://www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au/2015repcard>

Great Lakes Council will stand alone

Great Lakes Council has welcomed the announcement from the NSW Government that it will be allowed to continue to stand-alone with existing Council boundaries in order to best deliver local government services to the Great Lakes into the future.

Council's General Manager, Mr Glenn Handford said "We were pleased that we were declared fit for the

future as a result of many years work by our Councillors and staff towards achieving sustainable financial management, along with our ratepayers affirming our plans through supporting the need for responsible rate increases over past years.

"Without these measures, we would not have satisfied the requirements to be declared fit for the future."

Civic precinct \$6 million boost

Council was delighted with the announcement on 7 December that the Australian Government's National Stronger Regions fund will provide a \$6 million grant for the civic precinct site.

Together with Council's matching commitment, we now can deliver a \$12 million project to provide outstanding library, visitor information and performance spaces as part of the civic precinct project" said Council's General Manager, Mr Glenn Handford.

"The whole community has just received a very exciting Christmas gift that will have long term cultural, social and educational benefits for our region" said Mayor, Cr Jan McWilliams.

Our application included exploring the potential to partner with the private sector.

"We are doing that at present, with Council's appointed consultant, Savills Australia, currently seeking

expressions of interest from the private sector on how best to provide services for the civic precinct site" said Mr Handford.

The expression of interest period will close on 8 February 2016.

It is anticipated that Council will be in a position to consider any expressions of interest in March 2016, following an evaluation process.

A number of options will then be put to the community and widespread consultation undertaken before any final decisions on the future of the site are made.

Council will apply for SRV increase

Great Lakes Council will continue with its application for a special rate variation (SRV) this year. The proposal for a moderate increase in rates over four years follows widespread community consultations in November.

"Over the last two years Council has been discussing with the community the need for additional rate income to primarily fund the maintenance and renewal of community infrastructure" said Council's Director of Corporate and Community Development, Mr Steve Embry.

Over the four years of the proposed variation, an additional \$1 million per year would be spent on the rural road network, \$100,000 per year on upgrading playgrounds and \$100,000 per year on renovating public amenities and facilities.

Funds would also be allocated to loan repayments on existing and future borrowings and to continuing the current program that is improving Council's technological capacity to efficiently service the community.

"This application builds on the hard work undertaken over a number of years by Council and the community to create a financially sustainable and effective organisation" said Mr Embry.

Council will submit its application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in February, with IPART's determination expected by June this year.

Photos (at right): The Special Rate variation proposal is now essential if Council is to maintain community road, playground and other assets at current standards. Pictured are the Pebbly Beach playground and Nابیac Swimming Pool.



Project updates

Lower Myall River rehabilitation

In May, a Commonwealth, State and Local Government agreement was announced to restore the Eastern Channel of the Lower Myall River, rehabilitate the Ramsar-listed Corrie Island and install a sand transfer system to replenish the coastal erosion hotspot of Jimmys Beach. Read on to learn of the progress made on the project to date.

All three partners have provided matching funding for the project and the first phase of the project is now complete.

The eastern channel of the Lower Myall River has been reopened, moving some 110,000 cubic metres of sand by dredge and mechanical means.

Over the course of the dredging campaign, approximately 28,000 cubic metres of sand was placed on Jimmys Beach to renourish the coastal erosion hotspot.

The remaining sand was stockpiled at the end of Winda Woppa spit for future renourishment of Jimmys Beach.

The new channel will help to reduce feral animal access to Corrie Island Nature Reserve, a haven for migratory shore birds returning from their journey to the northern hemisphere.

During this phase of the project, feral fox and dog control has been undertaken on the island, and monitoring by Council and National Parks staff will determine if animals are reinvading.

Weed control has also been undertaken on the island targeting removal of exotic pine, bitou bush and emerging weeds such as asparagus fern and bridal creeper.

Council is currently undertaking sand stabilisation activities on Jimmys Beach and on the stockpile. In the new year work will begin on the design and construction of a sand transfer system to provide a long term and more gradual supply of sand to Jimmys Beach.

Council has also received funding from the NSW Government to undertake maintenance dredging of the navigation channel in Corrie Channel.

The project will commence once approval has been granted by the relevant government agencies, likely early in the new year.

Sand from this dredging program will either be placed on the Winda Woppa stockpile, or used to renourish the erosion scar to the west of Barnes Rock.



Photo: The dredge in operation during September and the beginnings of the newly created channel. The big pond of water is where the dredge deposits the sand pumped from the channel - as the water soaks away, sand is left behind. Photo courtesy of Rick Wraight, Tea Gardens Real Estate.



Wednesday 20 January 2016

10am - 2pm

Community Centre, Breese Parade Forster

FREE community fun day

Absolutely **everyone** welcome

FREE morning tea and BBQ lunch

- * jumping castle
- * face painting
- * giveaways
- * scavenger hunt
- * arts & craft activities
- * guest speakers
- * fashion parade (sponsor: WLane)

Sponsors: Harvey Norman, YMCA, AJ Wilsons, Restaurant 26, Perry's Fruit Market, Great Lakes Packaging and Party Supplies, Priceline and Woolworths

Help us plan new Library

For many years, the Great Lakes community has been calling for expanded library services for our region. The draft Civic Precinct Plan, developed in 2008-2009 with great public support included a new larger library space. Now, Council is in a financial position to move forward with plans and has acquired land adjacent to the civic precinct site to enable improved designs for the space. Library Services Manager, Chris Jones answers some of the most common questions being asked.

In 2008 -2009, calls for a new, larger library space on the civic precinct site led to the development of a draft plan that included a new library and visitor information centre, along with open green space on the foreshore.

At that stage these plans were unfunded, but the success of the Woolworths development in Tuncurry has allowed Council to acquire additional land adjacent to the site.

We now need to improve the original draft plans to take advantage of the new larger and level site we have acquired.

We are inviting everyone to have a say initially via a survey that's currently available in the Forster Library, with further consultations planned.

Since 2000, the library has been below the adequate floor space standards, and getting worse each year. The current library is half of the size our population needs.

How much money will Council need to invest in a new library?

We estimate we will need about \$6 million for the new library, which will provide for a 1,500m² building with standard fit-out (certainly not high-end).

By comparison Clarence Valley Council spent around \$8 million on a 2,000m² library last year and Byron

Council spent just under \$4 million on a 1,000m² library in 2013.

When will the new library open?

Council is hoping that it will be completed by September 2016.

Where is the money coming from?

Council will be able to fund up to \$6 million from a mixture of reserves,



Photo: Two potential locations for the new library in Forster.

Mayor's Message

Following the storm and flooding events of May, I am pleased with how Council and the communities involved responded to the great challenges we had to face.

We have also completed our latest round of community meetings. The meetings were all about us as a Council being responsive to the public

and building relationships, sharing information and receiving feedback.

This is a subject we take very seriously, in fact Council has recently taken on a new Community Engagement Officer. You can read about Tracey and her work in the article on page three.

As you can see above, Council is planning for a new library and civic precinct in Forster. We are at the start of a long process of planned improvements to our community facilities, and we will certainly be asking for your input on these.

CR JAN McWILLIAMS
MAYOR

.... from page 1

a loan (repaid using income from the Woolworths development), grants and Section 94 developer contributions. This means Stage One should be fully funded.

Stage Two is likely to be funded from commercial development of parcels of the remaining land.

Why should we invest in a new library?

The contemporary library is much more than a collection of books. It's a vital community hub. For many people it is the 'third place' in their lives and public libraries are now seen as the community's lounge room. Libraries bring people together.

The last four years have been the busiest Forster Library has ever had. Around 50% of local residents are active library members.

Our statistics also show that people are spending much longer in the library than they used to.

How do we know that the community will use the new library any more than they do the current one?

Every time a new library is built usage increases. Statistics from new facilities elsewhere in NSW show average visitor numbers increased by 54% and average loans by 31%.

Will there be any community consultation on the plans?

People are being consulted through a survey at Forster Library. It is

possible that there will be focus groups in the design phase.

Council has consulted at community meetings held in May, with Library volunteers and will be speaking to the Friends of the Great Lakes Library Service. Plus more!

Why can't Council expand the existing site?

There simply isn't enough space. A bigger building would require more parking space.

Behind the library is a public reserve, so there are constraints on that area being used. The building was not designed to support additional floors.

I thought the library was going to be on the old School of Arts site on Little Street?

That's true, but that was before Council acquired the larger block on Lake and West Streets. The cost of construction will be much less on a level block.

Will any other services be located with the library?

The Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is to be included in Stage One, but this depends on the floor space needs of both facilities and how readily a dual

facility can be designed. Otherwise the VIC will be part of Stage Two.

What other facilities are planned for the site?

Council is considering a local performance space, flexible meeting room and possibly a gallery as part of Stage Two.

The current library is really convenient for us! Have you considered that?

Yes we have. We chose an alternative location because the current one just doesn't work.

Parking will be much easier and for non-drivers we are looking at having the buses include the new library as a regular stop.

What will be better about the new site?

Car parking and extra space in the new Library will allow us to better provide for activities - with more accessible shelving, better public toilets, more seating and a better community 'lounge room'.



Photo: Sherryl Stratford and Charlie Gorton at Homework Help in the Library's 'community lounge room' - more space is needed for these type of activities.

Plans for 2015-2016 adopted

The community's interest in Council's plans for 2015-2016 was evident through the attendance and participation of almost 100 people at community information sessions held in May around the Great Lakes area.

One of the main topics of discussion was the 2015-2016 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

The Plan details Council's activities to address the community's priorities - including environmental, economic, social and civic leadership outcomes. The Plan also includes Council's statement of revenue, rates structure and fees and charges for the year.

As part of the longer term planning for the community, Council is also considering a modest special rate variation for 2016/2017.

The additional funding will provide a sustainable level of service for infrastructure and operations.

A community engagement strategy will be implemented later in 2015

to ensure that there is widespread community awareness of this proposal prior to lodgement of any application.

Importantly the Plan details the capital works which will continually improve and enhance community assets.

(See article on page 4).

Meet Council's new Community Engagement Officer Tracey Farrant

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm brand new to the Forster area, having come from Wodonga just over the Victorian border. I worked with Wodonga Council for over 11 years in community development and community engagement roles. I've been looking forward to a sea change for a number of years and am excited about the warm climate, beautiful environment and the friendly people in the Great Lakes area.

What do you do?

I believe that good community engagement is all about building a strong and healthy partnership between Council and our communities, and about community members being actively involved in community life wherever they live. I hope to engage our communities in conversation to seek and receive their views on issues that directly affect them or in which they may have a significant interest. At the end of the day, success would be seeing the community influencing the development and evaluation of Council's decisions, policies, programs and services.

For now, there are two key areas that I will be focusing on. The first is to support our communities to develop local action plans that outline how they will move forward toward a vibrant and sustainable future, and the second is to build communication networks to act as eyes and ears between Council and our communities.

Why do you think that community engagement is important?

Effective community engagement allows Council to tap into wider perspectives, sources of information, potential risks and potential solutions to improve decisions and services. It can provide early notice of emerging issues and the opportunity to be proactive on issues of concern to the community. It also underpins productive relationships, and ultimately, better democracy.



Photo: Council's new Community Engagement Officer, Tracey Farrant will soon be a familiar face to many residents.

What are your priorities?

For the next few months I'll be working with the Nahiack, Bulahdelah and Coolongolook communities to assist with the review and redevelopment of their community plans to link with the broader community strategic plan, *Great Lakes 2030*. I'll be starting to meet with various community groups across the Great Lakes to get to know our communities better. I'm keen to work with the Community Reference Group. I'm also developing some tools to assist my fellow council officers in creating effective engagement activities.

I would appreciate community members letting me know what community newsletters, websites or Facebook pages exist in their communities so that I can keep up to date with what's happening.

Thank you Tracey.

Are you interested in having a say?

Many people wish to be included in discussions about matters that will have an impact on their lives. There are a number of ways for you to participate and we are striving to increase the representation of community views so that we can make better decisions. One way you can have your say is to become part of the Community Reference Group.

The Community Reference Group is a database of people who have volunteered to be contacted by Council from time to time about things that they are most interested in.

Council uses the database of members to consult in a number of ways. Members might be invited to a focus group meeting, or be sent a survey to complete or document for comment.

Or we could also simply send something that says "we're considering doing this what do you think?"

For now, the Reference Group is focusing on six areas of interest - access, ageing, arts and culture, community buildings, disabilities and youth. This range of interest areas will grow over time.

Any resident of the Great Lakes local government area is encouraged to become part of the Community Reference Group.

Application forms are available from Council's website or call us on 6591 7222 for a paper version.

Upcoming Projects 2015 - 2016

Council's major projects for the upcoming year are outlined in the 2015-2016 Operational Plan and form part of the four-year Delivery Program for the current Council term. Following is a brief overview of the major projects planned for this year which include a total of over \$28.5 million in capital works.

Forster Civic Precinct

Plans are underway for an exciting and significant addition to the community landscape with the Forster Civic Precinct development, including new library facilities (see article on page 1 for details).

Road network

A range of projects will be undertaken including expenditure of over \$9.2 million on our urban, rural and regional road network.

These works are spread throughout the Great Lakes area and align with Council's recently updated Asset Management Plans developed to address the desired community service levels on these much used assets.

Approximately \$2.6m will be invested in resurfacing of our rural and urban road networks. Key urban rehabilitation projects include Marine Drive and Settlers Way (Tea Gardens), Lee Street (Bulahdelah) and Taree Street (Tuncurry). Rural rehabilitation projects will be undertaken on Bombah Point Road (Bombah Point), Booral Road (Booral) and Willina Road (Coolongolook).

Major regional road reconstruction projects will also be undertaken on The Lakes Way at Bungwahl near Seal Rocks Road and also on The Bucketts Way south of Allworth.

Footpaths and cycleways

The connectivity in our towns will continue to be enhanced with \$1.1 million to be spent on construction of footpaths and cycleways.

Boating facilities

An injection of \$1.7 million over two years will be utilised on 13 separate projects across the Great Lakes region. The improved facilities include boat ramps, car parks, pontoons, jetties and installation of dinghy access.

Waste management

The Tuncurry waste management centre will continue to transition to a modern Resource Recovery and Waste Transfer station to align with the development and opening of the Minimbah landfill. Over \$6.3 million will be spent to progress this significant project.

Fit For The Future - What happens now?

The NSW State Government required all Councils in NSW to submit a Fit for the Future (FFTF) proposal by 30 June, including set criteria considered necessary for a Council to be "fit for the future".

A "Fit for the Future" Council is effective and efficient, and has sufficient size and capacity to work properly.

Council currently meets four of the benchmarks identified to be 'FFTF' and will meet all seven within the timeframe set by the State Government.

IPART was appointed by the Government as the Expert Panel to assess FFTF submissions and will provide a final report to the Government by 16 October.

IPART developed a draft methodology for the assessment process and then consulted with local government during May, to produce a final assessment methodology on 5 June with submissions required to be lodged with IPART by 30 June.

A merger with Gloucester Council was identified as an option in the original Independent Local

Government Review Panel report. The Panel classified Great Lakes Council as a 'Group G' Council, which they described as "one of 28 larger councils which appear to be sustainable in their current form for several decades".

In line with the Panel's recommendation, we engaged with Gloucester Council and the Office of Local Government and jointly appointed Morrison Low as a State Government approved consultant to investigate a merger proposal between Great Lakes and Gloucester Councils.

The merger review identified major disadvantages to Great Lakes Council should a merger proceed and showed a clear negative result for a merged entity when assessed against the FFTF criteria and benchmarks. In short, Council would be worse off if a merger went ahead.

Based on this independent assessment Council decided not to

proceed with a merger. Gloucester Council also decided not to pursue a merger based on the report.

Under the IPART methodology Councils had to nominate one of the following options and then complete a provided template accompanying this option: Option One - Council Merger Proposal - for councils who are planning to merge; Option Two - Council Improvement Proposal - for councils who have appropriate scale and capacity and are preparing an Improvement Proposal; Option Three - Rural Council Proposal - for small rural councils that want to adopt the Rural Council Options.

Council prepared a proposal under Option Two and submitted by the 30 June deadline. We used relevant data sources to enable measurement against the FFTF benchmarks.

We will now await the outcome of the assessment by IPART and advice from the State Government.



Great Lakes
COUNCIL

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www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au



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Our place Our future

what's this about?

Great Lakes Council has been working closely with the community in recent years to improve the maintenance of community assets.

meeting your expectations....

We have listened to community feedback which told us that roads needed improving and we have put additional funding into road maintenance. We also understand that other important community assets such as playgrounds, swimming pools and public amenities require ongoing investment of funds to keep them up to standard.

doing things better....

Community consultation has told us that you want an efficient Council that looks at ways to continually improve how we deliver services.

To meet these challenges we have assessed the state of Council's assets using both our technical expertise and external consultants which specialise in community assets.

This research has shown that Council's work over recent years has been effective and the maintenance backlog is reducing. There is however still work to do on some road and community assets.

To continue the positive progress and ensure our financial future a **moderate special rate variation (SRV) is proposed** for the next four years (2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/2020).

This newsletter contains information on the proposal and how you can have your say.



Photo: Road maintenance, particularly rural sealed roads (top photo), was highlighted in the 2014 Community Survey as being your prime concern. We have invested funds since in improving these roads, such as the Seal Rocks Road (pictured above). Council's asset maintenance planning indicates that more money is needed in order to maintain the rural sealed road network (more on page 2).

come along to find out more!

Please attend a community meeting near you to discuss why we need a special rate variation increase:

Stroud School of Arts Hall, Monday 2 November at 6pm

Forster (Council Chambers) Friday 6 November at 10am

Tea Gardens Baptist Church, Thursday 5 November at 6pm

Bulahdelah School of Arts Hall Monday 9 November 6pm

"Although we have made significant savings and efficiencies, we simply need more funds than the NSW rate peg can provide if we are to continue along the path of maintaining our existing assets - roads, parks, playgrounds, footpaths and buildings." - Glenn Handford, General Manager



Playgrounds across the Great Lakes have also been highlighted by you as needing maintenance and upgrades. While we have undertaken much needed work on some, such as Pebbly Beach, Forster (pictured before and after the works above) and the Winda Woppa Playground at Hawks Nest, we need a significant injection of funds from the proposed SRV in order to complete the job right across the Great Lakes.

meeting your expectations

Since 2008 Council has been committed to addressing the backlog in community asset maintenance across the Great Lake Council area. At that time we commissioned Professor Percy Allan to review Council's financial sustainability with a primary focus on asset management. His report identified a future with large backlogs in asset maintenance across all community assets and an unsustainable financial position, unless immediate action was taken.

Faced with this, we worked with you, our community, to develop a Plan to responsibly navigate a path forward. This Plan developed a shared understanding of the situation and outlined responsible measures to ensure the Great Lakes community has sound roads to drive on and suitable community facilities for a wide range of activities.

We have come a long way since then - our assets have improved and our projected financial modelling shows balanced budgets for the next 10 years.

You told us your priorities were...

In 2014, our community told us (Community Survey) that more money was needed to fund **rural sealed roads**. The survey results also indicated the community wanted to see Council invest more broadly across a range of council assets.

What we know from community feedback, surveys and asset maintenance planning is the following assets require additional funding above that available from the current rate peg:

rural sealed roads	\$1 million per annum
playgrounds	\$100,000 per annum
swimming pools	\$100,000 per annum
recreational facilities and public amenities	\$100,000 per annum

In addition to the above, Council's Administration Building in Forster requires a new roof to avoid the regular and costly repairs from flooding which has occurred on a number of occasions in recent years.

did you know?

The State Government through IPART sets a limit on how much Council rates across NSW can increase annually. For financial planning purposes it is generally assumed that the rate peg amount is around 3% each year. **Keeping the rates pegged at this level would not enable Council to fund the priorities mentioned above.**

doing things better

You told us last time we asked you about a special rate variation that you wanted us to become more efficient and make improvements to how we do things.

We have worked hard to do this:

- undertaking a Service Level Review led to savings of over \$500,000 per year;
- implementing a Business Improvement Program across the organisation; and
- setting up an information and communications technology review which has highlighted the need for us to significantly upgrade in this area to be able to create more efficiencies, meet modern business standards and community expectations in our service provision.



The new swimming pool at Nabiac is popular with locals.

Part of the SRV increase, if approved, will be used to fund ongoing maintenance of swimming pool facilities across the Great Lakes.

what is council proposing to do?

The State Government through IPART sets a limit on how much Council rates across NSW can increase annually. For financial planning purposes it is generally assumed that the rate peg amount is around 3% each year.

Keeping the rates pegged at this level would not enable Council to fund the priorities you have identified (rural sealed roads and a range of community assets).

For this reason Council is proposing to apply for a moderate SRV to increase the rates as shown in the table below over the next four years:

Column A

Set by IPART and applied automatically each year by Council

Column B

The additional amount sought above the rate peg

Column C

Columns A + B = C
Total rates increase each year if SRV is approved

Year	A Rate peg increase % (assumed)	B Proposed SRV increase %	C Total increase proposed %	Proposed SRV increase will raise... \$
2016/2017	3.00%	3.50%	6.50%	1,121,000
2017/2018	3.00%	1.25%	4.25%	426,500
2018/2019	3.00%	1.25%	4.25%	444,500
2019/2020	3.00%	1.25%	4.25%	463,500

Council's preferred position is to apply the increase required over a four year period rather than implementing a large increase in one year. Over the four year period the cumulative effect on your rates if the proposed SRV is approved would amount to 20.66%. If only the rate peg is applied (that is, if the SRV proposal is not approved), the cumulative effect on your rates will be 12.55%. **Therefore the effect of the SRV is an additional 8.11% spread over four years.**

Spreading small rates increases over a four year period will have less impact on households with fixed incomes.

how will the SRV increase affect me?

The table below shows the impact of the SRV proposal on residential ratepayers **using an ordinary rate amount of \$1,000 in 2015/2016 as an example**. The impact of applying the assumed 3% rate peg only and of the 4-year SRV proposal are modelled. The final row indicates the additional amount of ordinary rates that would be payable per year under the special rate variation for a rates levy of \$1,000.

2015/2016 Rate	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020	
Rate Peg only								
\$1,000	3%	\$1,030	3%	\$1,060.90	3%	\$1092.73	3%	\$1,125.51
annual \$ increase		\$30		\$30.90		\$31.83		\$32.78
... with the SRV proposal								
\$1,000	6.5%	\$1,065	4.25%	\$1,110.26	4.25%	\$1,157.44	4.25%	\$1,206.63
annual \$ increase		\$65		\$45.26		\$47.18		\$49.19
.... the annual increase due to the SRV proposal								
		\$35		\$14.36		\$15.35		\$16.41

Additional examples of the impact on ratepayers of the proposed special variation can be found in section five of Council's 2015/2016 Operational Plan which is available on our website.

We are keen to hear what you think about this special rate variation proposal. Here's how you can find more information and have your say.

have your say

ONLINE Scan the QR Code on this page with your smart device or visit www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au and find the 'SRV proposal' under 'Have your say'. Complete the online feedback form.

EMAIL Email subject line: "SRV proposal" and send your comments to council@greatlakes.nsw.gov.au

POST Send us your feedback in writing, marked "SRV proposal" to:
The General Manager, Great Lakes Council, PO Box 450, FORSTER NSW 2428

need more information?

IN PERSON Attend a community meeting near you, see dates and venues on the front page.

ONLINE Visit our website to get more background information on the community strategic plan - Great Lakes 2030, annual reports and the financial sustainability reports mentioned in this newsletter.
www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au
Tip: Go to the "Council" tab at the top of the home page and then visit the "Our Strategies" section

PHONE our Customer Service Centre on (02) 6591 7222 for more assistance.

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