

FOR ACTION

Report No 13.2 - 2017/2018 Special Rate Variation Application

TO: Jessica Orr - Corporate Governance and Risk Management Officer

DATE: 03 February 2017

MEETING: Council Meeting of 2 February 2017

Action is required for this item as per the Council Resolution outlined below.

Report No. 13.2 **2017/2018 Special Rate Variation Application**
File No: I2017/45

17-020 Resolved that Council:

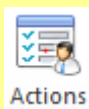
1. Receive and note the submissions and feedback received from the community during 'Phase 4 – Public exhibition of the IP&R documents' during the Special Rate Variation Consultation & Engagement process, conducted over the period from 17 December 2016 to 18 January 2017.
2. Notes that an application for a Special Rate Variation is a key strategy from its "Fit for the Future" Council Improvement Plan (CIP) adopted in June 2015.
3. Adopts 'Option 1' – being a 7.5% compounding annual rate increase per year over a four year period commencing July 2017 to June 2021 as its preferred option for a Special Rate Variation.
4. Subject to determination and incorporation of an SRV option as recommended in part 3 of the recommendation, Council adopt the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents as presented to Council on 15 December 2016 (#E2016/103981), (#E2016/100839) and (#E2016/103686).
5. Lodge a Section 508A permanent Special Rate Variation application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, for increases to the ordinary rate income (general revenue) of 7.5% (including rate peg) in 2017/18, 7.5% (including rate peg) in 2018/19, 7.5% (including rate peg) in 2019/2020 and 7.5% (including rate peg) in 2020/21
6. Continue to actively campaign for the state government to legislate to enable the Council to levy a bed tax and thus provide a source of revenue for infrastructure renewal funded by the growing number of tourists to the area.
7. Continue to lobby the Office of Local Government and the NSW Grants Commission for a revision of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) funding distribution formula so that the impact of tourists upon Council and its ratepayers is adequately recognised and compensated for as a disability factor.
8. Continue to closely monitor the IPART review of NSW council rating systems and advocate for an expansion of rating categories that would facilitate Holiday Let establishments being rated as or similar to Business.
9. Establish a Byron Shire Revenue Exploration Working Party to work alongside staff to identify non resident revenue sources and to report the outcomes of research at each community

roundtable.

10. Write to the local Member, Tamara Smith, Ben Franklin MLC and Minister of Tourism, seeking an urgent meeting to discuss State Government potential for more targeted tourism support in the Byron Shire.
11. Develop a SRV quarterly expenditure auditing and reporting profile linked to Council's CIP in conjunction with Council's auditors within 3 months of any SRV approval issued by the IPART.
(Cameron/Ndiaye)

SPECIFIC ACTIONS REQUIRED:

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Please continue to update the comments until the matter has been finalised.