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Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Introduction – Your services, your options, your rates.

Council has had a special rate variation (SRV) of 9 per cent for five years, which ends this financial year. A decision now needs to be made on whether to submit an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a future SRV. The current SRV provided Council with approximately \$5.6 million per annum in additional funding to:

- deliver much needed road and other works to bring community infrastructure up to a satisfactory standard.
- increase graffiti removal, parks maintenance, cleaning, mechanical work and general maintenance



In the past three years, Council has spoken to more than 3500 people. During this process, the community has requested an increased and additional range of services, particularly in the areas of roads, safety and a cleaner, newer looking city.

Our main focus has been road, bridge and footpath works; improvement and restoration of public buildings; drainage works which reduce the impact of flooding; and renovation of sporting fields.

While Council will apply the regular 3 per cent annual rate peg increase, this is just to stay in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and meet regular increasing costs in the broader economy. The approval for the current SRV expires in June 2014. To continue this variation, Council will need to lodge a new application to IPART. Should Council not proceed with lodging an application or lodge an application and be unsuccessful, our annual operational budget will decrease by approximately \$6.3 million. This means Council will need to reduce capital works and services. In addition to the continuation of the current SRV, the 10-year Long Term Financial Plan indicates that Council will have a funding gap over and above the current 9 per cent and will require additional funds to meet the infrastructure and service level demands of a growing city. The community has requested an increased and additional range of services, particularly in the areas of traffic and transport infrastructure, safety and the look and feel of the city. To deliver these additional services, additional funding is required.

Should Council maintain, reduce or increase services, road works and infrastructure delivery to the community?

[Click here to take the survey.](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/special-rate-variation-online-survey) (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/special-rate-variation-online-survey>)

Before Council makes a decision on whether to proceed with submitting an application for a SRV, we are asking for 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).

The above options all include the rate peg which is estimated as 3%.

Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Introduction – Your services, your options, your rates.

Liverpool City Council is a Council with a long history of providing a high standard of services to its residents. In June 2014, to ensure the Council's financial position is sustainable, it was necessary to increase the current SRV. The current SRV increased from 0.0000 to 0.0001, which is a 1% increase. This increase is necessary to ensure the Council can continue to provide the same level of services to its residents.

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In addition to the contribution of the current SRV, the Council has also increased the current SRV to 0.0001, which is a 1% increase. This increase is necessary to ensure the Council can continue to provide the same level of services to its residents.

In the past three years, Council has spoken to more than 3,500 people. During this process, the community has requested an increased and additional range of services, particularly in the areas of road safety and a cleaner, more beautiful city.

What did Council deliver with the previous special rate variation?

Heavy painting, reconstruction and resurfacing to restore faded pavement at Doncaster Road, Kewdale Centre.

Summer Measures Drive up side.

Walker Aerialist and Miller Park, Waverley Farm Improving footpaths and cycleways.

William Lefevre Centre More than 270,000 in works undertaken.

Roberts Park, Crapping Norton Paths and playground.

Waverley Park.

What are the options?

WHAT WILL I GET WITH EACH OPTION?	OPTION 1 MAINTAIN SERVICES	OPTION 2 REDUCE SERVICES	OPTION 3 INCREASE SERVICES
<p>What will I get with each option?</p> <p>Option 1: Maintain Services</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce Services</p> <p>Option 3: Increase Services</p>	<p>Option 1: Maintain Services</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce Services</p> <p>Option 3: Increase Services</p>	<p>Option 1: Maintain Services</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce Services</p> <p>Option 3: Increase Services</p>	<p>Option 1: Maintain Services</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce Services</p> <p>Option 3: Increase Services</p>

How can you provide feedback?

Take the Survey

Before Council proceeds with making a decision regarding the special rate variation, it is seeking community feedback on each of the three options. The survey is available on Council's website www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

Need more information:

For more information on the special rate variation, including how the special rate variation works, and how to provide feedback, please contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 36 2170. Council has many people who speak different languages, so please contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 36 2170 for more information.

Liverpool City Council, Level 2, 20 Moore Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
 Phone: 1300 36 2170 Visit: www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au
 Email: local@liverpool.nsw.gov.au NFO: 13 36 77
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 **Liverpool City Council**

RecordNumber=289801.2013)

<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/trim/documents?>

Find out more:

- What are the options? (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-are-the-options>)
- What will these options cost me? (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-will-these-options-cost-me>)
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- increase graffiti removal, parks maintenance, cleaning, mechanical work and general maintenance



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Our main focus has been road, bridge and footpath works; improvement and restoration of public buildings; drainage works which reduce the impact of flooding; and renovation of sporting fields.

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The above options all include the rate peg which is estimated as 3%.

Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Introduction – Your services, your options, your rates.

Liverpool City Council is a Council with a long history of providing a high standard of services to its residents. In June 2014, to ensure the Council's financial position is sustainable, it was necessary to increase the current SRV by 1.5%.

The current SRV increased Council's revenue by \$1.5 million per annum in addition to the following:

- General rates (increased by 1.5% to \$1.50 per \$100 of rateable value)
- Landfill levy (increased by 1.5% to \$1.50 per \$100 of rateable value)
- General rates (increased by 1.5% to \$1.50 per \$100 of rateable value)
- Landfill levy (increased by 1.5% to \$1.50 per \$100 of rateable value)

Our residents have been hard working and have made significant contributions to the Council's revenue. The Council has been able to maintain a high standard of services and has been able to invest in infrastructure and services which will benefit the community for many years to come.

Liverpool City Council will apply the SRV of 1.5% to the current SRV of 1.5% to ensure the Council's revenue is sustainable.

What did Council deliver with the previous special rate variation?

Heavy planning, reconstruction and resurfacing to return fullness of Doncaster Road, Kensington.

Summer Measures Drive up side

Walker, Andrew and Miller Parks, Waverley Park

William Lawson Centre

Roberts Park, Crispin, Newton

Parks and playgrounds

Waverley Park

What are the options?

WHAT WILL I GET WITH EACH OPTION?	OPTION 1 MAINTAIN SERVICES	OPTION 2 REDUCE SERVICES	OPTION 3 INCREASE SERVICES
<p>What will I get with each option?</p> <p>Option 1: Maintain services. This option will maintain the current level of services and will not result in any additional costs to the Council.</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce services. This option will result in a reduction of services and will result in a saving of \$1.5 million per annum.</p> <p>Option 3: Increase services. This option will result in an increase of services and will result in an additional cost of \$1.5 million per annum.</p>	<p>Option 1: Maintain services. This option will maintain the current level of services and will not result in any additional costs to the Council.</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce services. This option will result in a reduction of services and will result in a saving of \$1.5 million per annum.</p> <p>Option 3: Increase services. This option will result in an increase of services and will result in an additional cost of \$1.5 million per annum.</p>	<p>Option 1: Maintain services. This option will maintain the current level of services and will not result in any additional costs to the Council.</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce services. This option will result in a reduction of services and will result in a saving of \$1.5 million per annum.</p> <p>Option 3: Increase services. This option will result in an increase of services and will result in an additional cost of \$1.5 million per annum.</p>	<p>Option 1: Maintain services. This option will maintain the current level of services and will not result in any additional costs to the Council.</p> <p>Option 2: Reduce services. This option will result in a reduction of services and will result in a saving of \$1.5 million per annum.</p> <p>Option 3: Increase services. This option will result in an increase of services and will result in an additional cost of \$1.5 million per annum.</p>

How can you provide feedback?

Take the Survey

Before Council proceeds with making a decision regarding the special rate variation, it is seeking community feedback on each of the three options. The survey is available on Council's website www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

Need more information:

For more information on the special rate variation, including how the survey will affect the Council's revenue, please contact the Council's Finance Department on 1300 36 2170 or email finance@liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

Liverpool City Council, Level 2, 20 Moore Street, Liverpool NSW 2170
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What are the options?

These are the options that are currently available to us:

Option 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.

Option 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.

Option 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 (11.5 per cent in year 1 and 5 per cent in year 2).

The above options are in addition to the regular IPART rate peg. To find out what these options will cost you, [Click Here \(http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-will-these-options-cost-me\)](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-will-these-options-cost-me).

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**What will these options cost me?**

How much more do I need to pay?

Option 1: Maintain Services – Keep the existing rate variation only and maintain current services, road works and infrastructure delivery to the community.

+12% (Keep 9% + Rate peg of 3%)

Land Value	2013/14 rates	2014/15 rates without any increase	2014/15 rates with proposed increase	Additional per year	Additional per week
170,000	\$887	\$814	\$912	\$98	\$1.46
250,000	\$1,073	\$984	\$1,102	\$118	\$1.75
350,000	\$1,305	\$1,197	\$1,341	\$144	\$2.11
450,000	\$1,538	\$1,411	\$1,580	\$169	\$3.44

Option 2: Reduce Services – Lose the existing rate variation and reduce services, road works and infrastructure delivery to the community.

- 6% (Lose current 9% special rate variation + Rate peg of 3%)

Land Value	2013/14 rates	2014/15 rates without 9%	2014/15 rates	Saving	Saving per week
170,000	\$887	\$814	\$838	\$49	\$0.94
250,000	\$1,073	\$984	\$1,014	\$59	\$1.13
350,000	\$1,305	\$1,197	\$1,234	\$71	\$1.37
450,000	\$1,538	\$1,411	\$1,453	\$85	\$1.63

Option 3: Increase Services – Increase rate variation and increase services, road works and infrastructure delivery to the community.

+ 14.5% in year 1 and 5.5% in year 2 (Keep 9% special rate variation + rate peg of 3% + 2.5% additional over 2 years)

Land Value	2013/14 rates	2014/15 rates without any increase	2014/15 rates with proposed increase	2015/16 rates with proposed increase	Additional per year 1 & 2	Additional per week year 1 & 2
170,000	\$887	\$814	\$932	\$983	\$118 & \$51	\$2.27 & \$0.98
250,000	\$1,073	\$984	\$1,126	\$1,188	\$142 & \$62	\$2.73 & \$1.19
350,000	\$1,305	\$1,197	\$1,371	\$1,446	\$174 & \$75	\$3.34 & \$1.44
450,000	\$1,538	\$1,411	\$1,616	\$1,705	\$205 & \$89	\$3.94 & \$1.71

(http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/image/0010/20701/whatwilltheseoptionscostme-large.jpg)

Find out more:

- [What are the options](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-are-the-options) (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-are-the-options>)
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What will I get with each option?

WHAT WILL I GET WITH EACH OPTION?	OPTION 1 MAINTAIN SERVICES	OPTION 2 REDUCE SERVICES	OPTION 3 INCREASE SERVICES
	Keep the existing rate variation (9%) only and maintain current services, road works and infrastructure delivery to the community.	Lose the existing variation (-9%) and reduce services, road works, and infrastructure delivery to the community.	Increase rate variation (9% + 2.5% for two years) and increase services, road works and infrastructure delivery to the community.
Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	\$29 million	\$8.3 million	\$29.9 million
Community Centres and Facilities	\$9.7 million	\$4.1 million	\$12.4 million
Parks and Sportsgrounds	\$6.8 million	\$2.5 million	\$8.2 million
Protection from flooding	\$3.6 million	\$1.3 million	\$3.9 million
Total Funds Available	\$40.1 million available for the next four years	\$16.1 million available for the next four years	\$54.4 million available for the next four years
How much will it cost me?	<p>The average rate increase per house will be \$1.75 cents per week or \$118 a year to continue the same level of services, road works and infrastructure delivery.</p> <p>Based on current rates payable, the increase in your rates next year in comparison to this year is 62 cents per week or \$32 per year.</p>	<p>The average rate decrease per house will be \$1.13 per week or \$59 a year. Council will reduce services, road works and infrastructure delivery.</p>	<p>The average rate increase per house will be \$2.73 per week or \$142 in the first year. It will be a further \$1.19 per week or \$62 in the second year.</p> <p>Some of the additional works which Council will be able to deliver include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing and essential works to 13 additional roads and 15 new bus shelters across the whole local government area. • Critical upgrades and floodlighting to sports grounds to improve safety, lighting, access and parking. • A special playground for children with a disability. • Upgrades to 7 playgrounds. • Upgrades to 7 additional childcare and community centres.

(<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/image/0009/20700/whatwilliget-large.jpg>)

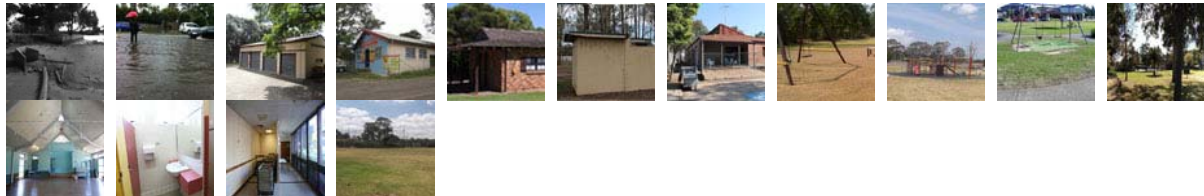
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What type of projects will be funded by the SRV?

Click below to view the types of things that will be funded



Stormwater outlet at Georges River at Pleasure Point to reduce overland flooding.



Flooding at Newbridge Road Moorebank

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**Our Services**

Council is responsible for managing an area which is made up of 42 suburbs and spans 306 square kilometers. Council provides an extensive range of services and facilities and maintains a significant portfolio of public infrastructure assets which is valued at more than \$1.87 billion. **The services we provide include:**

Principal Activity	Services Delivered
Community and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer service Recreation facilities such as the Whitlam Leisure Centre Community centres and facilities Libraries and museum Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre Children's services
Economy and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development Community engagement Community events Community planning and development
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management Environmental restoration Environmental sustainability Noxious weeds
Governance and Legal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Legal services Risk management Property services
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil construction Traffic and transport Parking Building and open space construction
Regulatory and Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health services Regulatory compliance Rangers
Streetscapes, Parks and Ovals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks, recreation and open space Civil maintenance City cleaning Facilities management Maintenance
Urban Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory planning Strategic planning Strategic land use Heritage
Business Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate strategy Council and executive services Human Resources Information technology

Find out more:

- [What you have told us is important](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-you-have-told-us-is-important) (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-you-have-told-us-is-important>)
- [What did Council deliver with the previous special rate variation?](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-did-council-deliver-with-the-previous-special-rate-variation) (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/what-did-council-deliver-with-the-previous-special-rate-variation>)
- [Why we need to continue this special rate variation](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/why-we-need-to-continue-this-special-rate-variation) (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/why-we-need-to-continue-this-special-rate-variation>)

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What services may be affected by reducing rate charges and not apply to continue the current SRV?

Some of the programs that may be affected by discontinuing the existing SRV include:

- Graffiti removal
- Litter and waste removal
- Park maintenance
- Local roads reconstruction program
- Local roads construction
- Park embellishments
- Sporting field improvements
- Playground upgrades and renewals
- Disability and accessibility works
- Library services
- Heritage conservation
- Environment works
- Stormwater works
- Flood mitigation
- Carparks – renewal and upgrades
- Bus shelter installations
- Safety barriers
- Footpath works

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What did Council deliver with the previous special rate variation?

Click below to see more before and after photos...



[RecordNumber=268763.2013](#)

<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/trim/documents?>

Wonga Road, Lurnea - pavement strengthening completed to extend pavement service life.



Twelfth Avenue, Austral - reconstruction completed to restore failed pavement



Heavy patching, reconstruction and resurfacing to restore failed pavement at Devonshire Road, Kemps Creek



Yarrangobilly Street, Heckenberg



Kosciusko Place, Heckenberg



Pavement stabilised and strengthened to restore pavement service life and improve riding conditions

Governor Macquarie Drive upgrade



BEFORE

AFTER

Works include:

- **Pavement widening and reconstruction**
- **Construction of pedestrian refuge and a new roundabout.**

Road works cont.



Bus Shelters



***Banks Road, Heckenberg - new pedestrian
refuge to improve pedestrian safety***

Roundabout renewal program



Gill Ave and Atkinson St, Liverpool

Improving footpaths and cycleways

- *Hinkler Avenue and McGirr Parade, Warwick Farm.*



- *Hume Highway, Warwick Farm between Sappho Road to Irelands Bridge to link to existing footpaths and shared paths.*



BEFORE

AFTER

Improving footpaths and cycleways

- *Maxwells Avenue to link Cartwright Avenue to Elizabeth Street in Sadlier and Ashcroft.*



New footpaths and shared ways on the Hume Highway, Casula between Pine and Beech Roads.



BEFORE



AFTER

Parks and playgrounds



- *Salamaua Park Local Park Upgrade-Improvements include site landscaping, pathways, and site accessibility upgrades.*



- *Playground replacement at Finaly Park, Mount Pritchard.*

Parks and playgrounds



- *Roberts Park, Chipping Norton*



- *Lions Parks, Lurnea*

Parks and playgrounds



Lady Woodward Park



Starling Park



Vasta Park

Pioneer Park



**Removal of Monuments from
Serpentine Wall**



**Examples of monument
cleaning and repair at
Stonemasons Yard**

Infrastructure for parks and playgrounds



Floodlight Upgrade Durrant Oval, Warwick Farm



Irrigation system at Phillips Park, Lurnea

Recreation and Leisure Centres

Works include:

- *Shade structure at Michael Wenden and Whitlam Leisure Centres.*
- *Carpark at Holsworthy Swim pool.*



Whitlam Leisure Centre

More than \$700,000 in works undertaken.



Brickmakers Creek Channel Improvements



Flooding in 2001



Works include:

- ***widening and rehabilitation***
- ***silt removal***

Liverpool CBD Trunk Drainage



***CBD Trunk Drainage works along
Moore Street - during construction***



***CBD Trunk Drainage works - Moore
Street following completion of works***

Stormwater Pipe Restoration



Extensive damage compromising performance of drainage pipes



Restored pipe involved grinding and structural patching- all achieved through non-obtrusive robotic techniques

AccessUpgrades

Upgrades to:

- Heckenberg Share Care
- Heckenberg Community Centre
- Miller Senior Citizens
- Dr Pirie Community Centre



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What you have told us is important

Every year, an independent company carries out a random telephone survey, asking you to provide feedback on the services Council provides and the issues that are important. For the last few years, **road maintenance, domestic garbage collection, cleanliness of public streets and safety** were key priorities.

Other issues which were important to the community include:

- Providing and maintaining parks and playgrounds
- Footpaths
- Traffic
- Healthy waterways
- Access to public transport

For the past 5 years, Council has listened to the community's requests and structured the works and maintenance program around community needs and priorities. The existing and proposed special rates variation has been built around these priorities. It is aimed at continuing our capital works program to make sure the community receives high quality infrastructure and community facilities. [Click here to see photos of some of the works we delivered as part of the last special rate variation.](#)



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Why is there a funding gap – our challenges

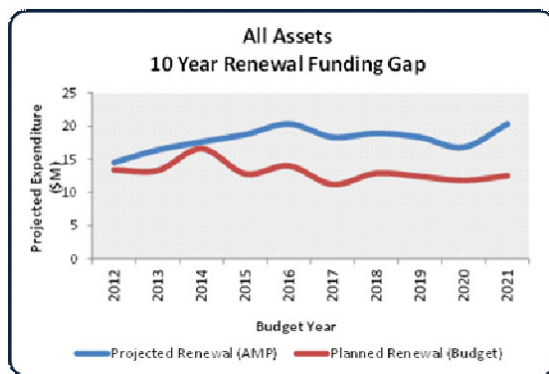
Council is faced with a number of challenges when it comes to increasing its revenue and generating additional income. Please click on the topics below for an overview of some of the issues Council is confronted with.

- [Infrastructure Renewal \(#Infrastructure%20Renewal\)](#)
- [Cost Shifting \(#CostShifting\)](#)
- [Our costs are increasing but we are not able to charge for these \(#Our-costs-are-increasing\)](#)
- [Growth and demand for new services \(#Growthanddemand\)](#)
- [Regional City \(#RegionalCity\)](#)

Infrastructure Renewal

A significant challenge for Council is the ageing of our public infrastructure assets. Many of our roads, buildings and associated infrastructure were constructed in the 1970/80s and are now approaching the end of their lives. This infrastructure requires significant improvement and renewal if it is to be up to the standards expected by the community. The graph below demonstrates the planned renewal (red line) which we can deliver with current levels of funding and the projected renewal (blue line), which is required to bring infrastructure to standard.

In order to address this gap, Council needs to spend approximately \$4 million per annum or \$40 million over the next 10 years.

**Cost Shifting**

Cost shifting is where the responsibility for, or the costs of, providing a certain service, concession, asset or regulatory function are "shifted" from a higher sphere of government to a lower sphere of government without providing corresponding funding or transferring adequate revenue raising capacity.

A recent report estimated the impact of cost-shifting on Liverpool to be \$7.4 million or 6.96% of Council's total income in the last financial year.

Our costs are increasing but we are not able to charge for these

'Rate-pegging' has been in place since 1977. This means that the cost of delivering Council's services has increased but our ability to generate revenue to meet these costs is outside of our control. This is also the case with other charges which are set by legislation. In recent years, Council has been continuously subjected to the increasing cost of building and construction materials, labour, petroleum products, street lighting and statutory charges, such as the fire brigade levy.

For example, the cost of processing a development application (DA) has increased significantly due to skills shortages in the current labour market; however current legislation prevents Council from increasing charges for processing a DA to reflect these costs.

The only way Council can increase its rates above the rate peg, is to apply to IPART for a special rate variation. Special rate variations are an important way of providing additional funding to councils in delivering services and infrastructure that Council is unable to fund within its existing revenue.

Growth and demand for new services

Liverpool's population is projected to grow by 28% to 239,000 in 2021 and set to almost double to 325,000 by 2036. To cater for this growth, new infrastructure and considerable improvements to existing infrastructure is needed. The cost of this is estimated to be more than \$300 million. While Council expect that developers will contribute to these costs, the ongoing operation and maintenance liability transfers to Council upon handover of these assets. Similarly Council is responsible for improvements to existing infrastructure that is required to cater for this growth. As Liverpool grows, Council will need to deliver and manage additional services, such as new libraries, community centres, parks and roads.

Regional City

Liverpool has been identified as the regional city and economic hub for the South-West Sydney region. We already have the largest concentration of commercial and administrative activity in the south west region; however our city needs significant redevelopment in order to reach its full potential.

A key challenge for Liverpool has been attracting investment and business to the city centre and to become a destination for business, retail, service and entertainment. Council consulted with more than 3500 people over the last few years and the community has made it clear that they want us to improve the look and feel of the city and jobs which are closer to home. To achieve this, we will need to invest in developing the city centre and making it attractive to business.

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How we have saved money

Ensuring the community receives the most efficient services is one of Council's highest priorities. Council has contained costs by:

- Participating in activities such as joint tender arrangements for the delivery of services to get best value for money.
- Entering into licencing agreements with sporting groups to maintain fields.
- Restructuring Council so that services are running as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Reducing our debt and paying off loans, which have provided us with the opportunity to take out additional low interest loans as existing loans mature.

The Division of Local Government publishes an annual comparison of Councils to show how we are tracking. This is a useful way of assessing whether Council is providing value for money. In comparison to cities of a similar size:

- We have less staff. We employ 656 equivalent full-time staff compared to 754 for similar councils.
- We generate less revenue per capita, \$1049 compared to \$1138 for similar councils
- We have less expenses per capita, \$722 compared to \$1051 for similar councils

This shows that Council is already delivering services with less funding and resources than similar councils.

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Our current financial position

There are a number of financial indicators which allow Council to measure its financial position.

While Council has worked hard to secure its current sound and stable financial position, the NSW Treasury Corporation (T-Corp) has assessed the future outlook as Negative. This means that Council needs to look at ways to generate revenue for the future.

Our internal assessments identify a funding gap of \$66 million over the next 10 years. This means that if we don't continue the existing special rate variation we will need to reduce the amount of road works, infrastructure projects and services we deliver.

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How can you provide feedback?

Council invites you to provide feedback on the options in one of the following ways.

Take the survey

[Click here to complete the survey](http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/special-rate-variation-online-survey) (<http://www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/growing-liverpool-2023-special-rate-variation-srv/special-rate-variation-online-survey>)

Community Meetings

Alternatively, you can come along to a special workshop. These have been scheduled for:

Tuesday 3 December 2013 5.30pm – 7.30pm Liverpool City Council Blue Gum Room Suite 3A, Level 5 33 Moore St, Liverpool NSW	Friday 6 December 2013 2.00pm – 4.00pm Liverpool City Council Blue Gum Room Suite 3A, Level 5 33 Moore St, Liverpool NSW
To register to attend, please contact Council's Corporate Strategy and Performance Team on 9821 9233 or liverpool2023@liverpool.nsw.gov.au	

Information Kiosks

Our staff will also be appearing at the following locations at these dates. Come along and have a chat to them about what this means to you..

Wednesday 4 December 2013 10.00am – 2.00pm Moorebank Shopping Centre Stockton Ave, Moorebank	Thursday 5 December 2013 3.00pm – 7.00pm Macquarie Mall Macquarie St, Liverpool <i>Near the stage</i>	Saturday 7 December 2013 10.00am – 2.00pm Carnes Hill Marketplace Cowpasture Rd, Hornigsea Park <i>Near Woolworths and Chicken Ave</i>
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Frequently Asked Questions

- [What is a Special Rate Variation and a rate peg? \(#What-is-a-Special-Rate-Variation-and-a-rate-peg\)](#)
- [Where does Council get its income from? \(#Where-does-Council-get-its-income-from\)](#)
- [Council puts up rates every year so why can't that pay for the new work? \(#Council-puts-up-rates-every-year\)](#)
- [Why can't Council borrow money or take our additional loans to pay for these works and services? \(#additional-loans\)](#)
- [What would change if we receive an SRV? \(#What-would-change-if-we-receive-an-SRV\)](#)
- [What will happen if we don't have an SRV? \(#What-will-happen-if-we\)](#)
- [What happens next? \(#What-happens-next\)](#)
- [Who can I speak to for more information? \(#Who-can-I-speak-to-for-more-information\)](#)

Q. What is a Special Rate Variation and a rate peg?

Rates increase every year in line with an amount set by the State Government. This amount is calculated every year and is called the 'rate peg'. It is decided by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and is approximately 3% per year. Councils can apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to seek additional funds above the rate peg. Any rate increase above the rate peg is called a 'Special Rate Variation' (SRV).

Q. Where does Council get its income from?

Council receives income from a range of places. These include rates, charges, investments, loans, government grants and funding. Whilst its income streams are diverse and varied, the only constant stable source of income is income from rates.

Rates make up more than half of Council's income. Rates increase in accordance with the 'rate peg', which is determined annually by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This increase, along with other income sources, helps cover the cost of delivering services to the community. [back-to-top \(#top\)](#)

Q. Council puts up rates every year so why can't that pay for the new work?

The State Government sets a limit on the total amount of income that a council can raise from certain rates and charges. This amount is recalculated each year and any permitted increase is called the 'rate peg'. This year the rate peg is estimated to be 3%. It has been calculated that Council's costs including materials, street lighting, fuel, energy and staffing will increase by more than 5% each year for the next three years. While Council tries to absorb these increased costs through efficiency improvements, it means that any additional programs cannot be funded.

Q. Why can't Council borrow money or take out additional loans to pay for these works and services?

Council borrows money in order to pay for capital works such as the building of infrastructure and amenities that benefit current and future generations.

Council has undertaken borrowings under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) round one \$9.59m and has approval for \$10m through round two.

Council will continue to take advantage of loans to pay for much needed works and is currently considering projects for LIRS round three. However modeling for funding the expiring Special Rate Variation has indicated that Council would incur significant debt servicing costs if it were to borrow the funds for the required capital works. [back-to-top \(#top\)](#)

Q. What would change if we receive an SRV?

A SRV would ensure that future funds are available to either:

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 continue to provide the same levels of service delivery, road works and infrastructure delivery. It will put Council in a stronger position financially.

OR

Increase services and infrastructure delivery to the community - This option means that rate charges and services will be increased and that Council will increase its services, road works and infrastructure delivery. Funds will be used to pay for the additional range of services which the community has been asking for. It would also ensure Council is financially sustainable in the long-term.

Q. What will happen if we don't have an SRV?

Council will need to reduce services and infrastructure delivery to the community – This option means that we will need to look at reducing service delivery and decreasing the amount of road works, infrastructure and capital works. We will need to look closely at the services we deliver and identify services which should be cut.

Q. What happens next?

All community feedback will be reviewed by Council, and at the Council meeting in February 2014 Council will decide whether to proceed with an SRV. If Council decides to proceed, then an application for an SRV will be submitted to the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal (IPART) in February 2014. A decision by IPART is expected by mid-June 2014 and the new rates will be applicable from July 2014. [back-to-top \(#top\)](#)

Q. Who can I speak to for more information?

For more information, please contact Council's Corporate Strategy and Performance Team on 9821 9233 or e-mail liverpool2023@liverpool.nsw.gov.au (<mailto:liverpool2023@liverpool.nsw.gov.au>)