

Bayside NEWS Council



DECEMBER 2020

Mayor's Message



It was an honour to welcome Auditor General Crawford, Ms Margaret Crawford and the Audit Director Ms Karen Taylor from the Audit Office of NSW to our November Council Meeting when they presented the Auditor's Report on Council's financial position in person.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by Council staff to deliver a clear audit opinion on the 2019/2020 Annual Financial Statements.

This historic milestone would not have been possible without the work done by Council's Finance, Assets, City Projects and Human Resources teams. It has been a significant journey since amalgamation in 2016, presenting many unique challenges for this new Council.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Council will not be holding any of our popular community Christmas events and there will be no New Year's Eve firework display at Brighton Le Sands. But we are working hard to ensure our beaches, parks and open spaces can be enjoyed safely by all.

When you are out doing your Christmas shopping please take a moment to think of the many people who rely on charity at this time of the year – and if possible consider donating to a local charity to help bring a smile to a young child's face or a family on Christmas morning.

Finally as 2020 draws to a close, on behalf of my fellow Councillors and staff at Bayside, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may you have a happy, safe and prosperous new year.

I am looking forward to working with my fellow Councillors and Council staff during 2021.

Have a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Cr Joe Awada, Mayor

Auditor General Congratulates Bayside

Bayside Council is in a strong financial position and its audited accounts for 2019/2020 received the independent tick of approval from the Auditor General, Ms Margaret Crawford (pictured below) from the Audit Office of NSW at the November Council Meeting.

The Auditor General and the Audit Director Ms Karen Taylor from the Audit Office of NSW both attended the Council Meeting to present the Auditor's Report on Council's financial position in person to acknowledge the work done by the staff to deliver a clear audit opinion on the 2019/2020 Annual Financial Statements.



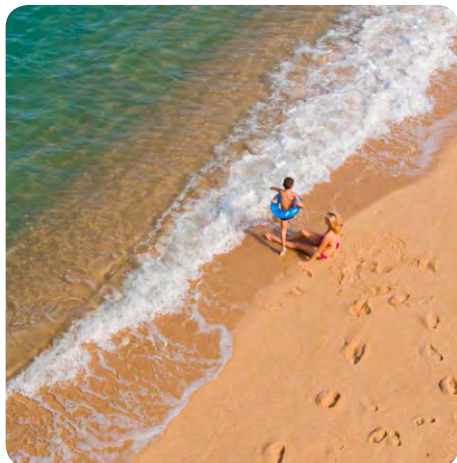
"It has been a challenging year for us all. Councils have faced many operational challenges in the face of COVID-19 and this Council had the added challenge of addressing issues from previous disclaimers of audit opinions," she said.

"So, tonight I am really pleased to be here to talk to you about our unqualified audit. I have chosen to do it in person, which is a little unusual, but I would like to thank you for the way you have managed and supported this audit process."

For the past 12 months Bayside staff have worked closely with the Audit Office of NSW, the appointed external auditor for Bayside Council, to address numerous audit issues inherited by the new Council as part of the amalgamation.

Bayside has been successful in now addressing all of those issues.

Summer Safety Program



Council's Summer Safe Plan includes additional messaging about physical distancing and increased hygiene while enjoying our parks and beaches.

"As the weather warms up and more people start enjoying our outdoor areas I encourage everyone to do their bit to help stop the spread of COV ID-19 when visiting our foreshore and beaches," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"Our beaches are unpatrolled and there are no lifeguards, but we can all help limit large outdoor gatherings in our parks and beaches."

Council is urging residents and visitors to remain mindful of crowds, heed the advice of beach signs and take note of Government health alerts.

Beach signs provide a reminder to:

- ▶ Stay at least 1.5m away from other families;
- ▶ Avoid crowded areas where you cannot stay 1.5 meters away from others;
- ▶ Wear a mask if possible; and
- ▶ Use the bins provided.

Summer For eShore eAmbassadors

Bayside Council has provided redeployment opportunities as Summer Foreshore Ambassadors to local QANTAS staff grounded during COV ID-19.

As part of the Council's Summer Foreshore Program the ambassadors will be patrolling the foreshore to provide public safety education and announcements, monitor crowds and help raise public awareness about COV ID-19 restrictions.

More Police

Council is working closely with NSW Health and the Police, other agencies, as well as neighbouring Councils on our foreshore management measures.

There will be additional NSW Police patrolling popular areas on the foreshore.



Timed Parking

Timed parking is being trialled in all Cook Park foreshore car parks and the Brighton Le Sands town centre this summer.

"This trial will see three hour timed parking introduced to deal with the increased demand for parking over the summer months," Bayside Mayor Joe Awada said.

Foreshore parking demand is seasonal and peaks during spring and summer resulting in insufficient parking supply and overspill occurring in surrounding streets.

Residents also have less access to parking as the lack of time restricted parking encourages visitors to stay longer in peak season.

Results from this trial will be used to help Council develop a Parking Management Plan for the area.

beach cleaning

Additional cleansing services and bins with red (general waste) and yellow (recycling) lids are placed throughout Cook Park and along the foreshore as part of our Summer Foreshore Program.

Council is working hard to keep our foreshore clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy, so if the bins near you are full please find another one or take your rubbish home with you.

no nYe Fir ewor ks

Council has cancelled all major events for the rest of the year due to ongoing COV ID-19 safety concerns including:

- ▶ Carols in the Park
- ▶ Carols by the Sea
- ▶ NYE Fireworks display

There are no official Council activities along the foreshore on NYE and no fireworks.

Local Police have advised they will have a strong presence on NYE along the foreshore to monitor physical distancing and ensure COV ID-19 restrictions are being observed.

Fireworks are illegal and carry penalties of \$27,500.

Any illegal vendors/stallholders seen selling goods will be removed and will be issued with a fine.



hoT coal bins

Picnics including BBQs are allowed subject to public health orders and total fire bans in place. Please check beach signage as some locations do not allow BBQs. Use the hot coal bins to dispose of charcoal debris.

Minister a pplauds bayside



L-R: Bayside Deputy Mayor James Macdonald, Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock MP and Bayside Mayor Joe Awada visiting the brand new state-of-the-art Arncliffe Youth Centre.

Bayside Mayor Joe Awada welcomed the Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock MP to Bayside on Monday 23 November 2020.

Mrs Hancock took the opportunity to inspect the recently completed Arncliffe Youth Centre with Mayor Joe Awada and Deputy Mayor James Macdonald.

"This soon to be opened state-of-the-art centre is a great example of Council working with the local community to provide much-needed services," Mrs Hancock said.

"Council engaged closely with the local community in the area and identified a strong need for youth and recreational services in Arncliffe and suburbs nearby."

The Arncliffe Youth Centre due to open in 2021 will house two sports courts suitable for futsal, basketball, table tennis, volley ball and netball.

The Centre will also have a dedicated area for the delivery of youth services including a 'drop-in' chill zone, visual arts and music rooms.

There will also be offices to provide referral services such as employment, health and drug and alcohol counselling.

A multi-purpose room with commercial kitchen will be able to cater for larger events.

"Initially Council looked at outsourcing the management of the Centre, but following the recent tender process, I believe Council is best placed to manage the Centre and provide the local youth with the facilities, services and support they need," Mayor Joe Awada said.

STr eeT Fl ag co MP

Council's Christmas flags have a unique Australian theme this year following the announcement of the winners in the inaugural street flag design competition.

Bayside Council's 112 banner poles will see the two different designs (the native birds and the wattle) flown across the region until mid January 2021.

Kristi Archer from Bexley who designed the native birds flag and Aniko Rowley from Botany who created the wattle flag, were the winners of the 2020 Christmas Flag Competition.



Pictured L-R: Deputy Mayor James Macdonald, Kristi Archer, Aniko Rowley and Mayor Joe Awada with the winning flags.

Shao quett re cognised

Bayside Council held a small civic reception to acknowledge The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC on his 10 years in State Government.

Shaoquett is a local who represented residents of the former Rockdale City Council.

He was first elected to Local Government in 1995 and served four times as Mayor and a number of times as Deputy Mayor before becoming a Member of the Legislative Council in the NSW Parliament in 2010.



L-R: Bill Fahs, Mayor Joe Awada, The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC and Councillor Bill Saravinovski.

COUNCILLORS **ouT & abouT**



child care centres

The Arncliffe Youth Centre and the Garrigarrang Child Care Centre are two community facilities that will open in 2021. Bayside Councillors recently took the opportunity to tour these nearly completed facilities.



For Mer council l or VISITS baySide

Former Councillor Brian Peacock visited Bayside recently and presented Mayor Joe Awada with an old handwritten note book from 1918 that records the beginnings of the Sans Souci Literary Institute.

"It is wonderful that we are able to preserve bits of our history like this," said Mayor Joe Awada

"This notebook makes a useful and interesting addition to our local history collection in the Library."

reMeMbr an ce daY

Mayor Joe Awada attended a Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at the Brighton Sub Branch where he also presented local resident and WWII veteran Patrick Driscoll with a 75th Anniversary Second World War Commemorative Medallion.

"It is a wonderful honour to present this medallion to local resident Patrick Driscoll," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"It is important that we continue to recognise and honour those who fought for our nation and freedom."



council l or l iz bar l ow recogniSed

Councillor Liz Barlow was recognised on the anniversary of her 25 years of service as a local Council representative at the November Council Meeting.

Councillor Liz Barlow was first elected to the former Rockdale City Council at the local government elections held on 9 September 1995, with September 2020 marking her 25th anniversary in Local Government.

Councillor Barlow twice served as Deputy Mayor:

- ▶ As the first female Deputy Mayor of Rockdale City Council in the 2002/2004 mayoral term.
- ▶ As Deputy Mayor from 2012/2013.

Liz has always been a true independent focused solely on the community. Over the years, she has continued to be a passionate advocate for issues affecting her local ward residents and the wider community.



naidoc week

Council marked NAIDOC Week with two COVID-Safe events: a flag raising ceremony in Rockdale on Monday 9 November and a function at Westfield Eastgardens on Tuesday 10 November. Pictured above are the winners of the 'Always Was, Always Will Be' school art competition at Westfield Eastgardens.

Nepalese book collection

Mayor Joe Awada, who launched the new Nepalese collection at Rockdale Library, was joined by Mr Rishi Acharya and his family. "This Nepalese collection adds to our broad range of library resources in different languages that reflects diverse cultural backgrounds and interests of our community," Mayor Joe Awada said.

Bayside Library used a State Library NSW Local Priority Grant to establish its own Nepalese collection to cater for the growing Nepalese community who are making their home in Bayside.



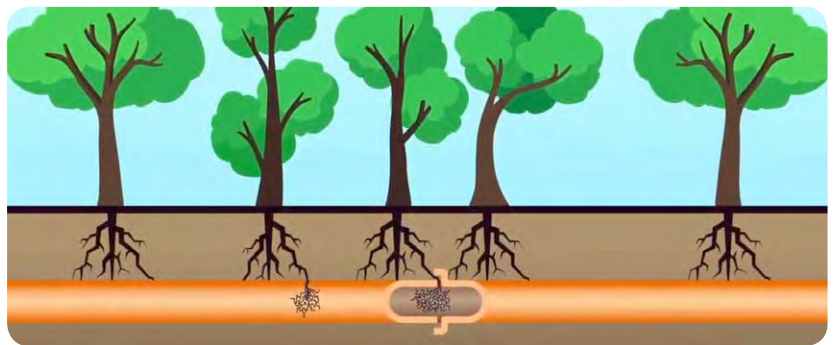
Council's awards

Claims Management Award

Bayside Council won the *Les Emerson Claims Management Award* for its recent 'Trees, Pipes & Property' video.

The risk of tree root damage to property owner's pipes is one faced by all home owners. This video educates residents about their responsibilities and could help reduce exposure to risk.

Watch the video at:
<https://bit.ly/treesandpipes>



Finalist for COVID-19 Award

Bayside Council was short-listed as a finalist in the *National Council of the Year* category.

Mayor Joe Awada presented a Mayoral Minute at the November Council Meeting acknowledging the exceptional service delivered by Bayside staff.

"I am so proud of Bayside, we are only four years young and we continue to achieve and deliver on so many levels. Congratulations, General Manager and staff on this wonderful recognition," Mayor Awada said.

The video is available on Council's website at:
www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/your-council

Sustainable Cities Award

Bayside was awarded two Highly Commended Awards and a Finalist Award for the 2020 *Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards*.

Pictured below, Mayor Joe Awada and Deputy Mayor James Macdonald accepted the Awards in the presence of her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, Governor of New South Wales.



COUNCIL'S PROJECTS

Arthur Park Upgrade

New pathways and play equipment are being installed in Arthur Park, Botany.

A new memorial avenue of 27 trees along a new path alignment will replace the remnant ailing memorial trees which have been dying off over the last few years. The number of trees correlates with the number of service personnel names included on a refurbished memorial plinth associated with the new avenue of trees.

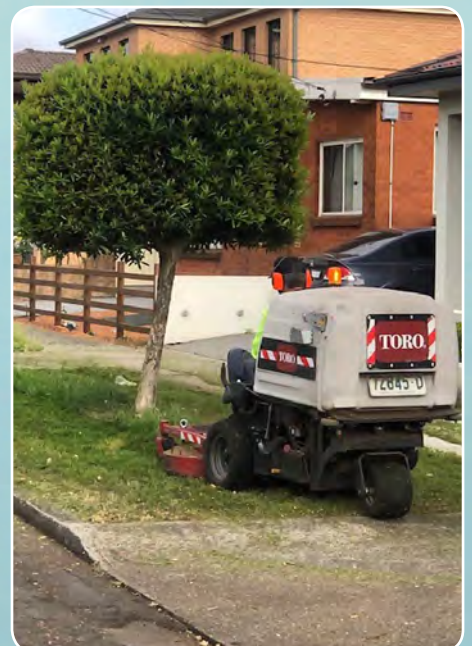
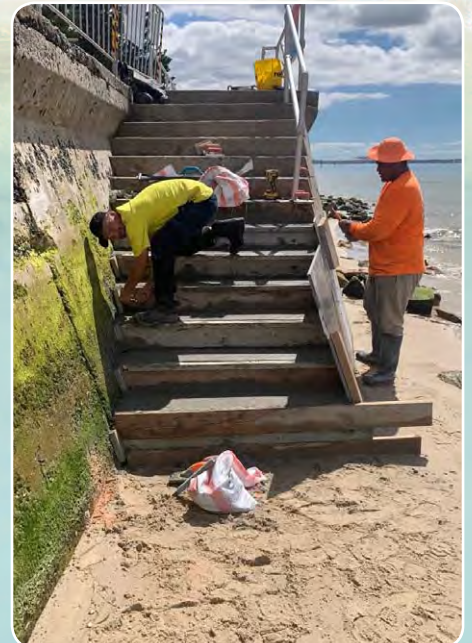
New lighting along this path is also planned.



Council's Outdoor Workers



From fixing retaining walls in Banksmeadow, repairing swimming enclosures at Monterey Baths and beach stairs at Sandringham, Council staff are continually working to maintain and improve Council assets.



ANTI HOONING c a M P a i g n

Mayor Joe Awada recently outlined the work Council is undertaking with the St George Police Area Command to ensure the safety of Bayside's streets.

St George Police have set up *Operation Overhaul* during the summer period, bringing together Police from various units to tackle hooning and anti-social behaviour.

Highway Patrol Officers have been tasked to this area to tackle hooning issues on The Grand Parade as well as anti-social behaviour in our carparks.



Keep QANTAS in Mascot



Bayside Council will lobby the State Government for higher incentives to keep Qantas in Mascot.

"Qantas has announced that it may consider moving its headquarters out of Mascot, in a bid to reduce office rental expenses. I am advised that Qantas has opened up the location of their HQ to the highest bid from a state government," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"The airline has held the Mascot office space since the 1990s. It would be economically beneficial for our local area and Sydney more generally, if Qantas would reconsider this move and instead entertain the idea of bringing some or all of their facilities together in Sydney, close to the Eastern Economic Corridor."

"Qantas HQ is already here, their flight training centres are already here. It would be a real coup for our local area if Qantas were to re-house their Jetstar HQ from Collingwood in Victoria and while they are at it, relocate their

Brisbane based heavy maintenance facility to Sydney, along with potentially 750+ jobs."

"To make this happen, we need to lobby the State Government to provide higher incentives to Qantas to stay in Mascot and grow their investment here in NSW. Not only is it in our best interest to retain Qantas HQ for the benefit of our residents who are employees of Qantas, but also those employees in associated industries.

"The opportunity to potentially relocate all of the Qantas facilities together in Sydney is very attractive to Bayside. I understand that as a result of the global pandemic, all businesses are looking at ways to reduce expenditure and create revenue to survive this economic downturn."

Mayor Joe Awada urged all Councillors to do what it takes to ensure Qantas stays with us and grows its business facilities in Bayside.

HILLSDALE QUALITY CHILD CARE CENTRE

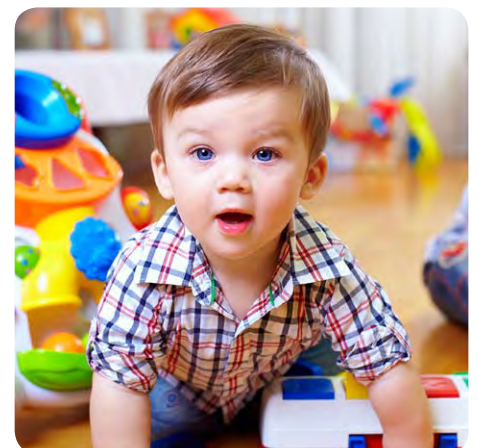
Bayside Council's Hillsdale Childcare Centre was rated as 'exceeding' the National Quality Standards during a recent assessment by the Department of Education.

"I am very proud of the whole team for achieving this rating. The Hillsdale Childcare Centre does an amazing job providing high quality education and care for the community," Mayor Joe Awada said.

Bayside Council owns and manages two child care centres, one in Mascot and one in Hillsdale as well as running a Family Day Care Service.

A new child care centre, the Garrigarrang Early Education and Care Centre, located on the former Darrell Lea site in Kogarah is due to open early next year and will also be owned and managed by Bayside Council.

More information on child care services can be found on Council's website at www.bayside.nsw.gov.au





FOOTWAY TRADING

Bayside Council's new Footway Trading Policy harmonises footway trading across Bayside.

Council will defer all fees and charges associated with footway trading until January 2021 to help local business impacted by COV ID-19.

"Footway trading will be permitted for all eligible businesses until January 2021 when Council will start processing permits," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"This will give business owners time to assess their footway trading requirements and decide whether to renew or apply for a permit."

Council will also work to help ensure local businesses are aware of the new policy and are ready to benefit from footway trading once the Federal Government lifts COV ID-19 restrictions on food shops and businesses.

Council Officers will continue to visit trading areas, talking to shop owners and promoting the new policy.

Council will also write to current permit holders advising them of the changes.

Business owners still need to apply and provide a certificate of currency (insurance). Council will continue to issue stickers and place markers for the designated trading areas.

The new Footway Trading Policy and Guidelines can be found on Council's website.



WWI Patriotic Flag

One of the many treasures at historic Lydham Hall is a WWI Patriotic Flag embroidered to raise money for the war effort.

Councillor Liz Barlow was working with members of the St George Historical Society and the Lydham Hall Committee to pack up the items held upstairs at Lydham Hall prior to the roof being replaced.

"The flag is in quite good condition apart from a few holes," said Councillor Barlow. "It is a wonderful part of our history and I would like to thank the Lydham Hall Committee for keeping it safe."

The Lydham Hall Museum (at 18 Lydham Avenue, Bexley) is owned by Bayside Council and it is managed by the Lydham Hall Committee and the St George Historical Society.

Driving Sustainability

Bayside Council is part of a local Council consortium paving the way to recycle 100 million glass containers into local roads each year.

"I am proud Bayside Council is part of this initiative that will stimulate our economic recovery, create local jobs and protect the environment," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"It is also an opportunity for residents to see how separating their waste helps turn recyclable material into a valuable resource."

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) released a request for tender on behalf of its member Councils in what could be one of the largest local government-led recycling initiatives in NSW history.

The SSROC Paving the Way initiative is expected to create a market for over 20,000 tonnes of recycled glass per year while supporting local jobs and the development of essential recycling infrastructure.

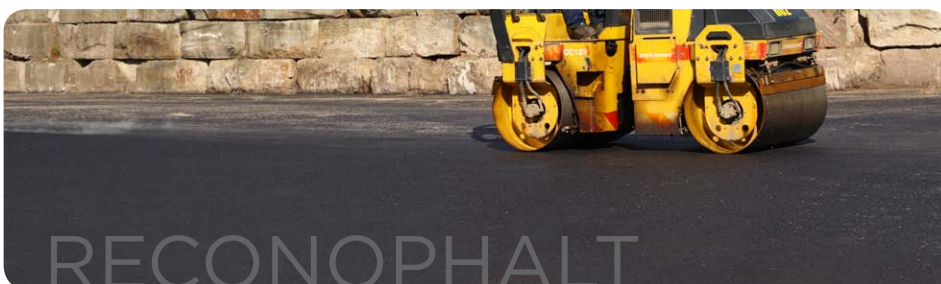
The use of recycled crushed glass (RCG) as a substitute for natural sand in roads and footpaths is in line with Transport for NSW and AUS-SPEC specifications.

The process is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding the transport of sand from distant quarries. Tracking emissions and the amount of recycled materials will also help councils report on sustainability targets.

Bayside Council successfully trialled a similar system last year when the Bexley Depot was resurfaced with almost 400 tonnes of Reconophalt that incorporated waste materials like soft plastic, glass, printer toner and reclaimed road base in the asphalt mix.

In addition to Bayside, participating Councils include Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, City of Sydney, Fairfield, Georges River, Hornsby, Inner West, Northern Beaches, Randwick, Ryde, Sutherland, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra.

For more information visit:
ssroc.nsw.gov.au



Summer Reading Club

BAYSIDE LIBRARIES 20/21

Prizes to be won! Join at your local library from Tuesday 1 December 2020.

Arncliffe Library

11 Firth Street
Ph: 02 9562 1816

Bexley North Library

24 Shaw Street
Ph: 02 9562 1814

Brighton Le Sands Library

1 Moate Avenue
Ph: 02 9562 1812

Eastgardens Library

152 Bunnerong Road
Ph: 02 9366 3888

Mascot Library

2 Hatfield Street
Ph: 02 8338 0313

Rockdale Library

444-446 Princes Highway
Ph: 02 9562 1821

Sans Souci Library

104 Russell Avenue
Ph: 02 9562 1817



First Nations Art Competition

Bayside Council is proud to announce a new art competition for First Nations artists with a connection to the Bayside Local Government Area.

There are three categories: Wall Work, Emerging Artists and Young Artists (U18). Closing: Monday 8 February 2021. Entry is free with great prizes.

Winning entries will be displayed in Council facilities and images will be used in Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan.

visit: <https://bayside.eventsair.com/firstnations-art>



Botany
Aquatic
Centre

WE ARE OPEN



We are open for recreational swimming but require your assistance to make the pool a happy place for everyone.

- Patrons must sign in using the NSW Service App & QR Code.
- Cashless Eftpos, visa, MasterCard.
- Open from 10am daily for recreational use. Lap swimming as per normal business hours.
- Pool patrons capped at 200. No bookings required but once this number is reached there will be no more people allowed to enter until others have left.
- **Toddlers Pool** will have a maximum number of 20 patrons at any one time.
- **Training Pool** will have a maximum number of 40 patrons using at one time.
- **Main Pool** will have two lanes allocated to recreational use. Max 60 patrons at one time.
- **Main Pool** will have six lanes for lap swimming. Max 7 swimmers per lane.
- Grass area will be open for sitting. Physical distancing guidelines must be maintained.
- No parties or running around.
- No BBQs.
- No ball games.
- No boogie boards and/or inflatables.

Botany Aquatic Centre

Corner Myrtle and Jasmine Streets
Tel (02) 9316 6218

Local Representatives

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Events Cancelled

Council has cancelled all major events for the rest of the year due to ongoing COVID-19 safety concerns.

This includes Carols in the Park, Carols by the Sea and the New Year's Eve Fireworks display.



Libraries and Customer Service HOLIDAY HOURS

Thursday 24 december	8:30am - 1:00pm
Friday 25 december	Public holiday
Saturday 26 december	Public holiday
Sunday 27 december	closed
Monday 28 december	closed
Friday 1 January	Public holiday
Saturday 2 January	closed
Sunday 3 January	closed

Arncliffe, Bexley North, Brighton Le Sands, Mascot and Sans Souci Libraries will be closed **from 1pm Thursday 24 December 2020** and reopen on **Monday 4 January 2021**. Library returns can be made through the 24/7 chutes at Eastgardens and Rockdale Libraries.

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Eastgardens Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road

Rockdale Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway

Open from Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm and Saturday 9am - 1pm.

Check Council's website at www.bayside.nsw.gov.au for latest updates.



Register for our regular e-news at bit.ly/Bayside-eNews

Changes to Your Rates

NEW RATE SYSTEM COMING IN 2021



Council is required to plan for a new rating system from 1 July 2021 to ensure we comply with the NSW Government requirement for one rating system across the whole of Bayside.

Bayside Council is one of several New South Wales amalgamated Councils working with the Office of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government on new legislation which will allow for the gradual (multi-year) implementation of rates harmonisation.

The Office of Local Government has met with Bayside Council and a number of other Councils across NSW regarding the State Government making changes to the current legislation. These changes will provide greater flexibility for amalgamated Councils in how they create a single, fair and equitable rating system across the newly amalgamated Councils.

This type of change, if legislated, will allow Bayside Council to determine the fairest way to implement a new rating structure having regard for current financial pressures being experienced by all ratepayers.

What's changing

Bayside will move from calculating rates using two different formulas, to using one formula that will be applied across the whole local government area.

This change does not increase the total rate revenue received by Bayside Council.

It simply redistributes how the rates are currently paid so they are paid equally across all ratepayers based on the unimproved land value of their property.

Once implemented, regardless of what former Council your property is located in, all Bayside ratepayers will pay the same for their rates depending on the value of their land.

Why we are making this change

The NSW State Government imposed a rates freeze on amalgamated Councils in 2016, ensuring ratepayers paid no more than they would have under their old Council until 2021.

Your rates are currently calculated using the formulas devised by former Rockdale City Council and former City of Botany Bay Council.

This means if the NSW valuer General has valued your property at \$750,000 in Arncliffe, you pay a different amount to the owner of a property valued at \$750,000 in Mascot, despite receiving the same services.

We are required to introduce a single 'fair and equitable' system by 1 July 2021. It is anticipated that new legislation will guide the implementation of the 'one rating' system and allow for a gradual change over a number of years.





When will it happen



The changes in detail

One

Harmonise the former Botany (11) and Rockdale (3) rate categories into six new Bayside categories

The rating categories and sub-categories to be established are:

- ▶ Residential – Ordinary
- ▶ Business – Ordinary
- ▶ Business – Industrial
- ▶ Business – Port Botany
- ▶ Business – Mall
- ▶ Farmland

Two

Determine the minimum rate to be applied across all categories

A minimum rate will be applied across all rating categories and sub-categories.

The current proposal is \$768.52 (plus the IPART rate pegging limit for the 2021/22 financial year).

Three

Special Rate Levy

The existing special rates (approximately \$13 million) levied across the former Rockdale City Council will remain unchanged and will not be levied across the former City of Botany Bay Council area.

If you need more information...

How can I find out about the rating system and how rates are calculated?

Our website contains detailed information, a rates calculator and FAQs.

Find out how this will affect you by visiting Council's website.

What if I can't pay my rates or the increase?

Council has a range of measures to assist individuals who have difficulty paying their rates. Visit Council's website below.

www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

Have Your Say

You can have your say on the new rate system **by 31 December** by visiting Council's website and completing the online survey.

You can leave a comment or write to Council via email to council@bayside.nsw.gov.au



GO GREEN. GO ELECTRONIC.

Receive your rates notices
via email

Sign up for > eNotices

<https://bayside.enotices.com.au>




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* Special Levies apply to former Rockdale City Council properties such as Community Safety and Infrastructure Levies.



This is currently not the case. The former Rockdale and former Botany ratepayers are paying very different amounts because of the formulas used by their previous Council.

Currently the average residential rate for the former Rockdale ratepayers is \$1,164 compared to Botany's average of \$709. The minimum rate set for Rockdale was \$768 and for Botany \$553.

Part of the reason for some of these large variances between the Botany and Rockdale rates are that previously, Botany residential ratepayers were subsidised by the high level of rates paid by local businesses. In recent years, businesses, industries and factories have been replaced by high quality residential developments making the community more desirable, but leaving an imbalance in the rating structure across the Botany area.

The new rating structure to be implemented across all of Bayside will allow for a fair and equitable balance between all businesses and residential ratepayers across the whole of Bayside.

Harmonising the rates and creating one formula for Bayside will impact all ratepayers. Some will see an increase, and some will see a decrease. The challenge for Council is to formulate a structure that shares the load equally across the whole of Bayside while endeavouring to minimise the financial impact.

The legislation, in its present form, does not allow for a gradual (multi-year) implementation of a single rating structure across all of Bayside. However, Council is, and will continue, to work with the Minister and Office of Local Government seeking changes to the legislation to allow for a gradual (multi-year) implementation.

These changes do not affect the current rating period 2020/21. They will not come into effect until 1 July 2021.

The table overleaf compares your current rates for this financial year 2020/21 with the proposed new rates for 2021/22. At this stage we are showing the proposed increase over one year only, as per the current legislation. As stated, Council is currently advocating on your behalf with the Minister for Local Government and NSW Office of Local Government for a multi-year implementation.

To learn more about harmonisation and your rates visit **www.bayside.nsw.gov.au**

The website will be kept up to date with information about the process and what it means and a special rates calculator is available to give ratepayers an idea of how their property is affected.

Meredith Wallace
General Manager

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale | Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens
Email **council@bayside.nsw.gov.au** Website **www.bayside.nsw.gov.au** Phone **1300 581 299 | 02 9562 1666**

COMING IN 2021



ROCKDALE NSW 2216



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012
P000001
R1 10
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13 November 2020

Dear Ratepayer,

As mandated by the NSW State Government, Bayside Council is required to harmonise its current rating structures into one single structure in readiness for the 2021/22 financial year.

What does that mean?

In 2016 when the NSW State Government merged a number of councils across Sydney, including Bayside, they imposed a four-year rate freeze on the newly formed Council.

This means, your rates, over the past four years have been calculated using the same formula devised by either the former Rockdale or Botany Councils depending on where your property is located.

Rate harmonisation means Council is now legally required to develop and introduce a single 'fair and equitable' system for all Bayside Ratepayers by 1 July 2021.

PLEASE TURN OVER ►►

Property Address:	[REDACTED] BEXLEY NSW 2207	
Unimproved Land Value:	\$401,000	
Former Council Area:	Rockdale City Council	
	CURRENT RATES 2020/21	PROPOSED FOR 2021/22
Rating Category	Business	Business - Ordinary
Ordinary Rate	\$994.48	\$1,015.00
Special Levies*	\$349.11	\$299.77
Local Area Rate	\$332.06	\$338.70
Stormwater Levy	\$50.00	\$50.00
Commercial Waste	\$848.25	\$865.22
Pensioner Rebate	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,573.90	\$2,568.69

Includes the IPART approved Rate Peg increased of 2% for 2021/22.

* Special Levies apply to former Rockdale City Council properties such as Community Safety and Infrastructure Levies.



This process does not allow a council to increase the amount of revenue collected from rates, it simply means that from 1 July 2021 all rates will be assessed using the same formula.

For example, when rates are harmonised, a property with an unimproved land value of \$750,000, regardless of what suburb it is located in, will be assessed using the same formula and pay the same rates.

This is currently not the case. The former Rockdale and former Botany ratepayers are paying very different amounts because of the formulas used by their previous Council.

Harmonising the rates and creating one formula for Bayside will impact all ratepayers. Some will see an increase, and some will see a decrease.

The challenge for Council is to formulate a structure that shares the load equally across the whole of Bayside while endeavouring to minimise the financial impact.

The legislation, in its present form, does not allow for a staged implementation. However, Council is, and will continue, to work with the Minister and Office of Local Government seeking changes to the legislation to allow for a gradual (multi-year) implementation.

These changes do not affect the current rating period 2020/21. They will not come into effect until 1 July 2021.

The table overleaf compares your current rates for this financial year 2020/21 with the proposed new rates for 2021/22. At this stage we are showing the proposed increase over one year only, as per the current legislation.

As stated, Council is currently advocating on your behalf with the Minister for Local Government and NSW Office of Local Government for a multi-year implementation.

To learn more about harmonisation and your rates visit Council's website at:

www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

The website will be kept up to date with information about the process and what it means and a special rates calculator is available to give ratepayers an idea of how their property is affected.

Meredith Wallace
General Manager

Bayside Customer Service Centres

Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale | Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens
Email council@bayside.nsw.gov.au Website www.bayside.nsw.gov.au Phone **1300 581 299** | **02 9562 1666**

1. Facebook Media Campaign Statistics & Insights

Post 5

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/posts/2727398700908770>

**Bayside Council**Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 22 January · 🌐

You've given us your feedback on rate harmonisation (thank you 🙏🙏). Now we need you to let the Minister at the [Office of Local Government](#) know that you want her to make it happen.

The [NSW Government](#) is looking for public comment on a draft Bill which looks at creating a "Fairer Rating System".

🔴 One of the key changes will allow amalgamated Councils to harmonise rates over a period of up to four years 🔴

There are several other important changes up for consideration as well that will directly affect you, the ratepayer. We all need to work together to move towards a fairer rating system.

It won't happen without your support. Please get behind this draft Bill and have your say 🗣️.

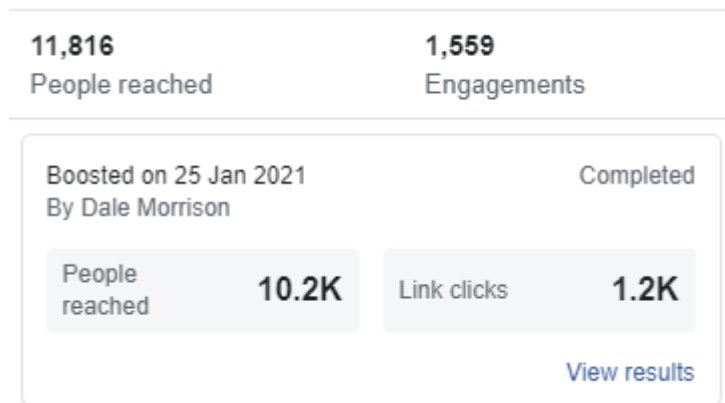
For more information ⓘ about this and to submit your feedback, check the link in the comments.

The deadline for public comment is Friday 5 February 2021.



[OLG.NSW.GOV.AU](#)
Consultation on Local Government Rating Reform - Office of Local Government NSW

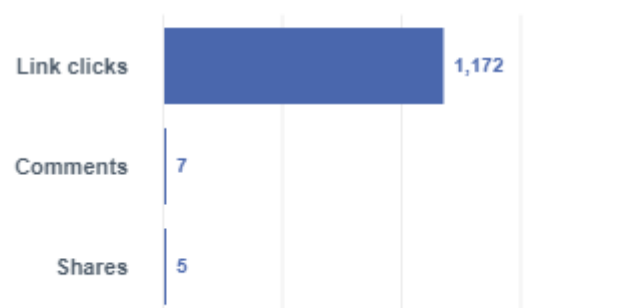
 [Learn More](#)



This was boosted over 11 days and we spent \$300.

Activity

Engagement on Facebook



Audience

...

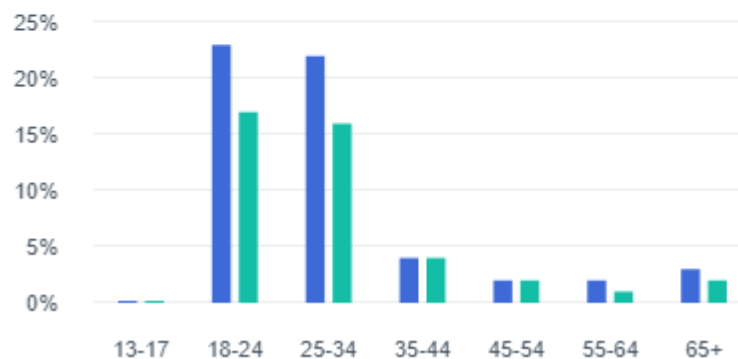
This ad reached **10,219** people in your audience.

People

Placements

Locations

57.3% Women **42.7%** Men



Audience

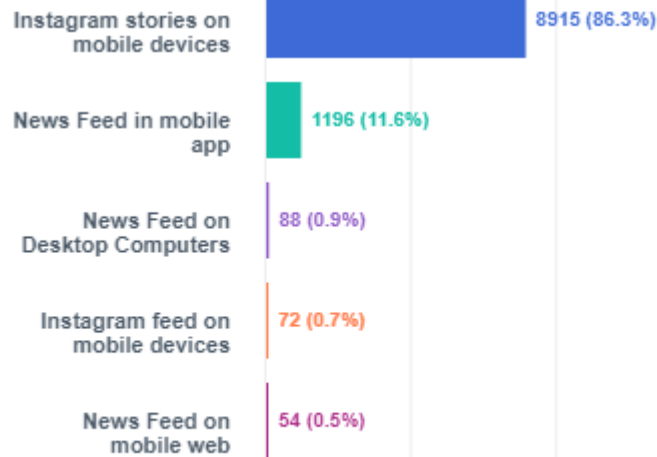
...

This ad reached **10,219** people in your audience.

People

Placements

Locations



Performance for your post

11,816 People Reached

34 Likes, Comments & Shares *i*

17 Likes	16 On Post	1 On Shares
13 Comments	13 On Post	0 On Shares
4 Shares	4 On Post	0 On Shares

1,525 Post Clicks

2 Photo views	1,175 Link clicks <i>i</i>	348 Other Clicks <i>i</i>
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK


1 Hide post	1 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

 Anne-Marie Hofman, Maureen Burnett and 14 others

11 Comments 4 shares

Post 4

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/posts/2691230447858929>

**Bayside Council**

Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 7 December 2020 · 🌐


Feedback is important. And none more so than that submitted via our rate harmonisation survey.

So far we've received 962 survey responses - and we know there are more than 962 residential rate payers in Bayside. Where's everyone else? 🧑🧑

Check the link in the comments about the current rate harmonisation process and use the rates calculator to compare this financial year to next.

The deadline for feedback has been extended to New Year's Eve 2020 🎉

Please take the time to send yours in.



BAYSIDE.NSW.GOV.AU

Changes to your rates | Bayside Council

Learn More

This will redistribute the way we collect revenue from...

10,902
People reached

1,282
Engagements

Boosted on 9 Dec 2020
By Dale Morrison

Completed

People reached**9.2K**

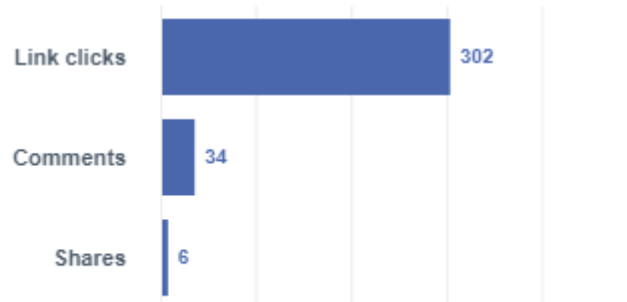
Link clicks**302**

[View results](#)

This was boosted over 22 days and we spend \$300.

Activity

Engagement on Facebook



Audience

...

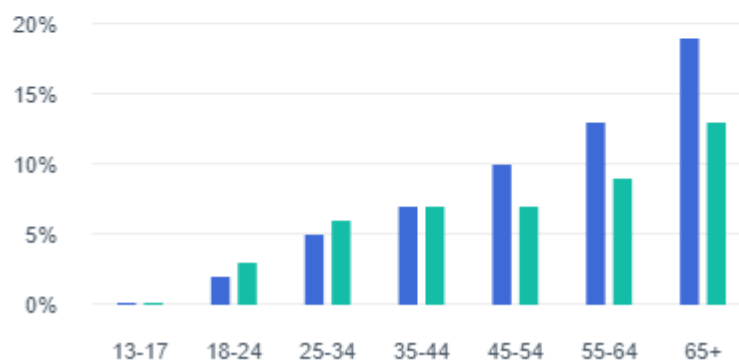
This ad reached **9,162** people in your audience.

People

Placements

Locations

54.7% **Women** 45.3% **Men**



Audience

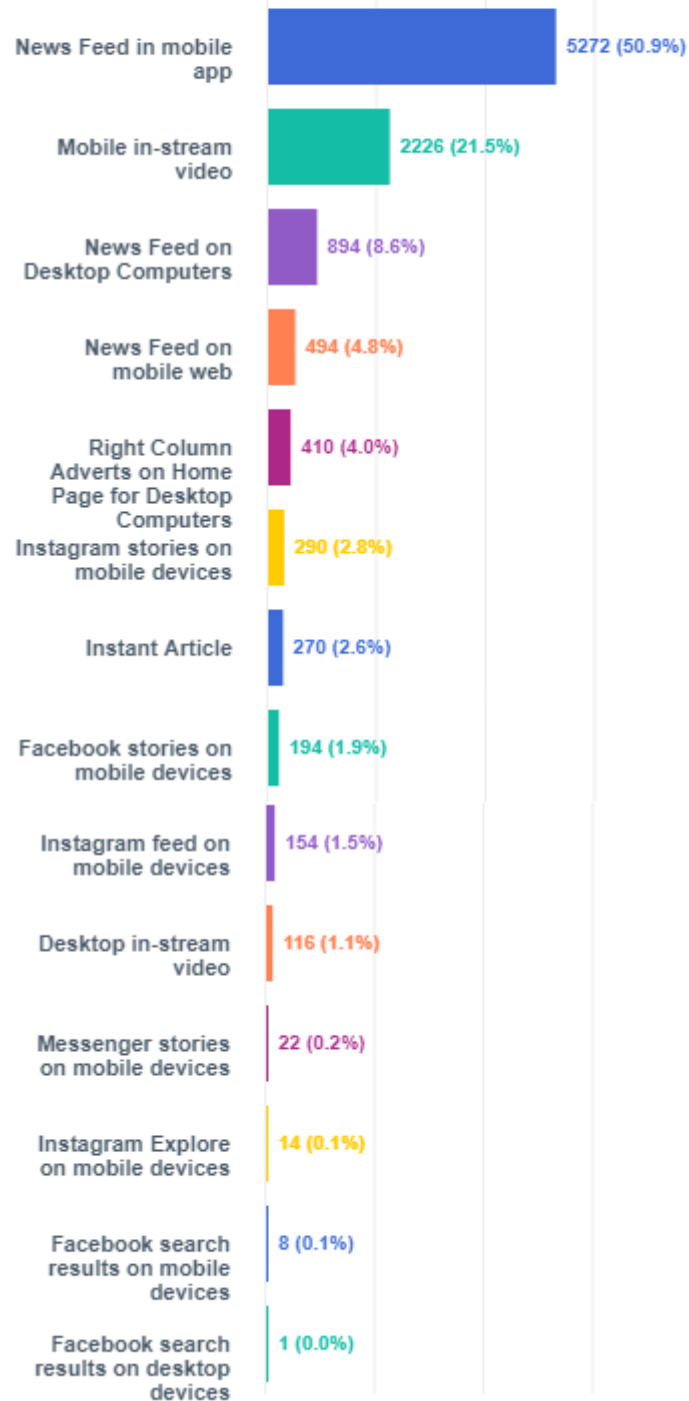
...

This ad reached **9,162** people in your audience.

People

Placements

Locations





Performance for your post

10,902 People Reached

135 Reactions, comments & shares 

27  Like	25 On post	2 On shares
---	----------------------	-----------------------

1  Wow	1 On post	0 On shares
---	---------------------	-----------------------

3  Sad	3 On post	0 On shares
---	---------------------	-----------------------

12  Angry	12 On post	0 On shares
--	----------------------	-----------------------

83 Comments	74 On Post	9 On Shares
-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------

9 Shares	9 On Post	0 On Shares
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1,147 Post Clicks

2 Photo views	306 Link clicks 	839 Other Clicks 
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post **0** Hide all posts

0 Report as spam **0** Unlike Page

   Mimma Tisi, Susan Joy Fleming and 36 others

39 Comments 9 shares

Post 3

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/posts/2676119449370029>

**Bayside Council**

Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 19 November 2020 ·

We want all 66,663 residential rate payers to tell us 🗣️ their views on the proposed 2021 changes to our rates.

Jump online via the link 🌐 in the comments and complete the survey. And use our rates calculator (at the same link).

Don't miss out on having your say.



BAYSIDE.NSW.GOV.AU

Changes to your rates | Bayside Council

This will redistribute the way we collect revenue from...

[Learn More](#)

16,408
People reached

3,158
Engagements

Boosted on 20 Nov 2020
By Dale Morrison

Completed

People reached**9.9K**

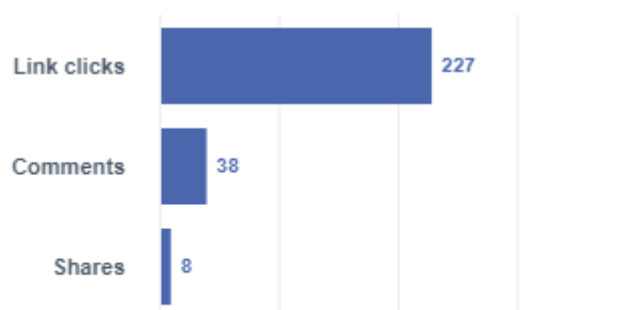
Link clicks**227**

[View results](#)

The post was boosted over 4 days and we spent \$200.

Activity

Engagement on Facebook



Audience

...

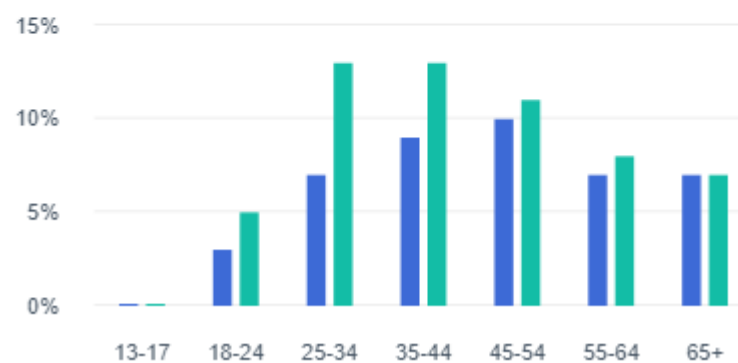
This ad reached **9,940** people in your audience.

People

Placements

Locations

42.2% Women **57.8%** Men



Audience

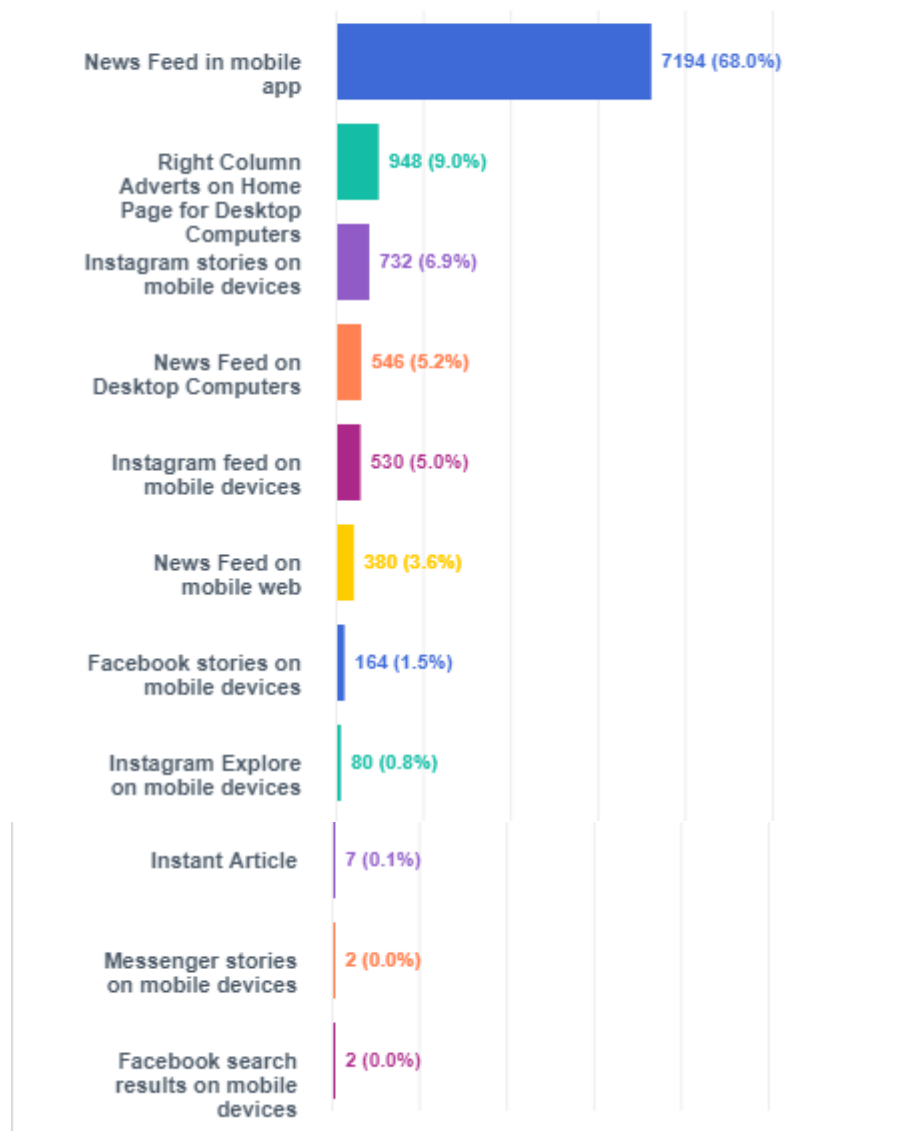
...

This ad reached **9,940** people in your audience.

People

Placements

Locations



Performance for your post

16,408 People Reached

319 Reactions, comments & shares ⓘ

48  Like	17 On post	31 On shares
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3  Love	3 On post	0 On shares
--	---------------------	-----------------------

4  Haha	4 On post	0 On shares
--	---------------------	-----------------------

1  Wow	1 On post	0 On shares
---	---------------------	-----------------------

2  Sad	1 On post	1 On shares
---	---------------------	-----------------------

16  Angry	15 On post	1 On shares
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234 Comments	172 On Post	62 On Shares
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11 Shares	11 On Post	0 On Shares
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2,839 Post Clicks

23 Photo views	280 Link clicks ⓘ	2,536 Other Clicks ⓘ
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide post	4 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

   Alexander Pearce, Gina Scerri and 37 others

92 Comments 11 shares

Post 2

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/photos/a.1657557184559599/2664232637225377>



Bayside Council

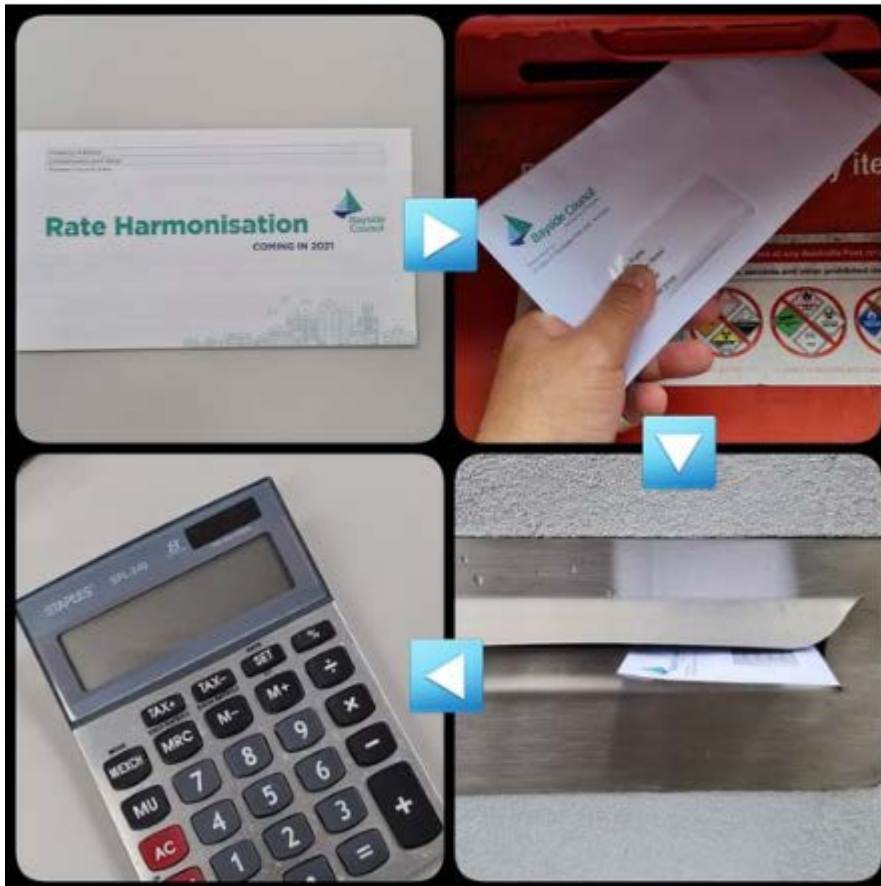
Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 6 November 2020 · 🌐

We have sent out a letter 📧 to each and every Bayside rate payer explaining rate harmonisation.

Also included with the letter is a table comparing your current rates with the proposed new rates for 2021/22. As per current legislation, this is shown as a change over one year only.

However we are definitely advocating 🗣️ on your behalf for a multi-year implementation and we are optimistic that the Minister for Local Government will introduce legislative change before the end of this year that will allow for a slower harmonisation, achieved over a number of years.

For more information ⓘ about rate harmonisation and to stay up-to-date with the process, see the link 🌐 in the comments.



Get more likes, comments and shares

When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

3,067

People reached

636

Engagements

Boost Post

Performance for your post

3,067 People Reached

65 Reactions, comments & shares ⓘ

13 👍 Like	11 On post	2 On shares
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1 😲 Wow	1 On post	0 On shares
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2 😞 Sad	2 On post	0 On shares
-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------

4 😡 Angry	4 On post	0 On shares
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44 Comments	41 On Post	3 On Shares
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1 Shares	1 On Post	0 On Shares
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571 Post Clicks

26 Photo views	0 Link clicks ⓘ	545 Other Clicks ⓘ
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide post **0** Hide all posts

0 Report as spam **0** Unlike Page

👍👎😞 Nick Dowsetthill, James Moon and 16 others

26 Comments 1 share

Post 1

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/photos/a.1657557184559599/2654079721574002>

**Bayside Council**

Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 26 October 2020 · 🌐

📌 Rate Harmonisation 📌

There. We said it.

Do you want to know how Rate Harmonisation affects your property? Our website's Rates Calculator 📊 (link is in the comments) will tell you.

It's fast, easy to use and tells you the facts based on real information 👍

Note: you will need to use the address as listed on your rates notice 📧

And don't forget to fill in our online survey 📄 which asks about your preference for a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 year transition to harmonisation and please leave us your comments



**Get more likes, comments and shares**

When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

7,608

People reached

2,029






Engagements

Boost Post

Performance for your post

7,608 People Reached

246 Reactions, comments & shares 

28  Like	10 On post	18 On shares
2  Love	2 On post	0 On shares
1  Haha	0 On post	1 On shares
4  Sad	1 On post	3 On shares
41  Angry	26 On post	15 On shares
162 Comments	91 On Post	71 On Shares
9 Shares	9 On Post	0 On Shares

1,783 Post Clicks

144 Photo views	57 Link clicks 	1,582 Other Clicks 
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

2 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

   Oli Kitchingman, Christine Stamper and 32 others 54 Comments 9 shares

Frequently Asked Questions

What are rates?

Council rates are a property tax and are a source of Council revenue. Rates are used to provide essential infrastructure and services.

This includes footpaths, resealing roads, and stormwater drainage as well as community facilities (parks, gardens, libraries and pools).

What is rate harmonisation?

Rate harmonisation is a process where we move to a single rates system that uses the same method to calculate rates across the Bayside local government area.

Why are we harmonising rates?

Council is required to create one general rating structure as a result of the amalgamation that created Bayside Council in 2016.

Under current legislation, the NSW state government has given Council a deadline of 1 July 2021 to have one rating structure in place. We may be able to offer a gradual implementation if the NSW government's proposed changes are passed into law.

Does rate harmonisation mean that everyone pays the same amount?

It means that all ratepayers across the Bayside LGA will be subject to the same minimum rate of \$768.52 (plus the IPART rate pegging limit of 2% for the 2021/22 financial year) as well as their rates being calculated using the same formula.

Not everyone will pay the same rates for their property as rates are calculated using the unimproved land value as decided by the NSW Valuer General. All properties have different land values. The formula to calculate rates will be the same across all rating categories.

This process will remove inequity in the scheme by applying a consistent formula for calculating rates across the all Bayside ratepayers.

How will my rates be affected?

Rate Harmonisation will see some rates increase and some decrease.

Remember, there are other factors that affect the rates calculation, including:

- yearly increases in line with the rates peg
- your land valuation, which is assessed every 3 years by the NSW Valuer General. The most recent valuation was this year and will be applied in the 2020/21 financial year.

You can see the impact of the proposed changes on your rates by using the rates calculator.

How does my land valuation affect my rates?

Land values are one factor used by Council in the calculation of a landowner's rating liability. Increases in land values do not necessarily lead to similar increases in rates. Changes to land valuations do cause a redistribution of the rates levied across categorised properties, but individual rates may not go up and down in line with the property value.

What if I can't afford the new amount?

If you are experiencing hardship and receiving Australian Government payments, you may be eligible for a rates deferral or payment arrangement.

Why are there currently different minimum rates and why do we need to be all the same?

Each Council in NSW is able to determine their own minimum rate.

The former Botany Council has a minimum of \$552.62 while the former Rockdale Council has a minimum of \$768.52.

The former Botany Council minimum was much lower due to the residential rates being subsidised by the business rates.

The NSW State Government has given all Councils in NSW a deadline of 1 July 2021 to have one rating structure in place. This means one minimum rate across the whole of Bayside Council. Under the NSW Government guidance there needs to be a fair and equitable split of rates across both residential and business rate payers.

Why can't Rockdale ratepayers pay the same as Botany?

This would mean we would collect \$28 million less in rates revenue each year.

This would have a big impact on our ability to deliver services. This could also affect the standard of maintenance and the quality of facilities we provide including parks, open space and sporting facilities.

Why do the former Rockdale rate payers still pay a special rate levy on top of their rates and Botany do not?

Prior to amalgamation the former Rockdale Council applied for a special rate variation so that they could afford to upgrade and maintain the infrastructure across Rockdale.

As part of the amalgamation, we were able to continue the special rate levy solely for Rockdale ratepayers.

Botany ratepayers did not have a special rate levy for infrastructure assets attached to their rates and will not be required to pay the Rockdale special rate as part of rates harmonisation.

My rates are above the minimum rate. How are my rates calculated?

Council rates that are above the minimum are calculated based on the value of your land, as determined by the NSW Valuer General.

The valuation process is not determined by Council.

We receive the updated land values from the NSW Valuer General at least every three years. The last revaluation came into effect on 1 July 2020. Any significant fluctuation in your land valuations may have an impact on the amount of rates you pay.

You can find further information about the NSW Valuer General valuation process [on their website](#).

What's the difference between business rates and residential rates?

Generally, businesses pay a higher rate across the Bayside local government area than residential rate payers.

For those businesses that pay the minimum rate they are paying the same as residents who pay the minimum rate.

Why is the Botany minimum rate so much less than Rockdale?

Since the amalgamation of Rockdale and Botany Councils in 2016, we have been required to maintain two rating systems. We must create one consistent rating system by 1 July 2021 to ensure a fairer approach for all ratepayers, regardless of dwelling or business type.

The former Botany Council had a minimum of \$552.62 while former Rockdale Council had a minimum of \$768.52. The former Botany Council minimum was much lower due to the residential rates being subsidised by the business rates.

To ensure equity in the rates and annual charges across the Council LGA a harmonised and equity based minimum rate and rate in the dollar is being proposed, with a new residential minimum rate of \$768.52.

Overall, we won't be collecting any additional revenue through this process.

What is the difference between house rates and unit/apartment rates?

We use the method of 'ad valorem' (rate per dollar according to land value) and minimum rates to determine what rates are paid by each property owner.

The rate per dollar calculation uses the land's valuation. If the valuation multiplied by the rate per dollar falls below the minimum rate, a minimum rate will be charged.

Because units, flats and apartments own just a small portion of a lot of land, the calculated rate is usually below the minimum. Therefore they pay the minimum.

Minimums are used to reduce the gap between what houses and apartments pay in rates.

The value of your land is determined by the NSW Valuer General. We receive the updated land values from the NSW Valuer General at least every three years. The last revaluation came into effect on 1 July 2020. Any significant fluctuation in your land valuations may have an impact on the amount of rates you pay.

You can find further information about the NSW Valuer General valuation process [on their website](#).

Why are ratepayers in Botany hit the hardest with the rate increase?

Botany ratepayers currently have a lower minimum rate compared to Rockdale minimum ratepayers.

Currently ratepayers in the former Botany Council area pay a minimum rate of \$552.62.

Ratepayers in the former Rockdale Council area pay a minimum rate of \$768.52.

To provide greater fairness and consistency we are proposing a consistent minimum rate of \$768.52, which would come into effect from 1 July 2021. This may be introduced gradually if the NSW government passes legislation changes before 1 July 2021.

This would mean that everyone in Bayside who pays the minimum rate will have their rates calculated the same way.

What is a minimum rate?

These are a specific type of rate, where a minimum amount is levied on each parcel of land, regardless of land value.

This mostly applies to apartments, as these dwelling share the land value and therefore would pay a substantially lower rate to that of houses. Therefore Councils set minimum rate to reduce the gap between what houses and apartments pay in their Local Government Areas.

Councils must apply to IPART for increases to the minimum rate.

Will I still get the pensioner rebate?

Yes, residents who hold a pensioner concession card are entitled to apply for a rate reduction and will receive the Mandatory Government Rebate of \$250.

[Find out more about Pensioner Rebates.](#)

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 10 September 2020

Bayside Council Implementing State Government Rates Mandate

The State Government has given all amalgamated councils, including Bayside, until July 2021 to harmonise their rate structures ensuring ratepayers are charged under one formula that redistributes the current rates revenue fairly across all ratepayers.

The State Government's imposed rates freeze on amalgamated councils in 2016 ensured residents paid no more than they would have under their old council until 2021.

Rates paid by Bayside Council ratepayers are currently calculated using the formulas devised by the former Rockdale and Botany Councils.

Bayside Council is required to develop and introduce a single "fair and equitable" system by 1 July 2021 as the current legislation makes no provision for a deferred or staged implementation.

The State Government requires all councils to comply with this legislative requirement regardless of how significant the change is on rates to be paid by individual ratepayers.

Bayside Council resolved to move forward with consulting the community on rate harmonisation as currently mandated by the State Government, but left the door open for a gradual (multi-year) implementation should the current legislation be amended prior to July 2021.

The process of harmonising rates across Bayside does not increase the total rate revenue collected by Council.

Rate harmonisation simply redistributes the current rate income equally across all ratepayers based on the unimproved land value of their property. For example, when harmonised a \$750,000 property, regardless of what former council it is located in, will pay the same amount of rates.

This is currently not the case. The average residential rate for Rockdale is \$1,164, compared to Botany's average of \$709.

The current minimum rates are \$768 for Rockdale and \$553 for Botany.

For more information:

Communications & Events
Bayside Council
02 9562 1662
communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au

Once implemented, all Bayside ratepayers will pay the same for their rates depending on the value of their land.

In the coming weeks more information about the process and what it means will be made available and Council will engage extensively with ratepayers and the community to ensure they are fully informed.

Council will also write to all ratepayers regarding the changes, and all the information, as well as a rates calculator, will be available on Council's website.

To stay informed sign up for Council's e-news, follow Bayside on Facebook and visit the website www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

To understand rates pick up a copy of Council's "Rates Explained" brochure from the Rockdale or Eastgardens Customer Services Centre or read it online at www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

For more information:

Communications & Events
Bayside Council
02 9562 1662
communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 15 October 2020

Mayor Lobbies For Rates Harmonisation Changes

Bayside Mayor Joe Awada recently met with the Minister for Local Government to discuss legislative changes to the rates harmonisation process and tabled a Mayoral Minute at last night's Council Meeting to report back on those discussions.

"I had a very productive meeting with the Hon Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government to discuss the legislated requirements for rates harmonisation and the difficult process ahead for Council and our ratepayers," Joe Awada said in his Mayoral Minute.

"Minister Hancock acknowledged the difficult pathway Bayside must now navigate to ensure equity for residents without causing bill shock in July 2021.

"The Minister indicated her intention to introduce draft legislation to Parliament by the end of 2020.

"While a time limited rates freeze may have seemed appropriate at amalgamation, the world has changed significantly, with COVID-19 current unemployment levels unforeseen a mere nine months ago, and certainly not anticipated in 2016.

"To implement huge rate increases in a single year as required under current legislation will be difficult for our ratepayers. I am seeking a more flexible transition to rate harmonisation.

"We will continue to lobby the Minister for Local Government and the Office for Local Government, with the support of our Members of Parliament, to enact legislative change to the Rates Harmonisation process, through the NSW Parliament so that it can be gazetted before 1 July 2021," Joe Awada said.

More information: www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

For more information:

Communications & Events
Bayside Council
02 9562 1662
communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 30 October 2020

Rates Calculator For New Rates System

Bayside Council has launched a new online rates calculator showing ratepayers how their rates will change when a new Council-wide system is introduced in July 2021.

Bayside Council is also actively working with the State Government to ensure the changes can be implemented over a number of years rather than in one hit on 1 July 2021.

Bayside Council rates are currently calculated using formulas devised by the former Rockdale and Botany Councils.

This new calculator lets ratepayers see how their rates will change under a new single system where everyone's rates is calculated using the same formula based on the unimproved land value of the property.

For example the owner of a property whose land value is \$750,000 will pay the same amount of rates regardless of what former council it is located in.

Bayside Council's web page has information about the processes required under the State Government's Legislation, as well as the online rates calculator and a short survey. All feedback is important

Council is urging all ratepayers to go online and use the calculator and provide feedback through the online survey.

More information: www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

For more information:

Communications & Events
Bayside Council
02 9562 1662
communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 30 November 2020

Rates Consultation Extended

Bayside ratepayers have until the end of December to have their say on rate harmonisation following advice from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shelley Hancock that she will have draft legislation proposing a staggered implementation ready for Councils to review before Christmas.

Bayside Council has been working with the Minister for Local Government on a draft bill to hopefully change the current legislation to allow rate increases to be staggered over a number of years.

Bayside Council is currently consulting with all ratepayers on the proposed rate changes.

“It is important ratepayers have input into the process and we would like to hear from all 66,663 ratepayers. We are here and we are listening. All comments will be taken on board,” a Council spokesperson said.

Every ratepayer has been mailed a letter detailing the changes and how it will impact them.

Ratepayers can have their say by visiting the Council’s website and clicking on the Changes to Your Rates box on the home page.

Ratepayers are urged to complete the online survey and provide their comments by the end of December.

A final report will be prepared for Council for consideration in February 2021.

More information: www.bayside.nsw.gov.au

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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 4 February 2021

Council supports gradual rates harmonisation

Bayside Council scheduled an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 3 February to endorse its official response to the State Government's draft changes to rates legislation.

"Council has always advocated for a gradual rates harmonisation process that supports all residents during this change. We are all one Bayside and our submission will ensure a fair and balanced approach," Mayor Joe Awada said.

Council's submission endorses rate harmonisation over a minimum four-year transition period for both residents and businesses.

IPART undertook a review of the local government rating system in 2019 and made a number of recommendations to the NSW Office of Local Government.

These recommendations have been under review and in November 2020 all NSW Councils were asked to provide feedback on draft changes relating to the rating system by Friday 5 February.

Council's submission supports a staged rates harmonisation process over a minimum four-year transition period for both residents and businesses. This is for both the minimum rate change as well as the ad valorem amounts.

Council does not support different residential rates in contiguous urban areas as this could lead to the creation of different communities of interest within one local government area and perceptions in inequity in the way rates are levied and services are delivered.

For more information:

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