Our Ref: 279901.2013

 Contact: Hiba Soueid, 9821 9233

 28 November 2013

Dear Resident,

Council has had a special rate variation (SRV) of 9 per cent in place for the last five years, which ends in June 2014. The SRV cost an average $1.48 per week or $76.96 a year per residential property\* and provided Council with approximately $5.6 million in annual funding to deliver much needed road and other works to community infrastructure. It also allowed Council to increase graffiti removal, parks maintenance, cleaning, mechanical work and general city maintenance.

A decision now needs to be made on whether to submit an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal (IPART) for a future SRV. The SRV will be used to deliver road, bridge and footpath works; improvement and restoration of public buildings; drainage works which reduce the impact of flooding; and renovation of sporting fields.

Before Council decides whether to proceed with lodging an application, it is seeking community feedback on the following options:

1. **Maintain** current services and infrastructure delivery to the community - This option means that rate charges and services will continue at the current level and that Council will apply for a permanent continuation of the current 9 per cent special rate variation.
2. **Reduce** services and infrastructure delivery to the community – This option means that rate charges and services will be reduced and that Council will not apply for a special rate variation.
3. **Increase** services and infrastructure delivery to the community - This option means that rate charges and services will be increased and that Council will apply for a permanent continuation of the current 9 per cent and a further 2.5 per cent (approximately $1.9m) for two years (5 per cent in total).

These options are in addition to the rate-peg which is estimated as 3%

Attached is a special edition newsletter which provides detailed information on the existing SRV, Council’s challenges in increasing revenue and the three options being investigated. In order for Council to make a well informed decision, your feedback is essential. Please take the time to take the enclosed short survey and return to Council via replied paid post.

Should you require any further information on this matter, please do not hesitate to phone Council on 1300 36 2170. I look forward to receiving your feedback regarding this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Farooq Portelli**

## Chief Executive Officer

*\*This is an average indication only. The cost of the SRV is calculated accorded to land value.*