

Strategies for Financial Sustainability

INCREASE INCOME

Over the past 5 years the total amount of Commonwealth and State grants received is over \$15 million, including both general purpose (FAGs) and specific purpose grants. 2015 to 2017 will see a reduction of approx. 2.6% per year in Financial Assistance Grants due to no CPI increase for the next 3 years. Specific purpose grants are also no longer readily available.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

As costs are rising by 7% more than income, and rate pegging at approx. 2.5% for the past 5 years, Council is taking action to balance its budget.

What Council is doing to be efficient and address financial challenges.

INCREASE ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS

This strategy is about advocating for a fair share of resources for the Oberon LGA and building partnerships to achieve positive outcomes.

AVOID SHOCKS

Through sound financial planning we will be positioned better to withstand costly and unexpected events.

CONSULT WITH COMMUNITY

Talk with the community about their preferred levels of service and long term plans.

MANAGE BORROWINGS RESPONSIBLY

Council continues to manage borrowing capacity.

REVIEW AND ADJUST SERVICES

The Council continually reviews its service delivery to ensure it is meeting community needs and providing 'value for money'.

Resourcing OUR FUTURE



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

10 – 28 November 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Online: www.oberon.nsw.gov.au
 Hardcopy: Council Administration Centre, Library, or Visitor Information Centre
 Email: council@oberon.nsw.gov.au

Community Information session:
 6.00pm, 20 November, at the Oberon Community Centre, Fleming Street

HAVE YOUR SAY

Tell us your preferred option by ticking one of the boxes below.

Post your completed form in the reply envelope provided. Your personal details will be kept confidential.

KEEP THIS BROCHURE

A cross section of ratepayers will be asked to participate in a phone survey during November.

Please keep this brochure handy in case you are selected to participate.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Come along to a Community Information Session at the Community Centre, Fleming Street, 20 November at 6.00pm for more information on this Survey.



SUBMISSION FORM

My preferred option is (please tick one box only):
 OPTION 1: SERVICE LEVELS MAINTAIN & IMPROVE
 OPTION 2: SERVICE LEVELS REDUCED

Submissions close Friday 28 November

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

Resourcing OUR FUTURE

We are aiming to build a successful future for Oberon, improving the well-being of our community and the environment. Within available funding, we continually strive to achieve the best possible range of 'value for money' services to meet your needs.

What this brochure is about

This brochure provides two options for you to consider for resourcing our future. We encourage you to review each option detailed below and 'Have Your Say' on your preferred option.

- **OPTION 1** proposes a 10% rate increase to maintain and improve service levels
- **OPTION 2** proposes a varied rate increase which will result in reduced service levels

HAVE YOUR SAY for OBERON

Due to the decline in government funding and costs rising faster than our income all NSW Regional & Rural Councils are faced with difficult decisions.

Despite our best efforts, the available funding is not sufficient to maintain existing service levels. Our roads, footpaths, drainage, parks and buildings need renewal and maintenance. To address the financial challenge, Council is working on strategies to achieve ongoing financial sustainability (see back page). Part of the strategy is to engage with you on how best we can achieve affordable and acceptable levels of service.

Option 1

SERVICE LEVELS MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE

Under **OPTION 1**, we maintain and improve our road and building assets (including infrastructure backlogs), have greater capacity to fund required renewal and maintenance, are able to prepare and respond to emergencies, while continuing to look after the environment.

IF YOU CHOOSE OPTION 1: MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE, WE WILL:

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Sustain road infrastructure, town centre and villages, public toilets, buildings, footpaths, walking tracks and stormwater drainage.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY

SUSTAIN investment in playing fields, parks, community facilities, and capacity to support community activities.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SUSTAIN high levels of equipment and services, community's capacity to be resilient and recover from the impacts of adverse events (fire, flood and drought).

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

IMPROVE waste management services, weed control and environmental management.

Option 2

SERVICE LEVELS REDUCED

Under **OPTION 2**, assets in poor condition will deteriorate at a greater rate. Priority focus will be on managing risk, with no new assets. Capacity to attract economic development, respond to emergencies, and protect the environment is reduced.

IF YOU CHOOSE OPTION 2: REDUCED, WE WILL:

REDUCED INFRASTRUCTURE

REDUCED investment in roads, town centre, villages, public toilets, buildings, footpaths and drainage. NO new sealed roads.

REDUCED SERVICES TO COMMUNITY

REDUCED investment in playing fields, parks, community facilities, and capacity to support community activities.

REDUCED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

REDUCED levels of equipment and services, community's capacity to be resilient and recover from the impacts of adverse events (fire, flood and drought).

REDUCED CAPACITY TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

REDUCED weed control, waste management, and environmental management.

No increase is not an option

HOW WILL OPTION 1 AFFECT YOUR RATES?

Annual Rate Increase (%)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Rate Peg Increase Only	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Service Levels Improved & Maintained	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%
TOTAL ANNUAL INCREASE	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%

Avg. income gain of \$406,092 per year

Average rates

	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
FOR RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS						
Annual Rate	\$556	\$612	\$673	\$740	\$814	\$895
Annual Increase	0	\$56	\$62	\$67	\$74	\$81
Weekly Increase	0	\$1.07	\$1.18	\$1.29	\$1.42	\$1.57

Avg. increase of \$68 per year for residential/rural

FOR FARMLAND RATEPAYERS

Annual Rate	\$1,585	\$1,744	\$1,918	\$2,110	\$2,321	\$2,553
Annual Increase	0	\$159	\$175	\$191	\$211	\$232
Weekly Increase	0	\$3.05	\$3.36	\$3.68	\$4.06	\$4.46

Avg. farmland increase of \$194 per year

FOR BUSINESS RATEPAYERS

Annual Rate	\$771	\$848	\$933	\$1,026	\$1,129	\$1,242
Annual Increase	0	\$77	\$85	\$94	\$102	\$113
Weekly Increase	0	\$1.48	\$1.63	\$1.80	\$1.97	\$2.18

Avg. business increase of \$94 per year

(this does not include water, sewer or waste charges)

No increase is not an option

HOW WILL OPTION 2 AFFECT YOUR RATES?

Annual Rate Increase (%)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Rate Peg Increase Only	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Service Levels Reduced	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%	2.5%	2.5%
TOTAL ANNUAL INCREASE	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.0%	5.0%

Avg. income gain of \$225,460 per year

Average rates

	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
FOR RESIDENTIAL RATEPAYERS						
Annual Rate	\$556	\$584	\$619	\$656	\$689	\$723
Annual Increase	0	\$28	\$35	\$37	\$33	\$34
Weekly Increase	0	\$0.54	\$0.67	\$0.71	\$0.63	\$0.65

Avg. increase of \$33 per year for residential/rural

FOR FARMLAND RATEPAYERS

Annual Rate	\$1,585	\$1,664	\$1,764	\$1,870	\$1,963	\$2,062
Annual Increase	0	\$79	\$100	\$106	\$93	\$99
Weekly Increase	0	\$1.52	\$1.92	\$2.04	\$1.79	\$1.90

Avg. farmland increase of \$95 per year

FOR BUSINESS RATEPAYERS

Annual Rate	\$771	\$810	\$859	\$910	\$956	\$1,003
Annual Increase	0	\$39	\$49	\$51	\$46	\$47
Weekly Increase	0	\$0.75	\$0.94	\$0.98	\$0.88	\$0.90

Avg. business increase of \$46 per year

(this does not include water, sewer or waste charges)