



'Funding our Future' – Have Your Say

As reported previously, Council is considering applying for two consecutive Ordinary (General) Rate rises so it can continue to deliver the current levels of service provided by our public infrastructure assets – in particular - our roads, buildings, parks and related infrastructure assets.

As detailed in our recent community brochure sent to all ratepayers, Council is proposing to apply to IPART for Ordinary Rate increases of 8.14% in 2015/2016 and 7.75% in 2016/2017. These rises include the rate pegging limit set for 2015/2016 and an estimated rate pegging increase for 2016/2017. The proposed increases are in addition to the 7.9% rate rise put in place for 2014/2015. Overall, it would mean a cumulative increase over the next two years of 16.5% on Ordinary (General) Rates. This means, for the average residential property owner, an approximate increase of \$166.22 in their Ordinary (General) Rates over the next two year period.

For a number of years, we have been taking a hard look at the way we do things to try and find cost savings – and we have made some significant changes. Our view is that, we couldn't ask the community to contribute more without first looking at ourselves to see if we are operating as cost-effectively as possible. That's what we have been doing for several years now, but we felt there was more we could do.

Where will the proposed additional rate funds be spent?

Asset Expenditure	Approved Rate Increase for 2014/2015	2015/2016		2016/2017		
		Funds from Approved 2014/2015 Increase	PROPOSED Rate Increase for 2015/2016	Funds from Approved 2014/2015 Increase	Funds from PROPOSED 2015/2016 Increase	PROPOSED Rate Increase for 2016/2017
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Road Pavements and Surfacing – renew up to 6-7 km of road pavements each year	679,924	696,242	645,757	717,129	665,130	622,374
Road Maintenance – efficient response to pothole patching, line marking and sign replacement	190,000	194,560	195,440	200,397	201,303	198,300
Other Transport Assets – replace up to approx. 750m of broken kerb & gutter and footpath each year	190,000	194,560	195,440	200,397	201,303	198,300
Building Renewals – refurbish several buildings each year including public toilets, halls, community buildings	480,000	491,520	488,480	506,266	503,134	490,600
Building Maintenance – carry out essential maintenance and repairs e.g. painting, lighting, fire safety etc.	160,000	163,840	166,160	168,755	171,145	160,100
Recreation Services Renewals – renew playground equipment, BBQs, park shelters, jetties	260,000	266,240	253,760	274,227	261,373	264,400
Asset Management – asset management system and life cycle minimisation modelling	60,000	61,440	68,560	63,283	70,617	66,100
Sub-Totals	2,019,924	2,068,402	2,013,597	2,130,454	2,074,005	2,000,174
Totals	2,019,924	4,081,999		6,204,633		

Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision making processes. The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) requires Council to provide public access to information held unless there are overriding public interest considerations against disclosure. Any submissions received will be made publicly available unless the writer can demonstrate that the release of part or all of the information would not be in the public interest. However, Council is obliged to release any document by court order or other specific law.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE GLENREAGH STREET, COFFS HARBOUR COFFS HARBOUR 2015, SALTWATER FRESHWATER FESTIVAL MONDAY, 26 JANUARY 2015

Council hereby advises that pursuant to Section 116 of the Roads Act, 1993 & in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the RMS it proposes to allow the temporary road closure of Glenreagh Street Coffs Harbour from 5.00am to 5.30pm, Monday, 26 January 2015 for the purpose of holding the Coffs Harbour 2015, Saltwater Freshwater Festival.

Written objections will be received up until 3:30pm on Thursday 21 January 2015.

Telephone enquiries should be directed to Anne Shearer on 6648 4414.

TENDERS CONSTRUCTION OF DECORATIVE CONCRETE PATHWAY JORDAN ESPLANADE, COFFS HARBOUR CONTRACT NO. RFT-691-TO

Tenders are invited for the construction of decorative concrete footpath at Jordan Esplanade, Jetty Foreshores, Coffs Harbour.

Interested parties are required to register via Council's E-tendering portal www.tenderlink.com/coffsharbour to download documents and submit tenders electronically free of charge. If you have difficulties accessing the above website please call the Tenderlink Help Desk on 1800 233 533.

Submissions may be submitted electronically via the Tenderlink electronic Tender Box no later than 3:30pm on Tuesday, 3 February 2015.

Enquiries should be directed to Glenn O'Grady, (02) 6648 4454 or via the Tenderlink online forum.

Council's policy advises the canvassing of Councilors and/or Council Staff will disqualify any Tenderer.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE CRAFTSMAN - CARPENTER

Salary range \$51,136.77 to \$56,075.75 pa + Super + RDO

For more information about this position and to apply on-line please visit our website at www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au

PROJECT ENGINEER

Salary range \$83,719.74 to \$92,049.97 pa + Super + RDO

For more information about this position and to apply on-line please visit our website at www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au

In October 2013 a 'Level of Service' – community engagement process was undertaken. The objective of this process was to seek community feedback on preferred levels of service and proposed funding solutions to meet those service levels. Feedback was received through community responses and comments made via a 'Budget Allocator' tool – and from this process it was made clear that the community values the services Council currently delivers and was willing to pay more to maintain these rather than see levels of service reduced.

Initial feedback from the current survey has been somewhat critical of the survey postcard only offering two options for response. It needs to be stressed that the reasoning behind this is the fact that the community has already made it very clear from earlier surveys regarding "Levels of Service" that they do not wish to see these reduced. If that is the starting point, then that dictates the options available in the current survey with regard to rate increase options.

"I'd like to assure everyone that we're not taking this step lightly. We completely understand that households and businesses have many other bills to pay," said Steve McGrath, Council's General Manager. "But if we're to continue to provide the current level of Council services – we have to find a way to pay for them. Like any household, we can't spend more than we earn. I would also like to thank those members of the community that have already provided their feedback on the rate increase proposals."

All additional revenue (above rate pegging) generated from the previously approved rate increase from 2014/2015 and the proposed rate increases for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 will fund public asset maintenance and renewal works.

The table above shows how the additional rate funds will be spent.

Council during this latest consultation process has received a number of enquiries concerning ratepayer affordability and what can Council do to address ratepayer affordability.

Council acknowledges that this is an important consideration before any decision is made to increase rates. Council also acknowledges that increasing rates is only part of the solution to becoming financially sustainable. Council needs to reduce costs and find further efficiencies in regards to service delivery. As mentioned in our

brochure to all ratepayers (and which can also be found on the website), Council has undertaken an extensive internal review of all its services to see how they can be further improved and made as cost-effective as possible.

In addition, a 'Transformation to Sustainability' (T2S) project is helping us drive further improvements to services in terms of cost-effectiveness and productivity. The T2S project represents an unprecedented 'step change' for Coffs Harbour City Council - re-designing processes and restructuring the organisation to deliver improved outcomes for the community while maximising efficiencies, productivity, savings and revenue.

Have your say

Please 'have your say' on the proposed rate increases via our short online survey, or by using the pre-paid postcard questionnaire that was previously sent out with our community brochure. Hard copies of the survey can also be completed at local libraries and at Council's Main Administration Building.

The survey closes on **January 30 2015**.

Council staff will also be hosting its last information stall at the Jetty Foreshore Market on Sunday, January 11, 2015, 10am to 12 noon. If you would like to talk to a Council representative about the rate increase proposals please come and see us.

Further information on council's current financial situation and the way forward can be found at www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/fundingourfuture

