



Attachment 5: Community Engagement Strategy & Outcomes Report including engagement materials

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Community Engagement Strategy and Outcomes Report

Introduction

Like most NSW Councils, Wollondilly Shire Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to look after the Shire's infrastructure into the future.

From our many community engagement activities and community conversations over the years we know that our community places a high priority on the maintenance of our Shire's infrastructure, and in particular our road network. This has become even more evident in recent years through the development of our Community Strategic Plan 2033 (CSP) with the community. So it is clear that we need to reverse the current trend of deteriorating infrastructure.

Wollondilly Shire Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) currently estimates that Council is facing an \$80 million shortfall at the end of ten years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue. The most significant contributor towards this deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

As a result of the projected funding shortfall Council has explored a number of options to becoming financially sustainable in the long term, with a particular focus on reviewing our current rating income and implementing additional efficiency improvements. Specifically, Council has identified in its Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents that a Special Rate Variation (SRV) would be an appropriate solution in order to become 'Fit for the Future' and to be able to maintain and manage our community's current and future infrastructure needs.

In order to make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for an increase in rating income, it is essential that Council works with the community to ensure that they are aware of the need for a SRV, the implications of each option being considered within the community and the extent and impact of the possible rate increase on ratepayers.

The title of the campaign 'Addressing Your Future Needs' has been established to highlight the opportunity Council and the community has to have a collaborative, transparent and open conversation and work together to become financially sustainable and address the infrastructure maintenance needs in the community.

Background

Wollondilly Shire Council has been open with the community about the challenges we face in relation to our infrastructure maintenance backlog and long term finances. This has been

highlighted in our LTFP, CSP and Delivery Plan and has also been addressed and discussed with the community in a range of community consultation activities.

In 2011 Council applied for a SRV for the purpose of reducing the backlog in infrastructure maintenance and renewal. Council's analysis identified that we needed an additional \$60 million over 10 years in order to bring our infrastructure up to a satisfactory level. This equated to a rate increase of 8% per annum over 7 years.

After extensive community consultation, Council applied to IPART for a SRV of 6.7% per annum over 7 years, and was successful in obtaining a rate increase of 6% per annum over 3 years, which generated \$17 million over 10 years.

Although this was less than Council identified as necessary to address the infrastructure maintenance backlog and to assist in becoming financially sustainable in the long term, Council was able to implement a number of projects to improve infrastructure within the community. The SRV also enabled Council to access the State Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) loans to enable the early delivery of a number of much needed infrastructure works.

With the significant shortfall in funding generated from the 2011 SRV, it was quite clear from the outset that Council would need to consult the community again in the future regarding another SRV, in order to address the continuing deterioration of our assets and infrastructure and to become financially sustainable.

As a result, Council began the conversation with the community about the continuing need for a further SRV through the exhibition of our IP&R document suite in May 2014.

Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework

The IP&R framework for Local Councils in NSW was introduced by the Division of Local Government in 2009.

The IP&R framework requires Councils to focus on long term strategic planning and to set priorities and aspirations through community consultation.

The framework consists of:

- **Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033:** The Community Strategic Plan is Council's highest level long term plan. It identifies and expresses the aspirations held by the community of Wollondilly and sets out strategies for achieving those aspirations.
- **Wollondilly Resourcing Strategy:** The Resourcing Strategy is made up of:
 - o 10 Year Long Term Financial Plan

- 4 Year Workforce Management Plan
- 10 Year Asset Management Plan
- **Wollondilly Delivery Program and Operational Plan:** The Delivery Program is Council's commitment to the implementation of the CSP and is aligned with the 4 year term of Council; it addresses the full range of Council's operations. The Operational Plan details actions we are undertaking that clearly link to our strategies and outcomes. The Operational Plan also includes Council's Fees and Charges.

Our Community

Wollondilly is characterised by its natural beauty and rural pastures; and the community takes pride in its shared vision for rural living and sense of belonging to caring communities.

The Shire is made up of 17 towns and villages, and is vast in relation to our low population of approximately 46,000 people. This has resulted in high infrastructure maintenance costs, particularly on roads, relative to a small rate base.

Of the approximately 46,000 people living in Wollondilly, over 80% are Australian born and over 90% of residents identify English as their first language.

Furthermore, the majority of our community is participating in the workforce within various different professions and industries. However, over 60% of our residents who are working are travelling outside of Wollondilly for work and primarily by car; highlighting that a vast proportion of our community rely heavily on our roads.

The majority of people living within our community either fully own their home or is paying a mortgage. This means that the outcome of the SRV proposal will affect a significant portion of the community.

Wollondilly is increasingly being identified as an attractive place to live and as a result more and more people are buying within the Shire. Consequently, Wollondilly Shire Council is responsible for continuing to maintain the community's vision for rural living, while still planning for growth opportunities. As more people move into the Shire, the face of Wollondilly will continue to change and our population is expected to experience significant growth over the next 20 years and beyond. However, while the rates from new residential growth will significantly fund new infrastructure, it will not be sufficient to cover the maintenance costs of our existing infrastructure.

For this reason Council has identified that it is necessary to have a detailed conversation with

the community about the need for a review of our rating income and what this will mean for Wollondilly.

Engagement Aim

“Our community wants to feel that their interests and aspirations are represented in the decision making process. People are Wollondilly’s greatest asset and they should have a say in the decision making processes that affect their community.”

Wollondilly Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2033

Following on from the public exhibition of our IP&R document suite in May 2014, Wollondilly Shire Council developed a community engagement strategy to consult the community further about the need for another SRV.

The ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement strategy was developed with the aim of making the community aware about the need for a SRV within Wollondilly and the options being considered; as well as highlight the implications of a SRV within the community with respect to rates and Council’s services and facilities. Additionally the strategy aimed to empower the community to be involved in the conversation and provide feedback to inform the decision making process.

Council also identified the need to instil confidence in the community regarding Council’s ability to manage and allocate SRV funds efficiently and effectively.

Community Engagement Principles

Engaging with the community in an open and transparent manner in order to enable the community to inform the decision making process, and actively engage in the conversation is an integral part of Wollondilly Shire Council’s role within the community.

The Council has formalised its dedication to ongoing community engagement and recognises the importance of community participation in decision making, through its adopted Community Engagement Policy and Framework. This policy and framework underpins all community engagement activities carried out by Wollondilly Shire Council and has formed the basis of the ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement strategy.

Wollondilly Shire Council is also committed to the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and rights and has used these as guiding principles for the development of the ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement strategy. SRV community engagement

activities were designed to allow equitable access to information, a range of opportunities for participation and for everyone's opinions to be heard.

The 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy was also based on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum principles. IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum outlines the fundamental principles of community engagement and aims to assist in determining the purpose and level of community participation in community engagement activities. The principles utilised within the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' engagement strategy include:

- **INFORM:** to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. Possible engagement activities that could be utilised to inform community members include:
 - o Fact Sheets
 - o Websites
 - o Open Houses
- **CONSULT:** to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. Possible engagement activities that could be utilised to consult community members include:
 - o Public Comment
 - o Focus Groups
 - o Surveys
 - o Public Meetings
- **INVOLVE:** to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered. Possible engagement activities that could be utilised to involve community members include:
 - o Workshops
 - o Deliberative polling

Additionally, Wollondilly Shire Council utilised our Assets to Opportunities Maps 2010 to inform the development of the community engagement strategy, in particular in determining how best to communicate the SRV key messages in each village and town.

In addition to these principles, Wollondilly Shire Council also took into account IPART's community awareness and engagement guidelines when developing the community engagement strategy. These guidelines identify the need to ensure that the community is aware of the need for and extent of a rate rise; and that an appropriate variety of engagement methods are used to ensure ample opportunities for community awareness and input to occur.

These principles provided a sound basis for Wollondilly Shire Council to develop the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy in order to effectively consult with the community about the Special Rate Variation proposals being considered.

Engaging Wollondilly

For the purpose of developing and delivering the community engagement strategy a number of key stakeholders were identified. As it was acknowledged that the SRV proposal being considered would be relevant to a large majority of the community, it was important that the whole community had the opportunity to be involved in the SRV conversation.

The community identified within this engagement strategy encompassed:

- Residents
- Ratepayers (residential, business, farmland and mining)
- Local business and industry
- Farmers
- Mining companies
- Community service providers
- Local committees, forums and reference groups
- Visitors to the Shire
- Council facility and service users

In addition to the community, Wollondilly Shire Council identified a number of other key stakeholders that it was essential to engage with regarding the SRV proposal being considered. Including:

- Office of Local Government
- Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
- Wollondilly Shire Council Councillors
- Local Members of Parliament
- All Wollondilly Shire Council Staff including office and outdoor staff

Key Messages

It was identified during the planning phase of the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy that the need for a SRV and how this will impact the community is a complex topic to communicate. As a result, a number of key messages were developed to convey essential information about the SRV proposal being considered.

The key messages used throughout the community engagement strategy included:

- Council is committed to informing and consulting the community about the need for a SRV and genuinely listening to the community's views

- Council is committed to ensuring the community are actively involved in the decision making process
- Council has an insight into what the community wants through our IP&R activities and community engagement initiatives; and knows that our community places a high priority on the Shire's infrastructure, in particular roads
- Council understands that rate rises of any kind are never welcome but believes that a SRV is a necessary course of action to maintain our essential infrastructure and services
- Council's IP&R documentation outlines the financial challenge we are currently facing and our long term financial modelling currently estimates that we are facing an \$80 million shortfall at the end of 10 years
- Council has been working hard to reduce operating costs
- Council has improved our asset management processes
- Our Shire is vast in relation to our low population; as a result we have high infrastructure costs, particularly on roads, relative to a small rate base
- Council is responsible for over half a billion dollars of assets including 840 kilometres of road
- Council applied for a SRV in 2011 to address the infrastructure maintenance backlog; however, we didn't receive what we needed and as a result our assets have continued to deteriorate
- Although we received less than we expected with the last SRV in 2011; we were still able to effectively administer the funds from the previous SRV and able to deliver some much needed projects earlier by securing LIRS Loans
- A Special Rate Variation is an important step towards becoming 'Fit for the Future'
- Many Councils across NSW are facing the same challenges as Wollondilly Shire Council

Methodology

The 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy employed a range of communication methods to ensure that all target audiences were aware of Council's SRV proposal, Council's intention to seek community support for or against a rate rise, and the various engagement opportunities and avenues to provide feedback and be involved in the conversation.

The consultation methods utilised throughout the community engagement strategy included:

- Councillor Workshops
- Council Reports
- Static Displays
- Train Station Engagements

- Informal information sessions utilising the Dilly Wanderer
- Information distribution at community events
- Community Meetings
- Information and Drop-In Session
- Drop-In Q&A Sessions
- Information Kits
- Correspondence
- Newsletter
- Media Releases
- Radio Interviews
- Articles in the Bush Telegraph and Mayor's Column
- Newspaper Advertising
- Flyer Distribution
- Information Stalls
- Social Media Posts
- Website
- Telephone Survey

Legislative Requirements

The legislative requirements for Integrated Planning and Reporting are contained within

- NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual and Guidelines March 2013
- NSW Local Government Act 1993
- NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Community Engagement Structure & Outcomes

The 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy involved five key phases including the planning, implementation, assessment, review/reporting and evaluation phases.

Planning Phase:

Wollondilly Shire Council developed a community vision in partnership with the community during the development of the CSP, and this vision is consistent throughout all of Wollondilly Shire Council's IP&R documents. The development of the CSP involved a comprehensive community consultation process which included community workshops, information kiosks, distribution of comprehensive information across the community, and engagement with a

diverse range of stakeholders.

Following on from the development of the shared community vision, Wollondilly Shire Council with the community also identified priorities and needs for the Shire, as outlined in the CSP.

Building on from this, the planning phase also involved the confirmation of the funding options and financial needs of the Shire as identified in the LTFP and draft Asset Management Plans (AMPs); in order to be consistent with the community aspirations for Wollondilly with respect to infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

Once the community's priority areas and needs were identified along with the funding options, Wollondilly Shire Council developed a community engagement strategy and a number of key messages that were to be conveyed to the community throughout the engagement period. The key messages aimed to increase community awareness of the SRV proposal and the impact of the SRV options on the ratepayer and within the community.

Lastly, engagement resources were developed during the planning phase of the engagement strategy. These resources were developed in order to effectively and clearly convey the key messages of the SRV proposal being considered and were designed in line with the IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum and Wollondilly Shire Council's Assets to Opportunities Maps 2010.

Implementation Phase:

In September 2014, Council resolved to begin a formal conversation with the community about the need for a SRV and the options being considered by Council. As a result, Wollondilly Shire Council embarked on a comprehensive community engagement program.

The main focus of the implementation phase of the community engagement strategy was to establish community awareness and understanding around the SRV proposal being considered by Council.

As a result a number of community engagement methods were utilised to actively engage with the community about the proposal, deliver key messages and receive community feedback.

Wollondilly Shire Council also contracted an external research company in order to assess whether the community generally supported a SRV and how aware the community was of Council considering a SRV. This was achieved using a telephone survey.

In addition, the implementation phase involved the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14-2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15.

The results of each stage of the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy were reported to Council throughout the process at Council meetings between September 2014 and February 2015.

Assessment Phase:

Following the implementation phase of the community engagement strategy, Council conducted an assessment process to address and respond to community concerns that had been identified, and to assess community support for a SRV.

While Council endeavoured to be as responsive as possible to community concerns raised throughout the implementation phase, some aspects of community concern needed to be addressed after the implementation phase had been completed.

An extensive review of all submissions received during the implementation phase was conducted. As a result, all community members who made a submission as part of the community engagement period received acknowledgement that their submission was being considered as part of the decision making process. All submissions were reviewed by Council officers and concerns were addressed where possible. All community members who made a submission were notified that any concerns they made in their submission would be addressed following Council's meeting in February 2015.

In addition to assessing the submissions received, Council also assessed the following:

- Number of community members who participated in each of the engagement activities and initiatives
- Number of enquiries and submissions received
- Number of visits to the Addressing Your Future Needs webpage
- Social media coverage and reach
- Media coverage
- Number of people aware of the SRV engagement (identified in surveys)
- Number of people supportive of a SRV (identified in surveys)
- Number of SRV resources distributed to community members

Review/Reporting Phase:

The fourth phase of the community engagement strategy involved submitting a report to Council regarding the outcomes of the community engagement strategy. Along with that report, Councillors received a copy of all submissions received during the engagement period. This information was provided to Councillors in order for them to gain a greater sense of community sentiment regarding a SRV, and to make an informed decision as to whether Council would make an application to IPART for a SRV.

Additionally, the review/reporting phase involves the ongoing reporting, communication and awareness to the community about the SRV. Specifically, Wollondilly Shire Council is committed to continuing to inform the community about the SRV process and what will happen now that Council has resolved to make an application to IPART for a SRV of 10.8% over 4 years.

Evaluation Phase:

A complete evaluation of the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy will be carried out following IPART's decision regarding Council's SRV application to assess whether the engagement strategy has successfully met the aims set out in the strategy.

Community Engagement Methods & Outcomes:

The community engagement principles employed to develop the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy informed the community engagement methods utilised to increase community awareness regarding Council's SRV proposal. The engagement methods employed, along with the outcomes are detailed below.

- ***Councillor Workshops:***

Councillor Workshops were held before and during the community engagement period. These workshops focused on the fundamental need for a SRV taking into account Council's financial and asset data. Additionally, the workshops focused on reviewing the community engagement strategy, in particular the engagement methods to be utilised; review of promotional material and consultation information; a presentation from the telephone survey external contractors regarding methods used to survey the community and confirmation of the SRV options to be considered.

- ***Council Reports:***

6 reports (all publicly available) were submitted to Council between September 2014 and February 2015. These reports informed Councillors about the SRV proposal and community engagement progress; as well as the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14-2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15. Reporting to Council not only informed Councillors further about the SRV community engagement but also enabled another avenue for community members to be aware of the SRV proposal and submit questions to Council at community forums. No questions were submitted to Council at any of the community forums regarding any of the SRV related reports.

- ***Static Displays:***

Static displays were at Picton Library, Wollondilly Tourist Information Centre, Wollondilly Shire Council's Children Services and Wollondilly Shire Council

Administration Building. Displays included posters, flyers, 'Addressing Your Future Needs' newsletter and 'Addressing Your Future Needs' bookmarks.

- ***Train Station Engagement:***

Due to the fact that a large proportion of our population travel outside the Shire for work, Council officers distributed SRV information to commuters at three of Wollondilly's most used train stations. Council officers attended Picton, Tahmoor and Bargo train stations between 5:30am-8:00am on the 16th, 17th and 18th of September 2014. Council officers distributed newsletters, FAQs and flyers to commuters and were available to answer any community questions. 144 commuters received information about the SRV proposal.

- ***Information Stalls with the Dilly Wanderer:***

Wollondilly Shire is geographically large and as a result Wollondilly Shire Council has developed a number of mobile community service initiatives in an effort to better reach and service our community. One such service is the Dilly Wanderer – a mobile community engagement and information service – which regularly travels across the Shire to provide information to the community. Council officers held information stalls in conjunction with the Dilly Wanderer service during the implementation phase to speak with the community about the SRV proposal and answer any community questions. These information stalls were widely promoted across the Shire. The Dilly Wanderer SRV Information Stall visited the following towns and villages:

- Yanderra
- The Oaks
- Tahmoor
- Oakdale
- Bingara Gorge
- Buxton
- Appin
- Bargo
- Silverdale
- Douglas Park
- Thirlmere
- Warragamba
- Picton

A total of 26 people received information about the SRV at the Dilly Wanderer

Information Stalls.

- **Community Events:**

During the implementation phase of the community engagement strategy a number of Council Officers attended community events on weekends. As a result, Council Officers distributed information about Council's SRV proposal to community members. SRV information was available at the following events:

- o Sunday 21st September 2014: Tahmoor Uniting Church Community Garden Family Day
- o Saturday 11th October 2014: Bargo School Fete
- o Sunday 19th October 2014: DamFest (community festival in Warragamba)

35 people received information about the SRV at these events.

- **Community Meeting:**

In an effort to ensure community members could engage with Council regarding the SRV proposal, Council held three evening community meetings from 6:00pm-8:00pm across the Shire. A presentation was delivered to all attendees at the meeting and community members were able to ask questions to Council Officers. Additional information was distributed to attendees and attendees were able to submit feedback about the SRV proposal. Community meetings were held on the following dates:

- o Thursday 25th September 2014 at Warragamba Town Hall
- o Thursday 16th October 2014 at Tahmoor CWA Hall
- o Thursday 23rd October 2014 at Appin Community Hall

These locations were selected for evening community meetings as Council wanted to ensure that an 'out of hours' engagement opportunity was held in each ward within Wollondilly. This was done in an effort to cater to our population who work out of the area. As a result, Council reviewed the geographic locations within each ward along with population statistics to determine the ideal locations of the evening meetings.

27 people in total attended the 3 community meetings.

- **Information & Drop-In Session:**

An additional evening information and drop-in session was organised for Warragamba. This was held in response to community requests at the first Warragamba Community Meeting identifying that this would allow more community members the opportunity to participate in the SRV conversation. Residents were encouraged to drop-in to Warragamba Town Hall between 6:30pm and 8:30pm on the 15th October 2014 to ask questions and receive information about the SRV proposal. This information and drop-in

session was widely promoted throughout the community. One community member attended the information and drop-in session.

- ***Drop-In Q&A Sessions:***

Four drop-in sessions were held at Picton Shire Hall from 12:00pm-2:00pm for four consecutive days. Community members could drop-in to the Shire Hall during the allocated time to discuss the proposal and ask questions. The Hall also had displays of how Council allocated the funds generated from the previous SRV for the community's information. Drop-In Q&A Sessions were held on the following days:

- o Tuesday 7th October 2014
- o Wednesday 8th October 2014
- o Thursday 9th October 2014
- o Friday 10th October 2014

20 community members attended the Drop-In Q&A Sessions over the four days.

- ***Information Kits:***

Information kits were distributed to key stakeholders throughout the engagement period in an effort to increase awareness about the SRV proposal. The following stakeholders received information kits:

- o Wollondilly Shire Council Councillors
- o Local Members of Parliament
- o Wollondilly Shire Council Staff. While all staff members received information about Wollondilly Shire Council's SRV proposal, staff members who dealt directly with the public were invited to an information session or provided with more detailed information. These staff members included:
 - Library Staff
 - Customer Request Staff
 - Customer Service Staff
 - Children Service Staff
 - Social Media Team

- ***Correspondence:***

A number of key stakeholders received direct correspondence about the Addressing Your Future Needs community engagement campaign and proposal. This was in an effort to increase community awareness and understanding. The following stakeholders received direct correspondence:

- o 93 Council Committee Members

- 146 Community Directory Contacts
 - 383 Business Directory Contacts
 - 8 Community Members who attended the Warragamba Community Meeting
- ***'Addressing Your Future Needs' Newsletter:***
Hard copy newsletters were mailed to all ratepayers in Wollondilly Shire. 16,936 ratepayers were sent a newsletter. In addition to mailing out the newsletter to all ratepayers, newsletters were also made available at all community engagement activities.
- ***Phone Enquiries:***
During the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement period, the SRV Project team was available to take any community calls regarding the SRV proposal and receive phone submissions. During this time Wollondilly Shire Council received 17 enquiries regarding the SRV proposal.
- ***Radio:***
Two radio interviews were conducted during the implementation phase to discuss the SRV and promote the community engagement opportunities and ways for the community to be involved in the conversation.
- 24th September 2014: Macarthur Community Radio
 - 30th September 2014: ABC Illawarra Radio
- ***Media Release:***
Media releases were distributed regularly throughout the engagement period. Specifically 9 media releases were distributed to the following media outlets:
- Southern Highlands Radio
 - ABC Western Sydney
 - MP Angus Taylor's Office
 - Macarthur Chronicle
 - C91.3
 - Warragamba Website
 - Penrith Press
 - Illawarra Mercury
 - 2UE
 - MP Jai Rowell's Office

- Wollondilly Advertiser
 - Network Ten
 - Prime TV
 - Informer
 - Seven News
 - Sydney Morning Herald
 - The District Reporter
 - The Land
 - What's Happening in Warragamba and Surrounds
 - Win News
 - ABC Wollongong
- ***Bush Telegraph Coverage:***
- Wollondilly Shire Council has a full page article called the Bush Telegraph which is published each week in the newspaper, and contains the Mayor's column and other relevant Council information. From September to October, the Bush Telegraph was printed in the Advertiser, Chronicle and District Reporter. From November onwards, the Bush Telegraph was printed in the Advertiser and District Reporter. Bush Telegraph coverage included:
- 2 Bush Telegraph Articles regarding the SRV proposal
 - 5 Bush Telegraph Articles about the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14-2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15
 - 3 Articles in the Mayor's column about the SRV proposal
 - 1 Bush Telegraph Advertisement about the SRV
- ***Newspaper Advertising:***
- 1 quarter page advertisement was printed in the Advertiser, Chronicle and District Reporter at the beginning of the implementation phase.
- ***Media Coverage:***
- The Special Rate Variation proposal Council is considering was featured in a number of local newspapers during the engagement period.
- ***Flyer Distribution:***
- Flyers and posters were distributed across the Shire to local Businesses and facilities to

increase community awareness. Specifically, 111 businesses received flyers and posters, 1 neighbourhood centre received flyers and posters and 1 preschool. These flyers were distributed in the following towns and villages:

- Tahmoor
- Warragamba
- Silverdale
- Appin
- Douglas Park
- Thirlmere
- Picton

- ***Shopping Centre Information Stalls:***

SRV information was distributed at two of the major shopping centres in Wollondilly. SRV Project Team members were also available to answer any community questions about the SRV proposal.

- Thursday 9th October 2014: 30 people received information about the SRV at Tahmoor Shopping Centre
- Monday 27th October 2014: 49 people received information about the SRV at Picton Mall

- ***'Addressing Your Future Needs' Business Cards:***

In response to outdoor staff receiving questions from the community regarding the SRV proposal business cards were printed. The business cards provided details for community members as to where they could access further information about the SRV. 200 business cards were distributed to outdoor staff for use.

- ***Social Media:***

Wollondilly Shire Council's Facebook page has 2,197 likes and 724 followers on Twitter. During the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement period a total of 46 posts were made on Social Media regarding the SRV, public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14-2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 and community consultation opportunities. In total the 46 social media posts resulted in:

- 14,079 People Reached
- 1303 Post Clicks
- 42 Likes
- 71 Shares

- 75 Comments

As a result, on average each post reached 306 people, generated 28 post clicks, 0.9 likes, 1.5 shares and 1.6 comments.

- ***'Addressing Your Future Needs' Webpage:***

During the planning phase of the community engagement strategy, Wollondilly Shire Council developed a microsite in order to provide detailed information to the community about the SRV. The microsite was attached to Council's already existing IP&R website 'Wollondilly 2033'. From the 15th of September to the 30th October 2014 'Wollondilly 2033' received 819 visitors of which 571 were new visitors to the site and 248 were returning visitors to the site. On average people were on the site for 2 minutes and 52 seconds and visited 3.05 pages per session during this time. The 'Addressing Your Future Needs' microsite homepage was the most visited page on the site during this time.

Wollondilly Shire is geographically large and as a result Council acknowledges that providing opportunities for all community members to participate in the Special Rate Variation conversation is difficult. However, Council took all practical steps to ensure the community had every possible opportunity to join the conversation about the SRV proposal. As a result, in addition to the physical engagement opportunities Council ensured that our 'Addressing Your Future Needs' webpage and newsletter had detailed information about the Special Rate Variation proposal to ensure this information would allow community members to make informed decision even if they could not physically attend an engagement opportunity. Furthermore, Council was available to take feedback and answer questions via phone, mail, email and in person at the Council Administration Building in Picton and at all engagement opportunities.

Addressing Your Future Needs Community Feedback

Throughout the implementation phase of the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement strategy, Wollondilly Shire Council received 165 formal submissions regarding the SRV proposal and zero submissions for the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15.

Submissions were taken via email, mail, phone, in person and web. The number of submissions received for each submission method is as follows:

- 53 Email Submissions
- 23 Mail Submissions

- 13 Phone and In Person Submissions
- 76 Web Submissions

All submissions received during the community engagement period were deemed as valid and were included in the community engagement outcomes. Even where community members submitted more than one submission, Council still considered all their submissions. This was done in an effort to ensure complete transparency with the community regarding community sentiment towards the SRV proposal.

Of the 165 submissions received 39 submissions indicated support for a SRV; 107 submissions indicated that they were not supportive of a SRV and 19 submissions did not specify being supportive or not supportive of a SRV.

Furthermore, out of the 165 submissions received during the engagement period the following submissions stated a preferred SRV option:

- Option 1 preferred: 35 submissions
- Option 2 preferred: 14 submissions
- Option 2 or 3 preferred: 6 submissions
- Option 3 preferred: 13 submissions
- Preferred option not specified: 97 submissions

It can be seen from the submissions received throughout the community engagement period, the small sample of the community who voluntarily provided feedback to Council, is largely not supportive of a SRV. Council anticipated that direct community feedback during the community engagement period would be mostly against a SRV.

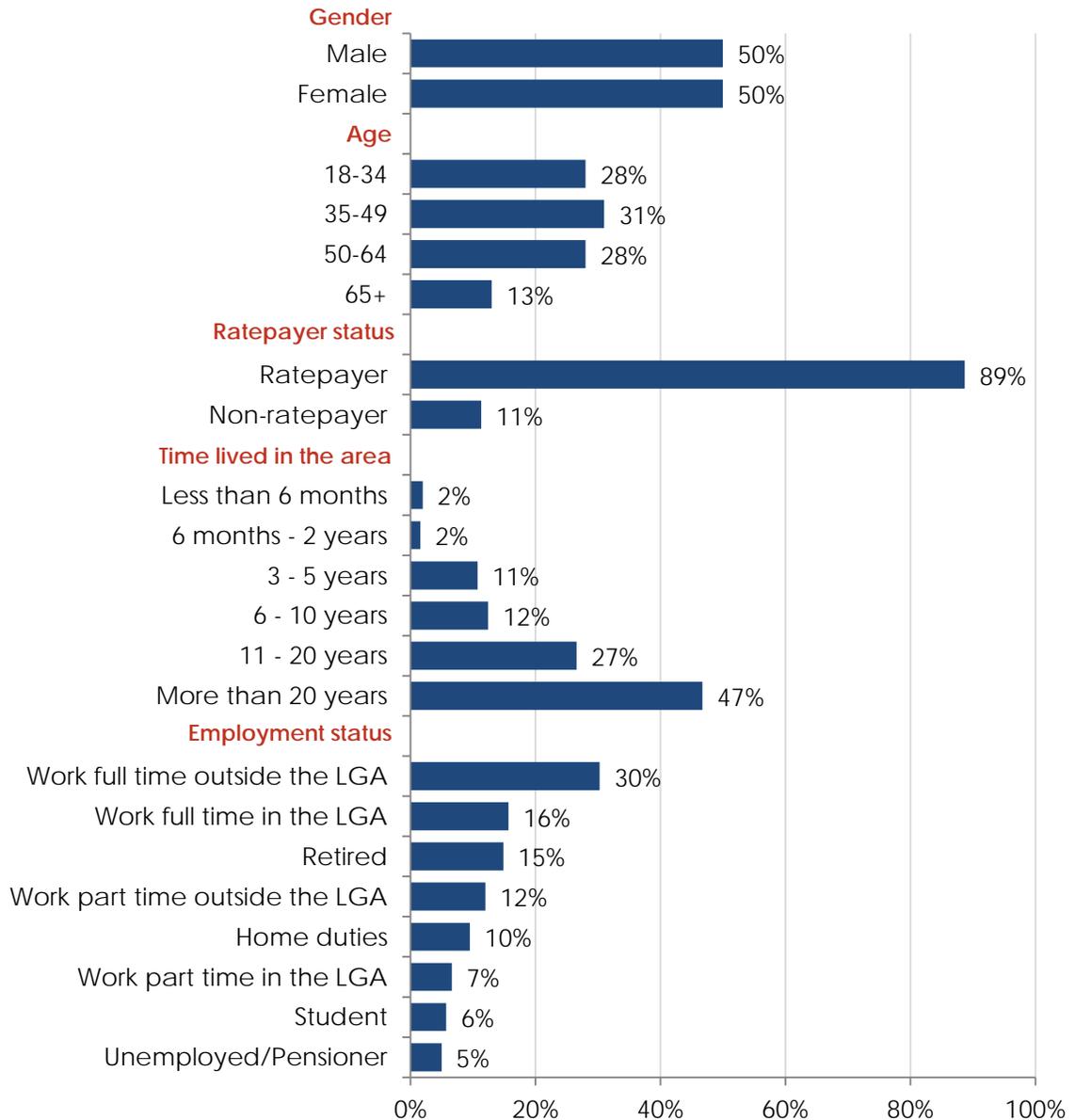
In addition to taking direct community feedback regarding the SRV proposal through formal submissions; Wollondilly Shire Council also contracted an external research company to conduct a telephone survey of the Wollondilly community.

A total of 407 community members were interviewed and this provided a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. As a result, the research findings can be interpreted as not just the opinions of 407 residents, but as an accurate and robust measure of the entire community's attitudes.

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) standards and the Market Research Society Code of Professional Conduct.

A sample profile of the respondents is detailed in Figure 1.1. The sample was weighted to reflect the 2011 ABS statistics for the Wollondilly Local Government Area.

Figure 1.1 Sample profile of telephone survey respondents



Respondents were asked a range of questions relating to Council performance and satisfaction with Council services; and were also read a concept statement relating to the three SRV proposals and asked specific questions regarding preferred options and level of support for the options Council is considering.

When respondents were asked how satisfied they were with Council’s overall performance in the last 12 months; 81% of respondents said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Council. This is in line with the NSW Local Government Area Benchmarks.

Furthermore, 89% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with the level of service

provided by Council in the Shire. Additionally, when respondents were asked 'how satisfied are you with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Council in the local area?' 65% of respondents identified that they were at least somewhat satisfied with the quality of infrastructure. While 35% of respondents expressed that they were not very satisfied to not at all satisfied with the quality of infrastructure and facilities in Wollondilly.

Following on from this, respondents were also asked 'how important is it for Council to provide better infrastructure and facilities?' 99% of respondents identified that it was at least somewhat important for Council to provide better infrastructure and facilities.

These results indicate that currently residents within Wollondilly are generally satisfied with Council's overall performance and level of service. However, the majority of the community also places a greater importance on Council continuing to provide better infrastructure and facilities.

With respect to the three SRV options Council is considering, respondents were read a concept statement outlining Council's position on a SRV and the potential impacts of each option on ratepayers and within the community.

When respondents were asked how supportive they were of Council proceeding with each option, it found that the highest level of support was for Option 2 which includes the increase of rates by 8.5% for 4 years including the 3% rate peg. Specifically, 71% of residents were at least somewhat supportive of Option 2. Additionally, it was found that 52% of respondents were at least somewhat supportive of Option 3 and 51% of respondents were at least somewhat supportive of Option 1. Level of Support for the SRV Options can be seen in Figure 1.2

Respondents were then asked to rank the three options in order of preference; Figure 1.3 outlines the community's response. Specifically 46% of respondents nominated Option 2 as their first preference, while 30% of respondents chose Option 1 as their first preference and 24% of respondents chose Option 3 as their first preference.

However, the results also show that 70% of all respondents chose Option 2 or 3 as their first preference compared to 30% for Option 1. This result indicates that when the community is given the option, the majority of the community would prefer to introduce a SRV to rates in Wollondilly, rather than Option 1 which would result in no SRV and further deterioration of infrastructure and assets in Wollondilly.

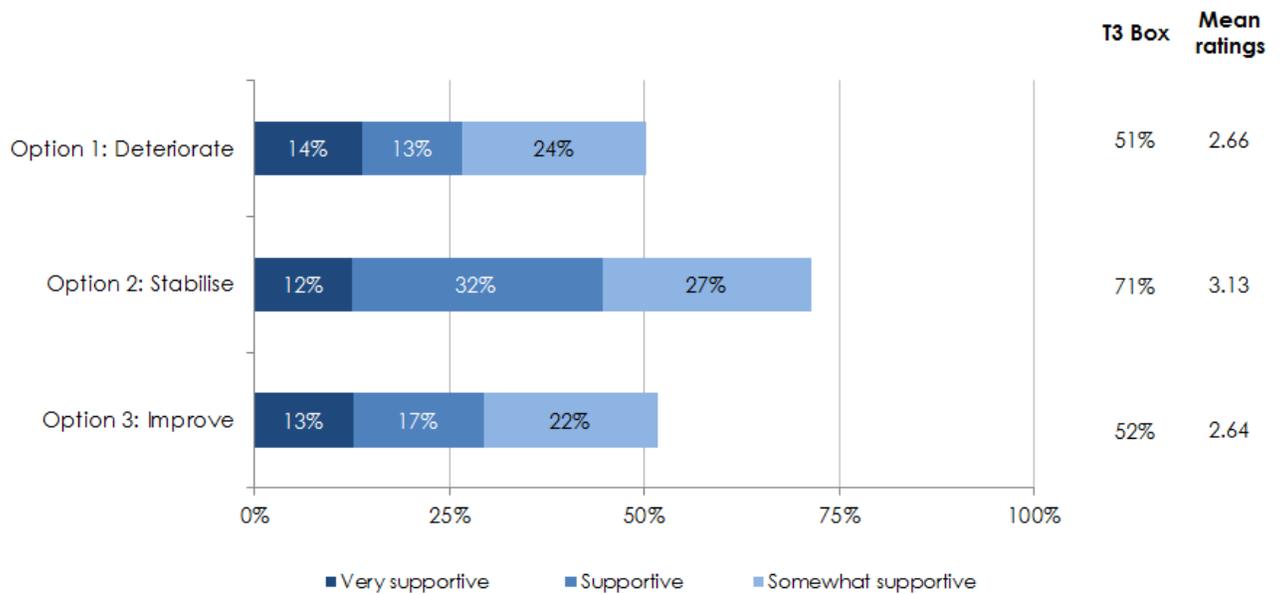
In addition to this, one of IPARTs community engagement criteria focused on community awareness. As a result, Wollondilly Shire Council implemented a number of initiatives to ensure broad community awareness about the SRV proposal. During the telephone survey, respondents were asked if prior to the call they were aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a SRV. It was found that 49% of respondents were aware of Council's SRV proposal, while 48% were not aware and 3% were not sure if they were aware of

Council’s SRV proposal. Additionally, of the 49% of respondents who said they were aware of the SRV a total of 72% were made aware through the SRV newsletter mail out that was conducted during the implementation phase. The results of community awareness can be seen in Figure 1.4

Overall, the telephone survey results highlighted that the community is generally aware and supportive of Council making an application to IPART for a SRV.

To see a full copy of the telephone survey report and results please see Attachment O.

Figure 1.2 Level of support for SRV options



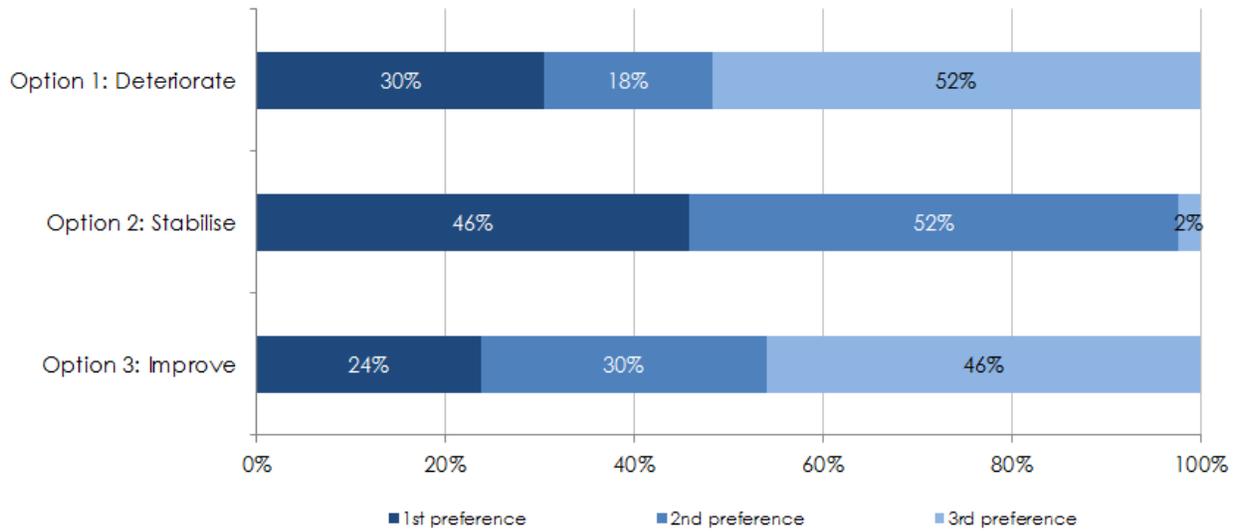
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Option 1 – Deteriorate	2.59	2.67	2.60	2.92	2.72	2.60	2.68	2.54	2.66
Option 2 – Stabilise	3.36	3.04	3.03	3.06	2.98	3.28▲	3.12	3.16	3.13
Option 3 – Improve	3.10▲	2.45▼	2.55▼	2.35▼	2.56	2.73	2.57	3.25▲	2.64

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)

Q4. How supportive are you with Council proceeding with this option?

Figure 1.3 Order of preference for SRV options



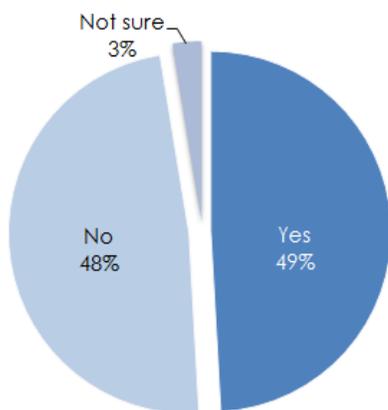
1 st Preference	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Option 1 – Deteriorate	20%	31%	38%	37%	35%	26%	31%	25%	30%
Option 2 – Stabilise	53%▲	50%▲	34%▼	45%▲	41%	50%	47%	37%	46%
Option 3 – Improve	27%	19%	28%	18%	24%	23%	22%	38%	24%

Q5a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

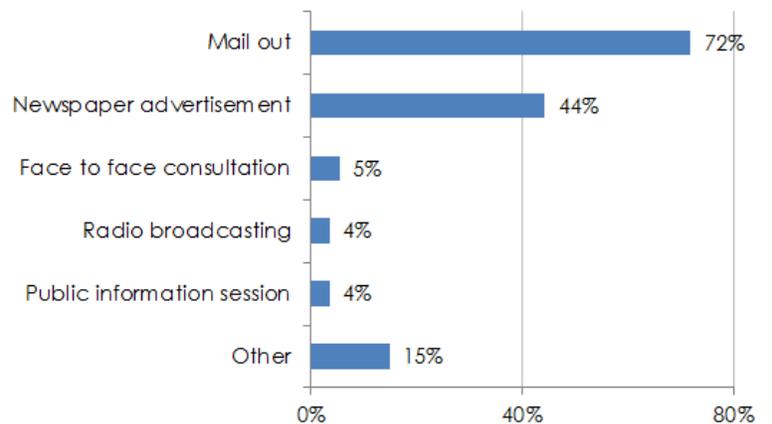
▲▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)

Figure 1.4 Community awareness about SRV proposal

Q6a. Prior to this call were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation?



Q6b. How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation?



Base: n = 221

	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Yes	30%▼	47%	64%▲	64%▲	50%	48%	54%▲	9%	49%
No	66%	52%	34%	33%	48%	49%	44%	83%	48%
Not sure	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	9%▲	3%

▲▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)

‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ Community Concerns

Throughout the ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement period, Wollondilly Shire Council received a number of submissions about the SRV proposals being considered.

As part of the assessment phase of the community engagement strategy, Council Officers acknowledged receipt of all submissions and identified that any specific queries raised will be responded to after Council makes a decision in February 2015 regarding making an application to IPART for a SRV.

Council Officers reviewed all SRV submissions as part of the assessment process and identified responses and actions to community concerns.

In addition to the submissions received, Council officers also received verbal feedback from the community highlighting concerns about the SRV proposal.

The community concerns raised throughout the ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement period are detailed below, along with Council’s response to the common community concerns. All submissions will be responded to in the months following on from the February 2015 Council meeting to address community concern, and to raise community awareness about Council’s decision to apply to IPART for a SRV of 10.8% over 4 years.

In addition to these responses, Council anticipated a number of common community concerns and responded to these through our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. Our FAQs were available on the ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ microsite and at all community engagement activities, and addressed a number of common questions the community had during the engagement period.

<i>Concern</i>	<i>Details and Response</i>
Accountability	<p><i>The community raised questions about how Council currently allocates and spends rate income. Additionally, the community was interested in knowing how funding was distributed across soft services, administration and direct services.</i></p> <p>Council remains accountable to the community through our IP&R documentation. Council reports annually to the community about our yearly revenue, expenditure and outcomes. Additionally, Council’s CSP, LTFP, AMP and Delivery and Operational Plans set out Council’s long term directions as identified based on community feedback.</p>
Affordability	<p><i>It was suggested that the proposed rate increase will be unaffordable for many in Wollondilly.</i></p> <p>Council acknowledges that a SRV may be challenging for some individuals across the Shire. However, Council believes that the proposed increase is reasonable for the wider community. Council’s view is based on a detailed analysis of Wollondilly’s Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), employment status, household income, housing rates including rental payments and loan repayments.</p>
Alternative revenue sources	<p><i>Several respondents suggested that Council should consider other income generation options to address the funding shortfall. Suggested that Council should review and dispose of excess land holdings.</i></p> <p>Council continually evaluates its property holdings and disposes of holdings where appropriate. However, disposal of land holdings will not provide a long term solution to the funding shortfall Council is currently facing.</p>

<p>Amalgamation</p>	<p><i>The issue of amalgamation was raised in a number of submissions. Many respondents believed that amalgamation with one of our neighbouring Council's or review of our borders would be an appropriate solution to the funding shortfall Council is facing.</i></p> <p>The State Governments recent review of local government in NSW identifies a number of Councils for potential amalgamation. Wollondilly was not one of the Councils identified for amalgamation. Additionally, considerable debate still exists as to the financial benefits of amalgamations.</p>
<p>Asset Management</p>	<p><i>A number of respondents wanted to know what Council's plan was for infrastructure maintenance in the future.</i></p> <p>Council's Asset Management Plans identify how Council's funds will be expended across the Shire, under each SRV scenario. The infrastructure maintenance and renewal program for the future will be based on the outcome of Council's application to IPART for a SRV. However, the Asset Management Plans clearly outline the works that can be achieved depending on the outcome of the SRV proposal.</p>
<p>Coal Royalties</p>	<p><i>Can Council look at coal royalties which are collected from local coal mining activities to address the funding shortfall?</i></p> <p>Council has been lobbying the State Government strongly to secure a share of coal royalties and will continue to do so.</p>

<p>Community awareness about community engagement activities</p>	<p><i>A number of submissions identified that the community did not receive enough notice about the Warragamba Community Meeting.</i></p> <p>Council acknowledges that the SRV newsletter which detailed the community meeting dates did not arrive in Warragamba and Silverdale households as early as expected. However, Council also promoted all the community engagement activities including the Warragamba Community Meeting through a number of other mediums to ensure significant community awareness. Council promoted the meeting on Council’s Facebook page, as well as through local media networks, flyer distribution, and correspondence with Council contacts. As attendance was low at the first Warragamba Community Meeting, Council responded by organising another informal information and drop-in session for the community. This meeting was held at a later time to try and accommodate more people and was again widely promoted through the same networks, as well as flyer distribution to local businesses in Warragamba and Silverdale and promotion through attendees at the first Warragamba Community Meeting. One community member attended this session.</p>
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<p>Development</p>	<p><i>A number of submissions touched on the fact that significant development is happening in Wollondilly and is expected to continue into the future. It was suggested that the funding gap should be made up by developers and Council's Growth Management Strategy should allow land owners to sell sections of their land or subdivide to address the issue. Also, queries were made about the fact that development and growth will bring in additional ratepayers which should address the issue.</i></p> <p>Under current legislation Council cannot increase the rates developers pay, which are for new assets to support the population of the new development areas, to address the funding shortfall. Also, developer contributions are capped by legislation. Additionally, Council's Growth Management Strategy strategically plans for growth, services and infrastructure for the future. For this reason, Council cannot approve all development applications relating to property subdivision. Furthermore, although rates from new residential growth will significantly fund new infrastructure, it will not cover the maintenance and renewal costs of our existing infrastructure as it will need to be allocated for the operational costs in the development areas as well as the maintenance and eventual renewal of the additional assets.</p>
<p>Economic Growth</p>	<p><i>It was identified in some submissions that economic development needs to be encouraged and addressed in Wollondilly. It was also suggested already existing businesses in Wollondilly may suffer from a rate rise.</i></p> <p>Council is placing a strong focus on economic development and is currently reviewing its economic development strategy to ensure our community benefits from the opportunities available through the growth we are experiencing. Additionally, Council has undertaken an analysis of all ratepayers' capacity to pay a rate increase and based on this information Council believes that the increase would be reasonable for the broader community including businesses.</p>

<p>Efficiency</p>	<p><i>A number of submissions identified concerns that Council may not be as efficient as it could be, and has not clearly demonstrated its efficiency to the community.</i></p> <p>Council has an ongoing program identifying and implementing efficiency improvements. Additionally, efficiency improvements were detailed during the community engagement period. Council’s data suggests that we are currently an efficient organisation. Furthermore, Council’s application to IPART will include detailed information about organisational efficiencies.</p>
<p>Equity</p>	<p><i>A number of submissions identified that the community don’t want to pay an increase in rates for other areas of the Shire to benefit instead of their own community.</i></p> <p>To date, Council’s infrastructure maintenance works have been completed based on priority due to the fact that Council faces a funding shortfall in excess of \$5 million per year to maintain all the Shire’s assets. Over time without a SRV, this gap will grow to \$9 million per year. Council’s Asset Management Plan will help to determine how funds will be utilised across all assets in the Shire based on the three funding proposals Council is currently considering. If Council is successful in receiving a SRV, this will enable Council to provide more infrastructure maintenance works across the whole Shire.</p>
<p>Grants</p>	<p><i>A common view within the community related to Council seeking additional funds from State and Federal Government by way of grants to assist with our infrastructure maintenance and renewal needs.</i></p> <p>While Council is continually advocating and applying for additional funding from State and Federal Governments to address Wollondilly’s needs; these opportunities are limited and are not enough to address all the issues we face with respect to infrastructure maintenance and renewal.</p>

<p>Hardship</p>	<p><i>Some respondents identified that the proposed increase would be too much to pay. It was suggested that the rate rise coupled with the increases to household living and general expenses would place a greater strain on families, as well as farmers, businesses, pensioners, self-funded retirees and mining companies.</i></p> <p>Council’s analysis suggests that the proposed rate increase is reasonable for the broader community. However, Council recognises that some ratepayers may experience financial difficulties in meeting rate commitments. In such situations, Council will make arrangements with ratepayers to pay off their outstanding rates and charges through regular payments over the course of a year. Additionally, Council provides a generous pensioner rebate to eligible residents. Council was active in promoting these policies throughout the ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement period to ensure the community was aware that Council does provide assistance in times of hardship.</p>
<p><i>If Council gets this Special Rate Variation are they going to need another one in the future?</i></p>	<p><i>Community members regularly wanted to know if Council will need another SRV in the future if they get the SRV they are proposing.</i></p> <p>If Council is successful in implementing a SRV of 10.8% for four years, this will generate the necessary funds over the next 10 years to address the \$80 million deficit Council is facing. Although, Council cannot guarantee that it will never have to consult the community again in the future about the need for a SRV; a 10.8% increase over four years will provide a sound basis for Council to address infrastructure maintenance needs and in becoming financially sustainable. If Council receives less than 10.8% per annum over the next four years, then it will definitely need to apply for another SRV in the future in order to make up the funding shortfall.</p>

<p>Infrastructure maintenance should be more sustainable</p>	<p><i>A number of respondents suggested that Council should provide infrastructure maintenance particularly on roads that is of a higher quality and that provides a long term solution.</i></p> <p>Council currently has inadequate funds to undertake the major road works required across the Shire. Road works are prioritised and take place when funds are available. At times, Council will need to conduct infrastructure maintenance that is sometimes only a temporary fix to ensure the road is safe for use. The SRV proposal will enable Council to take a more strategic approach to infrastructure maintenance and renewal which will allow us to undertake work that will provide a more long term solution to the problem.</p>
<p>Legal Costs</p>	<p><i>Concerns were raised about Council spending too much money on legal fees and that this money should instead be used to address the funding shortfall.</i></p> <p>Council incurs legal expenses in circumstances where Council has an obligation to enforce legislation or when individuals instigate legal action against Council.</p>
<p>Pensioner Rebate</p>	<p><i>Concerns were raised that a SRV would have a significant impact on pensioners and self-funded retirees.</i></p> <p>Council recognises that some pensioners may experience financial hardship in meeting their rate commitments. As a result, eligible pensioners are entitled to a rebate on their rates, comprising the State Government’s mandatory \$250 annual rebate, plus an additional rate rebate of \$45 for the year and up to 50% of the waste service charge. Pensioners are also exempt from Council’s annual Stormwater Management Charge. The majority of NSW Councils do not offer rebates in addition to those required by the State Government and a comparison with those that do offer rebates shows Council’s policy to be generous. However, Council does acknowledge that the Pensioner Rebate does not include self-funded retirees.</p>

<p>Previous Special Rate Variation</p>	<p><i>Concerns were raised about the fact that Council consulted the community previously in 2011 for a SRV and now Council is asking for another SRV.</i></p> <p>While Council did consult the community in 2011 for a SRV of 8% per annum over 7 years; Council was only successful in obtaining an increase of 6% per annum over 3 years. This fell substantially short of providing the required funds to address the mounting infrastructure maintenance gap. As a result infrastructure has continued to deteriorate and Council believes another SRV is a necessary course of action to address the infrastructure needs of the Shire and funding shortfall.</p>
<p>Staff Costs</p>	<p><i>A number of community members believe that a decrease in staff wages would assist in addressing the funding shortfall Council is facing.</i></p> <p>A decrease in staff wages would not address the funding shortfall Wollondilly Shire Council is currently facing. Council staff are paid in accordance with the State Award and for senior staff, industry standards. In addition, Council staff are a key component of the delivery of services to the community and the required additional funding is greater than 55% of the current total staff costs. Closing the funding gap solely through staff cost savings would require more than halving the current deployment with a cessation of the majority of Council’s services to the community.</p>

<p>Rate Increase</p>	<p><i>A number of community members expressed concern about the proposed rate increase being retained in the rate base after the 4 year SRV period. Additionally, concerns were raised about Council applying each SRV as permanent and with a cumulative effect.</i></p> <p>Councils LTFP estimates that Council currently faces an \$80 million deficit at the end of ten years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue. As a result of this funding deficit, Council has consulted the community about three funding proposals which will have varying outcomes within the community. If Council did not retain the rate increase in the rate base after the four year period Council would more than likely have to consider another SRV in the future as the required funds would not be generated.</p>
<p>Rating Structure</p>	<p><i>Concerns were raised about Council's rating structure in particular for people working from home and still paying residential rates and even distribution of rates across all properties.</i></p> <p>In accordance with section 516(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 a property is to be categorised as residential for rating purposes if (a) its dominant use is for residential accommodation (otherwise than as a hotel, motel, guest-house, backpacker hostel or nursing home or any other form of residential accommodation (not being a boarding house or a lodging house) prescribed by the regulations). Providing that the 'dominant use' of the property remains residential Council must categorise the property for rating purposes as Residential and cannot recategorise a Residential property to increase rates due to a resident working from home. Additionally, Council rates are set in accordance with the requirements in the Local Government Act and as such Council is not permitted to introduce a flat rate.</p>

<p>Review of Council services and project delivery</p>	<p><i>It was identified by a number of respondents that Council should reduce the services they currently provide and should seek cost recovery through increasing fees and charges.</i></p> <p>If Council does not introduce a SRV, Council would need to consider a significant reduction in services to address the funding shortfall issues. Council would also need to review its fees and charges. However, Council also acknowledges that a reduction in services and an increase in fees and charges would not provide a sustainable solution to the problem.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p><i>Council should be advocating for better transport and transport infrastructure, to assist in keeping cars off the road.</i></p> <p>Council continues to lobby for better public transport options in Wollondilly. Furthermore, public transport is a key issue in our State Issues discussions. Public transport will continue to be a key issue for Wollondilly, particularly as the Shire continues to grow and Council is committed to continuing to advocate for better public transport in the region.</p>

Conclusion

Wollondilly Shire Council has sought to have a complex and difficult conversation with the community regarding the need for a SRV. Council acknowledges that an increase to rates is never welcome but believes it is necessary to provide the community with detailed information about the situation in an effort for the community to inform the decision making process. Every practical effort was made to ensure broad community awareness regarding the SRV proposals Council is considering, and to ensure ample opportunities for community members to provide feedback.

The ‘Addressing Your Future Needs’ community engagement strategy and implementation was aligned with best practice community engagement principles including IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum. A wide range of methods were used to inform the community about the proposals and promote and provide opportunities for the community to join the conversation.

Council is committed to having a collaborative, transparent and open conversation with the

community and implemented a number of ways for the community to provide feedback including by email, phone, in person, mail and web submissions. As well as undertaking a telephone survey.

The small sample of direct community feedback Council received through formal submissions during the community consultation period was largely unsupportive of Council applying to IPART for a SRV. This view was consistent with Council's expectations that the community providing feedback during this time would be mostly against a SRV. However, this view was offset by a randomly selected and statistically valid telephone survey. The telephone survey indicated that the wider community was generally supportive of Council proceeding with a SRV. With broad community support being for Option 2 involving 8.5% over 4 years.

Based on the 'Addressing Your Future Needs' community engagement outcomes and taking into consideration Council's IP&R documentation that outlines Council's financial needs and infrastructure maintenance and renewal backlog; Council resolved to make an application to IPART for a Special Rate Variation of 10.8% over 4 years.

Attachment A

Engagement Policy & Framework

1. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To ensure that all engagement undertaken by Council is in accordance with the Wollondilly Shire Council Community Engagement Framework, which is consistent with Council's Corporate Philosophy, Goals and Governance responsibilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Wollondilly Shire Council recognises its obligations under the Local Government Charter (specifically Section 8 and throughout the Local Government Act 1993) as they pertain to participation, consultation and engagement.
- 2.2 Council is required to engage with all of its constituents on a variety of issues and business matters.
- 2.3 This policy refers to the Wollondilly Shire Council Community Engagement Framework as the means to ensure a standard level of engagement between Council and the community of Wollondilly.
- 2.4 Council delivers its services to the community via varied and targeted business functions. The scope and range of customer service contact points requires the provision of competent and quality assured consultation options. This policy outlines a set of Principles and Benchmarks that demonstrate Council's recognition of the importance of community participation and commitment to improved engagement with its various communities.
- 2.5 This policy is to assist Council Officers to design and implement engagement strategies. The specific way engagement happens will vary from situation to situation and the purpose of this policy is not to prescribe a specific approach to engagement.
- 2.6 The Principles and Benchmarks of community engagement are supported by a range of Protocols that are the operational means for the implementation of the Community Engagement Policy (refer to 5.3 of this Policy).
- 2.7 Council provides a Community Engagement Framework that is a means by which the Council can achieve its stated:
 - 2.7.1 Vision;
 - 2.7.2 Mission;
 - 2.7.3 Values;
 - 2.7.4 Corporate Goals.
- 2.8 To facilitate these organisational commitments to the community of Wollondilly, Council will continually improve its engagement performance through the use of "good practice in community engagement". This will be achieved by the establishment, implementation and evaluation of the Wollondilly Shire Council Community Engagement Framework.

- 2.9 Specifically, Council will work with communities to identify the most appropriate and effective engagement methods in order to continually improve the relationships between all parties.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 All business functions of Council are required to communicate with our diverse community. This Policy therefore applies to all Wollondilly Shire Council Councillors, Staff, Volunteers, including agents and contractors. Subsequently all methods and means of community consultation and engagement are required to adhere and comply with the Community Engagement Policy and Framework.

4. GUIDELINES

4.1 Community Engagement Principles

- 4.1.1 There are a number of Principles that underpin the Community Engagement Policy.
- 4.1.2 The Principles will be adhered to when designing, planning, conducting and evaluating any community engagement and consultation activity employed by Wollondilly Shire Council.
- 4.1.3 The Principles are as follows:
- 4.1.3.1 **Organisational Sustainability** - Community Engagement practices reflect Council's long term commitment to support the community through appropriately directing service delivery;
 - 4.1.3.2 **Business Improvement** - Engagement methods are documented and evaluated to ensure continuous improvement and good practice implementation;
 - 4.1.3.3 **Staff Development** - Council officers are committed to improving engagement practices through professional development and learning. Community Engagement training will be incorporated into Council's corporate training plan;
 - 4.1.3.4 **Relationships/Partnerships** - To carry out fair and inclusive community engagement built on trust and good communication. This can also be accomplished through developing and maintaining relationships and partnerships;
 - 4.1.3.5 **Leadership** - All engagement processes have a focus on building leadership within Council and the community, to provide a sound basis for informed decision making.

4.2 Community Engagement Benchmarks

4.2.1 The Community Engagement Benchmarks are the specific elements that define the Policy and Principles. They provide the contextual components from concept, design, implementation and evaluation and include:

4.2.1.1 **Planning and Design** - The commitment to standardise the process and implementation for the development and delivery of community engagement practices. The purpose of the engagement will be clearly identified before engaging with stakeholders (please refer to 2.2.1 of this policy);

4.2.1.2 **Innovation and Creativity** - The commitment to the design and development of creative and innovative engagement practices to increase the opportunities for all stakeholders;

4.2.1.3 **Inclusiveness (Access and Equity)** - The commitment to development and delivery of engagement processes and practices in an equitable and inclusive way that addresses the diverse needs of the Wollondilly population;

4.2.1.4 **Communication** - The commitment to deliver clear, concise and consistent information through appropriate methods taking into account the range of diverse needs within Wollondilly. Ensure the community are informed, involved and encouraged to participate in Community Engagement;

4.2.1.5 **Documentation** - The commitment to: a standardised and complete documentation of all processes and practices used for community engagement; use and enhance appropriate methods for the recording and reporting of engagement data; and the centralised storage and dissemination of information;

4.2.1.6 **Capacity Building** - The commitment to the creation of organisational expertise through professional development and training. This will lead to creating and maintaining partnerships;

4.2.1.7 **Assessment and Evaluation** - The commitment to continually review and analyse all processes and practices to enhance the planning, design and delivery of community engagement practices;

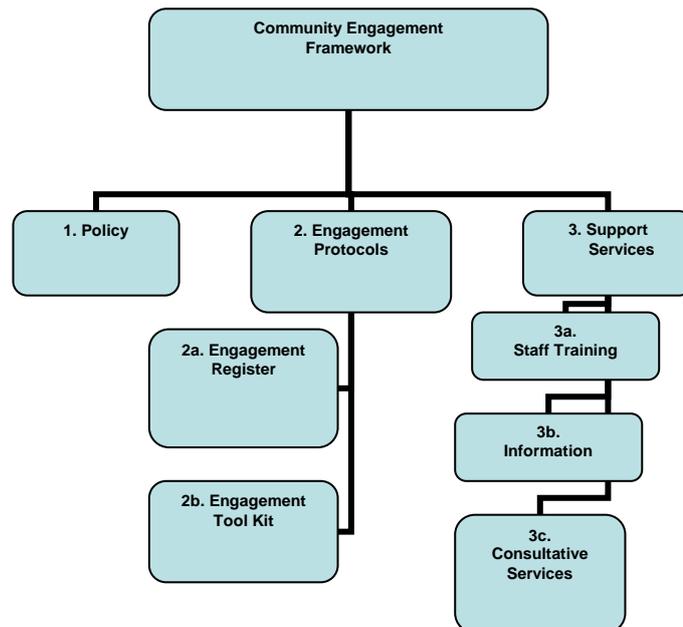
4.2.1.8 **Improvement** - The commitment to the development of existing processes and practices through effective research, planning, delivery, examination and responsive action;

4.2.1.9 **Policy Review** - The commitment to the review of the Community Engagement Policy annually by the Council's Community Services Division in conjunction with other Council Managers and staff, ensuring principles, benchmarks and practices are implemented appropriately.

4.3 Community Engagement Framework and Protocols

4.3.1 The Community Engagement Framework comprises of a number of interconnecting components which provides operational guidelines and a range of resources to support Council's Community Engagement activities.

4.3.2 Following is a diagram outlining the Community Engagement Framework.



4.3.3 Community Engagement Framework explanation

4.3.4 1. Policy

4.3.4.1 The Policy has been established to make sure there is organisational consistency and provide clarity to ensure compliance and adherence to community engagement principles and processes. The policy is underpinned by principles and benchmarks that will need to be adhered to when designing, planning, conducting and evaluating any community engagement and consultation.

4.3.5 2. Engagement Protocols

4.3.5.1 Community Engagement involves careful planning and design. A protocol is a written plan that specifies procedures to be followed in defined situations. The engagement protocols represent a standard of engagement that describes a way to consult. The engagement protocols are more specific in their detail than guidelines; they specify who does what, when and how. They include a process of identifying stakeholders and the design of the engagement methods. Protocols will be accomplished by using the engagement register and the engagement tool kit.

4.3.6 2a. Engagement Register

4.3.6.1 A community engagement register has been developed as an operational resource that will provide a record of historical consultations and engagement for Officers to use before designing prospective engagement processes. This register does not apply to development applications.

4.3.7 2b. Engagement Toolkit

4.3.7.1 The tool kit outlines the importance of community engagement and sets out a model for developing best practice engagement processes with the community.

4.3.7.2 The engagement tool kit provides theoretical background and real examples around why and how to engage communities.

4.3.7.3 It will include assessment and evaluation templates to assist in identifying the purpose of the engagement, the stakeholders to be engaged, the impact the project will have upon the community and the risks posed by the stakeholders on the viability of the project.

4.3.7.4 The tool kit will provide a design template to assist in the most appropriate engagement method/s for the circumstances of each project, along with a range of recommended engagement methods that apply specifically to the Wollondilly Shire. The engagement methods are designed around people, place and issues.

4.3.8 3. Support Services

4.3.8.1 Staff support services will be provided in the form of staff training, information and consultative services available from the Community Services Unit of Council.

4.3.9 3a. Staff Training

4.3.9.1 A staff training program has been designed and will be conducted with Council Officers through the corporate training calendar.

4.3.9.2 The training will be delivered using a “Train the Trainer” approach and will include workshops on preparing for consultations, profiling stakeholders, appropriate methods of engagement, use of the Assets to Opportunities mapping tool and evaluation of engagement processes. Specific training will also be designed by request or identified need.

4.3.10 **3b. Information**

4.3.10.1 Information will be regularly disseminated to Council Officers which include (but not limited to):

- Demographic data
- Translated material
- Advice on engaging interpreters
- Facilitation and consultation tips
- Collecting and analysing data
- Updating of the community engagement register
- How to contact particular communities
- Culturally appropriate engagement methods
- Organising engagement activities
- Creative ways to engage
- Case studies and examples of good Council engagement processes

4.3.10.2 Information will be available either electronically or in hard copy and information regarding training workshops will also be available.

4.3.11 **3c. Consultative Services**

4.3.11.1 Consultative services will be available upon request from the Community Services Unit.

5. RESPONSIBILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

- 5.1 General Manager
- 5.2 Councillors
- 5.3 All Wollondilly Shire Council staff

6. RELATED POLICIES

- 6.1 Code of Conduct
- 6.2 Occupational Health and Safety
- 6.3 Equal Employment Opportunity
- 6.4 Children's Services Policies

7. RELATED PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Community Social Plan
- 7.2 Disability Action Plan
- 7.3 State of the Environment Report
- 7.4 Management Plan
- 7.5 Committee Charters

8. RELATED LEGISLATION

- 8.1 Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)
- 8.2 Freedom of Information Act 1989 (NSW)
- 8.3 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 (Commonwealth)
- 8.4 Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- 8.5 Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social plans) Regulations 1998
- 8.6 Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)
- 8.7 Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)
- 8.8 Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW)
- 8.9 Workplace Video Surveillance Act 1998 (NSW)
- 8.10 Children's Services Regulations 2004
- 8.11 Roads Act 1993
- 8.12 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

9. ATTACHMENTS

- 9.1 Definitions

10. RESOURCES

- 10.1 "Community Engagement in the NSW Planning System" - Planning NSW, found at www.iplan.nsw.gov.au/engagement/
- 10.2 "Community Engagement Framework Report "- Social Planning Services 2006

10.3 IAP2 International Association for Public Participation - found at <http://www.iap2.org/>

11. IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

11.1 To ensure this policy is implemented effectively, Council will employ a variety of strategies involving awareness, education and training. These strategies will be aimed at Councillors, staff and council representatives and will involve:

11.1.1 Provision of Community Engagement Handbook to Council staff.

11.1.2 Provision of information and support to Council staff in matters relating to Community Engagement.

12. POLICY HISTORY

12.1	Date First Adopted	16 October 2006
12.2	Most Recent Adoption	15 November 2010
12.3	Next Review Date	April 2013
12.4	Responsible Officer	Manager Community Services

Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571
62-64 Menangle St Picton NSW 2571
Tel: 02 4677 1100 Fax: 02 4677 2339 DX: 26052 Picton
Email: council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
Rural Living www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

ATTACHMENT 9.1**DEFINITIONS****Definition of Community Engagement**

Community engagement refers to connections between governments, citizens and communities on a wide range of policy, program and service issues. It can be formal or informal. Wollondilly Shire Council understands community engagement contains the following three elements:

Information: To provide the community and key stakeholders with balanced and objective information on decisions, policies, plans and strategies;

Consultation: To obtain feedback from the community and key stakeholders on analysis and alternatives to inform a decision;

Participation: Responsibility for the final decision rests with Council but may, in some instances be shared with the community and key stakeholders. It is critical that the final decision maker is predetermined and agreed in the planning process and recognised in the community engagement plan. Participation is made up of several parts as follows:

- *Involvement:* To work directly with the community and key stakeholders so that their concerns/issues are consistently understood and considered.
- *Collaboration:* To partner with the community and key stakeholders in each aspect of the decision process – including the development of alternatives and identification of a solution.
- *Empowerment:* All final decisions rest with Council or a delegated officer of Council; Council may adopt recommendations from the community, unchanged, should the circumstances warrant such an approach, or authorise a community entity to proceed with a task that requires the entity to exercise a degree of decision making in dealing with matters contained within the task.

Attachment B

IAP2 Spectrum

iap2 public participation spectrum

developed by the international association for public participation

Increasing Level of Public Impact 

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advise and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
EXAMPLE TOOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Websites • Open houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus groups • Surveys • Public meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advisory committees • Consensus-building • Participatory decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated decisions

become a member

IAP2 is a member driven organization that can help you to grow professionally, provide you with training opportunities and increase networking with other public participation practitioners locally, nationally, and internationally. If you would like to learn more about IAP2's activities in your area or the benefits of becoming a member, please contact:



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Attachment C

Assets to Opportunities & Web Link

Attachment C:
Assets to Opportunities & Weblink

Town/Village	Appin	Bargo/ Pheasants Nest	Buxton/ Couridjah	Douglas Park	Menangle	Mount Hunter/ Spring Creek/ Glenmore	Oakdale/Nattai	Picton/Maldon	Razorback/ Cawdor/ Camden Park
Telephone	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Internet	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
In Person		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Email		•		•	•		•	•	•
Mail				•	•	•	•	•	
Newspaper		•			•			•	
Letter	•	•	•						
Front Desk				•					
Website	•								
Mobile Library							•		
Town/Village	Silverdale/ Wallacia	Tahmoor	The Oaks/ Belimbla Park	Thirlmere/ Lakesland/ Mowbray Park	Warragamba	Werombi/Theresa Park/ Orangeville/ Brownlow Hill	Wilton	Yanderra	TOTAL
Telephone	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	17
Internet	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	15
In Person		•	•	•	•	•		•	14
Email	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		13
Mail				•	•		•	•	9
Newspaper		•	•	•	•				7
Letter			•						4
Front Desk							•		2
Website							•		2
Mobile Library						•			2

WEBLINK: <http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/community-services-wollondilly/community-plans-resources-wollondilly/497563-wollondilly-asset-maps>

Attachment D
Council Reports & Council
Resolutions

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 September 2014

CO1 – Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness

COMMUNITY

CO1 **Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness**
39MCHA TRIM 1862-3

REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 was adopted by Council in June 2014. The adoption of the Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documents included the approval for Council to start a “conversation” with our community for a proposed Special Rate Variation. The Delivery Program & Operational Plan 2014/15 under “Addressing your Future Needs”, advises the community “we need to talk with you”, and details 3 primary options to address the projected financial shortfall over the next ten years.
- This report advises Council of the Community Engagement process and community conversation that has commenced and which will continue until the November Council Meeting in regards to a proposed Special Rate Variation.
- That a further come to the 20 October 2014 Council meeting on the progress to date.
- The outcomes of community engagement regarding Special Rate Variation options will be reported to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting with a recommendation regarding a preferred option.
- A “revised” draft Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & draft Operational Plan 2014/15 and “revised” draft Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 – 2022/23 will also be reported to the 17 November 2014 Council Meeting recommending that the documents be exhibited for 28 days. The “revised” Delivery Program & Operational Plan and “revised” Resourcing Strategy will be reported to the December Council Meeting for adoption with all public submissions considered and tabled at the December Council Meeting.

Special Rate Variation Options

Against the context of an **estimated \$80 million shortfall over the next 10 years**, Council is considering three options.

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 September 2014

CO1 – Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness

OPTION 1 – No SRV proposed

Under this option rates would increase only by the annual rate peg amount. The rate peg percentage for 2013/14 was 3.4% and for 2014/15 it is 2.3%. The rate peg percentage for 2015/16 is expected to be announced at the end of the first quarter of 2015.

This option would leave us with an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years, so it would have the following impacts:

- Our infrastructure would deteriorate further as we would continue to underfund maintenance expenditure. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.
- Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.
- Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues. The nature and number of services delivered by Council, or the levels of service, would need to be reduced.

OPTION 2 – SRV 8.5% per annum over 4 years

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate an additional \$54.5m over the ten year period, so it would have the following impacts / enable the following:

- Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.
- Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 September 2014

CO1 – Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness

- Council could maintain its current range of services.

OPTION 3 – SRV 10.8% per annum over 4 years

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate the required \$80m over the ten year period, so it would enable the following:

- Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.
- Council will have more funds available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities as we would have increased capacity to undertake new capital works.
- Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.

CONSULTATION

Community Engagement – 8th September – 17th October 2014

Engagement Methods:

- SRV Newsletter distributed to all ratepayers
- Presentation at community forum
- Dilly Wanderer Engagement: SRV Project Team staff will go out with the Dilly Wanderer to distribute SRV information and speak with the community about the proposed SRV application
- Train Station Engagement: Distribution of SRV information at Picton, Bargo and Tahmoor stations
- Telephone survey conducted by Micromex to 400 residents
- Gallery exhibition & drop-in sessions manned by key MANEX/SRV Project Team staff
- SRV displays will be placed in the Council foyer, Tourist Information Centre and Library
- Community Information Sessions to be held in the evening

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 September 2014

CO1 – Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness

- Advertising, media releases, Bush Telegraph and social media will be utilised
- SRV Bookmarks will be distributed at the library and mobile libraries
- SRV webpage will be developed to provide the community with detailed information about the proposed SRV
- Correspondence will be sent to WSC community engagement database regarding the SRV.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

The Wollondilly Delivery Program & Operational Plan in partnership with the Wollondilly Resourcing Strategy outlines the actions and activities we will undertake to achieve the outcomes set in the Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033. They allocate responsibilities and resources for each action/activity and details targets and measures to determine our progress towards achieving the Community Strategic Plan outcomes.

POLICIES & LEGISLATION

The draft “revised” Wollondilly Delivery Program/Operational Plan and “draft” Resourcing Strategy will be prepared in accordance with:

- Chapter 13 (Part Two) of the Local Government Act 1993
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Council is required to publicly exhibit the draft “revised” documents for a minimum period of 28 days and then to formally adopt the document at the 15 December 2014 Council Meeting.

RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

The “current” Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 – 2022/23 includes the Long Term Financial Plan. This plan predicts the long term financial position of the Council. The ten year predictions have highlighted that Council will be faced with significant funding shortfalls in future years if we are to continue to provide all the services we currently deliver and maintain infrastructure to a satisfactory level. This major funding shortfall was identified a number of years ago and in 2011 Council applied for a special rate variation to address the issue.

The original recommendation was for an 8%pa rate increase over 7 years, which was then reduced to 6.7%pa over 7 years following extensive Community consultation. IPART subsequently approved only a 6%pa increase over 3 years which fell substantially short of providing the required funds to address the mounting infrastructure maintenance gap.

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 September 2014

CO1 – Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness

Whilst the previous SRV helped the situation to some degree, there is still a significant funding gap that remains. Council’s long term financial sustainability is of paramount importance and strategies to avoid this future shortfall need to be explored. The annual rate peg increases are not keeping pace with rising costs and therefore the need for a special rate variation, potentially from 2015/16 must be considered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It has been well documented that most Councils across NSW (including Wollondilly Shire Council) have not been able to afford to maintain their infrastructure to a satisfactory standard, resulting in an increasing infrastructure maintenance gap year after year.

In order to close this gap it is necessary to allocate more funds towards infrastructure maintenance. As indicated earlier in this report, our long term projections indicate that if Council is to maintain its assets to a satisfactory standard and continue to provide the current range of services, it will need to identify additional funding sources to do so.

CONCLUSION

The table below details the ongoing process of Council’s engagement and awareness program for a special rate variation:

Month/Year	Document/Action	Notes	Adopted by Council
June 2014	Open the discussion through the adoption of the Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15	Community Consultation April – May 2014 28 days	June 2014
July – August 2014	Research & discussion and refinement of options to discuss with the community		
July – August 2014	Development of the Community Engagement Strategy		
September 2014	Report to Council: 3 proposed options for a Special Rate Variation IP&R documents “revised” based on community feedback for a draft to the November Council Meeting Community Engagement Strategy		

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 15 September 2014

CO1 – Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness

Month/Year	Document/Action	Notes	Adopted by Council
September – November 2014	Conversation with the Community Revise draft IP&R documentation		
October 2014	Report to Council on progress		
November 2014	Report to Council on Community Feedback Draft IP&R “revised” documents to November Council meeting Recommend “revised” draft IP&R documents on for exhibition		
December 2014	Council Report of Community Feedback and submissions Adopt final IP&R documents Application for Special Rate Variation		

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council supports the continued conversation with the community for the need for a special rate variation.
2. That a further report come to the 20 October 2014 Council meeting on the progress to date.
3. That a further report come to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting outlining community feedback through the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wollondilly Shire Council held in the Council Chamber, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 15 September 2014, commencing at 6.30pm

Community

COMMUNITY

CO1 Proposed Special Rate Variation, IP&R Engagement & Awareness
39MCHA TRIM 1862-3

187/2014 Resolved on the Motion of Crs Amato and Landow:

1. That Council supports the continued conversation with the community for the need for a special rate variation.
2. That a further report come to the 20 October 2014 Council meeting on the progress to date.
3. That a further report come to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting outlining community feedback through the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.
4. *That Council note the NSW Governments "Fit for the Future" reform package and the need to submit a proposal on how Council intends to become "Fit for the Future" by 30 June 2015.*

On being put to the meeting the motion was declared CARRIED.

Vote: Crs B Banasik, Law, Terry, Amato, Mitchell, M Banasik, Gibbs and Landow

Community

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13 October 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Update

GO4

Proposed Special Rate Variation - Community Engagement Update

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TRIM 1862-3

REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At its September 2014 meeting Council considered a report which advised that a formal Community Engagement process had commenced regarding three Special Rate Variation options
- At that meeting Council resolved that a progress report on the Community Engagement process come to the October 2014 Council meeting
- This report provides an outline of the community engagement process conducted so far and also contains details of the community engagement process ahead.

BACKGROUND

The Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 were adopted by Council in June 2014. The adoption of these Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documents included the approval for Council to start a “conversation” with our community for a proposed Special Rate Variation. (The Delivery Program & Operational Plan 2014/15 under the heading “Addressing your Future Needs”, advised the community of the need for engagement around 3 rate options to address the projected financial shortfall over the next ten years).

At its September 2014 meeting Council considered a report which advised that a formal Community Engagement process had commenced regarding three Special Rate Variation options. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council supports the continued conversation with the community for the need for a special rate variation.*
2. *That a further report come to the 20 October 2014 Council meeting on the progress to date.*
3. *That a further report come to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting outlining community feedback through the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.*
4. *That Council note the NSW Government’s “Fit for the Future” reform package and the need to submit a proposal on how Council intends to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2014.*

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13 October 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Update

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) OPTIONS

Against the context of an **estimated \$80 million shortfall over the next 10 years**, Council has commenced community engagement around three SRV options.

OPTION 1 – “DETERIORATE” - No SRV PROPOSED

Under this option rates would increase only by the annual rate peg amount. The rate peg percentage for 2013/14 was 3.4% and for 2014/15 it is 2.3%. The rate peg percentage for 2015/16 is expected to be announced at the end of the first quarter of 2015.

This option would leave us with an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years, so it would have the following impacts:

- Our infrastructure would deteriorate further as we would continue to underfund maintenance expenditure. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.
- Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.
- Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues. The nature and number of services delivered by Council, or the levels of service, would need to be reduced.

OPTION 2 – “STABILISE” - SRV 8.5% PER ANNUM OVER 4 YEARS

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate an additional \$54.5m over the ten year period, so it would have the following impacts / enable the following:

- Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13 October 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Update

- Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.

Council could maintain its current range of services.

OPTION 3 – “IMPROVE” - SRV 10.8% PER ANNUM OVER 4 YEARS

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate the required \$80m over the ten year period, so it would enable the following:

- Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.
- Council will have more funds available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities as we would have increased capacity to undertake new capital works.
- Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.

CONSULTATION

Council is aiming to ensure there is a high level of community awareness regarding the SRV options and is therefore utilising a wide range of engagement methods in order to maximise the “reach”.

The formal Community Engagement period regarding the three SRV options commenced on 15th September and has to date incorporated the following:

- Information dissemination at Picton, Bargo & Tahmoor Train Stations
- 11 x Information stalls held across the Shire
- 2 x evening community meetings
- 4 x drop-in Q&A sessions
- Special Rate Variation Newsletter Mail Out to all ratepayers.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13 October 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Update

Initial feedback update on a number of submissions will be tabled at the meeting.

The SRV Community Engagement Period will continue until 31 October 2014. Engagement events and processes yet to occur are:

- 2 x Information stalls
- 1 x evening community meeting
- Special Rate Variation Telephone Survey to be conducted by an independent research company.

The outcomes of community engagement regarding Special Rate Variation options will be reported to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting.

A “revised” draft Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & draft Operational Plan 2014/15 and “revised” draft Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 – 2022/23 will also be reported to the 17 November 2014 Council Meeting recommending that the documents be exhibited for 28 days. The “revised” Delivery Program & Operational Plan and “revised” Resourcing Strategy will be reported to the February 2015 Council Meeting for adoption along with a recommendation for a preferred SRV option.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

Council’s ability to deliver its strategic objectives for our community, as expressed in the Community Strategic Plan, is inextricably linked to our resource capacity. Without an SRV Council will face serious challenges ahead with deteriorating infrastructure and the need to reduce services.

POLICIES & LEGISLATION

The process for engaging with our community regarding the need for an SRV, and the matters being considered by Council are in accordance with guidelines published by IPART.

The “revised” Wollondilly Delivery Program/Operational Plan and “draft” Resourcing Strategy will be prepared in accordance with:

- Chapter 13 (Part Two) of the Local Government Act 1993
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

On 10 September 2014, The NSW Government formally announced their response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommendations.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13 October 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Update

The NSW Government wants councils to be “Fit for the Future” and they have put a comprehensive package of support and financial incentives to assist councils achieve this, requiring them to:

- a) enhance their own financial sustainability
- b) be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services
- c) be more efficient
- d) be of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government.

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and councils who are Fit for the Future will be eligible for incentives and support - cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

The aim is for NSW councils to be financially sound, operating efficiently and in a strong position to guide community growth and deliver quality services.

Some councils have been identified as needing to merge to become Fit for the Future. This is not proposed for Wollondilly Council, with the focus of this approach being more on metropolitan councils and very small rural councils. (Note that Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee are also NOT proposed for merger).

For councils to meet the infrastructure and service needs of their communities they need to be “financially sustainable”. This is defined as a council which, over the long term, is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the level and scope of infrastructure and services agreed with its community through the Integrated Planning & Reporting Process.

The criteria and benchmarks to determine whether a council is **financially sustainable** and **able to be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services** relate to matters such as:

- *Operating performance ratio* – whether we run at a deficit or have a balanced budget
- *Own source revenue ratio* – how much we rely on grants and external revenue sources
- *Infrastructure and asset backlog, maintenance and renewal ratios* – all about the condition of our assets and infrastructure and what needs to be spent to bring them up to standard
- *Debt service ratio* – how much debt we have to service with loan repayments.

For Council to perform well against these criteria, an SRV is critical. If Council does not have an SRV we will be incapable of becoming Fit for the Future.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 13 October 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Update

As part of the “Fit for the Future” June 2015 submission each council will be asked to look at its current situation and consider the future needs of its community and the recommendations of the Independent Panel. This issue will be included in Council’s conversations with the community during the SRV engagement process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It has been well documented that most councils across NSW (including Wollondilly Shire Council) have not been able to afford to maintain their infrastructure to a satisfactory standard, resulting in an increasing infrastructure maintenance gap year after year.

In order to close this gap and become Fit for the Future it is necessary to have an SRV in order to allocate more funds towards infrastructure maintenance.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council supports the continued engagement with the community regarding the need for a Special Rate Variation.
2. That the outcomes of community engagement regarding Special Rate Variation options will be reported to the November 2014 Council meeting.



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Report

GO4

Proposed Special Rate Variation - Community Engagement Report

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REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At its September 2014 meeting Council considered a report which advised that a formal Community Engagement process had commenced regarding three Special Rate Variation options
- This report provides a summary of the outcomes of the community engagement process and recommends that Council give notice to IPART of its intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation.

BACKGROUND

The Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 were adopted by Council in June 2014. The adoption of these Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documents included approval for Council to start a “conversation” with our community for a proposed Special Rate Variation. (The Delivery Program & Operational Plan 2014/15 under the heading “Addressing your Future Needs”, advised the community of the need for engagement around 3 rate options to address the projected financial shortfall over the next ten years).

At its September 2014 meeting Council considered a report which advised that a formal Community Engagement process had commenced regarding three Special Rate Variation options. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council supports the continued conversation with the community for the need for a special rate variation.*
2. *That a further report come to the 13 October 2014 Council meeting on the progress to date.*
3. *That a further report come to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting outlining community feedback through the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.*
4. *That Council note the NSW Government’s “Fit for the Future” reform package and the need to submit a proposal on how Council intends to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2014.*

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Report

At its October 2014 meeting Council considered a progress report on the Community Engagement regarding the Special Rate Variation options. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

1. *That Council supports the continued engagement with the community regarding the need for a Special Rate Variation.*
2. *That the outcomes of community engagement regarding Special Rate Variation options will be reported to the November 2014 Council meeting.*

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) OPTIONS

Against the context of an **estimated \$80 million shortfall over the next 10 years**, Council's community engagement has discussed three SRV options.

OPTION 1 – "DETERIORATE" - NO SRV PROPOSED

Under this option rates would increase only by the annual rate peg amount. The rate peg percentage for 2013/14 was 3.4% and for 2014/15 it is 2.3%. The rate peg percentage for 2015/16 is expected to be announced at the end of the first quarter of 2015.

This option would leave us with an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years, so it would have the following impacts:

- Our infrastructure would deteriorate further as we would continue to underfund maintenance expenditure. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.
- Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.
- Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues. The nature and number of services delivered by Council, or the levels of service, would need to be reduced.

OPTION 2 – "STABILISE" - SRV 8.5% PER ANNUM OVER 4 YEARS

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

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At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate an additional \$54.5m over the ten year period, so it would have the following impacts / enable the following:

- Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.
- Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.
- Council could maintain its current range of services.

OPTION 3 – “IMPROVE” - SRV 10.8% PER ANNUM OVER 4 YEARS

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate the required \$80m over the ten year period, so it would enable the following:

- Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.
- Council will have more funds available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities as we would have increased capacity to undertake new capital works.
- Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Council's SRV community engagement strategy has aimed to ensure there is a high level of community awareness regarding the SRV options and therefore utilised a wide range of engagement methods in order to maximise the "reach".

The formal Community Engagement period regarding the three SRV options commenced on 15 September and concluded on the 31 October 2014. The community engagement activities involved:

- Information dissemination at Picton, Bargo & Tahmoor Train Stations
- 13 x Information stalls held across the Shire utilising the Dilly Wanderer van
- 3 x evening community meetings held at Warragamba, Tahmoor and Appin
- 1 x evening information and drop-in session held at Warragamba
- 4 x drop-in Q&A sessions held at Picton Shire Hall
- Special Rate Variation Newsletter Mail Out to all ratepayers (see Attachment 1)
- 3 x Information dissemination at weekend community events; including Tahmoor Uniting Church Community Garden Family Day, Bargo Public School Fete and Warragamba Dam Fest
- Emails sent to Council committee members, Council community directory members and Council business directory members regarding the Special Rate Variation
- 2 x radio interviews on Macarthur Community Radio and ABC Illawarra Radio
- 2 x newspaper advertisements featured in the Macarthur Chronicle, Wollondilly Advertiser and District Reporter
- 2 x articles in the Bush Telegraph featured in the Macarthur Chronicle, Wollondilly Advertiser and District Reporter
- 4 x stories in the Mayors column featured in the Macarthur Chronicle, Wollondilly Advertiser and District Reporter
- 8 x media releases
- Information dissemination to businesses in Warragamba, Silverdale, Tahmoor, Appin, Douglas Park, Thirlmere and Picton
- Information dissemination at Tahmoor Shopping Centre and Picton Mall
- Promotional material at Council facilities including the libraries, customer services, tourist information centre and children services
- Facebook and Twitter posts
- 400 residents completed a Special Rate Variation Telephone Survey conducted by an independent research company.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

At the time of writing this report we have received 72 submissions regarding the Special Rate Variation proposal.

Submission Method	Number of Submissions
Mail	9
Email	27
Phone/In Person	6
Web	30

A telephone survey was also conducted by an independent research company of 400 residents in Wollondilly.

(At the time of writing this report the community engagement period had not formally closed. Therefore a further addendum report summarising the community engagement process and outcomes will be completed and made available as a Late Report in the week commencing 3 November 2014).

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

Council's ability to deliver its strategic objectives for our community, as expressed in the Community Strategic Plan, is inextricably linked to our resource capacity. Without an SRV Council will face serious challenges ahead with deteriorating infrastructure and the need to reduce services.

POLICIES & LEGISLATION

The process for engaging with our community regarding the need for an SRV, and the matters being considered by Council are in accordance with guidelines published by IPART.

The guidelines also require that Councils intending to submit an application for an SRV must notify IPART of their intention to do so by 12 December 2014. Making this notification does not however commit Council to any specific SRV option. Whether Council does in fact proceed to apply for an SRV is a matter for Council to resolve in February 2015.

The "revised" Wollondilly Delivery Program/Operational Plan and "draft" Resourcing Strategy will be prepared in accordance with:

- Chapter 13 (Part Two) of the Local Government Act 1993
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

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FIT FOR THE FUTURE

On 10 September 2014, the NSW Government formally announced their response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommendations.

The NSW Government wants councils to be “Fit for the Future” and they have put a comprehensive package of support and financial incentives to assist councils achieve this, requiring them to:

- a) enhance their own financial sustainability
- b) be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services
- c) be more efficient
- d) be of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government.

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and councils who are Fit for the Future will be eligible for incentives and support - cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

The aim is for NSW councils to be financially sound, operating efficiently and in a strong position to guide community growth and deliver quality services.

Some councils have been identified as needing to merge to become Fit for the Future. This is not proposed for Wollondilly Council, with the focus of this approach being more on metropolitan councils and very small rural councils. (Note that Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee are also NOT proposed for merger).

For councils to meet the infrastructure and service needs of their communities they need to be “financially sustainable”. This is defined as a council which, over the long term, is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the level and scope of infrastructure and services agreed with its community through the Integrated Planning & Reporting Process.

The criteria and benchmarks to determine whether a council is **financially sustainable** and **able to be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services** relate to matters such as:

- *Operating performance ratio* – whether we run at a deficit or have a balanced budget
- *Own source revenue ratio* – how much we rely on grants and external revenue sources

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- *Infrastructure and asset backlog, maintenance and renewal ratios* – all about the condition of our assets and infrastructure and what needs to be spent to bring them up to standard
- *Debt service ratio* – how much debt we have to service with loan repayments.

For Council to perform well against these criteria, an SRV is critical. If Council does not have an SRV we will be incapable of becoming Fit for the Future.

As part of the “Fit for the Future” June 2015 submission each council will be asked to look at its current situation and consider the future needs of its community and the recommendations of the Independent Panel. This issue will be included in Council’s conversations with the community during the SRV engagement process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It has been well documented that most Councils across NSW (including Wollondilly Shire Council) have not been able to afford to maintain their infrastructure to a satisfactory standard, resulting in an increasing infrastructure maintenance gap year after year.

In order to close this gap and become Fit for the Future it is necessary to have an SRV in order to allocate more funds towards infrastructure maintenance.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Addressing Your Future Needs Newsletter Mail Out

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the outcomes of the Special Rate Variation community engagement process.
2. That Council notify IPART of its intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation (on the understanding that this does not in any way commit Council to applying for an SRV as this is a matter yet to be resolved and may be subject to alterations as a result of the community engagement process).

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ATTACHMENT 1 - 1862-3 – 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Wollondilly
Shire Council

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Like most NSW councils, Wollondilly Shire Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to look after the Shire's infrastructure into the future - roads, footpaths, bridges, stormwater drains, parks, libraries and community buildings. We know that our community places a high priority on the maintenance of our Shire's infrastructure, and in particular our road network, so the current trend of deteriorating infrastructure needs to be reversed.

While we understand that rate rises of any kind are never welcome we believe a Special Rate Variation is a necessary course of action in order to meet the needs of our community.

Without a Special Rate Variation we won't be able to maintain our essential infrastructure and services.

Inside this newsletter you'll find three options being considered. Each has varying consequences regarding infrastructure and service quality over time. We need your support to make some important decisions so please take the time to read this newsletter and give us your feedback.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

Since 1977, Council revenues have been regulated in NSW under "rate pegging". The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets a rate peg which limits the amount by which Councils can increase their rate revenue from one year to the next. For many years the rate peg limit has not kept pace with the financial needs of Councils in NSW and residents' needs for appropriate services.

However, Councils are able to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation to increase their general rate income by more than the rate pegging amount. In 2014, of the 152 Councils in NSW, 32 applied to IPART for a Special Rate Variation.

WHY DO WE NEED A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

Council is responsible for maintaining more than **half a billion dollars of assets.**

Our long term financial modelling currently estimates that Council faces an \$80 million deficit at the end of ten years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue.

We are working hard to ensure we are as efficient as possible and are continually reviewing ways to reduce expenditure. However, the most overwhelming contributor towards this future deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

Our Shire is made up of 17 towns and villages, and is vast in relation to our low population of approximately 46,000 people. As a result we have high infrastructure maintenance costs, particularly on roads, relative to a small rate base.

Each year there is an asset maintenance funding shortfall and as a result the condition of our infrastructure is getting progressively worse.

Additionally, our Shire will experience significant growth with our population expected to grow substantially over the next 20 years and beyond. Although the rates from new residential growth will significantly fund future infrastructure, it will not necessarily cover the maintenance costs of our existing infrastructure.

The proposed Special Rate Variation is therefore necessary to maintain and manage our *current* and *future* infrastructure, and to enable us to continue to deliver quality services in line with the expectations of our growing community.

Wollondilly Shire Council is responsible for:

840	kms of Roads	78	Bridges
90	Parks and Reserves	19	Halls
		13	Sports Fields
		33	Playgrounds

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The Previous Special Rate Variation

In early 2011, we applied for a Special Rate Variation for the purpose of reducing the backlog in infrastructure maintenance and renewal. We were originally seeking a Special Rate Variation of 8% per annum over 7 years, which was then reduced to 6.7% per annum over 7 years following extensive community consultation. An increase of only 6% per annum over 3 years was subsequently approved. This fell substantially short of providing the required funds to address the mounting infrastructure maintenance gap.

Although we received less than we expected, we were still able to complete a number of projects to improve infrastructure and services for our community with the funds generated from the Special Rate Variation.

The Special Rate Variation funds also allowed us to access the State Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) loans to provide the early delivery of a number of much needed infrastructure works.

Some of the projects completed using the Special Rate Variation funds and LIRS loans included:

- Reconstruction of John Street, The Oaks
- Replacement of timber bridges on Bargo River Road, Couridjah; Cawdor Rd, Cawdor; and Spring Creek Road, Mt Hunter
- Playground upgrades at Tahmoor, Buxton, Bargo, Appin, Warragamba and Silverdale
- Tennis court repairs in Picton, Douglas Park and Yanderra
- Installation of sportsfield lighting at Oakdale, Tahmoor and Appin
- Over \$900,000 spent on building repairs shire wide



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There are three options which we would like you to consider as they all have varying impacts on our infrastructure and service quality.

Option 1 Deteriorate	Option 2 Stabilise	Option 3 Improve
<p>No Special Rate Variation</p> <p>(Rates would increase by the annual rate peg amount – estimated to be around 3% per annum)</p>	<p>Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years</p> <p>(Rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum – including the annual rate peg amount – over a fixed four year period 2015/16 to 2018/19)</p> <p>At the end of the four year period the Special Rate Variation increase will be built into the rate base</p>	<p>Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years</p> <p>(Rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum – including the annual rate peg amount – over a fixed four year period 2015/16 to 2018/19)</p> <p>At the end of the four year period the Special Rate Variation increase will be built into the rate base</p>
Income		
<p>\$80 million shortfall over 10 years</p>	<p>Reduce the shortfall by generating an additional \$54.5 million over 10 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40.5 million will be spent on major roads and bridge works; • \$5 million on bridges, footpaths, kerb, and line marking maintenance; • \$2 million on new footpaths and kerb and gutter; • \$3.5 million on building maintenance; • \$3.5 million on parks, playgrounds and sportsfield maintenance 	<p>Eliminate the shortfall by generating an additional \$80 million over 10 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$60 million will be spent on major roads and bridge works; • \$6.5 million on bridges, footpaths, kerb, and line marking maintenance; • \$5.5 million on new footpaths and kerb and gutter; • \$4 million on building maintenance; • \$4 million on parks, playgrounds and sportsfield maintenance
Infrastructure Maintenance		
<p>Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.</p>	<p>Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.</p>	<p>Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.</p>
New Infrastructure		
<p>Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, shared pathways, open space improvements and new community facilities.</p>	<p>Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to provide new infrastructure.</p>	<p>Council will have more funds available to provide new infrastructure.</p>
Services		
<p>Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues.</p>	<p>Council could maintain its current range of services.</p>	<p>Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.</p>

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How will this affect you?

The table below estimates the rate increases that would occur under each of the three options being considered. The table provides a comparison for differing rate amounts, based on rates payable this year. To use this table look at the rate amount in the grey shaded column that is closest to your rate bill for this year (2014/15). Looking across the table to the columns on the right hand side will give you an indication of how rates would rise under each of the three options. The figures in the table should only be used as a rough guide, as fluctuations in the value of your property will also have an effect on the amount of rates you pay. The figures are also based upon the assumption of a 3% rate peg being announced each year. This figure may be higher or lower in any year.

Annual Rates	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$892	\$919	\$946	\$975	\$1,004
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$968	\$1,050	\$1,139	\$1,236
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$988	\$1,095	\$1,213	\$1,344
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$943	\$971	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,023	\$1,110	\$1,204	\$1,307
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,045	\$1,158	\$1,283	\$1,421
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,093	\$1,126
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,085	\$1,177	\$1,277	\$1,386
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,108	\$1,228	\$1,360	\$1,507
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,250	\$1,288	\$1,326	\$1,366	\$1,407
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,356	\$1,472	\$1,597	\$1,732
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,385	\$1,535	\$1,700	\$1,884
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,500	\$1,545	\$1,591	\$1,639	\$1,688
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,628	\$1,766	\$1,916	\$2,079
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,662	\$1,841	\$2,040	\$2,261
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,750	\$1,803	\$1,857	\$1,912	\$1,970
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,899	\$2,060	\$2,235	\$2,425
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,939	\$2,148	\$2,380	\$2,638
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,000	\$2,060	\$2,122	\$2,185	\$2,251
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,170	\$2,354	\$2,555	\$2,772
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,216	\$2,455	\$2,721	\$3,014
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,250	\$2,318	\$2,387	\$2,459	\$2,532
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,441	\$2,649	\$2,874	\$3,118
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,493	\$2,762	\$3,061	\$3,391
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,500	\$2,575	\$2,652	\$2,732	\$2,814
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,713	\$2,943	\$3,193	\$3,465
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,770	\$3,069	\$3,401	\$3,768
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,750	\$2,833	\$2,917	\$3,005	\$3,095
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,984	\$3,237	\$3,513	\$3,811
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$3,047	\$3,376	\$3,741	\$4,145
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$3,255	\$3,532	\$3,832	\$4,158
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$3,324	\$3,683	\$4,081	\$4,521

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ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
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What else are we doing to maximise efficiency?

We work hard to ensure that we are as efficient as possible. To achieve continuous quality improvements and a “best-practice” approach to all of our operations we continually review the ways our services are conducted, and we have implemented a wide range of initiatives to ensure we use resources wisely, such as:

- Continuing and expanding resource sharing opportunities with other Councils
- Being smarter with purchasing, procurement and contracting
- Maximising external funding and grant opportunities
- Undertaking internal audits of all our key business activities and processes
- Focusing on staff performance and development
- Risk minimisation across the organisation to reduce liabilities and insurance premiums
- Initiatives to reduce energy and utility costs
- Making use of subsidised loans via the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme
- Long term financial planning

In its 2012/13 review of NSW Councils, the Department of Local Government found that Wollondilly Shire Council has the 17th lowest governance and administration costs per capita compared to 152 Councils in NSW.

(Circle to Councils 14/17 - Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2012-13)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollondilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
No. Equivalent Full Time Staff	208	304	623	1042	273
Population	45,322	60,546	152,612	186,938	64,592
Total Revenue	\$45.9m	\$129.5m	\$131.4m	\$217.2m	\$75.99m
Total Expenditure	\$44.9m	\$71.4m	\$133m	\$171.1m	\$64.7m
Total Revenue per capita	\$1013	\$2139	\$861	\$1162	\$1176
Expenditure per capita	\$990	\$1,179	\$871	\$915	\$1002
Governance and Admin expense per capita	\$115	\$272	\$157	\$165	\$70
Roads, Bridges & Footpath expenses per capita	\$315	\$270	\$107	\$133	\$183
Metre road length per capita	18m	8m	5m	6m	16m

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How to have your say

The future of our Shire affects us all so we want your views. There are lots of ways you can get involved. We will be out in the community over the coming months and want to talk to you about the Special Rate Variation options we are considering.

To see the full schedule of community conversation opportunities head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Need more information?

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100.

You can drop in and see us at Picton Shire Hall from 12pm-2pm on the following dates:

7 th October 2014	8 th October 2014	9 th October 2014	10 th October 2014
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Alternatively, attend one of our Community Meetings from 6pm-8pm at the following locations:

25 th September 2014 Warragamba Town Hall	16 th October 2014 Tahmoor CWA Hall	23 rd October 2014 Appin Community Hall
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31ST OCTOBER 2014
Get submissions in

17TH NOVEMBER 2014
Report to Council detailing the community engagement results and presenting draft IP&R* documents for exhibition

16TH FEBRUARY 2015
Report to Council detailing the Special Rate Variation and IP&R exhibition outcomes and recommendations. Council to make final decision regarding a Special Rate Variation application to IPART

You can also make a submission about the Special Rate Variation by:

Mail:
PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email:
srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone:
(02) 4677 1100

Web:
www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

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*Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) is effectively Wollondilly Shire Councils business planning framework.

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Breaking News Fit for the Future

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The NSW Government wants Councils to be "Fit for the Future" by:

- a) Enhancing their own financial sustainability
- b) Being effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services
- c) Being more efficient
- d) Being of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become "Fit for the Future" by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and Councils who are "Fit for the Future" will be eligible for incentives and support such as cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

We are having this conversation with the community because we want to ensure that we are "Fit for the Future" and the Special Rate Variation is an important step towards achieving this.

To find out more information about "Fit for the Future" head to www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au



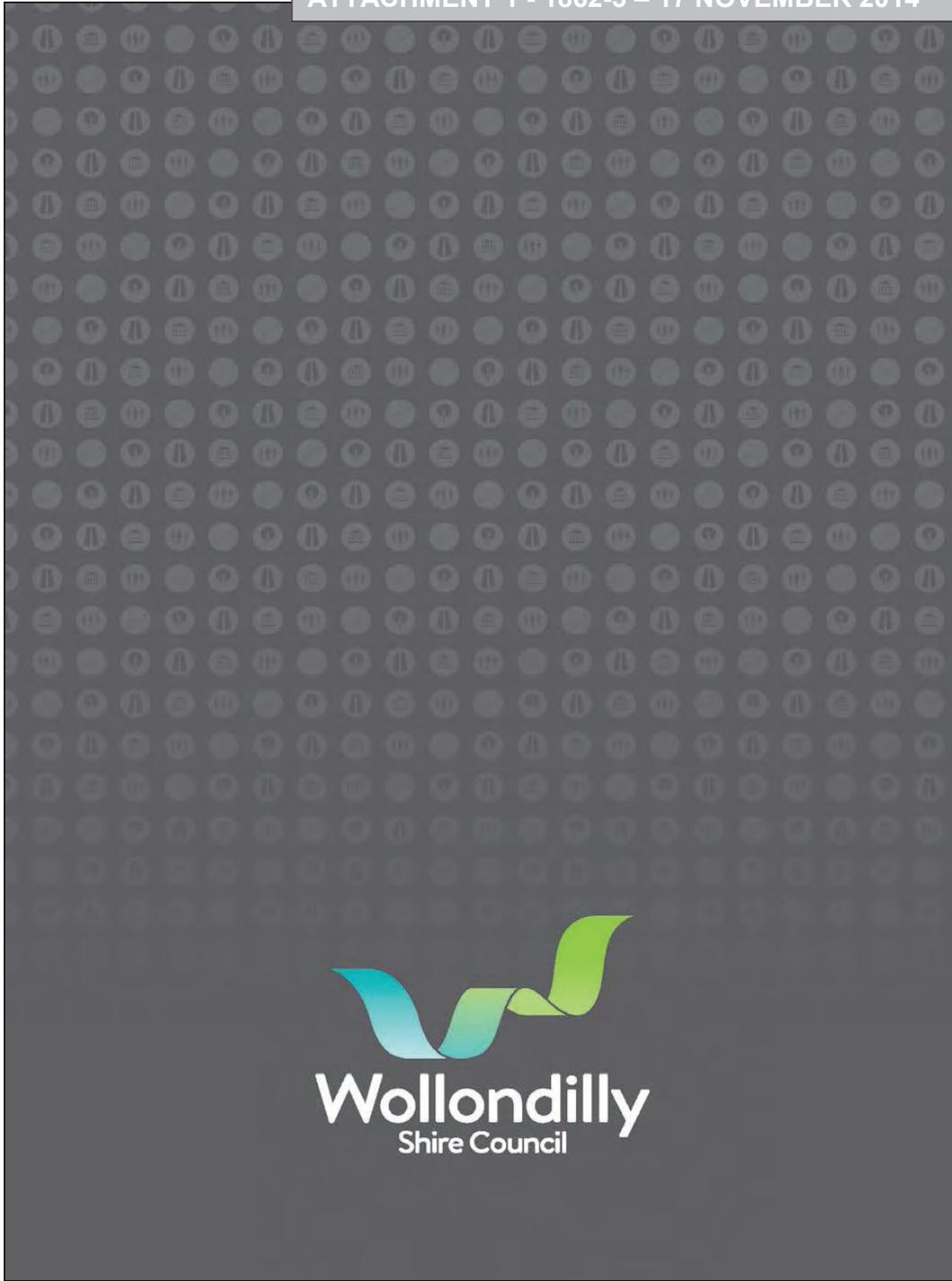
Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO4 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Report

ATTACHMENT 1 - 1862-3 – 17 NOVEMBER 2014



Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO3 – Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

GO3 **Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation**
39MCHA TRIM 1862-3

REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At its September 2014 meeting Council considered a report which advised that a formal Community Engagement process had commenced regarding three Special Rate Variation options
- The need for and purpose of a different revenue path; as requested through the special variation, needs to be clearly articulated and identified through the council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents, including its Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan.
- The five criteria for a Special Rate Variation underpinned by the IP&R documents are:
 1. Need for the Variation
 2. Community awareness and engagement
 3. Impact of Ratepayers
 4. Delivery program and Long Term Financial Plan assumptions
 5. Productivity improvements and cost containment strategies.
- This report represents:
 - Draft “Revised” Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013 – 2017
 - Draft “Revised” Wollondilly Long Term Financial Plan which is part of the Wollondilly Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 - 2022/23.
- The Local Government Act 1993 requires draft IP&R documents to be exhibited for public comment for a minimum of 28 days and public submissions considered before any final program is adopted
- It is recommended that approval be given to place the draft “Revised” documents on public exhibition for the statutory period of 28 days
- Following the exhibition period, Council will consider any submissions and make any necessary decisions before applying for a Special Rate Variation.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO3 – Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

BACKGROUND

The Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 were adopted by Council in June 2014. The adoption of these Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documents included the approval for Council to start a “conversation” with our community for a proposed Special Rate Variation under the heading “Addressing your Future Needs”, advising the community of the need for engagement around 3 rate options to address the projected financial shortfall over the next ten years.

The Wollondilly Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 – 2022/23 was adopted by Council in June 2013. The adoption of this Strategy included the Long Term Financial Plan modelling, with scenarios that included and excluded Special Rate Variations to address asset renewal and maintenance challenges as identified in Council’s Asset Management Plans, as well as incorporating an element of population growth.

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) OPTIONS

Against the context of an **estimated \$80 million shortfall over the next 10 years**, Council has commenced community engagement around three SRV options.

OPTION 1 – “DETERIORATE” - NO SRV PROPOSED

Under this option rates would increase only by the annual rate peg amount. The rate peg percentage for 2013/14 was 3.4% and for 2014/15 it is 2.3%. The rate peg percentage for 2015/16 is expected to be announced at the end of the first quarter of 2015.

This option would leave us with an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years, so it would have the following impacts:

- Our infrastructure would deteriorate further as we would continue to underfund maintenance expenditure. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.
- Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.
- Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues. The nature and number of services delivered by Council, or the levels of service, would need to be reduced.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO3 – Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

OPTION 2 – “STABILISE” - SRV 8.5% PER ANNUM OVER 4 YEARS

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate an additional \$54.5m over the ten year period, so it would have the following impacts / enable the following:

- Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.
- Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.

Council could maintain its current range of services.

OPTION 3 – “IMPROVE” - SRV 10.8% PER ANNUM OVER 4 YEARS

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the SRV increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate the required \$80m over the ten year period, so it would enable the following:

- Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO3 – Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

- Council will have more funds available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities as we would have increased capacity to undertake new capital works.
- Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.

CONSULTATION

Council is aiming to ensure there is a high level of community awareness regarding the SRV options and is therefore utilising a wide range of engagement methods in order to maximise the “reach”.

The draft “revised” Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17, Operational Plan 2014/15 and draft “revised” Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 – 2022/23 will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days and public submissions will be considered and reported to the February 2015 Council Meeting for adoption along with a recommendation for a preferred SRV option.

RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOMES

Council’s ability to deliver its strategic objectives for our community, as expressed in the Community Strategic Plan, are inextricably linked to our resource capacity. Without an SRV Council will face serious challenges ahead with deteriorating infrastructure and the need to reduce services.

POLICIES & LEGISLATION

The process for engaging with our community regarding the need for an SRV, and the matters being considered by Council are in accordance with guidelines published by IPART.

The draft “revised” Wollondilly Delivery Program/Operational Plan and draft “revised” Resourcing Strategy will be prepared in accordance with:

- Chapter 13 (Part Two) of the Local Government Act 1993
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

On 10 September 2014, The NSW Government formally announced their response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommendations.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO3 – Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

The NSW Government wants councils to be “Fit for the Future” and they have put a comprehensive package of support and financial incentives to assist councils achieve this, requiring them to:

- (a) enhance their own financial sustainability
- (b) be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services
- (c) be more efficient
- (d) be of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government.

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and councils who are Fit for the Future will be eligible for incentives and support - cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

The aim is for NSW councils to be financially sound, operating efficiently and in a strong position to guide community growth and deliver quality services.

Some councils have been identified as potentially needing to merge to become Fit for the Future. This is not proposed for Wollondilly Council, with the focus of this approach being more on metropolitan Councils and very small rural Councils. (Note that Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee are also NOT proposed for merger).

For councils to meet the infrastructure and service needs of their communities they need to be “financially sustainable”. This is defined as a council which, over the long term, is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the level and scope of infrastructure and services, agreed with its community through the Integrated Planning & Reporting Process.

The criteria and benchmarks to determine whether a Council is **financially sustainable** and **able to be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services** relate to matters such as:

- *Operating performance ratio* – whether we run at a deficit or have a balanced budget
- *Own source revenue ratio* – how much we rely on grants and external revenue sources
- *Infrastructure and asset backlog, maintenance and renewal ratios* – all about the condition of our assets and infrastructure and what needs to be spent to bring them up to standard
- *Debt service ratio* – how much debt we have to service with loan repayments.

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 17 November 2014

GO3 – Draft “Revised” Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Documents for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

For Council to perform well against these criteria, an SRV is critical. If council does not have an SRV we will be incapable of becoming Fit for the Future.

As part of the “Fit for the future” June 2015 submission each council will be asked to look at its current situation and consider the future needs of its community and the recommendations of the Independent Panel. This issue will be included in Council’s conversations with the community during the SRV engagement process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It has been well documented that most Councils across NSW (including Wollondilly Shire Council) have not been able to afford to maintain their infrastructure to a satisfactory standard, resulting in an increasing infrastructure maintenance gap year after year.

In order to close this gap and become Fit for the Future it is necessary to allocate more funds towards infrastructure maintenance. As indicated earlier in this report, our long term projections indicate that if Council is to maintain its assets to a satisfactory standard and continue to provide the current range of services, it will need to identify additional funding sources to do so.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Revised IP&R Documents to be delivered under separate cover to Councillors.

RECOMMENDATION

That endorsement is given for the draft “Revised” IP&R Documents to be placed on exhibition for the period from 18 November 2014 – 19 December 2014.

Governance

Late Report



Ordinary Meeting of Council
Monday 17 November 2014

GO12 Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Late Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 17 November 2014

**GO12 – Proposed Special Rate Variation –
Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes**

ATTACHMENT 1 – 1862-3 - 17 NOVEMBER 2014

**Addressing Your Future Needs:
Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes Report**

The “Addressing Your Future Needs” Community Engagement Strategy was developed in line with the International Association for Public Participation – Public Participation Spectrum Principles of:

INFORM:

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

CONSULT:

To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

INVOLVE:

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Wollondilly Shire Council’s community consultation for the Special Rate Variation proposal took place from the 15th September – 31st October 2014 and utilised a wide range of engagement methods in order to maximise community ‘reach’ and awareness.

The table below details the community consultation activities and outcomes during the engagement period.

Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
Train Station Engagements	Approximately 144 people received information about the Special Rate Variation	Held from 5:30-8am at: - Picton - Tahmoor - Bargo
Information Stalls with the Dilly Wanderer	26 people were engaged about the Special Rate Variation and received information	Held at: - Yanderra - The Oaks - Tahmoor - Oakdale - Bingara Gorge - Buxton - Appin - Bargo - Silverdale - Douglas Park - Thirlmere - Warragamba - Picton
Community Events	35 people received information about the Special Rate Variation	- Tahmoor Uniting Church Community Garden Family Day - Bargo Public School Fete - DamFest

Addressing Your Future Needs: Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes Report
Last Revised 5/11/2014
TRIM No: 1862-3#283

Late Report

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Late Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 17 November 2014

**GO12 – Proposed Special Rate Variation –
Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes**

ATTACHMENT 1 – 1862-3 - 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Community Meeting	27 people attended in total	Held at: - Warragamba Town Hall - Tahmoor CWA Hall - Appin Community Hall
Information & Drop-in Session	1 person attended the information and drop-in session	An additional evening information and drop-in session was organised. This was in response to community requests identifying that this would allow more community members the opportunity to participate in the Special Rate Variation conversation. The session was held at Warragamba Town Hall.
Drop-In Q&A Sessions	20 people attended the drop-in Q&A sessions to discuss the Special Rate Variation options	Four sessions were held at Picton Shire Hall
Emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Wollondilly Shire Council staff received an email - 85 Council Committee Members received an email - 146 Community Directory contacts were sent an email - 383 Business Directory contacts were sent an email 	
Special Rate Variation Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16,936 ratepayers received a newsletter 	Hard copy newsletters mailed to all ratepayers in the Shire. Hard copy newsletters have also been distributed at all community engagement activities.
Phone Enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17 phone enquiries have been received regarding the Special Rate Variation 	
Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x radio interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24th September 2014: Macarthur Community Radio - 30th September 2014: ABC Illawarra Radio
Media Releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 x media releases 	
Bush Telegraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x Bush Telegraph Articles - 3 x Articles in mayors column - 1 x Bush Telegraph Advertisement 	Printed in the Advertiser, Chronicle & District Reporter
Newspaper Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 x Quarter Page Advertisement 	Printed in the Advertiser, Chronicle & District Reporter
Flyer Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 111 Businesses 	Distributed at Tahmoor, Warragamba,

Addressing Your Future Needs: Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes Report
Last Revised 5/11/2014
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Late Report

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Late Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 17 November 2014

**GO12 – Proposed Special Rate Variation –
Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes**

ATTACHMENT 1 – 1862-3 - 17 NOVEMBER 2014

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Neighbourhood Centre - 1 Preschool 	Silverdale, Appin, Douglas Park, Thirlmere and Picton
Shopping Centre Information Stall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 people received information about the Special Rate Variation at Tahmoor Shopping Centre - 49 people received information about the Special Rate Variation at Picton Mall 	
Promotional Material		Bookmarks, flyers, FAQs, SRV Newsletter and rates flyers were available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Picton library - Mobile libraries - Customer services - Tourist information centre - Children services
Special Rate Variation Business Cards		200 Special Rate Variation business cards provided to depot staff to distribute to community members if needed
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 42 x Social Media Posts regarding the Special Rate Variation and community consultation opportunities 	The average reach for special rate variation posts on Facebook was 320 people
Submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 148 x Submissions received about the Special Rate Variation 	
Addressing Your Future Needs Webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 405 x Unique Views 	
Telephone Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 400 residents were surveyed regarding the Special Rate Variation proposal 	

Addressing Your Future Needs: Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes Report
Last Revised 5/11/2014
TRIM No: 1862-3#283

Late Report

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wollondilly Shire Council held in the Council Chamber, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 17 November 2014, commencing at 6.31pm

Late Reports

LATE REPORTS

240/2014 **Resolved on the Motion of Crs M Banasik and Amato:**

That Council deal with the late reports GO12 and GO13.

On being put to the meeting the motion was declared CARRIED.

Vote: Crs Law, Terry, Amato, M Banasik, Mitchell, Hannan, Gibbs and Landow

GO9 was GO12 **Proposed Special Rate Variation – Community Engagement Activities & Outcomes**
263555KCHI TRIM 1862-3

241/2014 **Resolved on the Motion of Crs Terry and Hannan:**

That Councillors note the Proposed Special Rate Variation community engagement activities and outcomes.

On being put to the meeting the motion was declared CARRIED.

Vote: Crs Law, Terry, Amato, M Banasik, Mitchell, Hannan, Gibbs and Landow

GO10 was GO13 **Telecommunications GCT-T13 Strategy Tender**
241022LBLU TRIM 7766

242/2014 **Resolved on the Motion of Crs Law and Hannan:**

- 1. That Council decline to accept any of the Tenders.**
- 2. That in accordance with Clause 178 of the Local Government (General) Regulations, Council enter into negotiations with any person (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with a view to entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender.**

On being put to the meeting the motion was declared CARRIED.

Vote: Crs Law, Terry, Amato, M Banasik, Mitchell, Hannan, Gibbs and Landow

Late Reports

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO3- Draft "Revised" Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Document for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

GO3

Draft "Revised" Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Document for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

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TRIM 1862-3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Also refer to previous report GO2 - Proposed Special Rate Variation - Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

- The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the draft 'revised' Delivery Program 2013/14 - 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 public exhibition period has concluded.
- As its November 2014 meeting Council endorsed the draft 'revised' Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 (IP&R Document) to be placed on exhibition for the period from 18 November 2014 – 19 December 2014.
- The Local Government Act 1993 requires draft IP&R documents to be exhibited for public comment for a minimum of 28 days and public submissions considered before any final program is adopted.
- The need for and purpose of a different revenue path; as requested through the special variation, needs to be clearly articulated and identified through the council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents, including its Delivery Program.
- It is recommended the draft 'revised' Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 (IP&R document) be adopted.

REPORT

The Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 were adopted by Council in June 2014. The adoption of these Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documents included the approval for Council to start a "conversation" with our community for a proposed Special Rate Variation under the heading "Addressing your Future Needs", advising the community of the need for engagement around 3 rate options to address the projected financial shortfall over the next ten years.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO3- Draft "Revised" Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Document for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

Special Rate Variation (SRV) Options

The Special Rate Variation options considered in report GO2 are of fundamental significance to Council's Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15. As indicated in the previous report (GO2) extensive engagement took place with the community regarding the following three options:

Option 1 - "Deteriorate" - No SRV Proposed

Option 2 - "Stabilise" - SRV 8.5% Per Annum Over 4 Years

Option 3 - "Improve" - SRV 10.8% Per Annum Over 4 Years

Option 3 is recommended as the preferred option for Council to become Fit For The Future.

Fit For The Future

On 10 September 2014, The NSW Government formally announced their response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommendations.

The NSW Government wants councils to be "Fit for the Future" and they have put a comprehensive package of support and financial incentives to assist councils achieve this, requiring them to:

- a) enhance their own financial sustainability.
- b) be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services.
- c) be more efficient.
- d) be of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government.

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become "Fit for the Future" by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and councils who are Fit for the Future will be eligible for incentives and support - cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

The aim is for NSW councils to be financially sound, operating efficiently and in a strong position to guide community growth and deliver quality services.

Some Councils have been identified as needing to merge to become Fit for the Future. This is not proposed for Wollondilly Council, with the focus of this approach being more on metropolitan Councils and very small rural Councils.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO3- Draft "Revised" Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Document for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

(Note that Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee are also NOT proposed for merger).

For councils to meet the infrastructure and service needs of their communities they need to be "financially sustainable". This is defined as a council which, over the long term, is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the level and scope of infrastructure and services, agreed with its community through the Integrated Planning & Reporting Process.

The criteria and benchmarks for determine whether a Council is financially sustainable and able to be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services relate to matters such as:

- Operating performance ratio – whether we run at a deficit or have a balanced budget
- Own source revenue ratio – how much we rely on grants and external revenue sources
- Infrastructure and asset backlog, maintenance and renewal ratios – all about the condition of our assets and infrastructure and what needs to be spent to bring them up to standard
- Debt service ratio – how much debt we have to service with loan repayments.

For Council to perform well against these criteria, an SRV is critical. If council does not have an SRV we will be incapable of becoming Fit for the Future.

As part of the "Fit for the future" June 2015 submission each council will be asked to look at its current situation and consider the future needs of its community and the recommendations of the Independent Panel. This issue will be included in Council's conversations with the community during the SRV engagement process.

CONSULTATION

The draft 'revised' Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 has been placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.

No Public submissions were received in relation to the revised Delivery Program & Operational Plan. (However, as indicated in the previous report (GO2) 162 submissions were received in relation to the Special Rate Variation proposals).

The process for engaging with our community regarding the need for an Special Rate Variation, and the matters being considered by Council are in accordance with guidelines published by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

The draft 'revised' Wollondilly Delivery Program/Operational Plan:

Governance

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO3- Draft "Revised" Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Document for the Proposed Special Rate Variation

- Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Manual
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It has been well documented that most Councils across NSW (including Wollondilly Shire Council) have not been able to afford to maintain their infrastructure to a satisfactory standard, resulting in an increasing infrastructure maintenance gap year after year.

In order to close this gap and become Fit for the Future it is necessary to allocate more funds towards infrastructure maintenance. As indicated earlier in this report, our long term projections indicate that if Council is to maintain its assets to a satisfactory standard and continue to provide the current range of services, it will need to identify additional funding sources to do so.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Under separate cover - draft 'revised' Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15.
2. Under separate cover - Resourcing Strategy 2013/14 - 2022/23 revised.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the draft 'revised' Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 (IP&R Document).

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO2 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

GO2

Proposed Special Rate Variation - Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

32281

TRIM 1862-3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- As part of Council's Long Term Financial Sustainability Strategy and Strategic Business Planning and to meet Fit for the Future criteria this report proposes to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10.8% per annum increase over 4 years under Section 508A of the Local Government Act.
- The focus of the Special Rate Variation (SRV) application is to continue to allocate sufficient funds towards infrastructure.
- In order to become Fit for the Future the following is recommended:
 1. That Council note the outcomes of the community engagement strategy to raise awareness of the need for, and extent of, a special rate variation for 2015/16 to 2018/19.
 2. That Council proceed with an application to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Section 508A of the Local Government Act for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10.8% per annum for four years from 2015/16 to 2018/19 to fund the continued maintenance and renewal of Council's infrastructure. This will enable Council to perform well against the Fit for the Future ratios.
 3. That Council continues to pursue organisational efficiencies through the continued implementation of its Success Management Program and regular service reviews.

Governance

REPORT

The Wollondilly Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 were adopted by Council in June 2014. The adoption of these Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documents included approval for Council to start a "conversation" with our community for a proposed Special Rate Variation. (The Delivery Program & Operational Plan 2014/15 under the heading "Addressing your Future Needs", advised the community of the need for engagement around 3 rate options to address the projected financial shortfall over the next ten years).

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO2 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

Council has also completed the development of its Asset Management Strategy which includes the development of detailed Asset Management plans. These Asset plans have assisted in the development of the Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 and informed the development of Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

At its September 2014 meeting Council considered a report which advised that a formal Community Engagement process had commenced regarding three Special Rate Variation options. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

1. That Council supports the continued conversation with the community for the need for a special rate variation.
2. That a further report come to the 13 October 2014 Council meeting on the progress to date.
3. That a further report come to the 17 November 2014 Council meeting outlining community feedback through the revised Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.
4. That Council note the NSW Government's "Fit for the Future" reform package and the need to submit a proposal on how Council intends to become "Fit for the Future" by 30 June 2015.

At its October 2014 meeting Council considered a progress report on the Community Engagement regarding the Special Rate Variation options. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

1. That Council supports the continued engagement with the community regarding the need for a Special Rate Variation.
2. That the outcomes of community engagement regarding Special Rate Variation options will be reported to the November 2014 Council meeting.

Special Rate Variation Application

Special rate variation applications must be submitted to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) by 16 February 2015. In October 2014 the Office of Local Government published guidelines for the preparation of applications including the criteria for the assessment of those applications. A summary of the criteria that will be addressed in Council's application for the special rate variation follows:

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report of Governance to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Monday 9 February 2015

GO2 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

1. Need for the proposed rate increase:

The need for and purpose of a different revenue path (as requested through the special variation) has been clearly identified in Council's integrated planning documentation.

Evidence from the community consultation – that the maintenance and management of Infrastructure and Roads is a high priority - will be included in the application; along with information from the Asset management Plans regarding the condition of roads and infrastructure in the local government area.

Council's inability to fund from current revenue will also be highlighted, along with the financial sustainability assessment from NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp).

2. Community awareness of the need for and extent of a rate rise

Council has consulted and engaged the community about the Special Rate Variation using a variety of engagement methods to ensure broad awareness of the need for and extent of the requested rate increases. The engagement methods provided opportunities for input and the gathering of feedback from the community about the proposal.

Council's IP&R documents clearly set out the extent of the requested rate increases by presenting three (3) Options.

3. Reasonable impact on ratepayers

Council's IP&R documents and engagement processes clearly demonstrated the impact of rate rises upon the community. Council considered the capacity and willingness of the community to pay rates and established that the proposed rate increases are reasonable having regard to the Community's capacity to pay.

4. Consultation with the Community on Councils Strategic Business Planning Documents

Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documentation clearly demonstrates the requirement for a Special Rate Variation and the IP&R documentation will be referenced in the IPART application.

5. Productivity Improvements and Cost containment strategies

Council's application will include an analysis of past improvements and plans for the Organisational efficiency initiatives as part of the Success Management Program.

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Special Rate Variation (SRV) Options

Against the context of an estimated \$80 million shortfall over the next 10 years, Council's community engagement has discussed three SRV options.

Option 1 – “Deteriorate” No SRV Proposed

Under this option rates would increase only by the annual rate peg amount. The rate peg percentage for 2013/14 was 3.4% and for 2014/15 it is 2.3%. The rate peg percentage for 2015/16 is expected to be announced at the end of the first quarter of 2015.

This option would leave us with an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years, so it would have the following impacts:

- Our infrastructure would deteriorate further as we would continue to underfund maintenance expenditure. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.
- Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.
- Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues. The nature and number of services delivered by Council, or the levels of service, would need to be reduced.

Option 2 – “Stabilise” – SRV 8.5% Per Annum Over 4 Years

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the Special Rate Variation (SRV) increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate an additional \$54.5m over the ten year period, so it would have the following impacts / enable the following:

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- Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.
- Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.

Council could maintain its current range of services.

Option 3 – “Improve” – SRV 10.8% Per Annum Over 4 Years

Under this option rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum (this includes the annual rate peg percentage) over a fixed four year period (2015/16 to 2018/19).

At the end of the four year period the Special Rate Variation (SRV) increase will be built into the rate base (in other words rates would be maintained at this new level with just the annual rate peg increases).

This option would generate the required \$80m over the ten year period, so it would enable the following:

- Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.
- Council will have more funds available to build new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities as we would have increased capacity to undertake new capital works.
- Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.

Fit For The Future

On 10 September 2014, the NSW Government formally announced their response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommendations.

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The NSW Government wants councils to be “Fit for the Future” and they have put a comprehensive package of support and financial incentives to assist councils achieve this, requiring them to:

- a) enhance their own financial sustainability.
- b) be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services.
- c) be more efficient.
- d) be of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government.

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and councils who are Fit for the Future will be eligible for incentives and support - cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

The aim is for NSW councils to be financially sound, operating efficiently and in a strong position to guide community growth and deliver quality services. Some councils have been identified as needing to merge to become Fit for the Future. This is not proposed for Wollondilly Council, with the focus of this approach being more on metropolitan councils and very small rural councils. (Note that Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee are also NOT proposed for merger).

For councils to meet the infrastructure and service needs of their communities they need to be “financially sustainable”. This is defined as a council which, over the long term, is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the level and scope of infrastructure and services agreed with its community through the Integrated Planning & Reporting Process.

The criteria and benchmarks to determine whether a council is financially sustainable and able to be effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services relate to matters such as:

- Operating performance ratio – whether we run at a deficit or have a balanced budget
- Own source revenue ratio – how much we rely on grants and external revenue sources
- Infrastructure and asset backlog, maintenance and renewal ratios – all about the condition of our assets and infrastructure and what needs to be spent to bring them up to standard

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- Debt service ratio – how much debt we have to service with loan Repayments.

For Council to perform well against these criteria, a Special Rate Variation (SRV) is critical. If Council does not have a Special Rate Variation (SRV) we will be incapable of becoming Fit for the Future. As part of the “Fit for the Future” June 2015 submission each council will be asked to look at its current situation and consider the future needs of its community and the recommendations of the Independent Panel. This issue has been included in Council’s conversations with the community during the Special Rate Variation (SRV) engagement process.

CONSULTATION

Council ensured there was a high level of community awareness with the Special Rate Variation options and it therefore utilised a wide range of engagement methods to maximise the ‘reach’.

The community engagement strategy was based on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum principles. The principles utilised in the strategy included:

- Inform: to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions
- Consult: to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions
- Involve: to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered

Council also utilised our Assets to Opportunities Maps 2010/11 to inform the development of the community engagement strategy.

Based on this information, Council also identified key stakeholders to engage with throughout the process, as well as key messages and engagement methods best suited to each village/town about the need for a Special Rate Variation.

Council's overarching aim was to provide a wide variety of engagement opportunities to encourage community feedback.

The engagement methods employed throughout the community consultation period and the outcomes are detailed below:

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Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
Councillor Workshops	Councillor workshops held	These workshops were held to consult Wollondilly Shire Council Councillors on the engagement strategy and report the outcomes of the community consultation
Council Reports	6 Council reports were submitted	Council reports were submitted in order to inform Councillors further about the Special Rate Variation proposal and to allow community members to continue to be aware and informed about the Special Rate Variation proposal and submit questions to Council's community forums
Static Displays	4 static displays	Displays at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picton Library • Wollondilly Tourist Information Centre • Children Services • Wollondilly Shire Council Administration Building
Train Station Engagements	Approximately 144 people received information about the Special Rate Variation	Held from 5:30-8am at the following train stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picton • Tahmoor • Bargo Special Rate Variation newsletters, FAQs and community engagement opportunity flyers were distributed. Special Rate Variation Project Team members were also available to answer community questions.
Information Stalls with the Dilly Wanderer	26 people were engaged about the Special Rate Variation and received information	Wollondilly Shire is geographically large and as a result a number of community service initiatives are mobile in order to reach the wider community. This includes the Dilly Wanderer – a mobile community engagement and

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Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
		<p>information service. Special Rate Variation Project Team members held information stalls with the Dilly Wanderer during September and October 2014. Information stalls were held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yanderra • The Oaks • Tahmoor • Oakdale • Bingara Gorge • Buxton • Appin • Bargo • Silverdale • Douglas Park • Thirlmere • Warragamba • Picton
Community Events	35 people received information about the Special Rate Variation	<p>A number of community events were held on weekends during the consultation period. As a result, Wollondilly Shire Council ensured that information regarding the Special Rate Variation was available at the following events:</p> <p>Tahmoor Uniting Church Community Garden Family Day Bargo Public School Fete DamFest</p>
Community Meeting	27 people attended in total	<p>Three community meetings were held in the evenings at:</p> <p>Warragamba Town Hall Tahmoor CWA Hall Appin Community Hall</p>
Information & Drop-In Session	1 person attended the information and drop-in session	<p>An additional evening information and drop-in session was organised for Warragamba. This was in response to community requests at the first Warragamba Community Meeting identifying that this would allow more community</p>

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Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
		members the opportunity to participate in the Special Rate Variation conversation. The session was held at Warragamba Town Hall.
Drop-In Q&A Sessions	20 people attended the drop-in Q&A sessions to discuss the Special Rate Variation options	Four sessions were held at Picton Shire Hall, where community members could drop in and ask questions about the Special Rate Variation proposal. At the drop in sessions there were also displays with information regarding how Council's previous Special Rate Variation funds were spent.
Information Kits		Information kits were distributed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wollondilly Shire Council Councillors • Members of Parliament • Wollondilly Shire Council staff including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library staff • Customer request staff • Customer service staff • Children services staff • Social Media team
Correspondence		A number of key stakeholders received correspondence from Wollondilly Shire Council regarding the Special Rate Variation proposal, in order to increase awareness within the community. These stakeholders included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Wollondilly Shire Council staff • 93 Council Committee Members • 146 Community Directory contacts • 383 Business Directory contacts • 8 community members who

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Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
		attended the Warragamba Community Meeting
Special Rate Variation Newsletter	16,936 ratepayers received a newsletter	Hard copy newsletters were mailed to all ratepayers in the Shire about the Special Rate Variation proposal at the beginning of the engagement period. Additionally, hard copy newsletters were distributed at all community engagement activities.
Phone Enquiries	17 phone enquiries were received regarding the Special Rate Variation	
Radio	2 x radio interviews	24th September 2014: Macarthur Community Radio interview 30th September 2014: ABC Illawarra Radio interview
Media Releases	9 x media releases	Regular media releases were sent to a number of media outlets throughout the engagement period. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Highlands Radio • ABC Western Sydney • MP Angus Taylor's Office • Macarthur Chronicle • C91.3 • Warragamba Website • Penrith Press • Illawarra Mercury • 2UE • MP Jai Rowell's Office • Wollondilly Advertiser • Network Ten • Prime TV • Informer • Seven News • Sydney Morning Herald • The District Reporter • The Land • What's Happening in Warragamba and

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Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
		<p>Surrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Win News • ABC Wollongong
Bush Telegraph	<p>2 x Bush Telegraph Articles about the Special Rate Variation proposal</p> <p>5 x Bush Telegraph Articles about the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15</p> <p>3 x Articles in the mayors column about the Special Rate Variation proposal</p> <p>1 x Bush Telegraph Advertisement about the Special Rate Variation</p>	<p>Wollondilly Shire Council has a full page bush telegraph each week in the paper. From September to October the Bush Telegraph was printed in the Advertiser, Chronicle & District Reporter. From November onwards the bush telegraph was printed in the Advertiser and District Reporter.</p>
Newspaper Advertising	1 x Quarter Page Advertisement	Printed in the Advertiser, Chronicle & District Reporter
Flyer Distribution	<p>111 Businesses</p> <p>1 Neighbourhood Centre</p> <p>1 Preschool</p>	Special Rate Variation flyers were distributed at Tahmoor, Warragamba, Silverdale, Appin, Douglas Park, Thirlmere and Picton
Shopping Centre Information Stall	<p>30 people received information about the Special Rate Variation at Tahmoor Shopping Centre</p> <p>49 people received information about the Special Rate Variation at Picton Mall</p>	Special Rate Variation information was distributed at two of the major shopping centres in Wollondilly. Special Rate Variation Project Team members were also available to answer any community questions about the Special Rate Variation proposal.
Promotional Material		A number of resources were developed to increase community awareness and inform the community about the Special Rate Variation proposal. The resources

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GO2 – Proposed Special Rate Variation – Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

Engagement Method	Numbers	Details
		included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Rate Variation Newsletter • Special Rate Variation Bookmarks • Flyers • FAQs • Flyers to explain how rates will be affected These were available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picton library • Mobile libraries • Customer services • Tourist information centre • Children services
Special Rate Variation Business Cards		200 Special Rate Variation business cards were provided to outdoor staff to distribute to community members if the received any questions about the Special Rate Variation. These cards directed community members to the Special Rate Variation webpage or to call Council.
Social Media	46 x Social Media Posts regarding the Special Rate Variation, public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 and community consultation opportunities	In total the 46 Social Media posts resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14,079 People Reached • 1303 Post Clicks • 42 Likes • 71 Shares • 75 Comments Of the 46 posts on social media on average each post reached 306 people, generated 28 Post Clicks, 0.9 Likes, 1.5 Shares and 1.6 Comments.
Addressing Your Future Needs Webpage	819 visits between 15th September & 30th October 2014	

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Telephone Survey

Council contracted an external research company to conduct a telephone survey of the Wollondilly community.

A total of 407 community members were interviewed and provided a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. As a result, the research findings can be interpreted as not just the opinions of 407 residents, but as an accurate and robust measure of the entire community's attitudes.

The research findings highlighted that when respondents were asked 'how important is it for Council to provide better infrastructure and facilities?' 99% of the respondents identified that it was at least somewhat important for Council to provide better infrastructure and facilities.

Adding to this when asked which Option was their preferred Option, 70% of respondents selected Option 2 or 3 as their preferred option. This indicates that the community is largely supportive of introducing a Special Rate Variation to rates in Wollondilly.

Overall, 54% of respondents chose Option 3 as their first and second preference.

Additionally, 49% of residents indicated that prior to the telephone call they had awareness that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation. Of that 49%, 72% identified that they were made aware of Council's intentions through the Special Rate Variation newsletter mail out.

Overall, the telephone survey results highlighted that the community is generally aware and supportive of Council making an application to IPART for a Special Rate Variation. Applying for a SRV was preferred over Option 1 which involves no SRV, and would result in further deterioration of Council's infrastructure.

Formal Submissions

Furthermore, Council received 162 formal submissions regarding the Special Rate Variation proposal and zero submissions for the public exhibition of the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15.

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Submissions were taken via email, mail, phone, in person and web. They are summarised below:

- 51 Email Submissions
- 23 Mail Submissions
- 13 Phone and In Person Submissions
- 75 Web Submissions

Of the 162 submissions received 39 submissions indicated support for a Special Rate Variation; 104 submissions indicated that they were not supportive of a Special Rate Variation and 19 submissions did not specify being supportive or not supportive of a Special Rate Variation.

Out of the 162 submissions received during the engagement period the following submissions stated a preferred Special Rate Variation option:

- Option 1 preferred: 36 submissions
- Option 2 preferred: 14 submissions
- Option 2 or 3 preferred: 6 submissions
- Option 3 preferred: 13 submissions
- Preferred option not specified: 93 submissions

Council acknowledged receipt of all formal submissions made by letter or email where contact details were available.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It has been well documented that most Councils across NSW (including Wollondilly Shire Council) have not been able to afford to maintain their infrastructure to a satisfactory standard, resulting in an increasing infrastructure maintenance gap year after year.

The draft Asset Management Plans (AMP's) for Transport, Buildings and Open Space assets confirm the need for a Special Rate Variation. The AMP's confirm that at current expenditure we are under funding these assets by, an average over the next ten years, \$9,368,000 per annum. SRV Option 2 will generate approximately \$6 Million per annum after the first 4 years, Option 3 will produce approximately \$9 Million per annum.

In order to close this gap and become Fit for the Future it is necessary to have a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10.8% per annum (Option 3) as this is the only option which will allocate sufficient funds towards infrastructure maintenance to close the identified gap and ensure that Council is able to perform well against the Fit for the Future performance ratios:

- Operating performance ratio - Under Option 3 Council will generate sufficient funds to provide the agreed level and scope of services to the Community as identified through the Integrated Planning & Reporting process. Options 1 and 2 will not meet requirements.

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- Own source revenue ratio - under all three options Council will continue to generate more than the preferred 60% of funding internally.
- Infrastructure renewal ratio - whilst Option 2 will see stabilisation in the condition of Council's buildings and infrastructure, the general condition and quality of Council's infrastructure will only begin to improve once the ratio is consistently above 100% - and this will only be achieved through Option 3.
- Infrastructure backlog ratio - Option 3 is the only scenario where Council's identified infrastructure backlog will be reduced. Option 2 will see it stabilize, whereas under Option 1, the backlog will dramatically increase over time.
- Asset maintenance ratio - there will be insufficient maintenance carried out under Option 1, therefore under this scenario the backlog will increase. Under Option 2, there will be sufficient maintenance undertaken to stop the backlog from growing, however the backlog will not get any smaller. Under Option 3 there will be additional maintenance done which will see the backlog steadily decrease over time.
- Debt service ratio - all three options will see Council's debt service ratio remain below 10% per annum in order to keep the burden of debt at a manageable level with capacity to undertake further borrowing should the need arise.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Special Rate Variation Community Submissions are available as a separate attachment to this Agenda.
2. Addressing Your Future Needs Community Engagement Strategy and Outcomes will be available on 2 February 2015 as a separate document. The Strategy and Outcomes will include the results of the Telephone Survey.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for consideration of a Special Rate Variation be lodged.
2. That the application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) be for 10.8% per annum for a period of four years from 2015/16 to 2018/19.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wollondilly Shire Council held in the Council Chamber, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 February 2015, commencing at 6.32pm

Governance

GO2

Proposed Special Rate Variation - Application to Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

32281

TRIM 1862-3

Moved on the motion of Crs Mitchell and Landow:

1. *That Council note the outcomes of the community engagement strategy to raise awareness of the need for and extent of, a special rate variation for 2015/16 to 2018/19.*
2. *That Council proceed with an application to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Section 508(a) of the Local Government Act for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10.8% per annum for four years from 2015/16 to 2018/19 to fund the continued maintenance and renewal of Council's infrastructure. This will enable Council to perform well against the Fit for the Future ratios.*
3. *That Council continues to pursue organisational efficiencies through the continued implementation of its Success Management Program and regular service reviews.*

Governance

Cr M Banasik moved an amendment:

That council select Option 2 as the preferred option.

The amendment lapsed through want of a seconder.

10/2015

Resolved on the Motion of Crs Mitchell and Landow:

1. *That Council note the outcomes of the community engagement strategy to raise awareness of the need for and extent of, a special rate variation for 2015/16 to 2018/19.*
2. *That Council proceed with an application to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Section 508(a) of the Local Government Act for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10.8% per annum for four years from 2015/16 to 2018/19 to fund the continued maintenance and renewal of Council's infrastructure. This will enable Council to perform well against the Fit for the Future ratios.*
3. *That Council continues to pursue organisational efficiencies through the continued implementation of its Success Management Program and regular service reviews.*

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wollondilly Shire Council held in the Council Chamber, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, on Monday 9 February 2015, commencing at 6.32pm

Governance

On being put to the meeting the motion was declared CARRIED.

Vote For: Crs B Banasik, Law, Terry, Amato, Hannan, Mitchell, Gibbs,
and Landow

Vote Against: Cr M Banasik

Governance

Attachment E

Community Meeting Presentations

Warragamba

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS

Wollondilly Shire Council
Special Rate Variation



COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

- ▶ Welcome & Introductions
- ▶ Community Meeting Ground Rules
- ▶ Special Rate Variation Presentation
- ▶ Where To From Here
- ▶ Questions



WHAT IS A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

- ▶ Since 1977, certain Council revenues have been regulated in NSW under an arrangement known as “rate pegging”
- ▶ In 2014, 32 Councils applied to IPART for a Special Rate Variation



WHY DO WE NEED A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

- ▶ Council is facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years
- ▶ Major contributor towards this cash shortfall is our infrastructure maintenance backlog
- ▶ Council is responsible for more than half a billion dollars of assets including:
 - 840 kms of roads
 - 19 halls
 - 90 parks and reserves
 - 13 sports fields
 - 78 bridges
 - 33 playgrounds



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ 'Reseal' works cost approximately \$80,000 per kilometre of road
- ▶ 'Patching and Reseal' works cost approximately \$270,000 per kilometre of road
- ▶ Basic 'Road Reconstructions' cost from \$700,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ 'Heavy Patching' costs on average \$190,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ 'Two Coat Seal' costs on average \$60,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ '50mm Asphalt' costs on average \$210,000 per kilometre of road



THE FACTS

- ▶ From 2011-2014 we have received 12,723 customer requests
- ▶ Of these 5,355 have related to roads and road defects

OUR PREVIOUS SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

- In 2011, we applied for a Special Rate Variation of 6.7% per annum over 7 years
- We got an increase of 6% per annum over 3 years

WARRAGAMBA POOL CHANGE ROOMS



Before



After



BARGO RIVER RD BRIDGE



Before



After



THE OAKS TENNIS COURT



Before



After



- \$80 million funding shortfall
- Infrastructure would deteriorate further
- No capacity for new capital works
- Consider a reduction in services

OPTION

1

Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation



- Generate \$54.5 million over 10 years
- Stabilise current deteriorating condition of infrastructure
- Some funds available to provide new infrastructure
- Could maintain current range of services

OPTION
2
Stabilise
Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years



- Generate \$80 million over 10 years
- Deliver better infrastructure sooner
- More funds available to provide new infrastructure
- Could deliver a wide range of services

OPTION
3
Improve
Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years



HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOU?

- ▶ [Refer to handout](#)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollendilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
No. Equivalent Full Time Staff	208	304	623	1042	273
Population	45,322	60,546	152,612	186,938	64,592
Total Revenue	\$45.9m	\$129.5m	\$131.4m	\$217.2m	\$75.99m
Total Expenditure	\$44.9m	\$71.4m	\$133m	\$171.1m	\$64.7m
Total Revenue per capita	\$1013	\$2139	\$861	\$1162	\$1176
Expenditure per capita	\$990	\$1,179	\$871	\$915	\$1002
Governance and Admin Expense per capita	\$115	\$272	\$157	\$165	\$70
Roads, Bridges & Footpaths expenses per capita	\$315	\$270	\$107	\$133	\$183
Metre road length per capita	18m	8m	5m	6m	16m

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

- ▶ Council is working towards being a “Fit for the Future” Council.
- ▶ The Special Rate Variation will assist with becoming “Fit for the Future”



WHERE TO FROM HERE?

31st October 2014

Special Rate Variation Community Consultation Ends



17th November 2014

Report to Council – community engagement outcomes & approval to exhibit draft IP&R documents outlining the 3 Special Rate Variation options



16th February 2015

Report to Council - Special Rate Variation and IP&R engagement outcomes and recommendations. Council to make final decision regarding a SRV application to IPART



QUESTIONS?



HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Submissions will be received until the 31st October 2014

- ▶ **Mail:** PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571
- ▶ **Email:** srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
- ▶ **Phone:** (02) 4677 1100
- ▶ **Web:** www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Attachment E

Community Meeting Presentations

Tahmoor

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS

Wollondilly Shire Council
Special Rate Variation



COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

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- ▶ Where To From Here
- ▶ Questions



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- ▶ 'Two Coat Seal' costs on average \$60,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ '50mm Asphalt' costs on average \$210,000 per kilometre of road



THE FACTS

- ▶ From 2011-2014 we have received 12,723 customer requests
- ▶ Of these 5,355 have related to roads and road defects

OUR PREVIOUS SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

- In 2011, we applied for a Special Rate Variation of 6.7% per annum over 7 years
- We got an increase of 6% per annum over 3 years

BARGO RIVER RD BRIDGE



Before



After



TAHMOOR SPORTSGROUND



EMMETT PARK, TAHMOOR



PICTON SHIRE HALL



- \$80 million funding shortfall
- Infrastructure would deteriorate further
- No capacity for new capital works
- Consider a reduction in services

OPTION

1

Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation



- Generate \$54.5 million over 10 years
- Stabilise current deteriorating condition of infrastructure
- Some funds available to provide new infrastructure
- Could maintain current range of services

OPTION

2

Stabilise

Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years



- Generate \$80 million over 10 years
- Deliver better infrastructure sooner
- More funds available to provide new infrastructure
- Could deliver a wide range of services

OPTION

3

Improve

Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years



HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOU?

▶ [Refer to handout](#)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollondilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
No. Equivalent Full Time Staff	208	304	623	1042	273
Population	45,322	60,546	152,612	186,938	64,592
Total Revenue	\$45.9m	\$129.5m	\$131.4m	\$217.2m	\$75.99m
Total Expenditure	\$44.9m	\$71.4m	\$133m	\$171.1m	\$64.7m
Total Revenue per capita	\$1013	\$2139	\$861	\$1162	\$1176
Expenditure per capita	\$990	\$1,179	\$871	\$915	\$1002
Governance and Admin Expense per capita	\$115	\$272	\$157	\$165	\$70
Roads, Bridges & Footpaths expenses per capita	\$315	\$270	\$107	\$133	\$183
Metre road length per capita	18m	8m	5m	6m	16m

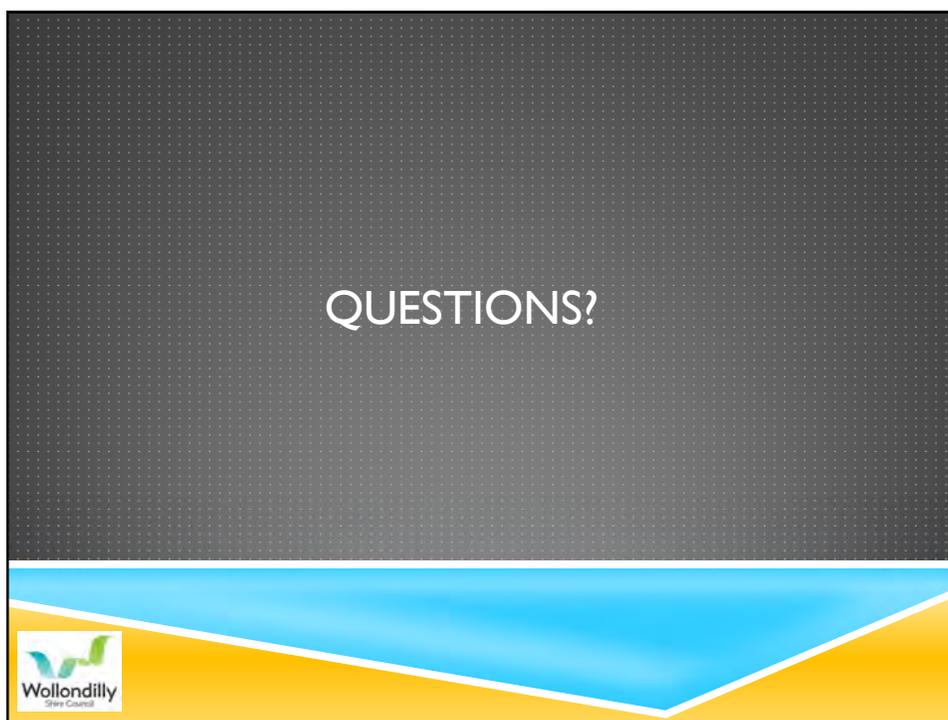
FIT FOR THE FUTURE

- ▶ Council is working towards being a “Fit for the Future” Council.
- ▶ The Special Rate Variation will assist with becoming “Fit for the Future”

WHERE TO FROM HERE?



QUESTIONS?



HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Submissions will be received until the 31st October 2014

- ▶ **Mail:** PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571
- ▶ **Email:** srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
- ▶ **Phone:** (02) 4677 1100
- ▶ **Web:** www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Attachment E

Community Meeting Presentations

Appin

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS

Wollondilly Shire Council
Special Rate Variation



COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

- ▶ Welcome & Introductions
- ▶ Community Meeting Ground Rules
- ▶ Special Rate Variation Presentation
- ▶ Where To From Here
- ▶ Questions



WHAT IS A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

- ▶ Since 1977, certain Council revenues have been regulated in NSW under an arrangement known as “rate pegging”
- ▶ In 2014, 32 Councils applied to IPART for a Special Rate Variation



WHY DO WE NEED A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

- ▶ Council is facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years
- ▶ Major contributor towards this cash shortfall is our infrastructure maintenance backlog
- ▶ Council is responsible for more than half a billion dollars of assets including:
 - 840 kms of roads
 - 19 halls
 - 90 parks and reserves
 - 13 sports fields
 - 78 bridges
 - 33 playgrounds



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ 'Reseal' works cost approximately \$80,000 per kilometre of road
- ▶ 'Patching and Reseal' works cost approximately \$270,000 per kilometre of road
- ▶ Basic 'Road Reconstructions' cost from \$700,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ 'Heavy Patching' costs on average \$190,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ 'Two Coat Seal' costs on average \$60,000 per kilometre of road



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO FIX OUR ROADS?

- ▶ '50mm Asphalt' costs on average \$210,000 per kilometre of road



THE FACTS

- ▶ From 2011-2014 we have received 12,723 customer requests
- ▶ Of these 5,355 have related to roads and road defects

OUR PREVIOUS SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

- In 2011, we applied for a Special Rate Variation of 6.7% per annum over 7 years
- We got an increase of 6% per annum over 3 years

APPIN AIS PLAYGROUND UPGRADE



DOUGLAS PARK TENNIS COURT



BARGO RIVER RD BRIDGE



Before



After



PICTON SHIRE HALL



- \$80 million funding shortfall
- Infrastructure would deteriorate further
- No capacity for new capital works
- Consider a reduction in services

OPTION

1

Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation



- Generate \$54.5 million over 10 years
- Stabilise current deteriorating condition of infrastructure
- Some funds available to provide new infrastructure
- Could maintain current range of services

OPTION

2

Stabilise

Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years



- Generate \$80 million over 10 years
- Deliver better infrastructure sooner
- More funds available to provide new infrastructure
- Could deliver a wide range of services

OPTION

3

Improve

Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years



HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOU?

▶ [Refer to handout](#)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollondilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
No. Equivalent Full Time Staff	208	304	623	1042	273
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Roads, Bridges & Footpaths expenses per capita	\$315	\$270	\$107	\$133	\$183
Metre road length per capita	18m	8m	5m	6m	16m

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

- ▶ Council is working towards being a “Fit for the Future” Council.
- ▶ The Special Rate Variation will assist with becoming “Fit for the Future”

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

31st October 2014

Special Rate Variation Community Consultation Ends



17th November 2014

Report to Council – community engagement outcomes & approval to exhibit draft IP&R documents outlining the 3 Special Rate Variation options



16th February 2015

Report to Council - Special Rate Variation and IP&R engagement outcomes and recommendations. Council to make final decision regarding a SRV application to IPART



QUESTIONS?



HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Submissions will be received until the 31st October 2014

- ▶ **Mail:** PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571
- ▶ **Email:** srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
- ▶ **Phone:** (02) 4677 1100
- ▶ **Web:** www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Attachment F

Correspondence

Committee Members

Karen Chisnall

From: Karen Chisnall <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 September 2014 2:47 PM
Subject: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION
Attachments: Final SRV Newsletter High Res.PDF; SRV FAQ.PDF; Final SRV Flyer.PDF

Hi All,

Can you please send the below email and attachments to your committee member contacts regarding the Special Rate Variation. If you could please let me know how many people you end up sending the email to as well that would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please let me know.

Kind regards,

Karen

Dear Committee Member,

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

As you may be aware Wollondilly Shire Council is consulting the community about a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are currently facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years. The most significant contributor towards this deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

We are contacting all members of Council's committees and advisory groups regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation as we very much value your feedback and would like to encourage you to attend one of our community engagement opportunities and/or make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

We are considering three options and each option has varying consequences for infrastructure and services into the future.

The community engagement runs from the 15th of September 2014 to the 31st October 2014.

There are a number of ways you can make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation including:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We have attached a Special Rate Variation information pack for your information. This includes a Special Rate Variation newsletter and frequently asked questions, as well as a flyer outlining the various community engagement activities we are running in September and October 2014.

You can find out further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation on our webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or by calling (02) 4677 1100.

If you have any further questions about the three options we are considering please feel free to contact Council.

Attachment F

Correspondence

Community Directory

Karen Chisnall

From: Karen Chisnall <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of SRV <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 4:17 PM
Subject: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION
Attachments: Final SRV Newsletter High Res.PDF; SRV FAQ.PDF; Final SRV Flyer.PDF

Hi,

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

As you may be aware Wollondilly Shire Council is consulting the community about a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are currently facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years. The most significant contributor towards this deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

We are considering three options and each option has varying consequences for infrastructure and services into the future.

You have been contacted as you are listed on Wollondilly Shire Council's Community Directory. We recognise that the proposed Special Rate Variation could have an effect on you and your services, as well as the Wollondilly residents who utilise your services. We very much value your feedback and would like to encourage you and your clients to attend one of our community engagement opportunities and/or make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The community consultation runs from the 15th of September 2014 to the 31st October 2014.

There are a number of ways you can make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation including:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We have attached a Special Rate Variation information pack for your information. This includes a Special Rate Variation newsletter and frequently asked questions, as well as a flyer outlining the various community engagement activities we are running in September and October 2014.

You can find out further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation on our webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or by calling (02) 4677 1100.

If you would like hard copies of any of this information to display and/or distribute to your clients please contact Council or reply to this email.

If you have any further questions about the three options we are considering please feel free to contact Council.

Attachment F

Correspondence

Business Directory

Karen Chisnall

From: Karen Chisnall <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au> on behalf of SRV <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 4:36 PM
Subject: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION
Attachments: Final SRV Newsletter High Res.PDF; SRV FAQ.PDF; Final SRV Flyer.PDF

Hi,

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

As you may be aware Wollondilly Shire Council is consulting the community about a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are currently facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years. The most significant contributor towards this deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

We are considering three options and each option has varying consequences for infrastructure and services into the future.

You have been contacted as you are listed on Wollondilly Shire Council's Business Directory. We recognise that the proposed Special Rate Variation could have an effect on you and your business, as well as the Wollondilly residents who utilise your services. We very much value your feedback and would like to encourage you and your clients to attend one of our community engagement opportunities and/or make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The community consultation runs from the 15th of September 2014 to the 31st October 2014.

There are a number of ways you can make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation including:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We have attached a Special Rate Variation information pack for your information. This includes a Special Rate Variation newsletter and frequently asked questions, as well as a flyer outlining the various community engagement activities we are running in September and October 2014.

You can find out further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation on our webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or by calling (02) 4677 1100.

If you would like hard copies of any of this information to display and/or distribute to your clients please contact Council or reply to this email.

If you have any further questions about the three options we are considering please feel free to contact Council.

Attachment F

Correspondence

Community Members from Warragamba

Karen Chisnall

From: Karen Chisnall <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2014 4:08 PM
Subject: Warragamba Community Meeting

Hi All,

I am contacting you as you attended the Warragamba Community Meeting on the 25th of September 2014 regarding Wollondilly Shire Council's Special Rate Variation proposal. As discussed on the evening, due to the low attendance rate on the night we have organised a follow-up session for community members to attend.

We will be holding an information and drop-in session on Wednesday the 15th October 2014 at Warragamba Town Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

This will allow any community members to attend the hall any time between 6:30pm and 8:30pm to have an informal discussion with Council representatives regarding the Special Rate Variation proposal. We will also have all the same information available that we had at the last community meeting.

We would really like to ask for your assistance in promoting this information and drop in session within the community as it is really important to us that everyone gets an opportunity to ask questions.

This session is being promoted in the Wollondilly Advertiser, The Chronicle and the District Reporter as well as on Council's Facebook page.

We will have a flyer next week which I will send through to you all so you can distribute if you wish.

Additionally, we will also be holding an information stall in Silverdale on the 14th of October 2014 from 9:30-11:30am at Eugenie Byrne Park and at Warragamba Town Hall on the 21st October 2014 from 9-11am if any community members are unable to attend the information and drop in session on the 15th of October 2014.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Karen

Karen Chisnall | Community Projects Officer

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571
P (02) 4677 8270 | **E** karen.chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | **W**

Karen Chisnall

From: Karen Chisnall <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 3:56 PM
Subject: Warragamba Community Meeting Flyer
Attachments: Special Rate Variation Community Meeting Flyer.PDF

Hi All,

Please see attached a flyer for the Warragamba information and drop in session.

Thank you for your assistance in promoting this session.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Karen

Karen Chisnall | Community Projects Officer

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

P (02) 4677 8270 | **E** karen.chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | **W**

Attachment G

Newsletter

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Like most NSW councils, Wollondilly Shire Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to look after the Shire's infrastructure into the future - roads, footpaths, bridges, stormwater drains, parks, libraries and community buildings. We know that our community places a high priority on the maintenance of our Shire's infrastructure, and in particular our road network, so the current trend of deteriorating infrastructure needs to be reversed.

While we understand that rate rises of any kind are never welcome we believe a Special Rate Variation is a necessary course of action in order to meet the needs of our community.

Without a Special Rate Variation we won't be able to maintain our essential infrastructure and services.

Inside this newsletter you'll find three options being considered. Each has varying consequences regarding infrastructure and service quality over time. We need your support to make some important decisions so please take the time to read this newsletter and give us your feedback.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

Since 1977, Council revenues have been regulated in NSW under "rate pegging". The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets a rate peg which limits the amount by which Councils can increase their rate revenue from one year to the next. For many years the rate peg limit has not kept pace with the financial needs of Councils in NSW and residents' needs for appropriate services.

However, Councils are able to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation to increase their general rate income by more than the rate pegging amount. In 2014, of the 152 Councils in NSW, 32 applied to IPART for a Special Rate Variation.

WHY DO WE NEED A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

Council is responsible for maintaining more than **half a billion dollars of assets.**

Our long term financial modelling currently estimates that Council faces an \$80 million deficit at the end of ten years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue.

We are working hard to ensure we are as efficient as possible and are continually reviewing ways to reduce expenditure. However, the most overwhelming contributor towards this future deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

Our Shire is made up of 17 towns and villages, and is vast in relation to our low population of approximately 46,000 people. As a result we have high infrastructure maintenance costs, particularly on roads, relative to a small rate base.

Each year there is an asset maintenance funding shortfall and as a result the condition of our infrastructure is getting progressively worse.

Additionally, our Shire will experience significant growth with our population expected to grow substantially over the next 20 years and beyond. Although the rates from new residential growth will significantly fund future infrastructure, it will not necessarily cover the maintenance costs of our existing infrastructure.

The proposed Special Rate Variation is therefore necessary to maintain and manage our *current* and *future* infrastructure, and to enable us to continue to deliver quality services in line with the expectations of our growing community.

Wollondilly Shire Council
is responsible for:

840 kms of Roads

90 Parks and Reserves

78 Bridges

19 Halls

13 Sports Fields

33 Playgrounds

The Previous Special Rate Variation

In early 2011, we applied for a Special Rate Variation for the purpose of reducing the backlog in infrastructure maintenance and renewal. We were originally seeking a Special Rate Variation of 8% per annum over 7 years, which was then reduced to 6.7% per annum over 7 years following extensive community consultation. An increase of only 6% per annum over 3 years was subsequently approved. This fell substantially short of providing the required funds to address the mounting infrastructure maintenance gap.

Although we received less than we expected, we were still able to complete a number of projects to improve infrastructure and services for our community with the funds generated from the Special Rate Variation.

The Special Rate Variation funds also allowed us to access the State Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) loans to provide the early delivery of a number of much needed infrastructure works.

Some of the projects completed using the Special Rate Variation funds and LIRS loans included:

- Reconstruction of John Street, The Oaks
- Replacement of timber bridges on Bargo River Road, Couridjah; Cawdor Rd, Cawdor; and Spring Creek Road, Mt Hunter
- Playground upgrades at Tahmoor, Buxton, Bargo, Appin, Warragamba and Silverdale
- Tennis court repairs in Picton, Douglas Park and Yanderra
- Installation of sportsfield lighting at Oakdale, Tahmoor and Appin
- Over \$900,000 spent on building repairs shire wide



There are three options which we would like you to consider as they all have varying impacts on our infrastructure and service quality.

Option 1

Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation

(Rates would increase by the annual rate peg amount - estimated to be around 3% per annum)

Option 2

Stabilise

Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years

(Rates would increase by a total of 8.5% per annum - including the annual rate peg amount - over a fixed four year period 2015/16 to 2018/19)

At the end of the four year period the Special Rate Variation increase will be built into the rate base

Option 3

Improve

Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years

(Rates would increase by a total of 10.8% per annum - including the annual rate peg amount - over a fixed four year period 2015/16 to 2018/19)

At the end of the four year period the Special Rate Variation increase will be built into the rate base

Income

\$80 million shortfall over 10 years

Reduce the shortfall by generating an additional \$54.5 million over 10 years

- \$40.5 million will be spent on major roads and bridge works;
- \$5 million on bridges, footpaths, kerb, and line marking maintenance;
- \$2 million on new footpaths and kerb and gutter;
- \$3.5 million on building maintenance;
- \$3.5 million on parks, playgrounds and sportsfield maintenance

Eliminate the shortfall by generating an additional \$80 million over 10 years

- \$60 million will be spent on major roads and bridge works;
- \$6.5 million on bridges, footpaths, kerb, and line marking maintenance;
- \$5.5 million on new footpaths and kerb and gutter;
- \$4 million on building maintenance;
- \$4 million on parks, playgrounds and sportsfield maintenance

Infrastructure Maintenance

Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.

Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.

Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

New Infrastructure

Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, shared pathways, open space improvements and new community facilities.

Council will have some additional funds (in addition to developer contributions and grants) available to provide new infrastructure.

Council will have more funds available to provide new infrastructure.

Services

Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues.

Council could maintain its current range of services.

Council would be able to deliver a wide range of services.

How will this affect you?

The table below estimates the rate increases that would occur under each of the three options being considered. The table provides a comparison for differing rate amounts, based on rates payable this year. To use this table look at the rate amount in the grey shaded column that is closest to your rate bill for this year (2014/15). Looking across the table to the columns on the right hand side will give you an indication of how rates would rise under each of the three options. The figures in the table should only be used as a rough guide, as fluctuations in the value of your property will also have an effect on the amount of rates you pay. The figures are also based upon the assumption of a 3% rate peg being announced each year. This figure may be higher or lower in any year.

Annual Rates	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$892	\$919	\$946	\$975	\$1,004
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$968	\$1,050	\$1,139	\$1,236
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$988	\$1,095	\$1,213	\$1,344
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$943	\$971	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,023	\$1,110	\$1,204	\$1,307
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,045	\$1,158	\$1,283	\$1,421
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,093	\$1,126
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,085	\$1,177	\$1,277	\$1,386
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,108	\$1,228	\$1,360	\$1,507
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,250	\$1,288	\$1,326	\$1,366	\$1,407
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,356	\$1,472	\$1,597	\$1,732
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,385	\$1,535	\$1,700	\$1,884
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,500	\$1,545	\$1,591	\$1,639	\$1,688
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,628	\$1,766	\$1,916	\$2,079
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,662	\$1,841	\$2,040	\$2,261
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,750	\$1,803	\$1,857	\$1,912	\$1,970
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,899	\$2,060	\$2,235	\$2,425
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,939	\$2,148	\$2,380	\$2,638
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,000	\$2,060	\$2,122	\$2,185	\$2,251
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,170	\$2,354	\$2,555	\$2,772
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,216	\$2,455	\$2,721	\$3,014
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,250	\$2,318	\$2,387	\$2,459	\$2,532
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,441	\$2,649	\$2,874	\$3,118
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,493	\$2,762	\$3,061	\$3,391
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,500	\$2,575	\$2,652	\$2,732	\$2,814
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,713	\$2,943	\$3,193	\$3,465
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,770	\$3,069	\$3,401	\$3,768
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,750	\$2,833	\$2,917	\$3,005	\$3,095
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,984	\$3,237	\$3,513	\$3,811
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$3,047	\$3,376	\$3,741	\$4,145
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$3,255	\$3,532	\$3,832	\$4,158
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$3,324	\$3,683	\$4,081	\$4,521

What else are we doing to maximise efficiency?

We work hard to ensure that we are as efficient as possible. To achieve continuous quality improvements and a “best-practice” approach to all of our operations we continually review the ways our services are conducted, and we have implemented a wide range of initiatives to ensure we use resources wisely, such as:

- Continuing and expanding resource sharing opportunities with other Councils
- Being smarter with purchasing, procurement and contracting
- Maximising external funding and grant opportunities
- Undertaking internal audits of all our key business activities and processes
- Focusing on staff performance and development
- Risk minimisation across the organisation to reduce liabilities and insurance premiums
- Initiatives to reduce energy and utility costs
- Making use of subsidised loans via the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme
- Long term financial planning

In its 2012/13 review of NSW Councils, the Department of Local Government found that Wollondilly Shire Council has the 17th lowest governance and administration costs per capita compared to 152 Councils in NSW.

(Circular to Councils 14/17 - Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2012-13)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollondilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
No. Equivalent Full Time Staff	208	304	623	1042	273
Population	45,322	60,546	152,612	186,938	64,592
Total Revenue	\$45.9m	\$129.5m	\$131.4m	\$217.2m	\$75.99m
Total Expenditure	\$44.9m	\$71.4m	\$133m	\$171.1m	\$64.7m
Total Revenue per capita	\$1013	\$2139	\$861	\$1162	\$1176
Expenditure per capita	\$990	\$1,179	\$871	\$915	\$1002
Governance and Admin expense per capita	\$115	\$272	\$157	\$165	\$70
Roads, Bridges & Footpath expenses per capita	\$315	\$270	\$107	\$133	\$183
Metre road length per capita	18m	8m	5m	6m	16m

How to have your say

The future of our Shire affects us all so we want your views. There are lots of ways you can get involved. We will be out in the community over the coming months and want to talk to you about the Special Rate Variation options we are considering.

To see the full schedule of community conversation opportunities head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Need more information?

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100.

You can drop in and see us at Picton Shire Hall from **12pm-2pm** on the following dates:

7th
October
2014

8th
October
2014

9th
October
2014

10th
October
2014

Alternatively, attend one of our Community Meetings from **6pm-8pm** at the following locations:

25th
September
2014
Warragamba
Town Hall

16th
October
2014
Tahmoor CWA
Hall

23rd
October
2014
Appin
Community
Hall

31ST
OCTOBER
2014

Get submissions in

17TH
NOVEMBER
2014

Report to Council detailing the community engagement results and presenting draft IP&R* documents for exhibition

16TH
FEBRUARY
2015

Report to Council detailing the Special Rate Variation and IP&R exhibition outcomes and recommendations.
Council to make final decision regarding a Special Rate Variation application to IPART

*Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) is effectively Wollondilly Shire Councils business planning framework.

ADDRESSING **YOUR** FUTURE NEEDS

wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Breaking News

Fit for the Future

On 10 September 2014, The NSW Government announced their response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommendations.

The NSW Government wants Councils to be “Fit for the Future” by:

- a) Enhancing their own financial sustainability
- b) Being effective in the delivery of infrastructure and services
- c) Being more efficient
- d) Being of sufficient scale to engage across community, industry and government

Councils will need to submit a proposal on how they intend to become “Fit for the Future” by 30 June 2015.

This review will be assessed independently and Councils who are “Fit for the Future” will be eligible for incentives and support such as cheaper finance options, simplified reporting requirements, priority access to State funding and grants and options for additional planning powers.

We are having this conversation with the community because we want to ensure that we are “Fit for the Future” and the Special Rate Variation is an important step towards achieving this.

To find out more information about “Fit for the Future” head to www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au





Wollondilly
Shire Council

Attachment H

Media Releases

Media Release



Date: 2 September 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Addressing Your Future Needs Special Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council is seeking the community's support to make an important decision about a proposed Special Rate Variation. Each option will have varying consequences on our infrastructure such as roads, parks, sportsgrounds, bridges and halls; as well as our services.

The three options being considered for the Special Rate Variation include:

- Option 1 – Deteriorate – Option 1 – Deteriorate – No additional rate increase above the annual rate peg (estimated to be 3%pa)
- Option 2 – Stabilise – Special Rate Variation of 8.5% per annum over 4 years

Average annual rates	Current	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Residential Town centre rates	\$1053	\$1085	\$1117	\$1151	\$1185
Annual impact of SRV		\$58	\$122	\$194	\$274
Cumulative increase of rates yearly		\$58	\$180	\$375	\$649

- Option 3 – Improve – Special Rate Variation of 10.8% per annum over 4 years (including rate peg)

Average annual rates	Current	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Residential Town centre rates	\$1053	1085	\$1117	\$1151	\$1185
Annual impact of SRV		\$82	\$176	\$282	\$402
Cumulative increase of rates yearly		\$82	\$258	\$539	\$941

- Option 3 – Improve – Special Rate Variation of 10.8% per annum over 4 years (including rate peg)

We will be holding information sessions, community meetings, and drop-in question and answer sessions from the 8 September – 17 October 2014. There will also be a dedicated website with information on each of the options being considered, the affect these options will have on rate payers and the impacts each option will have on community infrastructure and services into the future.

We want to ensure that the community has every opportunity to find out about the proposed Special Rate Variation options and have their say. So please come along and speak with us, visit our website www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or call us on (02) 4677 1100 to find out more.

We are seeking community feedback until the 17 October 2014. Once we have heard from the community about their views on the proposed Special Rate Variation options; Council will make a decision based on the community feedback we receive whether to make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation.

It is really important that we hear your views on the proposed Special Rate Variation options before we make any decisions. You can make a submission about the Special Rate Variation by:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

To find out more information about the Special Rate Variation visit www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or call (02) 4677 1100.

Please Note:

Information was sent to the media regarding the SRV proposals Council was considering. The community consultation period dates were changed after this media release was sent. The media was updated accordingly through subsequent media releases.

Media Release



Date: 10 September 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Addressing Your Future Needs Special Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council is seeking the community's support to make an important decision about a proposed Special Rate Variation. Each option will have varying consequences on our infrastructure such as roads, parks, sportsgrounds, bridges and halls; as well as our services.

The three options being considered for the Special Rate Variation include:

- Option 1 – Deteriorate – No additional rate increase above the annual rate peg (estimated to be 3% pa)
- Option 2 – Stabilise – Special Rate Variation of 8.5% per annum over 4 years (including rate peg)
- Option 3 – Improve – Special Rate Variation of 10.8% per annum over 4 years (including rate peg)

The table below estimates the rate increases that would occur under each of the three options being considered. The table provides a comparison for differing rate amounts, based on rates payable this year. To use this table look at the rate amount in the grey shaded column that is closest to your rate bill for this year (2014/15). Looking across the table to the columns on the right hand side will give you an indication of how rates would rise under each of the three options. The figures in the table should only be used as a rough guide, as fluctuations in the value of your property will also have an effect on the amount of rates you pay. The figures are also based upon the assumption of a 3% rate peg being announced each year. This figure may be higher or lower in any year.

Annual Rates	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$892	\$ 919	\$ 946	\$ 975	\$ 1,004
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 968	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,139	\$ 1,236
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 988	\$ 1,095	\$ 1,213	\$ 1,344
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$943	\$ 971	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,061
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,023	\$ 1,110	\$ 1,204	\$ 1,307
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,045	\$ 1,158	\$ 1,283	\$ 1,421
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,000	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,061	\$ 1,093	\$ 1,126
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,085	\$ 1,177	\$ 1,277	\$ 1,386
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,108	\$ 1,228	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,507
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,250	\$ 1,288	\$ 1,326	\$ 1,366	\$ 1,407
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,356	\$ 1,472	\$ 1,597	\$ 1,732
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,385	\$ 1,535	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,884
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,500	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,591	\$ 1,639	\$ 1,688
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,628	\$ 1,766	\$ 1,916	\$ 2,079
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,662	\$ 1,841	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,261
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,750	\$ 1,803	\$ 1,857	\$ 1,912	\$ 1,970
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,899	\$ 2,060	\$ 2,235	\$ 2,425
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 1,939	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,380	\$ 2,638

Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,000	\$ 2,060	\$ 2,122	\$ 2,185	\$ 2,251
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,170	\$ 2,354	\$ 2,555	\$ 2,772
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,216	\$ 2,455	\$ 2,721	\$ 3,014
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,250	\$ 2,318	\$ 2,387	\$ 2,459	\$ 2,532
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,441	\$ 2,649	\$ 2,874	\$ 3,118
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,493	\$ 2,762	\$ 3,061	\$ 3,391
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,500	\$ 2,575	\$ 2,652	\$ 2,732	\$ 2,814
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,713	\$ 2,943	\$ 3,193	\$ 3,465
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,770	\$ 3,069	\$ 3,401	\$ 3,768
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,750	\$ 2,833	\$ 2,917	\$ 3,005	\$ 3,095
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 2,984	\$ 3,237	\$ 3,513	\$ 3,811
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 3,047	\$ 3,376	\$ 3,741	\$ 4,145
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$3,000	\$ 3,090	\$ 3,183	\$ 3,278	\$ 3,377
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$ 3,255	\$ 3,532	\$ 3,832	\$ 4,158
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$ 3,324	\$ 3,683	\$ 4,081	\$ 4,521

*For further details on the impact of the three Special Rate Variation options head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We will be holding information sessions, community meetings, and drop-in question and answer sessions from the 15 September – 31 October 2014. There will also be a dedicated website with information on each of the options being considered, the effect these options will have on rate payers and the impacts each option will have on community infrastructure and services into the future.

We want to ensure that the community has every opportunity to find out about the proposed Special Rate Variation options and have their say. So please come along and speak with us, visit our website www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or call us on (02) 4677 1100 to find out more.

We are seeking community feedback until the 31 October 2014. Once we have heard from the community about their views on the proposed Special Rate Variation options, Council will make a decision on whether to make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation.

It is really important that we hear your views on the proposed Special Rate Variation options before we make any decisions. You can make a submission about the Special Rate Variation by:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

To find out more information about the Special Rate Variation visit www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or call (02) 4677 1100.

Media Release



22 September 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Special Rate Variation – How and Where can you provide feedback

It was announced last week that Wollondilly Shire Council is seeking feedback from residents regarding a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are considering three options and would appreciate the opportunity to talk to you about these options. There are a number of ways that you can get involved in the conversation, but submissions do close on the 31 October 2014.

We are holding a number of information stalls in September and October at various locations across the Shire, to provide the community with the opportunity to find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

This week we will be holding information stalls at the following locations:

- Monday 22 September: WS Williams Park, Corner of John and Mary Street, The Oaks from 9:30am to 11:30am
- Wednesday 24 September: Emmett Park, Corner of Emmett and York Street, Tahmoor from 9:30am to 11:30am.

There will be a Special Rate Variation project team member at the information stalls to answer questions and provide additional information about the proposed Special Rate Variation. We encourage all community members to come along and find out more information.

We are also holding a community meeting on Thursday 25th September at Warragamba Town Hall (Weir Road, Warragamba) between 6pm and 8pm. Attending the meeting to present information and answer questions will be Wollondilly Shire Council's General Manager, Luke Johnson, Deputy General Manager, Ally Dench and Acting Deputy General Manager Paul Hume, along with other Special Rate Variation project team members who represent various sections across Council.

There will be other community meetings held on:

- Thursday 16 October at Tahmoor CWA Hall from 6-8pm
- Thursday 23 October at Appin Community Hall from 6-8pm.

Additionally, we are holding a number of drop-in question and answer sessions at Picton Shire Hall from 12-2pm on:

- Tuesday 7 October
- Wednesday 8 October
- Thursday 9 October
- Friday 10 October

Please take this chance to find out about the options Wollondilly Shire Council is considering and see how Council intends to address your future needs. Ask questions and receive informed responses. For further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation see our dedicated webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or call 4677 1100.

Media Release



26 September 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Why is Council seeking a Special Rate Variation?

Wollondilly Shire Council's long term financial modelling estimates that Council faces an \$80 million deficit in the next ten years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue. The most significant contributor towards this future deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog. Each year there is an asset maintenance funding shortfall and as a result the condition of our infrastructure is getting progressively worse.

The proposed Special Rate Variation is therefore an essential part of a long term funding strategy to not only maintain and manage our *current* infrastructure, but also to maintain and manage *future* infrastructure.

If we have a Special Rate Variation, the significant funding shortfall facing Council over the coming years will be addressed, the quality of infrastructure will not continue to deteriorate and Council services will not need to be reduced.

There are a number of ways that you can get involved in the conversation, submissions close on the **31 October 2014**.

We are holding a number of information stalls in September and October at various locations across the Shire, to provide the community with the opportunity to find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Special Rate Variation project team members will be present to answer your questions.

This week we will be holding **information stalls** at the following locations:

- Wednesday 1 October: Oakdale park, Burragorang Rd, Oakdale from 9:30am to 11:30am
- Thursday 2 October: Pembroke Park , Chisholm St, Bingara Gorge from 9:30am to 11:30am.

Additionally, we are holding a number of **Drop-in Question and Answer sessions** next week at Picton Shire Hall from 12-2pm on:

- Tuesday 7th October
- Wednesday 8th October
- Thursday 9th October
- Friday 10th October

Please take this chance to find out about the options Wollondilly Shire Council is considering and see how Council intends to address your future needs. Ask questions and receive informed responses. For further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation see our dedicated webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or call 4677 1100.

Media Release



3 October 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Proposed Special Rate Variation - Join the Conversation

Wollondilly Shire Council is currently seeking community feedback on our proposed Special Rate Variation. Council is considering three options and wants to make sure we have heard the community's views.

The community can make submissions until the 31st of October 2014. Council is also conducting a telephone survey of residents about the proposed Special Rate Variation options. Once the community consultation has finished a report outlining the community consultation outcomes will be presented to Councillors and they will make a final decision on whether to make an application to IPART for a Special Rate Variation at the February 2015 Council meeting.

If Councillors decide to make an application to IPART for a Special Rate Variation in February 2015, Council will submit an application and IPART will make a final decision on whether to grant a Special Rate Variation in June 2015.

We are holding a number of community meetings and an information and drop in session during October. Come along to find out why Council is considering a Special Rate Variation and to ask questions.

Information and Drop In Session:

- Wednesday 15th October 2014: Warragamba Town Hall, Weir Road
6:30pm-8:30pm

Community Meeting:

- Thursday 16th October 2014: Tahmoor CWA, York Street, Tahmoor Hall 6pm-8pm
- Thursday 23rd October 2014: Appin Community Hall, Sportsground Parade,
Appin 6pm-8pm

To have your say about the proposed Special Rate Variation you can make a formal submission by:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We are taking community feedback until Friday **31st October 2014**.

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100

END

Media Release



10 October 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

How much does it cost to maintain and fix Wollondilly's roads?

Wollondilly Shire Council is currently seeking community feedback on our proposed Special Rate Variation which has a strong focus on addressing the deteriorating condition of our roads. Council is considering three options and wants to make sure we have heard the community's views.

Wollondilly Shire Council is responsible for 840 kilometres of roads along with a considerable number of other assets such as park and reserves, playgrounds, bridges, halls and sports fields.

Each year the Council faces an asset maintenance funding shortfall and as a result the condition of our infrastructure, particularly our roads, is getting progressively worse.

The challenge we confront in particular is the fact that we have a vast road network and the costs associated with maintaining and fixing this network are significant.

Did you know?

- Heavy patching on a road costs on average \$190,000 per kilometre
- A two coat seal costs on average \$60,000 per kilometre
- 50mm asphalt seal costs roughly \$210,000 per kilometre

In order to address the deteriorating condition of our roads and other assets Wollondilly Shire Council is proposing three Special Rate Variation options. Each option will have different outcomes in terms of our roads condition into the future and we want to hear from the community to find out what you want before we make any further decisions.

To have your say about the proposed Special Rate Variation you can make a formal submission by:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We are taking community feedback until Friday **31st October 2014**.

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100.

Media Release



23 October 2014	Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244
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We want to hear from you – Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your say!

Wollondilly Shire Council is currently seeking community feedback on our proposed Special Rate Variation which has a strong focus on addressing the deteriorating condition of our roads. Council is considering three options and wants to make sure we have heard from you about your views on the proposal.

During September and October Wollondilly Shire Council has conducted a number of community conversation activities to allow the community to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation proposal.

We are taking community feedback until the 31 October 2014. We are encouraging all community members to review the proposed options and available information and make an informed submission about the proposal. We want everyone in the community to be involved in this important decision that will affect the future of Wollondilly Shire.

To have your say about the proposed Special Rate Variation you can make a formal submission by:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100.

Media Release



24 November 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Thank you for your feedback!

Wollondilly Shire Council recently sought community feedback regarding three Special Rate Variation options being considered. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and was involved in this important decision facing our community.

All submissions received during the community consultation period are now being collated and will form part of a report going to Council in February 2015.

Following on from the community consultation period for the Special Rate Variation proposal, Councillors moved at the November Council meeting to place Wollondilly Shire Council's Draft Revised Delivery/Operational Plan 2014-15 on public exhibition.

The Draft Revised Delivery/Operational Plan 2014-15 sets out:

- Actions for the achievement of the Delivery Programs objectives and strategies
- Proposed works programs
- Fee and charges
- Need for a Special Rate Variation

While on public exhibition the community has the opportunity to make comments and submissions concerning this plan and the information regarding the need for a Special Rate Variation included in the plan.

Copies of the document are available for viewing at:

- Council's Administration Building: 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton
- Wollondilly Library: 42 Menangle Street, Picton
- Wollondilly Mobile Libraries
- On Council's website: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
- On Council's corporate planning website: www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton, 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.

Any comments or submissions received in response to Wollondilly Shire Council's Draft Revised Delivery/Operational Plan 2014-15 on public exhibition will also be collated and will also inform the decision making process regarding Council's Special Rate Variation proposal.

After the public exhibition period closes, Councillors will decide at the February 2015 Council meeting if Council is to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation.

Media Release



1 December 2014

Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244

Thank you for your feedback!

Wollondilly Shire Council recently sought community feedback regarding three Special Rate Variation options being considered. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and was involved in this important decision facing our community.

All submissions received during the community consultation period are now being collated and will form part of a report going to Council in February 2015.

Following on from the community consultation period for the Special Rate Variation proposal, Councillors moved at the November Council meeting to place Wollondilly Shire Council's Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 on public exhibition.

The Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 sets out:

- Actions for the achievement of the Delivery Program objectives and strategies
- Proposed works programs
- Fee and charges
- Need for a Special Rate Variation

While on public exhibition the community has the opportunity to make comments and submissions concerning this plan and the information regarding the need for a Special Rate Variation included in the plan.

Copies of the document are available for viewing at:

- Council's Administration Building: 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton
- Wollondilly Library: 42 Menangle Street, Picton
- Wollondilly Mobile Libraries
- On Council's website: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
- On Council's corporate planning website: www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton, 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.

Any comments or submissions received in response to Wollondilly Shire Council's Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 on public exhibition will also be collated and will also inform the decision making process regarding Council's Special Rate Variation proposal.

After the public exhibition period closes, Councillors will decide at the February 2015 Council meeting if Council is to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation.

Media Release



11 February 2015	Contact: Communications Unit on 4677 8244
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Wollondilly Shire Council to Apply for a Special Rate Variation

At Council's meeting on Monday 9th February, it was resolved to lodge an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special rate variation for 10.8% per annum for a period of four years from 2015/16 to 2018/19. This is the highest option that we put forward to the community and it will generate the required \$80m needed over the next 10 years to clear our current infrastructure maintenance backlog.

With this special rate variation Council would be able to deliver roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

Mayor, Cr Col Mitchell says, "If IPART approve the SRV we apply for, Council will be highly accountable to the community on how we use the funds through our rigorous audit and reporting processes. Ratepayers can feel confident that the rate rise will make a significant difference to our roads and I know that is very important in our rural community."

"It was an important decision and the Councillors voted it through with only one Councillor against the resolution. This is the most overwhelming support that we have seen from Councillors for an SRV," he said.

The NSW Government has put together a financial assistance package for councils who are "Fit for the Future". To be fit for the future Council needs to be "financially sustainable" and approval of the SRV through IPART will enable us to move toward meeting that important requirement.

Attachment I

Bush Telegraph



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

I was extremely disappointed last week at the senseless vandalism that occurred at the Picton Botanic Gardens over three nights on the weekend of 20-22 September. The approximate cost of damage of this incident alone will come close to \$5000. The damage included removal of the Memorial tree for local Road Traffic Victims as well as destruction of plaques and plinths in the Avenue of Trees. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of grounds staff, most of the damage has now been fixed. Evidence regarding identification of the culprits has been provided to Police and a review of security has taken place at this and other Council sites. I encourage anyone with information about this incident to come forward and report it to the police.

I also wanted to bring to your attention an Illegal dumping incident that happened on Werombi Road, Brownlow Hill in early September. Some 90 tonnes of building materials had to be removed with the cost to Council for the clean-up reaching \$13,000. This type of incident poses both environmental and health risks to the community and cannot be tolerated. As the largest illegal dumping incident encountered by Council to date, a fee exemption is being sought to recoup some of the fees charged by the EPA as part of the tipping process.

On a brighter note, the General Manager, Luke Johnson and I were delighted to receive a \$50,000 grant on behalf of Council from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust at a presentation in Goulburn on Thursday 25th September. The grant will be used to partially fund the construction of a new amenities building at Bargo Sportsground consisting of club/training area, change-rooms, toilets, showers, accessible toilet and canteen. Congratulations also goes to The Picton-Thirlmere-Bargo RSL Sub Branch who received a grant of \$30,000 on the day for a project to improve access for people with a disability. The grant will fund an accessible toilet and ramp for the RSL Sub-Branch hall.

I also had the pleasure last week to officiate over a citizenship ceremony for 13 local residents on Wednesday 24th September. The new citizens originally came from a wide range of countries including the UK, Malta, Scotland, Lebanon, South Africa and China. Each received a gift from Council to commemorate this important event in their lives.

Last week, all ratepayers will have received a newsletter in their mailbox explaining the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) currently being considered by Council. The newsletter is designed to provide residents with information on the 3 options being considered. I encourage you to take the time to read and understand the material included and to take advantage of the many community engagement sessions to clarify any questions you might have. Your feedback is essential in helping your Councillors to make informed decisions on the way forward.



Vandalism at Picton Botanic Gardens



Illegal Dumping incident at Werombi Road, Brownlow Hill



General Manager, Luke Johnson and Mayor, Cr Col Mitchell receiving a grant of \$50,000 from the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for the Bargo Sportsground Amenities Building Project.



Mayor Cr Col Mitchell at the Citizenship ceremony

• THE FUTURE OF OUR SHIRE AFFECTS US ALL SO WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON THE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION.

We are currently taking submissions about the Special Rate Variation until the 31st October 2014. This is your opportunity to have your say about the options that are being considered. You can make a submission about the Special Rate Variation by:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Alternatively, if you would like to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation options come along to one of our community consultation activities to ask any questions. To see our full schedule of community conversation opportunities head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Next week you can drop in and see us at Picton Shire Hall from 12pm-2pm on the following dates:

- 7th October 2014
- 8th October 2014
- 9th October 2014
- 10th October 2014



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

Firstly, I would like to pass on my condolences to the family of Cr Kate Terry whose grandmother recently passed away at the age of 105.

Congratulations to the Picton Rangers Football Club with both its Men's and Women's teams winning finals on Saturday 27 September. The men's first grade side beat Warilla Wanderers 1-0 in the grand final of the Illawarra Credit Union District League competition, while the ladies' first grade side were 6-0 winners over Harrington Park winning the FA Women's Cup final held at Campbelltown Sports Stadium.

On 25 September another 16 'Tech Savvy Seniors' graduated from the 6 week program hosted by Council's Library staff and funded by Telstra. This popular course is designed to assist older people across NSW to access online information, websites and services so that they can be more connected to friends and family.

The course was taught by two experienced and friendly library staff who work one on one with the seniors if required. For some of the participants it was the first time they experienced using a computer, mouse and keyboard. Well done to all the participants. For further info on future courses please contact Picton Library on 4677 8300.

On Thursday 2nd October Council hosted some Local Government Procurement and Tender Training for local businesses. The training is free and is aimed at those companies that would like to do business with Councils across Macarthur (Wollondilly, Campbelltown and Camden) and is made possible through a partnership between Council and Local Government Procurement.

On Monday 13 October, I will be attending an event hosted by South West Oztag to mark the opening of the season and the first time they have used the new Picton Sportsgrounds. Bill Harrigan, ex-NRL Referee and Oztag tournament director will be attending on the day along with the Lions Club, Courageous Corey Community Car and approximately 300-400 children. The event runs from 4.30pm - 5.00pm and all are welcome to attend.

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the IMB Building Society Community Foundation, Picton residents will soon have the opportunity to have a free heart health test administered by the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. The 'Health Check Booth' will benefit residents through free testing of blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels - all major risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The Health Check Booth will be run by NSW Registered Nurses and participants will receive results immediately. A booth will be set-up at the Rear Car Park of the Wollondilly Shire Council Shire Hall, adjacent to Wollondilly Shire Library, 62-64 Menangle St, Picton on Thursday 16th October, between 9am and 5pm.

On Sunday 19th October, local resident Ann Herne is organising a 9km walk in the Picton Botanical Gardens as part of Down Syndrome awareness week. The 'Take a Walk' event is designed to raise awareness of the many challenges people living with Down Syndrome and their families face. For further information or to register for the walk please contact Ann on 0497-016-632 or ben.chinnock@dansw.org.au

• ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS

Wollondilly Shire Council wants to hear your views about the proposed Special Rate Variation. We are holding a number of community meetings and an information and drop-in session to provide you with further information about the Special Rate Variation options and answer your questions.

The dates for the community meetings are:

- Thursday 16th October 2014 from 6pm-8pm at Tahmoor CWA Hall
- Thursday 23rd October 2014 from 6pm-8pm at Appin Community Hall

We are also holding an information and drop-in session at Warragamba Town Hall on Wednesday 15th October 2014. Come along any time from 6:30pm-8:30pm to ask questions about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

We encourage all community members to come along and find out why Council is proposing a Special Rate Variation and to ask questions.

We are taking community feedback about the proposed Special Rate Variation until Friday the 31st October 2014. If you would like further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation or make a submission head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100



Picton Rangers Men's First Grade winning the Illawarra Credit Union District League competition over the Warilla Wanderers



Picton Rangers Ladies First Grade winning the FA Women's Cup over Harrington Park

FREE child car seat safety check



Your child is twice as likely to be injured if you use the wrong car seat

Make sure your child is safe with a free inspection by Authorised Restraint Fitters. You can have your child car seats, harnesses and booster seats checked for safety and fit.

DATE: 13 October 2014
TIME: Bookings essential
LOCATION: Picton Tyre & Mechanical
 182 Argyle Street
 PICTON
PHONE: 4677 1777

For more information contact the Council's Road Safety Officer on (02) 4677 1188.



An initiative of your local council as part of the Local Government Road Safety Program.





MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

On Sunday 5 October, I was pleased to meet four young people who re-enacted the famous walk of Myles Dunphy and Bert Gallop in 1914. Dunphy and Gallop began the bushwalking and conservation movements in Australia. The Blue Mountains expedition started in Katoomba and finished at Picton Railway Station as it did a century ago. Alex Allchin, 19, and Sierra Classen, 24, led the team, with other people joining the expedition at various points. They used the same equipment and resources for the journey as the team did 100 years ago, including the diaries of Dunphy and Gallop. Congratulations to those involved in the expedition and keep an eye out for a documentary about the re-enactment that will air in the near future.

These are the road works that are happening this week:

- Werombi Road – Reconstruction of the final stage of the project will commence this week (after the previous section was sealed and intersections asphalted).
- Ridge Road, Oakdale – Construction and sealing of the road will be completed on Wednesday.
- Harley St, Yanderra – The crews work to the west of the street is complete with the seal to be completed on Wednesday, drainage work in the East part of the street will commence.
- Asphalt work will be completed on Burrarorang Road, The Oaks, outside of the airport.
- Resealing and Asphalt work will be completed on Dawson Road, Mount Hunter.

Events coming up this week include:

- Picton Railway History Walking Tour, Saturday 18 October, 10am, call 4677 8300 to book.
- Take a Walk for Down Syndrome, Sunday 19 October, 10am, Picton Botanic Gardens. Call 0497 016 632 for information.
- Damfest, Sunday 19 October, 10am, at the Warragamba Recreational Reserve. Call 02 4774 1273 for information.
- Grandparents Day, Wednesday 22 October, 10am at Wollondilly Shire Hall. Call 4677 1100 for information.

We have been holding a number of community meetings regarding the options for the Special Rate Variation. There will be community meetings on 16 October at Tahmoor CWA Hall, York Street, Tahmoor 6pm-8pm and 23 October at the Appin Community Hall, Sportsground Parade, Appin from 6pm - 8pm. To have your say about the proposed Special Rate Variation you can make a formal submission by: Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571, Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au, Phone: 4677 1100, Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv. We are taking community feedback until Friday 31 October 2014.

Sadly, long time Picton resident Marie-Louise Walton has passed away on 6 October aged 73. I attended her funeral on 10 October at St Anthony's Church, Tahmoor. It was a lovely service, with a wonderful eulogy delivered by her three daughters, Catherine Walton, Maria Bennett and Jenny McLaughlin. I send my condolences to her husband John and her family and friends.

FOLLOWING STATEMENT REFERS TO BOTH PROPOSALS:

Under S147 of the EP&A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on our website under Important Notice - Development Proposals and Donations or Gifts.

Privacy

Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is required to release written comments or submissions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on us to place submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to the proposed development.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot 1 & 2 DP 250441
 Location: 80 & 90 Dymond Street BARGO
 Applicant: D Harvey
 Description of Proposal: Horticulture (Plant Nursery – Wholesale)
 Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 15 days from 15 October 2014 to 30 October 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 30 October 2014. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000228.001. Enquiries may be directed to Ms Alexandra Long on telephone 4677 8226 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Location: Within the railway reserve, 150m north of the Rural Fire Brigade building, opposite 600 West Parade BUXTON
 Applicant: Telstra c/o Aurecon
 Description of Proposal: Telecommunications Facility – Monopole, Antennas & Shelter
 Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 15 days from 15 October 2014 to 30 October 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 30 October 2014. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000548.001. Enquiries may be directed to Mr Daniel Lukic on telephone 4677 8257 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

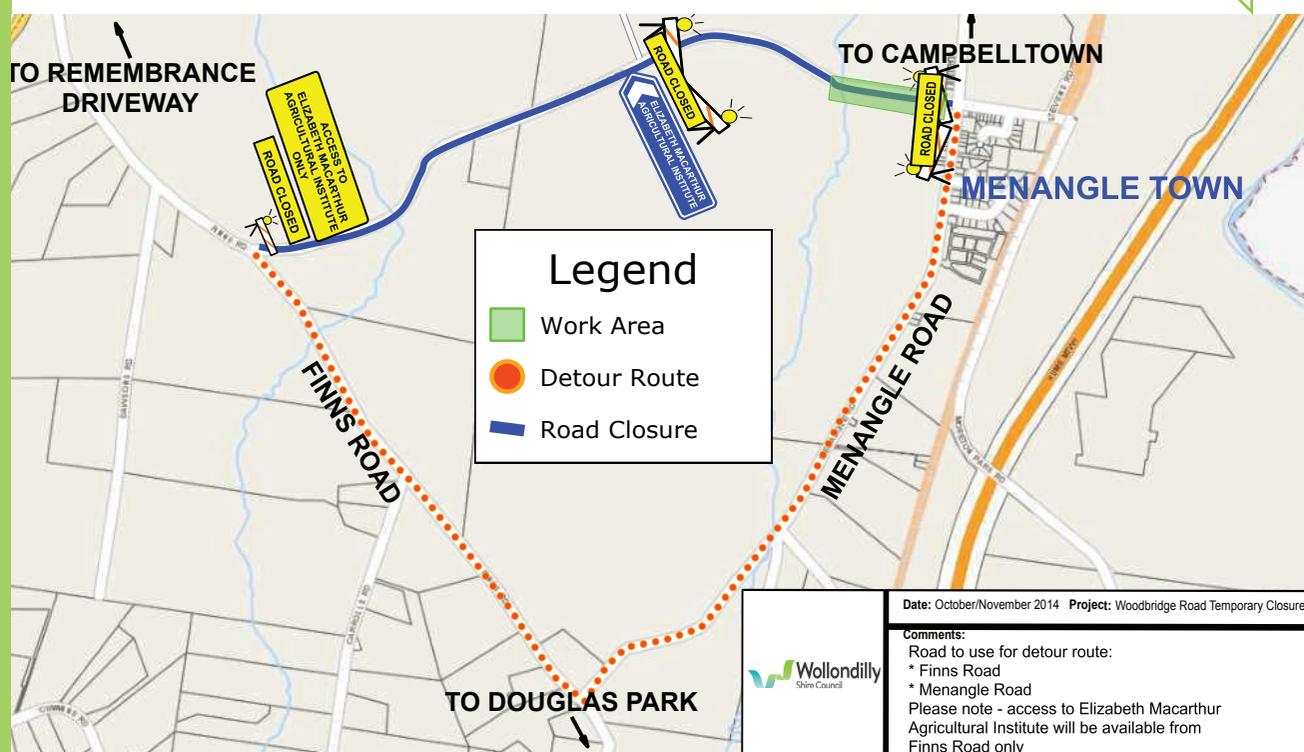
• NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

WOODBIDGE RD, MENANGLE

Road reconstruction works are scheduled to commence at Woodbridge Rd, Menangle on 27 October 2014.

We plan to close Woodbridge Rd from Finns to Menangle Rd for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the period of construction, which is expected to take approximately four weeks.

A 2km detour will be in place along Finns Rd which will add less than two minutes to the journey at the speed limit; however this will be less disruptive than travelling through the worksite with traffic control in place (see map below). Access will be made available to residents and emergency services vehicles and access to Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute will be maintained throughout the project.





MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

On 31 October I will be attending a 100th birthday celebration for Picton local Dr Gordon Brodie. Dr Brodie started his Picton practice in 1946 after returning from the war, the surgery was attached to their Picton home for 41 years. Congratulations to Dr Brodie for his achievements and commitment to Wollondilly.

On 15 October the winners for our popular Garden Competition were named. Congratulations to Aldo Razza for winning the Grand Champion prize for the second time. To see the photos of the gardens please check our website and facebook page. Thanks to Deputy Mayor, Cr Simon Landow and Cr Lou Amato for presenting the prizes and to all our wonderful sponsors.

I was pleased to see the Picton Sportsground in use on 14 October with the start of the Southwest Oztag season. Bill Harrigan from Australian Oztag Sports Association (and former NRL referee) was there to sound the siren for the first game of the season. There were 8 fields in use with 450 children and their parents at the grounds. Unfortunately an electrical storm stopped the games at about 5.35pm. After ten years of working on the sportsground concept, I am really pleased to see it finally in use. It is set in a beautiful location and really highlights our scenic Shire.

Road works for next week include:

- Werombi Road – The crew has commenced the fourth and final stage of reconstruction along Werombi Road;
- Ridge Road, Oakdale – Road was sealed this week;
- Harley St, Yanderra – Works in the West part of the road were sealed this week, works in the East have commenced and will be completed in the next week
- Drainage Maintenance – Drainage works will occur at various parts of the Shire, particularly Rockford Rd
- Avon Dam Rd, Bargo – Complete reconstruction of the road pavement on a section of Avon Dam Rd Bargo (near railway bridge) will occur from Tuesday-Thursday.

I am disappointed to hear that we have suffered another vandalism attack in Wollondilly, this time at the Thirlmere Tennis Courts. A shade cloth was damaged beyond repair. I'm asking the community to assist Council and the Police by helping us crack down on vandals. If you are aware of vandalism in your neighbourhood, please report this to Council. If you know something about these attacks, please contact the Police. To report vandalism to the Police call 131 444, to report damage to Council call 4677 1100.

We are looking for Australia Day nominations, so if you know someone who you believe should be acknowledged for their service to the community please nominate them. The categories include: Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Achiever of the Year, Young Achiever of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, Young Sportsperson of the Year, Community Group/Organisation. Nominations close on 17 November, so nominate someone today. Go to <http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/council/annual-events-wollondilly/497494-australia-day-celebrations> or pick up a nomination form from Council.

We are seeking community feedback for a proposed Special Rate Variation. To find out about the options we have put forward, go to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone 4677 1100. Submissions close on Friday 31 October 2014, so if you would like to have your say, please make a submission.



Paul Peel – Southwest Oztag , Bill Harrigan – Australian Oztag Sports Association (former NRL referee) and Mayor, Cr Col Mitchell

• WINNERS FROM THE WOLLONDILLY GARDEN COMPETITION

- Grand Champion - Aldo Razza – Couridjah
- Runner-up to Grand Champion - winner - Edward and Maree Van Vlemen - Menangle
- New Garden – winner - Anne Gould - Picton
- Small Residential (up to 1000m²) - winner - Judy & Gary Davis - Warragamba
- Large Residential (from 1000m²) - winner - Aldo Razza - Couridjah
- Rural Homestead - winner - Edward and Maree Van Vleman - Menangle
- Senior Citizen's Garden – winner - John and Dianne Dries - Oakdale
- Community Garden – winner - Tahmoor Uniting Community Garden - Tahmoor
- Commercial / Industrial Garden – winner – John and Eileen Bicknell - Lakesland
- Most Sustainable Garden – winner - Tim and Jo Senior - Picton
- Best School Garden – winner - Oakdale Public School - Oakdale
- Best Schoolchildren's Garden – winner - Thirlmere Public School - Thirlmere
- Best Native Garden – winner - Michael Pinkerton - Oakdale
- Best Edible Garden – winner - Warren Linden – Menangle

SPECIAL JUDGES AWARDS

- Best Blossom Trees - Anna Antonio – Thirlmere
- Resort Style - Steven Bowers - Camden Park
- ANZAC Garden - C & A Anderson - Tahmoor

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

HAVE YOUR SAY



P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571



srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



(02) 4677 1100



www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered. Each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences for infrastructure and services.

Community feedback can be provided until:
5pm, Friday 31st October 2014



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

On Sunday 9 November 2014 I attended a Friends of Thirlmere Lakes BBQ where the Draft Plan of Management for Thirlmere Lakes was handed to Wollondilly Councillors and Councils Manager Environmental Services by Jai Rowell, Local Member for Wollondilly and representatives of National Parks and Wildlife Service.

On 11 November, I attended the Remembrance Day Service at Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital. As always it was a moving ceremony attended by many Queen Victoria residents. Thanks also to Cr Hilton Gibbs who attended the service at Taara Gardens, Cr Lou Amato represented Council at the Thirlmere Public School service and Cr Ray Law coordinated the Picton service with Cr Judith Hannan in attendance. It is important to me that we have representation at all the local services and I'm pleased that we could do this again in 2014.

On 13 November 2014 I attended the Buxton Public School Outstanding Screen Awards and Premiere Movie 'Bullying - Don't Let it Happen' held at Picton High School. Well done to those who were involved from Buxton School.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was held on Sunday 16 November 2014. This is a United Nations World Health Organisation initiative and is a time to remember those who have lost their lives through road trauma. This event provides an opportunity for the families who have suffered tragedies to be with people who have been through similar events.

We held the opening for the Appin Park Outdoor Gym on 14 November. The gym was funded by Appin Chamber of Commerce through a grant from Illawarra Coal, Jai Rowell MP through the Community Partnership grants and Council. The stations contain a variety of exercise and fitness items catering for a wide spread of ages from teenagers through to seniors. The Exercise Station is located adjacent to the existing Playground offering opportunities for families and friends to utilise both facilities in close proximity to each other. The items include an aerobic cycling bike, body twister, chest press, chin up bar, elliptical trainer and parallel bars.

Wollondilly Australia Day Award Nominations have been extended to 1 December. The forms are available at Wollondilly Shire Council or contact Council's Communications Unit on 4677 8211. This year we also have the option of nominating online which is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VZZWKH7>. You can also download the nomination form from Council's website, just go to www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au and there is a link from the home page. Please nominate a worthy volunteer today.

I would like to invite local non-profit and non-political organisations to be a part of Wollondilly's Australia Day Celebrations in 2015 as an information stall holder. This will be a great chance to showcase your group and meet new members of the community who may be interested in your services.

Australia Day is being held at the Picton Botanic Gardens on Monday 26 January 2015 from 8am to 12pm. Please note that your stall will only be able to provide information to the local community and you will not be able to sell raffle tickets, food, jumble sales, etc. If you are interested in participating please contact Council's Community Projects Team Leader, Rob Moran on 4677 8211 or email rob.moran@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au by 19 December 2014.

FOLLOWING STATEMENT REFERS TO ALL PROPOSALS:

Under S147 of the EP&A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on our website under Important Notice - Development Proposals and Donations or Gifts.

Privacy

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• PROPOSED NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

A Development Application has been received by Wollondilly Shire Council to use the following land:

Property: 110 Nightingale Road, Pheasants Nest (Lot: 30 DP: 255689)
For the Purpose of: Intensive Plant Agriculture, Fill Two Dams, Construct Two Dams
Applicant: Mr A J Vella
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The Development Application is a Nominated Integrated Development under Clause 5(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the NSW Office of Water under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, in respect of a licence under Section 91 of the Water Management Act, 2000.

The application and plans relating to the proposal may be inspected at Council's Offices, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excepted) for thirty one (31) days commencing 20 November 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application. Written submissions received may become a public document. Submissions will be received until 4pm on 22 December 2014. Please quote Council's file number 010.2014.00000695.001 on any submission. Enquiries may be directed to Andre Vernez 4677 1173 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 2 DP: 874556, Lot: 110 DP: 8982
Location: 2710 Remembrance Driveway Tahmoor, 7 Bronzewing Street, Tahmoor
Applicant: Tahmoor Joint Venture Nominee Pty Limited
Description of Proposal: Demolish Dwelling, Earth, Drainage and Flood Mitigation Works and Remediation
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 15 days from 19 November 2014 to 4 December 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 4 December 2014. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000605.001. Enquiries may be directed to Virginia Fairley on telephone 4677 1133 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 2 DP: 598534, Lot: 100 DP: 555116
Location: 185 Appin Road, Appin and 179 Appin Road, Appin
Applicant: Appin Developments Pty Limited
Description of Proposal: Nineteen (19) Lot Subdivision
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 15 days from 19 November 2014 to 4 December 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 4 December 2014. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000737.001. Enquiries may be directed to Daniel Lukic on telephone 4677 8257 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

• DRAFT "REVISED" WOLLONDILLY OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014/15

Council's Draft "Revised" Wollondilly Operational Plan 2014/15 is on Public Exhibition from Tuesday 18 November 2014 to Monday 22 December 2014.

The Draft "Revised" Operational Plan sets out:

- Actions for the achievement of the Delivery Program's objectives and strategies
- Proposed Works Programs
- Fees and Charges
- Need for a Special Rate Variation

Copies of the document are available for viewing at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton;
Wollondilly Library 42 Menangle Street, Picton;
The Wollondilly Mobile Library; and
On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
On Council's Corporate Planning website www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

On 21 November I officially "switched on" the new lights at Tahmoor Sportsground – Field 3. Wollondilly Little Athletics use the ground in Spring/Summer. The new floodlights consist of six towers and illuminate the oval to over 100 lux. The lighting levels and lighting spill is in accordance with Australian Standards for Sports Lighting. The cost of the lighting was \$158,500 and funded in its entirety from Council's last Special rate variation. I am a passionate advocate for sporting facilities, especially if children use the grounds.

On Sunday 14 December, we will be holding an open day at the Community Nursery and Animal Shelter as well as a Christmas celebration. The location is 2 Wonga Road, Picton behind Picton High School and begins at 10am and concludes at 2pm. The activities will include: Free microchipping, Nursery and Animal Shelter tours, "Ask the Trainer", Australian Wildlife Display, Animal Petting Farm, Bargo Dingo Sanctuary, Wollondilly Wires, Face Painting, Plant sales and giveaways, Sausage sizzle, Special guest - King and Queen of Green will be making a royal appearance, Fairy Wren Food Co-op, TUC Garden Stall with locally grown produce, Workshops in propagation and home gardening.

Other events coming up include:

- Industry breakfast to celebrate International Day of People with Disability – 3 December. Contact 4677 1150 for information.
- Advanced Manufacturing Forum – BEC and NSW Trade and Investment – 5 December held at Campbelltown Catholic Club. Register on www.swsydneybec.com.au/events

Roads works for this week:

- Construction of new car park in Walton St Picton is commencing
- The Reseals Program is continuing in the Bargo area
- Drainage works are carried out in Silverdale and Warragamba
- Woodbridge Rd is now open to traffic and will be swept this week

I regret to advise that Alex Apps of Razorback passed away suddenly on 19 November. Alex collapsed at home on Wednesday night 19 November and did not respond to attempts to revive him.

Alex was born in Picton to Ben and Daphne Apps of 4th generation dairy farmers of Razorback. The Apps family have a long history of involvement with the Picton District AH&I Soc. Inc. He was joint secretary with his father, Ben for 12 years and more recently the President for the last 5 years. After school Alex gained an apprenticeship as an electrician with Nepean County Council. He then went on to be a contractor for the RTA owning his own back hoe and truck. Alex worked for 10 years at the golf club before retiring.

Alex married Grace Moore and they had three daughters together – Amanda, Felicity – both deceased and Deanne. Alex married his second wife Gail Emmett in 1992. He was passionate about Australian Country Music and led an active outdoor life enjoying fishing, caring for his animals and photography.

• DRAFT "REVISED" WOLLONDILLY OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014/15

Council's Draft "Revised" Wollondilly Operational Plan 2014/15 is on Public Exhibition from Tuesday 18 November 2014 to Monday 22 December 2014.

The Draft "Revised" Operational Plan sets out:

- Actions for the achievement of the Delivery Program's objectives and strategies
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- Need for a Special Rate Variation

Copies of the document are available for viewing at the following locations:

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Wollondilly Library 42 Menangle Street, Picton;
The Wollondilly Mobile Library; and
On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
On Council's Corporate Planning website www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.

FOLLOWING STATEMENT REFERS TO BOTH PROPOSALS:

Under S147 of the EP&A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on our website under Important Notice - Development Proposals and Donations or Gifts.

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• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL & DRAFT VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 1 DP: 1005423
Location: 55-57 Menangle Street, PICTON
Applicant: JT Consulting Services Pty Ltd
Description of Proposal: Alterations and Additions to Existing Commercial Building (NAB), to create eight (8) ground level shops, nine (9) units of shop-top housing over new shops,

a landscaped area at the southern end of the site and a Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) Wollondilly Shire Council

Consent Authority:

The Draft VPA has been prepared under Section 93F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and provides for the following;

- Embellishment of an adjacent open space area of land owned by the developer;
- Making this open space land available for use by the public for a 50 year period;
- Payment of money to Council to provide parking in proximity to the site;
- In exchange for these public benefits, Council will not require the parking spaces required under Council's Development Control Plan to be provided.

The application, VPA and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 28 days from 12 November 2014 to 10 December 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application or the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 10 December 2014. Refer all submissions to Council's file number D525-05. Enquiries relating to the development application may be addressed to Elliott Weston on 4677 1162. Enquiries relating to the VPA may be addressed to Martin Beveridge on 4677 8320.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 11 DP: 664430
Location: 440 Cawdor Road, Cawdor
Applicant: Mr J Muscat & Ms C Muscat
Description of Proposal: Intensive Livestock Agriculture – Poultry (Broiler) Farm
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 15 days from 26 November 2014 to 11 December 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 11 December 2014. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2012.00000125.001. Enquiries may be directed to Daniel Lukic on telephone (02) 4677 8257 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

I was pleased to meet with representatives from Local Government NSW last week. Local Government NSW is currently undergoing fundamental changes under the NSW Government's "Fit for the Future" reforms. Under this reform, Local Governments need to submit an application to show how they intend to become fit for the future. The meeting was held to discuss these changes, particularly those most relevant to Wollondilly.

Topics discussed included:

- Rating reform
- Peri urban issues
- Co-existence with mining

I'm happy to convey that the feedback we received about our Council was very positive and we are well on our way to being fit for the future.

On 28 November we held a tree planting ceremony at Picton Botanic Gardens for Christine Towndrow who received Council's Community Spirit Award. Christine's family was present, along with representatives from Illawarra Coal. The Community Spirit award was developed to recognise outstanding work that embodies 'Community Spirit' and could be awarded to anyone who works to benefit the Shire and its residents. It acknowledges both those who have given years of community service and those who have changed Wollondilly for the better.

Christine's dedication to the community has been tireless. She has served on countless committees and championed important causes, she has fought for those who could not fight for themselves. She has been strong willed and resilient and always compassionate. From someone who has given so much of their life to the community it's very difficult to sum up all of her achievements.

As most of you are aware, we have constructed a sportsfield on Fairleys Road, Picton. The next stage of works involves creating a pedestrian bridge over Racecourse Creek to connect the sports facility to the existing shared footpath.

We are currently exploring a number of options for the preferred location of the proposed bridge and would appreciate your feedback. The information for the pedestrian bridge will be found on our website at www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au and if you would like to provide feedback, please contact Council's Design Engineer Ian Berthon on 4677 1168 or email community.engagement@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Summary for road works this week:

- Walton Street Picton car park construction is continuing
- Asphaltting two sections of Westbourne Ave, Thirlmere
- Shoulder and drain maintenance on Menangle Rd
- Shoulder maintenance in the Silverdale area

Please check our website under "what's on" to see all the Christmas events that are happening over the next few weeks.

I was sad to learn of the passing of Cess Pascoe, long serving member of Picton Bowling Club Committee and previous President.

• DRAFT "REVISED" DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013/14 – 2016/17 & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014/15

Council's Draft "Revised" Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 is on Public Exhibition from Tuesday 18 November to Monday 22 December 2014.

The Draft sets out:

- Actions for the achievement of the Delivery Program's objectives and strategies
- Proposed Works Programs
- Fees and Charges
- Need for a Special Rate Variation

Copies of the document are available for viewing at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building

62-64 Menangle Street, Picton;

Wollondilly Library

42 Menangle Street, Picton;

The Wollondilly Mobile Library; and

On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

On Council's Corporate Planning website

www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.

• PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENCEMENT OF WOLLONDILLY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2014 NO 2B REVIEW OF PROVISIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL, TOURISM, EVENTS AND SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENTS

In accordance with clause 21(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations (2000), Council hereby gives notice of its decision to adopt Wollondilly Development Control Plan 2014 No 2b Review of Provisions for Residential, Tourism, Events and Subdivision Developments. This plan amends Wollondilly Development Control Plan 2011.

This plan will take effect from Tuesday 6 December 2014.

Copies of the amended plan will be available from Council's Offices and on Council's Website from that date. Enquiries may be directed to Grant Rokobauer, Strategic Planning Team Leader, on 4677 1100.



facebook.com/wollondilly



Mayor, Cr Col Mitchell with members from Wollondilly Little Athletics at the Tahmoor Sportsground for the switching on of the new lights.



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

We recently held a reception for the Lions Club First Vice District Governor Sally Wilton. In attendance with Sally were Tahmoor Lions Club members and Cr Hilton Gibbs. Congratulations to the Lions Club for all the work they have done this year both on a local and national level.

On 3 December I attended an event at the Wollondilly Fire Control Centre in Picton for the Rural Fire Service local brigades to accept new vehicles from RFS NSW and three thermal imaging cameras that have been donated by Masonicare. Our community is very vulnerable to bush fires and it is a great asset for Wollondilly to receive updated vehicles and equipment.

The Councillors and myself have been attending the local school presentations running up to Christmas. On 2 December, I attended Picton Primary School presentation and Cr Lou Amato has been to the Buxton Primary School on 3 December. On Monday I attended Douglas Park Public School for their end of year function. It is a real honour to go to all the local school events, as we have an opportunity to meet the up and coming academics, athletes and leaders of our community as well as all those who try their best.

On Saturday evening the Picton Uniting Church held their Carols by the Tree Christmas event. This year Picton Uniting Church has chosen the Stillbirth Foundation Australia and African AIDS Foundation, as recipients of the money raised on the night, both very worthy causes. Thanks to St Anthony's school for the use of the grounds at the Christmas event.

Congratulations to Mowbray Park Farm for their success in the NSW Business Chamber Award for the greater Sydney region in September. Subsequently they made the State final. Well done to them for winning the Bronze prize in the Specialised Tourism Services category. Jacqui's passionate support for sustainability was well received.

Road Works for this week:

- Walton Lane, Picton carpark construction continuing
- Menangle Road shoulders and drain maintenance
- Hazard reduction on Spring Creek Road (reach arm mower)
- Footpath construction at Warragamba - between 3rd and 4th Streets

What's on in Wollondilly this week:

- 11 December - Christmas Crafternoon - Wollondilly Library - call 4677 3800
- 12 December - Carols in The Oaks - The Oaks Public School - 6.30pm
- 13 December - Carols in the Park - Thirlmere Memorial Park - 6pm
- 14 December - Open Day at Community Nursery and Animal Shelter - 10am
- 15 December - Facebook and Twitter for Beginners - Library - call 4677 3800

Please check our website for further information - www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au and then to "What's on". There are many village Christmas events over the next few weeks, that are included on the website or our facebook page. There are also a number of different options for your kids during the school holidays, both from the library and for Wollondilly Vacation Care as well as community groups.

• DRAFT "REVISED" DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013/14 - 2016/17 & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014/15

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Council's Administration Building 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton;
Wollondilly Library 42 Menangle Street, Picton;
The Wollondilly Mobile Library; and
On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
On Council's Corporate Planning website www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REFERS TO ALL PROPOSALS:

Under S147 of the EP& A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on our website under Important Notice - Development Proposals and Donations or Gifts.

Privacy

Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is required to release written comments or submissions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on us to place submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to the proposed development.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 942 DP: 215956
Location: 90 Russell Lane Oakdale
Applicant: Joanne Tapp Town Planning
Description of Proposal: Establish a New Market Garden
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) from 10 December 2014 to 9 January 2015.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 9 January 2015. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000659.001. Enquiries may be directed to Andre Vernez on telephone 4677 1173 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 2 DP: 874556,
Lot: 10 DP: 739884
Location: 2710 & 2715
Remembrance Driveway,
Tahmoor
Applicant: Tahmoor Joint Venture
Nominee Pty Ltd
Description of Proposal: Construction Of A Roundabout, Including Footpaths & Pedestrian Control
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) from 10 December 2014 to 9 January 2015.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 9 January 2015. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000731.001. Enquiries may be directed to Virginia Fairley on telephone 4677 1133 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:-

Property: Lot: 426 DP: 9278, Lot: 427 DP: 9278
Location: 2-4 Pitt Street, Tahmoor
Applicant: Dwell Designs Australia
Description of Proposal: Medium Density Development (10 x Town Houses)
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) for a period of 15 days from 10 December 2014 to 9 January 2015.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 9 January 2015. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000792.001. Enquiries may be directed to Daniel Lukic on telephone 4677 8257 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.



[facebook.com/wollondilly](https://www.facebook.com/wollondilly)



MAYOR'S COLUMN

Cr Col Mitchell

This will be the final Mayor's Column before Christmas, so I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please check Council's website for information about closing times for various Council sections.

This week I attended Tahmoor Primary School, Thirlmere Primary School and Wollondilly Anglican College for their end of year presentations. Council contributes to annual school citizenship programs and it is great to see local children receiving support and recognition for their achievements during the year. I'm sure they are looking forward to the summer holidays coming up.

On 10 December we held a citizenship ceremony for 12 new Australians. The new citizens were from countries such as Canada, Ireland, England, New Zealand, China, South Africa and Germany. It is always a privilege to welcome new citizens to our Shire.

The ANZAC Day Committee is inviting Wollondilly residents who have served in the defence forces to purchase pavers that will be laid in the RSL Park in Picton for the 2015 ceremony. They will include the service person's name and some other relevant details. The pavers can be purchased from Cr Ray Law on 0427 901 275 and are priced at \$25 or \$50 for each depending on size.

Last week we held the presentation evening for the Wollondilly Christmas Lights Competition. Congratulations to the Austin Family from Thirlmere who were announced as this year's Grand Champions. If you are interested in having a look at the lights, here are some streets to visit in Wollondilly: Argyle St, Picton; Wollondilly Ave, Wilton; Douglas Park Drive, Wilton; Chisholm Street, Wilton; Staff Rd, Maldon; Ruddocks Rd, Lakesland; Baroo St, Thirlmere; Thirlmere way, Thirlmere; Castlereagh St, Tahmoor; York St, Tahmoor; Dymond St, Bargo; Noongah St, Bargo; Elvy St, Bargo; Claremont Dr, Bargo; River Road, Tahmoor; Moorland Rd, Tahmoor. For a list of the winners of the competition go to the News section of the Council website.

Council encourages residents to be vigilant during the warmer weather about pool safety. Inflatable and prefabricated DIY pools have become popular alternatives to the cost of a full size pool and many are installed without first consulting Council. These pools pose the same risk to children as larger pools and may still require approval if they have the capability to hold more than 2,000 litres. All swimming pools in NSW must be registered on the NSW Swimming Pool Register. Penalties apply for pools that are installed without approval, where a pool is not registered or where a child-resistant barrier is not installed or maintained.

Works list:

- Walton Street, Picton, car park
- General maintenance

Events coming this week include:

- 19 December – Christmas Crafters – Wollondilly Library- 46778300 - \$5
- 21 December – Wilton Anglican Church Carols – 7pm
- 24 December – Christmas Eve Service at St James – Menangle - 6.30pm

For further event and summer vacation program information check Council's website at Wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or [facebook.com/Wollondilly](https://www.facebook.com/Wollondilly).

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Council's Draft "Revised" Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 is on Public Exhibition from Tuesday 18 November to Monday 22 December 2014.

The Draft sets out:

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- Fees and Charges
- Need for a Special Rate Variation

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Wollondilly Library 42 Menangle Street, Picton;
The Wollondilly Mobile Library; and
On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
On Council's Corporate Planning website www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Council's office (PO Box 21, Picton 2571) by close of business Monday 22 December 2014.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REFERS TO ALL PROPOSALS:

Under S147 of the EP&A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local Councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on our website under Important Notice - Development Proposals and Donations or Gifts.

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Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is required to release written comments or submissions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on us to place submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to the proposed development.

• PROPOSED NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

A Development Application has been received by Wollondilly Shire Council to use the following land:

Property: 35 Egans Road, Oakdale – Lot: 93 DP: 1000055
For the Purpose of: 35 Lot Subdivision & Demolition of Structures
Applicant: Precise Planning
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The Development Application is a Nominated Integrated Development under Clause 5(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the NSW Office of Water in respect to an approval under Section 91 of the Water Management Act, 2000 and NSW Rural Fire Service under Section 100b from the Rural Fires Act 1997 under Section 91 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

The application and plans relating to the proposal may

be inspected at Council's Offices, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excepted) for 30 days commencing 18 December 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application. Written submissions received may become a public document. Submissions will be received until 4pm on 28 January 2015. Please quote Council's file number 010.2014.00000827.001 on any submission. Enquiries may be directed to Virginia Fairley 4677 1133 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

• PROPOSED NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

A Development Application has been received by Wollondilly Shire Council to use the following land:

Property: 3000 Remembrance Driveway, Bargo – Lot: 12 DP: 1122904
For the Purpose of: Construct Classroom Building
Applicant: Stanton Dahl Architects
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The Development Application is a Nominated Integrated Development under Clause 5(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the NSW Office of Water in respect to an approval under Section 91 of the Water Management Act, 2000 and NSW Rural Fire Service under Section 100b from the Rural Fires Act 1997 under Section 91 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

The application and plans relating to the proposal may be inspected at Council's Offices, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excepted) for 30 days commencing 18 December 2014.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application. Written submissions received may become a public document. Submissions will be received until 4pm on 28 January 2015. Please quote Council's file number 010.2014.00000826.001 on any submission. Enquiries may be directed to Elliott Weston 4677 1162 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

• DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

An application has been made for the consent of Council to the use of the following land:

Property: Lot: 1 DP: 21608 & Lot: B DP: 340554
Location: 81-83 Appin Road, Appin
Applicant: Intech Constructions Pty Ltd
Description of Proposal: Consolidate 2 Lots, Construct Retail, Commercial & Residential Buildings (Shop Top Housing)
Consent Authority: Wollondilly Shire Council

The application and plans relating to this proposed development may be inspected at the Council Office, Menangle Street, Picton, any time between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excluded) from 17 December 2014 to 12 January 2015.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application.

Written submissions will be received until 4pm on 12 January 2015. Refer all submissions to Council's file number 010.2014.00000202.001. Enquiries may be directed to Andre Vernez on telephone 4677 1173 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Attachment J

Newspaper Advertising

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

OPTION

1

Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation

Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.

OPTION

2

Stabilise

Special Rate Variation
8.5% per annum over
4 years

Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.

OPTION

3

Improve

Special Rate Variation
10.8% per annum over
4 years

Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

How to have your say

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation.

Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100 to find out how.

Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014

Attachment L

Business Cards

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

How to have your say

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation.

Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100 to find out how.

Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014



Attachment M

Social Media Posts

16th September 2014

Council needs your support to make an important decision about a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are currently asking the community to have their say about the three options we are considering. To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation come along to one of our community engagement activities or head to <http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv>

Addressing Your Future Needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options we are considering.

We are facing a range of challenges concerning roads, sporting grounds, playgrounds and buildings.

Special Rate Variation options will have consequences for the community.

How to have your say

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation. Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014.

Come and see us at the following community engagement activities to talk about the Special Rate Variation options.

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
1	2	3
Reduce	Stabilise	Improve
Special Rate Variation 5% per annum over 4 years	Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years	Special Rate Variation 12% per annum over 4 years
Structure would be further reduced. This means more concerning roads, increasing deterioration of buildings as playgrounds and buildings.	Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.	Council would be able to provide better roads, facilities and infrastructure sooner. This means an increase and bring forward needed maintenance. We would also fully invest in preventative maintenance to reduce future cost to the community.

Community Engagement Events

Event	Date	Time
17 Information Stall - Yanderra Primary School	Monday 15th	9:30-11:30am
22 Information Stall - WS Williams Park	Monday 15th	9:30-11:30am
24 Information Stall - Emmott Park	Monday 15th	9:30-11:30am
25 Community Meeting - Warragool Park	Monday 15th	6-8pm
1 Information Stall - Chubb Park	Tuesday 16th	9-11am
2 Information Stall - Emmott Park	Tuesday 16th	9-11am
7 Drop In Q&A - Warragool Park	Tuesday 16th	12-2pm
8 Information Stall - Warragool Park	Tuesday 16th	12-2pm
10 Drop In Q&A - Warragool Park	Tuesday 16th	12-2pm
13 Information Stall - Edge Child Care Centre	Tuesday 16th	10-11am
14 Information Stall - Emmott Park	Tuesday 16th	9:30-11:30am
16 Information Stall - Warragool Park	Tuesday 16th	6-8pm
21 Information Stall - Warragool Park	Tuesday 16th	9-11am
23 Information Stall - Warragool Park	Tuesday 16th	12-2pm

For more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation visit to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100

17th September 2014

We will be out in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) this morning at Yanderra to answer questions and talk about the Special Rate Variation. To find out about all the community engagement activities we are running in September and October as part of the Special Rate Variation community consultation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv



Special Rate Variation

Addressing your future needs Like most NSW councils, Wollondilly Shire Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to look after the Shire's infrastructure into the...

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

18th September 2014

We will be out in the Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer on Monday at The Oaks to answer questions and talk about the Special Rate Variation. Come along and speak to us! To find out about all the community engagement activities we are running in September and October as part of the Special Rate Variation community consultation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv



Special Rate Variation

Addressing your future needs Like most NSW councils, Wollondilly Shire Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to look after the Shire's infrastructure into the...

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

22nd September 2014

We are at The Oaks this morning in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) to talk to you about the proposed Special Rate Variation. We will be at WS Williams Park from 9:30am. If you can't come along this morning you can still find out about the Special Rate Variation on our webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or by calling 4677 1100

Special Rates Variation

Addressing your future needs Like most NSW councils, Wollondilly Shire Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to look after the Shire's infrastructure into the...

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

22nd September 2014

Do you want to find out more about why we are considering a Special Rate Variation? You can find out more on the following link:

<http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/why-do-we-need-a-special-...>



Why do we need a Special Rate Variation? - Wollondilly 2033

Why do we need a Special Rate Variation? Council is responsible for maintaining more than half a billion dollars of assets. Our long term financial modelling currently estimates that Council...

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

23rd September 2014

We are heading out in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) on Wednesday to talk about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Come and see us at Emmett Park from 9:30am

24th September 2014

We are at Emmett Park this morning from 9:30am to answer your questions about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Come along and find out more information about the Special Rate Variation options

Addressing Your future needs

How to have your say
There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation consultation. Community feedback can be provided until **5pm, Friday 19th October 2014**.
Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options.

Month	Date	Event Type	Location	Time	
SEPT	17	Information Stall	Yenderra Primary School, Henty St & Yenderra Rd, Yenderra	9:30 - 11:30am	
	22	Information Stall	WJ Williams Park, Cox Mills & Hwy 96, The Oaks	9:30 - 11:30am	
	24	Information Stall	Emmett Park, Cox Emmett & Nat St, Melbourne	9:30 - 11:30am	
	25	Community Meeting	Warragamba Town Hall, Weir Rd, Warragamba	6-8pm	
OCT	1	Information Stall	Yenderra Primary School, Henty St & Yenderra Rd, Yenderra	9:30am	
	2	Information Stall	Woolshed Park, Henty St, Project George, The Oaks	9:30 - 11:30am	
	7	Drop-In Q&A	Hillborough, Snowy Plains	10am	
	8	Information Stall	Eastern PD, Henty Rd, Warragamba	10:30am	
	9	Information Stall	Yenderra Primary School, Henty St & Yenderra Rd, Yenderra	10:30am	
	10	Drop-In Q&A	Hillborough, Snowy Plains	10:30am	
	13	Information Stall	Project George, Henty St, Project George, The Oaks	10:30am	
	14	Information Stall	Yenderra Primary School, Henty St & Yenderra Rd, Yenderra	10:30am	
	16	Information Stall	Project George, Henty St, Project George, The Oaks	10:30am	
	20	Information Stall	Woolshed Park, Henty St, Project George, The Oaks	10:30am	
	21	Information Stall	Warragamba Town Hall, Weir Rd, Warragamba	10:30am	
	23	Information Stall	Yenderra Primary School, Henty St & Yenderra Rd, Yenderra	10:30am	
			Community Meeting	Warragamba Town Hall, Weir Rd, Warragamba	6-8pm

Wollondilly Shire Council

24th September 2014

Come along to a community meeting tomorrow evening to find out more about the Special Rate Variation and get your questions answered

25 Community Meeting
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd,
Warragamba
6-8pm

25th September 2014

Don't forget we are at Warragamba Town Hall from 6-8pm this evening to talk about the Special Rate Variation. Come along to find out more and ask any questions

29th September 2014

We will be at Oakdale Park on Wednesday with the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) to speak with you about the proposed Special Rate Variation. If you can't make it on Wednesday there are plenty of other opportunities to ask questions and find out more. We encourage everyone to come along to our community consultation activities and join the conversation

Addressing your future needs

How to have your say
There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation. Community feedback can be provided until **5pm, Friday 31st October 2014**. Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options.

Month	Date	Event Name	Location
SEPT	17	Information Stall	Western Downs School, Murrumbidgee & Tullahoma, 9:30-11:30am
	22	Information Stall	WS Warragamba Park, Cox John & Mary St, The Oaks, 9:30-11:30am
	24	Information Stall	Eastern Park, Cox Ernest & Park St, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	25	Community Meeting	Murrumbidgee Town Hall, 6-8pm
OCT	1	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	2	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	7	Drop-In Q&A	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 10-11am
	8	Information Stall	Murrumbidgee Town Hall, 6-8pm
	9	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	10	Drop-In Q&A	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 10-11am
	13	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	14	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	16	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	20	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	21	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am
	23	Information Stall	Warragamba Park, Murrumbidgee, 9:30-11:30am

Wollondilly Shire Council

1st October 2014

We are at Oakdale Park this morning from 9am in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) to answer your Special Rate Variation questions. Come along and join the conversation!

2nd October 2014

We are at Pembroke Park this morning from 9:30am to talk with you about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Come along and join the conversation!

7th October 2014

We are at Picton Shire Hall each day this week from 12pm-2pm. Drop-in to ask questions about the Special Rate Variation options.

If you can't make it to the Shire Hall this week there are still plenty of opportunities to join in the community conversation. Click on the link to find out what activities are taking place near you
<http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/community-engagement>



Community Engagement Activities - Wollondilly 2033

Community Engagement Activities We want to hear from you about the Special Rate Variation Options we are considering. Click on the picture below to find out where you can come and speak to us....

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

7th October 2014

We have a busy week of community consultation activities this week. Come along to talk about the Special Rate Variation options Council is considering. We will also be at Bargo Public School FETE on Saturday



8th October 2014

We are at Buxton Primary School this morning from 9am-11am in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) Come along to talk about the proposed Special Rate Variation

9th October 2014

We are out in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) this morning at Appin Park Sportsground. We will be here from 9:30am-11:30am so come down and speak with us about the Special Rate Variation options Council is considering

9th October 2014

Come along to one of our community consultation opportunities to talk with us about the Special Rate Variation

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

<p>Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:</p>	<p>15 October Information & Drop in Session Warragamba Town Hall Weir Rd, Warragamba 6:30-8:30pm</p>
<p>16 October Community Meeting Tahmoor CWA Hall York St, Tahmoor 6-8pm</p>	<p>23 October Community Meeting Appin Community Hall Sportsground Parade, Appin 6-8pm</p>

Need more information?
Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv
or phone (02) 4677 1100

Wollondilly
Shire Council

10th October 2014

Have you made a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation yet? We are taking submissions until the 31st of October 2014. You can make a submission in person at one of our community consultation activities or by mail, phone, email or on our webpage. Click on the link to find out more about how you can make a submission about the options Council is considering. <http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/have-your-say-about-the-s...>

Addressing Your OUR future needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
No Special Rate Variation	Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years	Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years
Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.	Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.	Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

How to have your say
There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation. Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au or phone (02) 4677 1100 to find out how. Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014.

Click and drag information about the proposed Special Rate Variation from www.wollondilly2033.com.au or phone (02) 4677 1100.

Wollondilly Shire Council

13th October 2014

We are at Bargo Child Care Centre this morning with the **Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer**. Come along at 10am to talk about the Special Rate Variation

13th October 2014

We are at Eugenie Byrne Park in Silverdale tomorrow from 9:30-11:30am. Come along to talk with us about the Special Rate Variation proposal

13th October 2014

We are holding an information and drop-in session at Warragamba Town Hall this Wednesday. Drop-in any time between 6:30pm and 8:30pm to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation options we are considering

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:

15 October
Information & Drop in Session
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
6:30-8:30pm

16 October
Community Meeting
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor
6-8pm

23 October
Community Meeting
Appin Community Hall
Sportground Parade, Appin
6-8pm

Need more information?
Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv
or phone (02) 4677 1100

Wollondilly
Shire Council

14th October 2014

Come along to Eugenie Byrne Park today to talk with us about the Special Rate Variation. We will be there from 9:30-11:30am

14th October 2014

We are holding a community meeting at Tahmoor CWA Hall on Thursday from 6pm-8pm. Come along to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation and to ask questions

The flyer has a dark grey background with a grid of four light blue rounded rectangles. The title 'Addressing Your future needs' is at the top, with 'Your' in a small yellow circle and 'OUR' in large yellow letters. The first rectangle is white with black text. The other three are light blue with white text. At the bottom left is contact information, and at the bottom right is the Wollondilly Shire Council logo.

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:

15 October
Information & Drop in Session
Warragamba Town Hall
West Rd, Warragamba
6:30-8:30pm

16 October
Community Meeting
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor
6-8pm

23 October
Community Meeting
Appin Community Hall
Sportsground Parade, Appin
6-8pm

Need more information?
Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/rev
or phone (02) 4677 1100

Wollondilly
Shire Council

15th October 2014

Drop-in to Warragamba Town Hall this evening any time between 6:30pm and 8:30pm to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation options being considered

15th October 2014

We are out in the [Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer](#) on Thursday at Douglas Park Community Centre to talk with you about the Special Rate Variation. Come along anytime from 9:30-11:30am

16th October 2014

We are at Douglas Park Community Centre this morning from 9:30am-11:30am. Come along to talk with us about the Special Rate Variation

16th October 2014

Come along to Tahmoor CWA Hall this evening to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation proposal. The community meeting is from 6pm-8pm

17th October 2014

We will be out in the Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer at Thirlmere Memorial Park from 9:30am on Monday. Come along to talk about the Special Rate Variation with us

17th October 2014

We are holding a community meeting in Appin on the 23rd of October. Come along to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation

The flyer features a dark grey background with a grid of four teal-colored boxes. The title 'Addressing Your OUR future needs' is at the top, with 'OUR' in large yellow letters. The first box is white with black text. The other three boxes are teal with white text. At the bottom, there is contact information and the Wollondilly Shire Council logo.

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:

15 October
Information & Drop in Session
Warragamba Town Hall
West Rd, Warragamba
6:30-8:30pm

16 October
Community Meeting
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor
6-8pm

23 October
Community Meeting
Appin Community Hall
Sportsground Parade, Appin
6-8pm

Need more information?
Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/rev
or phone (02) 4677 1100

Wollondilly
Shire Council

18th October 2014

Come and speak with us about the Special Rate Variation proposal on Tuesday. We will be at Warragamba Town Hall from 9am in the Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer

20th October 2014

Come along to Thirlmere Memorial Park today from 9:30am to discuss the Special Rate Variation

20th October 2014

There is still time to make a submission about the Special Rate Variation options Council is considering

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

HAVE YOUR SAY

 P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

 srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

 (02) 4677 1100

 www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be provided until:
5pm, Friday 31st October 2014


Wollondilly
Shire Council

20th October 2014

We are at Appin on Thursday the 23rd of October 2014. Come along to our community meeting to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation proposal

The flyer has a dark grey background with a grid pattern. At the top, the text 'Addressing Your future needs' is displayed, with 'Your' in a small yellow circle and 'OUR' in large yellow letters. Below this, there are four teal-colored boxes containing event information. At the bottom left, there is contact information, and at the bottom right is the Wollondilly Shire Council logo.

Addressing Your future needs

Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:

- 15 October**
Information & Drop in Session
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
6:30-8:30pm
- 16 October**
Community Meeting
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor
6-8pm
- 23 October**
Community Meeting
Appin Community Hall
Sportsground Parade, Appin
6-8pm

Need more information?
Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv
or phone (02) 4677 1100

Wollondilly
Shire Council

21st October 2014

We are at Warragamba Town Hall in the Wollondilly Shire - Dilly Wanderer from 9am today. Come along and speak with us about the Special Rate Variation options

22nd October 2014

Did you want to find out more about the Special Rate Variation proposal Council is currently considering? Come along to Picton RSL Memorial Park from 10am-12pm tomorrow or attend our community meeting at Appin Community Hall tomorrow evening from 6pm-8pm. Council staff will be available to answer your questions about the Special Rate Variation

Addressing Your OUR future needs

How to have your say
There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation consultation. Community feedback can be provided until **5pm, Friday 31st October 2014**. Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options.

Month	Date	Event Type	Location	Time
SEPT	17	Information Stall	Yardley Primary School	10:00 - 12:00pm
	22	Information Stall	Wool River Park	10:00 - 12:00pm
	24	Information Stall	Emmott Park	10:00 - 12:00pm
	25	Community Meeting	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	6:00pm - 8:00pm
OCT	1	Information Stall	Yardley Park	10:00 - 12:00pm
	2	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	7	Open to Q&A	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	8	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	9	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	10	Open to Q&A	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	13	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	14	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	16	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	20	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	21	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm
	23	Information Stall	Warrumbungle Shire Hall	10:00 - 12:00pm

Wollondilly Shire Council

23rd October 2014

Come along to Picton RSL Memorial Park this morning to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation. We will be there from 10am-12pm

23rd October 2014

We are at Appin Community Hall this evening from 6pm-8pm. We invite all residents to come along to find out more information about the Special Rate Variation

24th October 2014

Have you made a submission about the Special Rate Variation yet? There is still time to have your say. We are taking submissions until the 31st October 2014.

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

HAVE YOUR SAY

 P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

 srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

 (02) 4677 1100

 www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be provided until:
Spm, Friday 31st October 2014


Wollondilly
Shire Council

27th October 2014

If you want to have your say about the Special Rate Variation options Council is considering, remember to get a submission in by THIS Friday.

You can find out more information about the proposal on our Special Rate Variation webpage: <http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv>

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

HAVE YOUR SAY

 P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

 srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

 (02) 4677 1100

 www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be provided until:
Spm, Friday 31st October 2014


Wollondilly
Shire Council

29th October 2014

Have you heard about the Special Rate Variation options Council is considering? There is still time to have your say about them. We are taking submissions until Friday the 31st

Addressing
Your OUR
future needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

OPTION	OPTION	OPTION
1	2	3
No Special Rate Variation	Stabilise	Improve
No Special Rate Variation	Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years	Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years
Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening road and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.	Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be probably improved through essential maintenance.	Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

How to have your say
There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation. Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au or phone (02) 4677 1100 to find out how. Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014.

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au or phone (02) 4677 1100

Wollondilly
Shire Council

30th October 2014

There is still time to have your say about the Special Rate Variation. Submissions close tomorrow at 5pm. To find out more about the proposal head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

HAVE YOUR SAY

 P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

 srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

 (02) 4677 1100

 www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be provided until:
5pm, Friday 31st October 2014


Wollondilly
Shire Council

31st October 2014

Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your say about the Special Rate Variation options Council is considering. Submissions will be taken until 5pm TODAY

Addressing
Your **OUR**
future
needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

HAVE YOUR SAY

 P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

 srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

 (02) 4677 1100

 www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be provided until:
5pm, Friday 31st October 2014


Wollondilly
Shire Council

18th November 2014

Public Exhibition of Draft "Revised Wollondilly Operational Plan 2014-15"

Draft "Revised" Wollondilly Operational Plan 2014-15
- Public Exhibition

WWW.WOLLONDILLY.NSW.GOV.AU

25th November 2014

**Public Exhibition of Draft "Revised
Wollondilly Delivery Plan 2013/14-
2016/17 and Operational Plan
2014/15**

Draft "Revised" Wollondilly Delivery Plan 2013/14 - ...

WWW.WOLLONDILLY.NSW.GOV.AU

10th December 2014

Did you know Council's Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 is on public exhibition? We are taking community feedback until the 22nd December 2014. If you would like to view this document click on the link below

<http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/public-exhibition-draft-r...>



**Public Exhibition - Draft "Revised"
Delivery Program 2013/14 -
2016/17 and Operational Plan
2014/15**

Wollondilly Draft "Revised" Delivery Program...

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

16th December 2014

Reminder... there is still time to have your say about the Draft Revised Delivery Program 2013/14 – 2016/17 & Operational Plan 2014/15 that is on public exhibition. We are taking community feedback until the 22nd December 2014. If you would like to view this document click on the link below

<http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/public-exhibition-draft-r...>



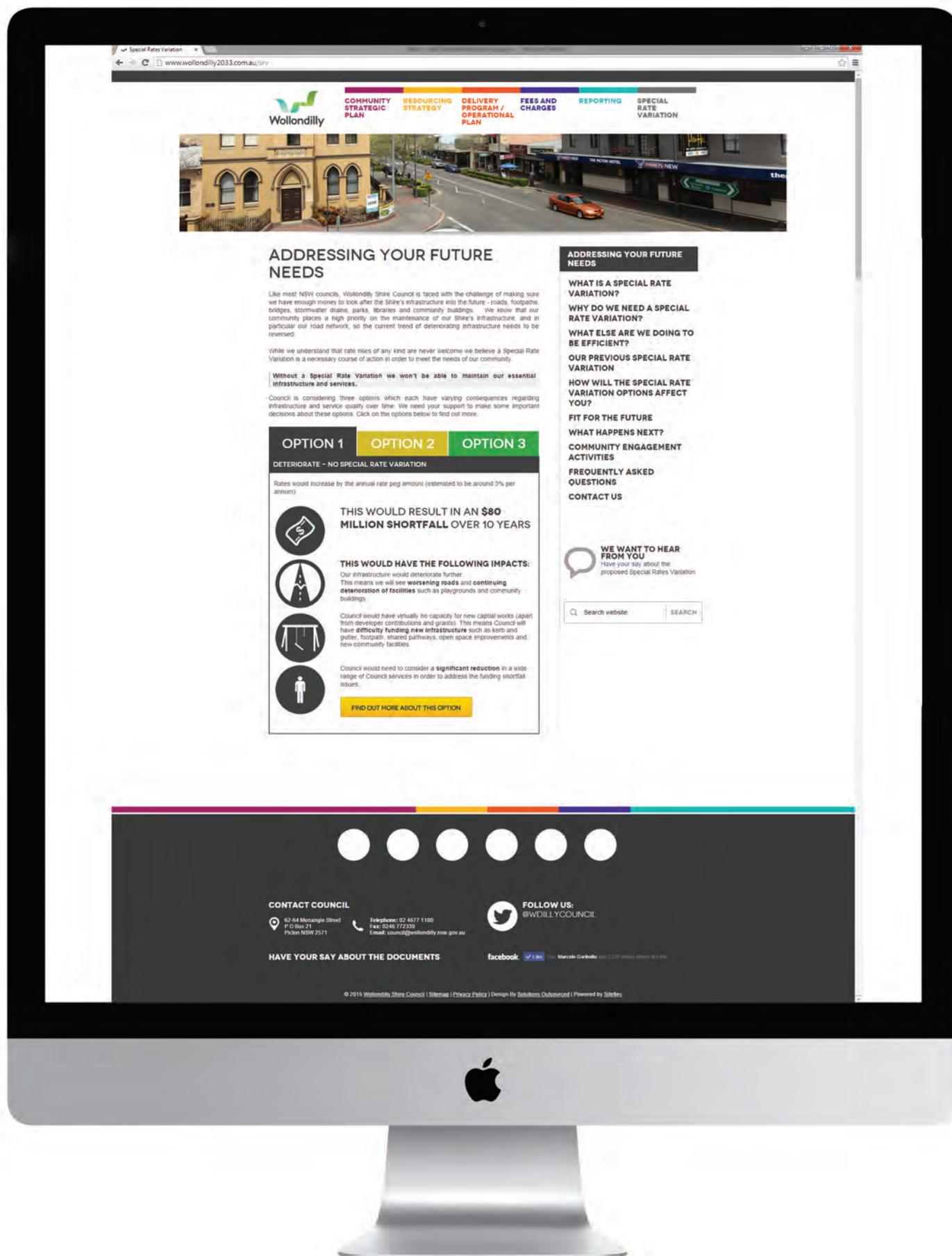
Public Exhibition - Draft "Revised" Delivery Program 2013/14 - 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15

Wollondilly Draft "Revised" Delivery Program 2013/14 - 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2014/15 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework Council's...

WOLLONDILLY2033.COM.AU

Attachment N

Webpage



Attachment

Micromex Results



Wollondilly Shire Council

Special Rate Variation

Prepared by: Micromex Research
Date: November 2014

Methodology & Sample

Data collection

Micromex Research, together with Wollondilly Shire Council, developed the questionnaire. The telephone (CATI) interviews were conducted during the period 25th to 30th October 2014.

Sample

N=407 interviews were conducted.

A sample size of 407 provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence.

This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of n=407 residents, that 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.9%.

Therefore, the research findings documented in this report should be interpreted by Wollondilly Shire Council as not just the opinions of 407 residents, but as an accurate and robust measure of the entire community's attitudes.

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with IQCA (Interviewer Quality Control Australia) Standards and the Market Research Society Code of Professional Conduct. Where applicable, the issues in each question were systematically rearranged for each respondent.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.



Scales

Ratings questions

The Unipolar Scale of 1 to 5 was used in all rating questions, where 1 was the lowest importance, satisfaction or support and 5 the highest importance, satisfaction or support.

This scale allowed for a mid range position for those who had a divided or neutral opinion.

Mean rating explanation

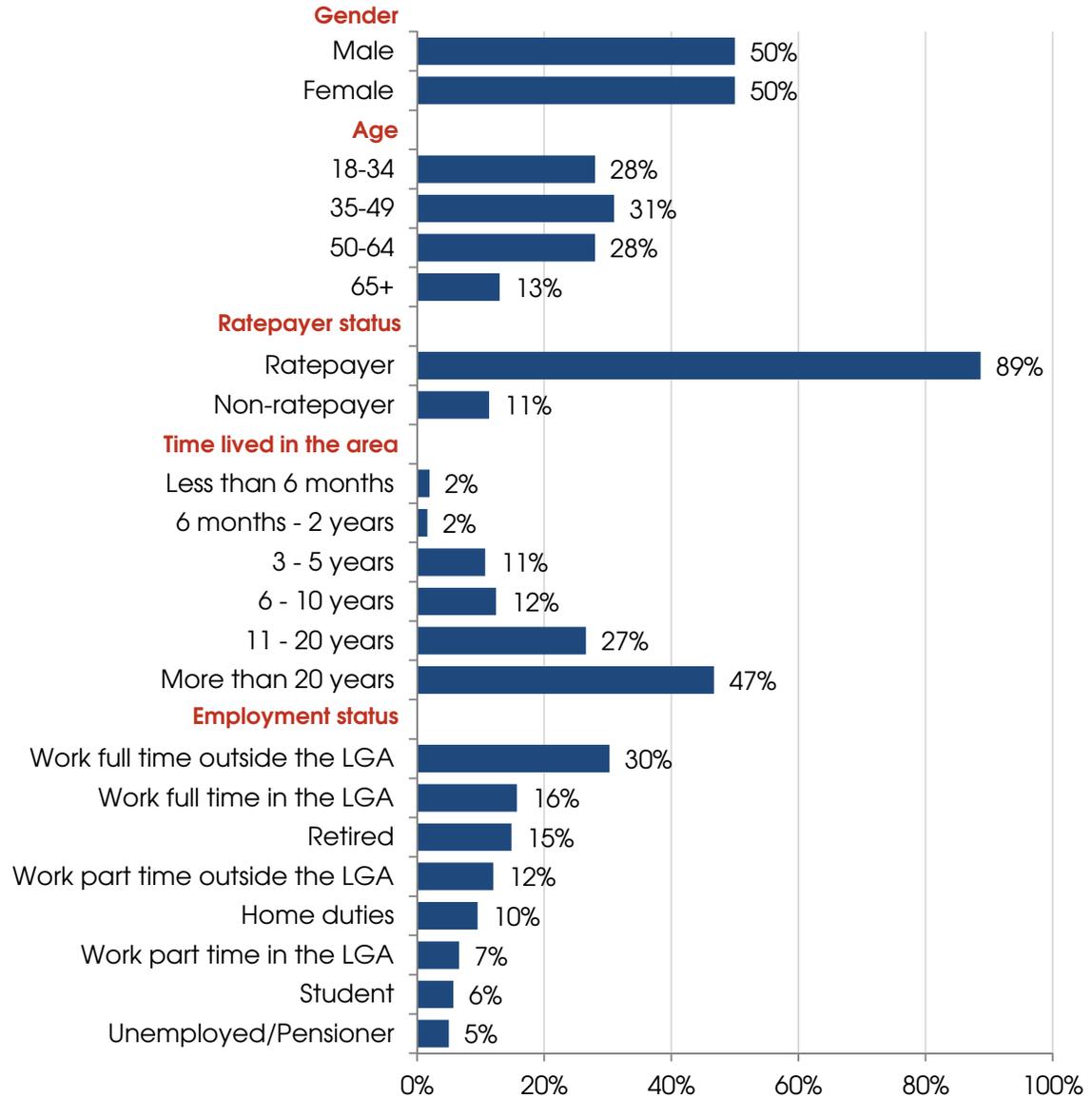
1.99 or less	'Very low' level of importance/satisfaction/support
2.00 – 2.49	'Low' level of importance/satisfaction/support
2.50 – 2.99	'Moderately low' level of importance/satisfaction/support
3.00 – 3.59	'Moderate' level of importance/satisfaction/support
3.60 – 3.89	'Moderately high' level of importance/satisfaction/support
3.90 – 4.19	'High' level of importance/satisfaction/support
4.20 – 4.49	'Very high' level of importance/satisfaction/support
4.50+	'Extremely high' level of importance/satisfaction/support





Sample Profile

The sample has been weighted to reflect the 2011 ABS statistics for the LGA

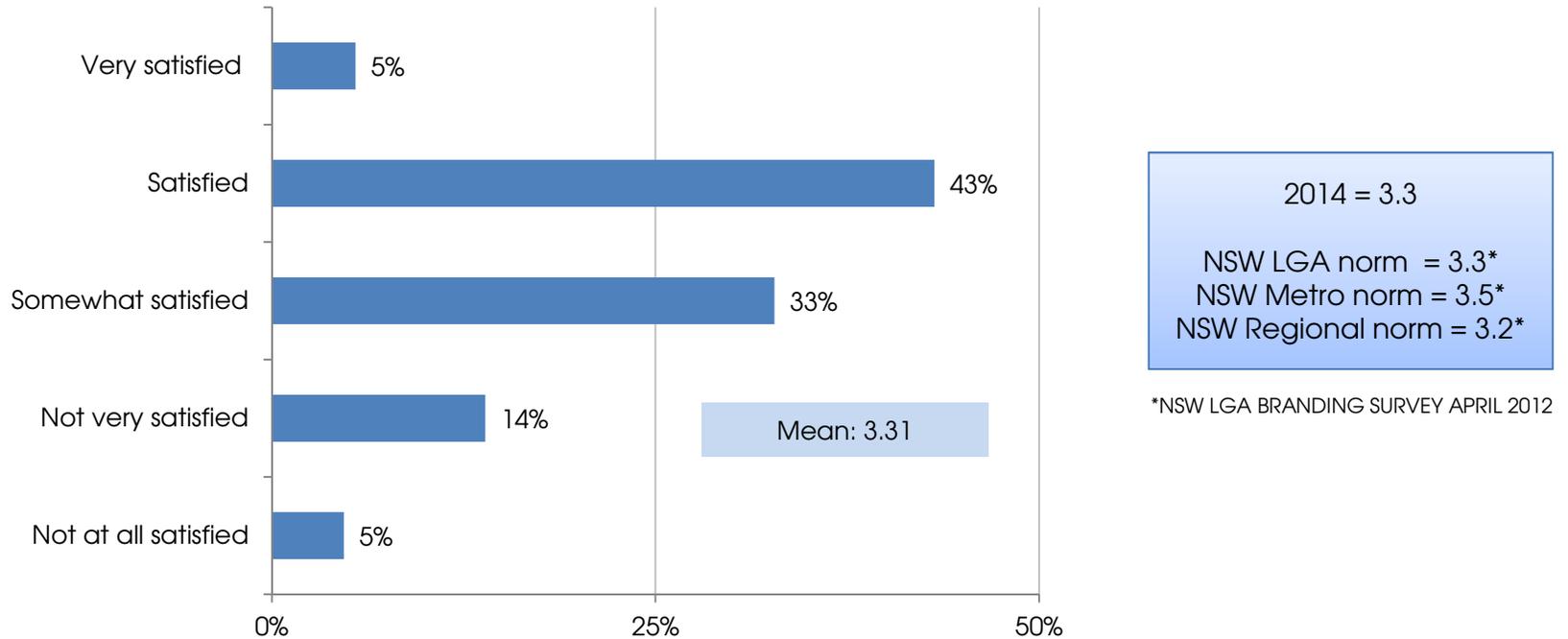


Base: n = 407

Detailed Findings



Overall Satisfaction with Council Performance



	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Satisfaction mean ratings	3.45	3.24	3.18	3.44	3.23	3.38	3.29	3.44	3.31

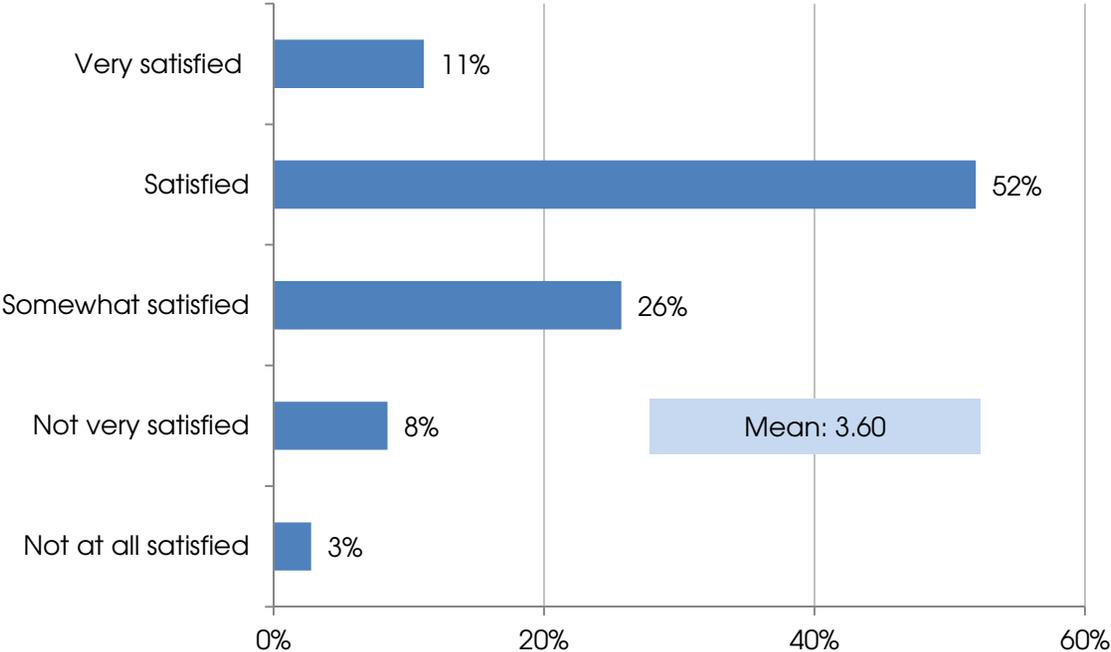
Q2a. Overall, for the last 12 months, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied



Overall, 81% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Council – this is in line with the NSW LGA Benchmarks

Satisfaction with the Level of Service



	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Satisfaction mean ratings	3.80▲	3.55	3.34▼	3.87▲	3.60	3.60	3.58	3.75	3.60

Q3b. How satisfied are you with the level of service provided by Council in the local area?

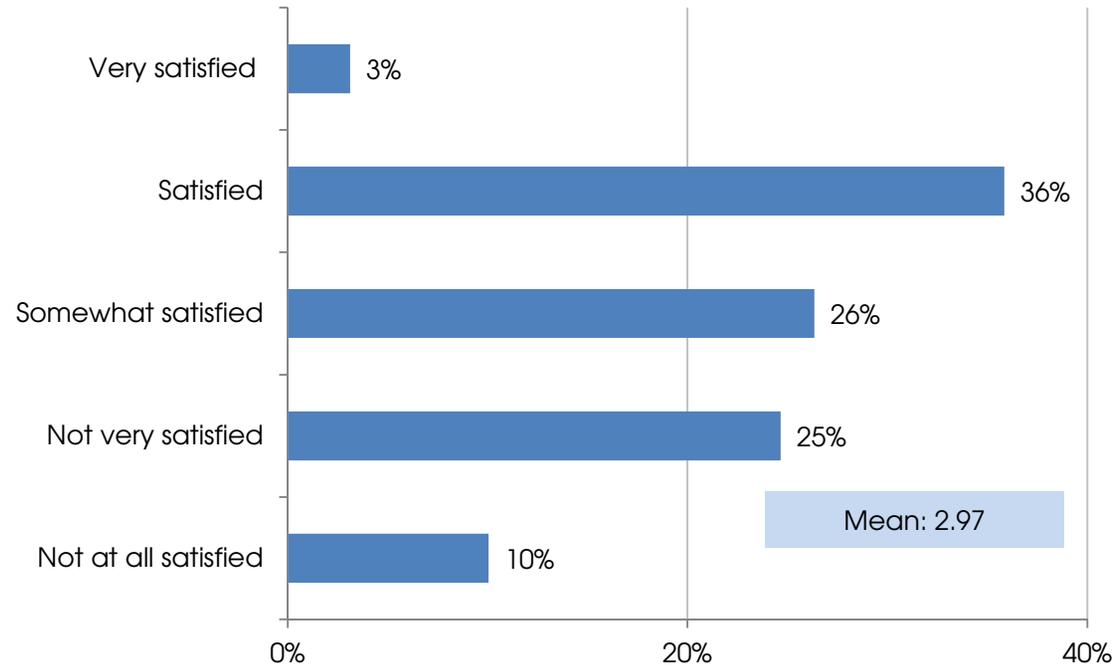
Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



89% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with the level of service provided by Council in the local area

Satisfaction with the Quality of Infrastructure and Facilities



	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Satisfaction mean ratings	3.09	2.96	2.77	3.18	2.91	3.04	2.96	3.06	2.97

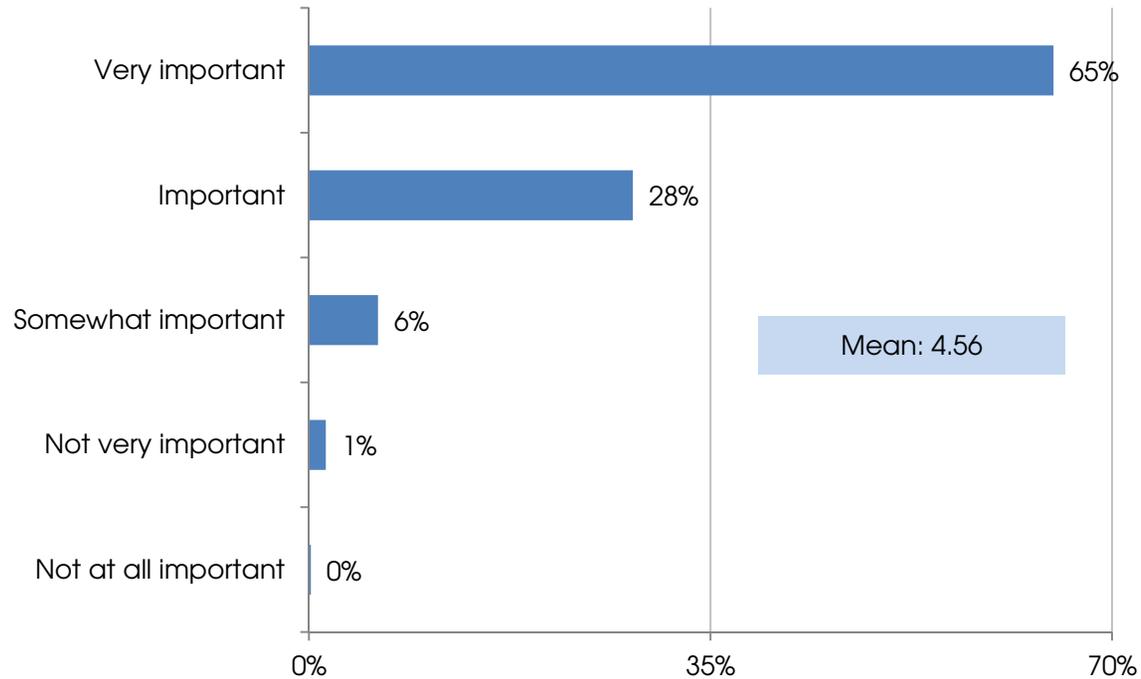
Q3a. How satisfied are you with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Council in the local area?

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied



While 65% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with the quality of infrastructure and facilities, 35% of residents expressed they were 'not very satisfied' to 'not at all satisfied'

Importance of Council Services/Facilities



	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Importance mean ratings	4.50▼	4.51▼	4.74▲	4.43▼	4.45	4.68▲	4.56	4.56	4.56

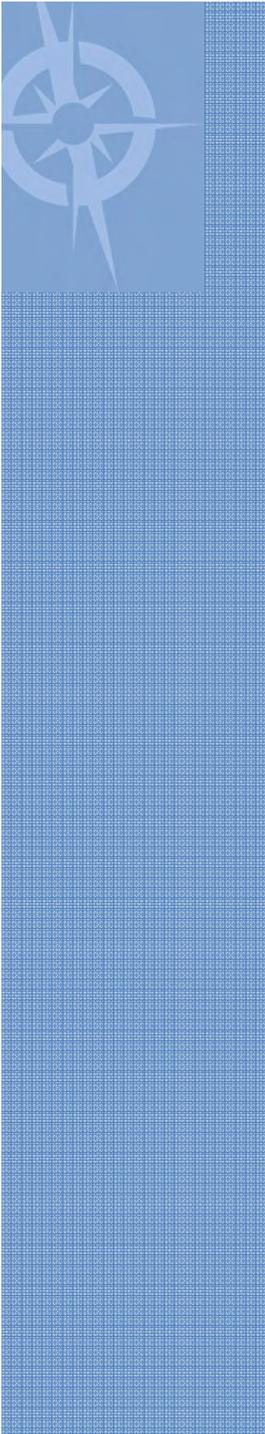
Q3e. How important is it for Council to provide better infrastructure and facilities?

Scale: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



99% of residents considered Council service/facilities to be at least somewhat important – this supports the outcome of residents’ satisfaction with Council’s quality of infrastructure and facilities



Concept Statement

Residents were read the following concept statement:

Council is facing the challenge of balancing community expectations with future financial sustainability. Council is experiencing a growing gap between the cost of providing services and facilities and the available funding to meet those costs. This position is as a result of a long term 'cap' on Council's ability to increase rates, and costs rising more than CPI (especially in areas like maintenance).

Council has commenced the consultation process with the community and have identified 3 potential options to respond to this growing funding gap. Just to remind you that Wollondilly Shire Council is committed to assisting residents that are facing difficulties in meeting their rates payments and have in place a hardship policy and pensioner rebate system to support our community.

Those three options are:

Option 1 – Deteriorate

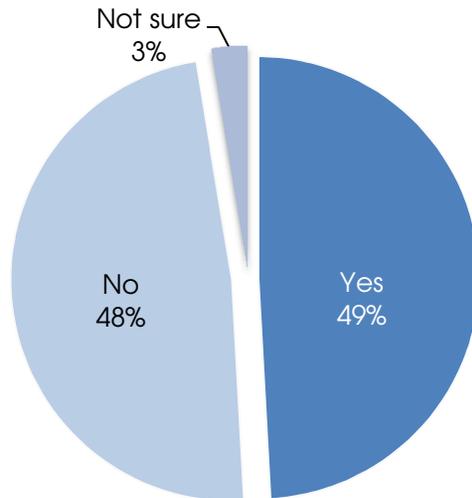
Option 2 – Stabilise

Option 3 – Improve

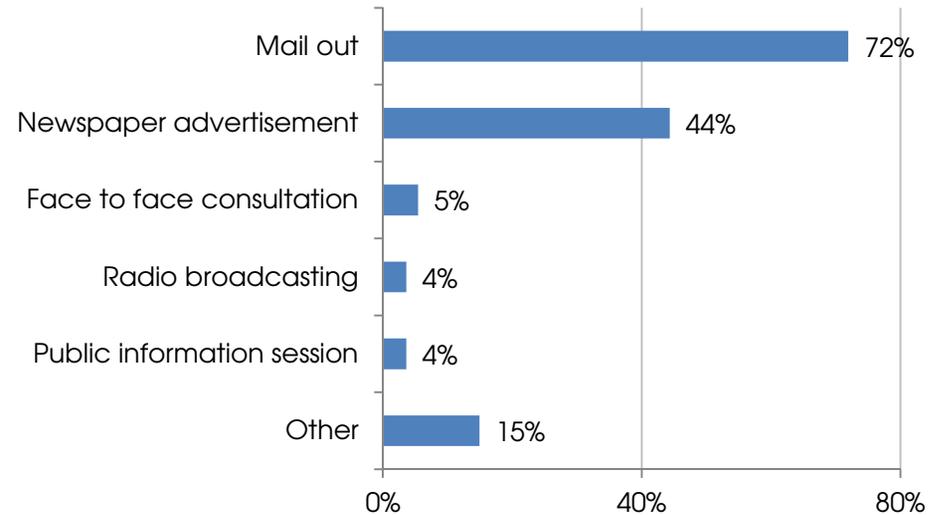
Let's look at the options in more detail:

Prior Knowledge of the SRV

Q6a. Prior to this call were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation?



Q6b. How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation?



Base: n = 221

	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Yes	30% ▼	47%	64% ▲	64% ▲	50%	48%	54% ▲	9%	49%
No	66%	52%	34%	33%	48%	49%	44%	83%	48%
Not sure	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	9% ▲	3%

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



49% of residents indicated they had prior awareness that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a SRV, with 72% stating they were informed through a 'mail out'

Concept Statement

Option 1: Deteriorate

No rate increase above the state restricted level of around 3%, which in effect would lead to a reduction in services and/or infrastructure. Based on an expected annual increase of around 3%, residential ratepayers who are paying around \$1200 per year, would pay, on average, around \$38 more each year. After 4 years, this would amount to an annual charge of \$1,351 by 2018/2019. (or a quarterly charge of \$338)

Under this option the impact would be:

- Reduced services such as a reduction in opening hours of facilities including pools, libraries, etc
- Reduced maintenance of sporting facilities, parks and gardens
- Reduced maintenance of roads, footpaths, shared pathways, drains and other infrastructure
- Reduced environmental programs (e.g. weed removal and native vegetation programs)
- Longer processing times for customer requests, applications and permits.
- Fewer community events
- Less funds for community sponsorship and economic development
- Increases in user fees and charges

Option 2: Stabilise

Increase rates by 8.5% for 4 years in order to maintain our services and renew our current infrastructure. This increase includes the 3% rate peg. Residential ratepayers who are paying around \$1200 per year would pay, on average, around \$116 more each year over this 4 year period. This would mean that by 2018/2019 the average annual rate charge would be \$1,663 (or a quarterly charge of \$416).

This option would enable:

- Maintaining current Council services. So opening hours and programs at pools, libraries, etc. would be maintained.
- Maintenance of sporting facilities, parks and gardens would remain as is, with no increase to mowing, planting or maintenance
- Maintenance of roads, footpaths, shared pathways, drains and other infrastructure.
- Environmental programs would be retained (e.g. weed removal and native vegetation programs)
- Processing times for customer requests, applications and permits would remain the same
- Community events would be maintained, but not expanded
- Funding of community sponsorship and Economic Development would be maintained

Concept Statement

Option 3: Improve

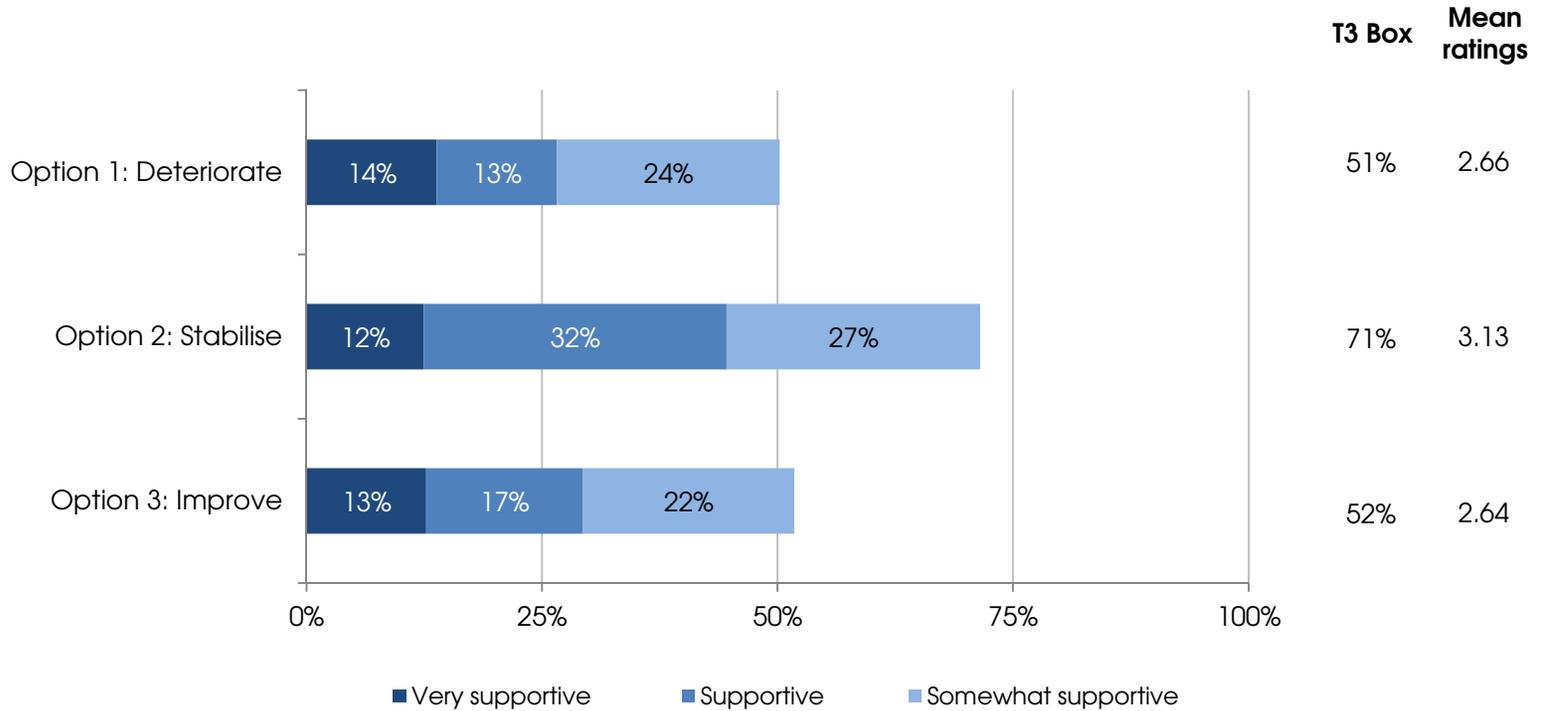
Under this Option rates would increase by 10.8% for 4 years, which would enable our services to be maintained, current infrastructure renewed and new services and/or infrastructure developed. This increase includes the 3% rate peg.

Residential ratepayers who are paying around \$1200 per year, would pay on average around \$152 more each year over this 4 year period. This would mean that by 2018/2019 the average annual rate charge would be \$1,809 (or a quarterly charge of \$452).

In addition to maintaining all current service levels this option would increase Council's capacity to provide the community with enhanced services and infrastructure that could include:

- Improved condition of existing assets such as roads, footpaths, shared pathways, drains, sporting facilities, parks and gardens in a shorter timeframe
- Delivery of a wide range of services in consultation with the community
- Increased capacity to build new infrastructure

Level of Support for Options



	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Option 1 – Deteriorate	2.59	2.67	2.60	2.92	2.72	2.60	2.68	2.54	2.66
Option 2 – Stabilise	3.36	3.04	3.03	3.06	2.98	3.28▲	3.12	3.16	3.13
Option 3 – Improve	3.10▲	2.45▼	2.55▼	2.35▼	2.56	2.73	2.57	3.25▲	2.64

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

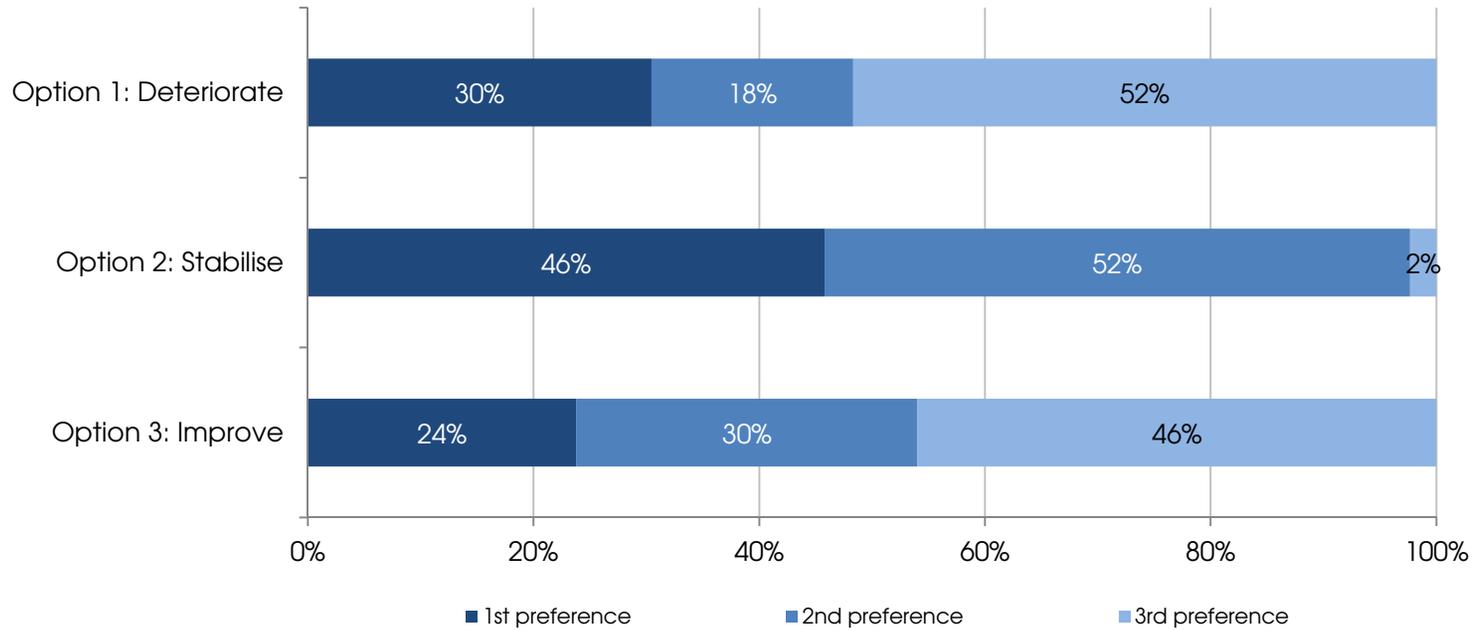
Q4. How supportive are you with Council proceeding with this option?

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



The highest level of support was for Option 2, which includes the increase of rates by 8.5% for 4 years including the 3% rate peg. 71% of residents were at least somewhat supportive of this

Preferred Option



<u>1st Preference</u>	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Male	Female	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Overall
Base	114	126	114	53	204	204	361	46	407
Option 1 – Deteriorate	20%	31%	38%	37%	35%	26%	31%	25%	30%
Option 2 – Stabilise	53%▲	50%▲	34%▼	45%▲	41%	50%	47%	37%	46%
Option 3 – Improve	27%	19%	28%	18%	24%	23%	22%	38%	24%

Q5a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

▲▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



46% of residents nominated Option 2 as their first preference and in total of 98% chose Option 2 as their first or second preference

Reason for Selecting Their Preferred Option

Option 1	N = 407
Council's financial management should improve to make such increases unnecessary	11%
Current services/facilities are poor enough that a rate increase is unacceptable	10%
Rate increase would not be affordable for some residents	8%
Option 2	
Supportive of small increase to maintain existing living standards	27%
Most affordable option when considering all residents	11%
Supportive of some increase despite belief that it should not be necessary	5%
Option 3	
Proposed improvements will benefit the local community	8%
Local road improvements would justify higher rate increase	7%
Standard of current services/facilities requires improvement	5%

Please see the Appendix for the detailed list

Q5a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

Q5b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?



Conclusion



Conclusion & Recommendations

Overall, satisfaction with the performance of Council was rated positively by residents, with 81% expressing they were at least 'somewhat satisfied'.

There was a universally positive outcome with the level of service provided by Council, with 89% of residents being 'somewhat satisfied' to 'very satisfied'.

65% of residents were 'somewhat satisfied' to 'very satisfied' with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Wollondilly Council, and 99% of residents believe it is important for Council to provide better infrastructure and facilities for the community.

49% of residents had prior knowledge of Council exploring community sentiment towards an SRV, with the Council 'mail out' being the primary method of driving awareness.

1. Residents were most supportive of Option 2 – Stabilise
 - ⇒ **71% of residents were at least somewhat supportive of Wollondilly Shire Council proceeding with this plan**
2. Overall, residents preferred Option 2
 - ⇒ **46% of residents selected Option 2 as their most preferred option, in total 98% chose it as their first and second preference**
 - ⇒ **54% of residents chose Option 3 as their first and second preference**
 - ⇒ **30% nominated Option 1 as their first preference, in total 52% selected this as their least preferred option**



The community are generally aware and supportive of Council making an application to IPART in order to seek an SRV

Appendix



Reason for Selecting Their Preferred Option

Option 2

Supportive of small increase to maintain existing living standards	27%
Most affordable option when considering all residents	11%
Supportive of some increase despite belief that it should not be necessary	5%
Substandard level of current infrastructure/services makes improvements necessary	4%
Supportive of rate increase provided it is implemented as proposed	2%
Recognise need for maintenance, but unsure of affordability of increase	1%
Further improvements would not be cost-effective for all residents	1%
Further improvements have not been adequately communicated by Council	1%
Local infrastructure does not require improvement	1%

Q5a. Please rank the 4 options in order of preference.

Q5b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

Base: n = 407



Reason for Selecting Their Preferred Option

Option 1

Council's financial management should improve to make such increases unnecessary	11%
Current services/facilities are poor enough that a rate increase is unacceptable	10%
Rate increase would not be affordable for some residents	8%
Existing rates are appropriate/too high to justify a further increase	4%
Alternative funding sources should be used for these improvements	3%
Proposed rate increases are too great	1%
Current living standards are satisfactory and a rate increase unnecessary	1%
Lack of belief that proposed improvements would be implemented	1%
Unable to support proposals without better Council communication/explanation	1%
Council amalgamation would reduce financial burden without rate increases	1%
Growing population will naturally increase revenue without rate rises	1%
Proposed improvements would not be beneficial for all residents	1%

Q5a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

Q5b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

Base: n = 407



Reason for Selecting Their Preferred Option

Option 3

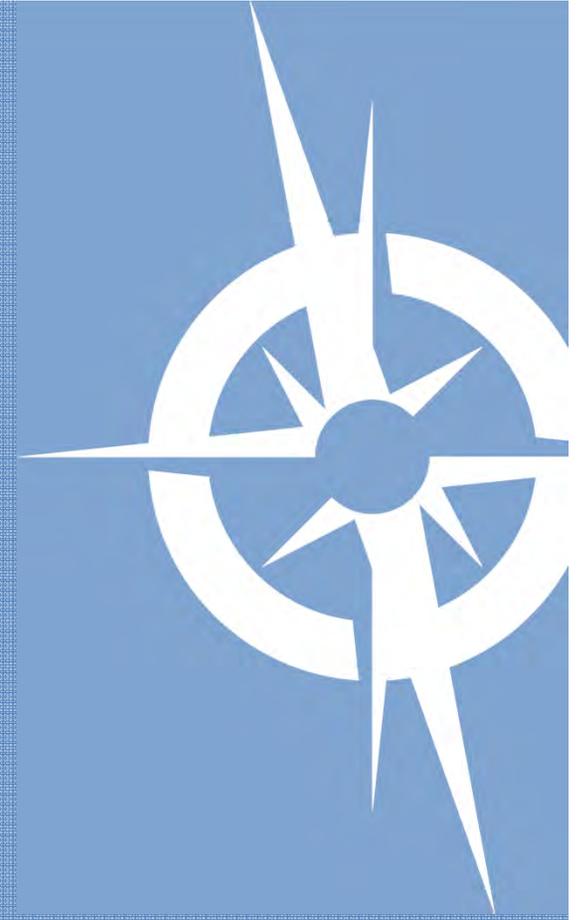
Proposed improvements will benefit the local community	8%
Local road improvements would justify higher rate increase	7%
Standard of current services/facilities requires improvement	5%
Community contribution is the only way to implement improvements in the area	2%
Rate increase is acceptable provided improvements are implemented effectively	2%
Local recreation facility improvements would justify higher rate increase	1%
Rate increase providing greater services is acceptable provided Council also improves its financial management	1%
Increase in rates would be affordable for most residents	1%

Q5a. Please rank the 4 options in order of preference.

Q5b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

Base: n = 407





micromex
research

Telephone: (02) 4352 2388

Fax: (02) 4352 2117

Web: www.micromex.com.au

Email: stu@micromex.com.au

Attachment P

Flyer

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Wollondilly
Shire Council needs
your support to make
an important decision
about the Special Rate
Variation options being
considered.

We are facing a number
of challenges in the
coming years and each
Special Rate Variation
option will have varying
consequences.

OPTION



Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation

Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.

OPTION



Stabilise

Special Rate Variation 8.5%
per annum over 4 years

Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.

OPTION



Improve

Special Rate Variation 10.8%
per annum over 4 years

Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

How to have your say

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation. Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100 to find out how. Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100



Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

How to have your say

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation.

Community feedback can be provided until
5pm, Friday 31st October 2014

Come and see us at the following locations to
talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:

SEPT

17 Information Stall
Yanderra Primary School
Harley St & Yanderra Rd, Yanderra
9:30-11:30am

22 Information Stall
WS Williams Park
Cnr John & Mary St, The Oaks
9:30-11:30am

24 Information Stall
Emmett Park
Cnr Emmett & York St, Tahmoor
9:30-11:30am

25 Community Meeting
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
6-8pm

OCT

1 Information Stall
Oakdale Park
Burragorang Rd, Oakdale
9-11am

2 Information Stall
Pembroke Park
Chisolm St, Bingara Gorge -
9:30-11:30am

7 Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire
Hall Menangle Street, Picton
12-2pm

8 Information Stall
Buxton P.S.
Hassall Rd, Buxton
9-11am
Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire Hall
Menangle Street, Picton
12-2pm

9 Information Stall
Appin Park Sportsground
Appin Road, Appin
9:30-11:30am
Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire Hall
Menangle Street, Picton - 12-2pm

10 Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire
Hall Menangle Street, Picton
12-2pm

13 Information Stall
Bargo Child Care Centre
Hawthorne Rd, Bargo
10 -11:30am

14 Information Stall
Eugenie Byrne Park
Gibson Street, Silverdale
9:30-11:30am

16 Information Stall
Douglas Park Community Centre
Camden Rd, Douglas Park - 9:30-11:30am
Community Meeting
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor
6-8pm

20 Information Stall
Thirlmere Memorial Park
Cnr Barbour & The Oaks Rd, Thirlmere
9:30-11:30am

21 Information Stall
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
9-11am

23 Information Stall
Picton RSL Memorial Park - Argyle St,
Picton 10am- 12pm
Community Meeting
Appin Community Hall, Sportsground Parade, Appin
6-8pm

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

We are facing a number of challenges in the coming years and each Special Rate Variation option will have varying consequences.

HAVE YOUR SAY



P O Box 21 Picton NSW 2571



srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



(02) 4677 1100



www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be
provided until:
5pm, Friday 31st October 2014



Wollondilly
Shire Council

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Come and see us at the following locations to talk about the Special Rate Variation Options:

**15 October
Information & Drop in
Session**
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
6:30-8:30pm

**16 October
Community Meeting**
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor

6-8pm

**23 October
Community Meeting**
Appin Community Hall
Sportsground Parade, Appin

6-8pm

Need more information?

Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv
or phone (02) 4677 1100

How will this affect you?

Want to find out how much your rates would go up under each option?

FIRST: Look at your rate notice bill to find out your rate amount for the current year 2014/15. **Your rate amount is listed as an item within the Particulars of Rates and Charges.** It is not always the Total Amount Due.

SECOND: Now look at the rate amount in the grey shaded column that is closest to your rate amount. Looking across the table to the columns on the right hand side will give you an indication of how rates would rise under each of the three options.

Annual Rates	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$919	\$946	\$975	\$1,004	\$1,034
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$968	\$1,050	\$1,139	\$1,213	\$1,236
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$988	\$1,095	\$1,213	\$1,344	\$1,344
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$971	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,061
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$1,023	\$1,110	\$1,204	\$1,283	\$1,307
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$1,045	\$1,158	\$1,283	\$1,421	\$1,421
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,093	\$1,126	\$1,126
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$1,085	\$1,177	\$1,277	\$1,386	\$1,386
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$1,108	\$1,228	\$1,360	\$1,507	\$1,507
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,288	\$1,326	\$1,366	\$1,407	\$1,407
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$1,356	\$1,472	\$1,597	\$1,732	\$1,732
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$1,385	\$1,535	\$1,700	\$1,884	\$1,884
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,545	\$1,591	\$1,639	\$1,688	\$1,688
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$1,628	\$1,766	\$1,916	\$2,079	\$2,079
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$1,662	\$1,841	\$2,040	\$2,261	\$2,261
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,803	\$1,857	\$1,912	\$1,970	\$1,970
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$1,899	\$2,060	\$2,235	\$2,425	\$2,425
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$1,939	\$2,148	\$2,380	\$2,638	\$2,638
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,060	\$2,122	\$2,185	\$2,251	\$2,251
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$2,170	\$2,354	\$2,555	\$2,772	\$2,772
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$2,216	\$2,455	\$2,721	\$3,014	\$3,014
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,318	\$2,387	\$2,459	\$2,532	\$2,532
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$2,441	\$2,649	\$2,874	\$3,118	\$3,118
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$2,493	\$2,762	\$3,061	\$3,391	\$3,391
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,575	\$2,652	\$2,732	\$2,814	\$2,814
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$2,713	\$2,943	\$3,193	\$3,465	\$3,465
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$2,770	\$3,069	\$3,401	\$3,768	\$3,768
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,833	\$2,917	\$3,005	\$3,095	\$3,095
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$2,984	\$3,237	\$3,513	\$3,811	\$3,811
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$3,047	\$3,376	\$3,741	\$4,145	\$4,145
Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,377
Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs	\$3,255	\$3,532	\$3,832	\$4,158	\$4,158
Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs	\$3,324	\$3,683	\$4,081	\$4,521	\$4,521

The figures in the table should only be used as a rough guide, as fluctuations in the value of your property will also have an effect on the amount of rates you pay. The figures are also based upon the assumption of a 3% rate peg being announced each year. This figure may be higher or lower in any year.



ASSESSMENT NUMI

00000

mentioned land has been rated by
in hereunder
N 2571

DUE DATE

31/08/14

POSTING DATE

24/07/14

PARTICULARS OF RATES AND CHARGES

RATEABLE VALUE AMOUNT

Residential Town Centre	281000	\$1255.67
Domestic Waste Residential 80L	1	\$425.00
Stormwater Management Charge	1	\$25.00



*2190 00000

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
\$1,705.67

PLEASE DEDUCT ANY PAYMENTS SINCE
16/07/2014



Attachment Q

Poster

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Wollondilly
Shire Council needs
your support to make
an important decision
about the Special Rate
Variation options being
considered.

We are facing a number
of challenges in the
coming years and each
Special Rate Variation
option will have varying
consequences.

OPTION



Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation

Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.

OPTION



Stabilise

Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years

Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.

OPTION



Improve

Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years

Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

How to have your say

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation.

Head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100 to find out how.

Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014

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SEPT

17 Information Stall
Yanderra Primary School
Harley St & Yanderra Rd,
Yanderra
9:30-11:30am

22 Information Stall
WS Williams Park
Cnr John & Mary St, The Oaks
9:30-11:30am

24 Information Stall
Emmett Park
Cnr Emmett & York St,
Tahmoor
9:30-11:30am

25 Community Meeting
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
6:00-8:00pm

OCT

1 Information Stall
Oakdale Park
Burratorang Rd, Oakdale
9:00-11:00am

2 Information Stall
Pembroke Park
Chisolm St, Bingara Gorge
9:30-11:30am

7 Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire
Hall Menangle Street,
Picton
12:00-2:00pm

8 Information Stall
Buxton P.S.
Hassall Rd, Buxton
9:00-11:00am
Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire Hall
Menangle Street, Picton
12:00-2:00pm

9 Information Stall
Appin Park
Sportsground
Appin Road, Appin
9:30-11:30am
Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire Hall
Menangle Street, Picton
12:00-2:00pm

10 Drop-In Q&A
Picton Shire Hall
Menangle Street, Picton
12:00-2:00pm

13 Information Stall
Bargo Child Care Centre
Hawthorne Rd, Bargo
10:00-11:30am

14 Information Stall
Eugenie Byrne Park
Gibson Street, Silverdale
9:30-11:30am

16 Information Stall
Douglas Park
Community Centre
Camden Rd, Douglas
Park 9:30-11:30am
Community Meeting
Tahmoor CWA Hall
York St, Tahmoor
6:00-8:00pm

20 Information Stall
Thirlmere
Memorial Park
Cnr Barbour & The Oaks
Rd, Thirlmere
9:30-11:30am

21 Information Stall
Warragamba Town Hall
Weir Rd, Warragamba
9:00-11:00am

23 Information Stall
Picton RSL Memorial
Park Argyle St, Picton
10:00-12:00pm
Community Meeting
Appin Community Hall
Sportsground Parade,
Appin
6:00-8:00pm

To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or phone (02) 4677 1100



Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

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Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31 October 2014

Attachment R

FAQ

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Frequently
Asked
Questions

Why is Council seeking a Special Rate Variation?

Wollondilly Shire Council's long term financial modelling estimates that Council faces an \$80 million deficit in the next ten years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue. The most significant contributor towards this future deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog. Each year there is an asset maintenance funding shortfall and as a result the condition of our infrastructure is getting progressively worse.

The proposed Special Rate Variation is therefore an essential part of a long term funding strategy to not only maintain and manage our *current* infrastructure, but also to maintain and manage *future* infrastructure.

If we have a Special Rate Variation, the significant funding shortfall facing Council over the coming years will be addressed, the quality of infrastructure will not continue to deteriorate and Council services will not need to be reduced.

How did we spend the money raised by the previous Special Rate Variation?

In early 2011, we applied for a Special Rate Variation for the purpose of reducing the backlog in infrastructure maintenance and renewal. We were originally seeking a Special Rate Variation of 8% per annum over 7 years, which was then reduced to 6.7% per annum over 7 years following extensive community consultation. An increase of only 6% per annum over 3 years was subsequently approved. This fell substantially short of providing the required funds to address the mounting infrastructure maintenance gap.

Although we received less than we expected, we were still able to complete a number of projects to improve infrastructure for our community with the funds generated from the Special Rate Variation.

The Special Rate Variation funds also allowed us to access the State Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) loans to provide the early delivery of a number of much needed infrastructure works.

Some of the projects completed using the Special Rate Variation funds and LIRS loans included:

- Reconstruction of John Street, The Oaks
- Replacement of timber bridge's on Bargo River Road, Couridjah; Cawdor Rd, Cawdor; and Spring Creek Road, Mt Hunter
- Playground upgrades at Tahmoor, Buxton, Bargo, Appin, Warragamba and Silverdale
- Tennis court repairs in Picton, Douglas Park and Yanderra
- Installation of sportsfield lighting at Oakdale, Tahmoor and Appin
- Over \$900,000 spent on building repairs shire wide

Each year, through our Integrated Planning and Reporting processes we comprehensively report on what the previous Special Rate Variation funded in our annual reports.

You can find out more about what the previous Special Rate Variation funded at www.wollondilly2033.com.au

How much will my rates go up?

The table below estimates the rate increases that would occur under each of the three options being considered. The table provides a comparison for differing rate amounts, based on rates payable this year.

To use this table look at the rate amount in the *grey shaded column* that is closest to your rate bill for this year (2014/15). Looking across the table to the columns on the right hand side will give you an indication of how rates would rise under each of the three options. The figures in the table should only be used as a rough guide, as fluctuations in the value of your property will also have an effect on the amount of rates you pay. The figures are also based upon the assumption of a 3% rate peg being announced each year. This figure may be higher or lower in any year.

Annual Rates	Current	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$892	\$919	\$946	\$975	\$1,004
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$968	\$1,050	\$1,139	\$1,236
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$988	\$1,095	\$1,213	\$1,344
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$943	\$971	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,023	\$1,110	\$1,204	\$1,307
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,045	\$1,158	\$1,283	\$1,421
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,093	\$1,126
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,085	\$1,177	\$1,277	\$1,386
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,108	\$1,228	\$1,360	\$1,507
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,250	\$1,288	\$1,326	\$1,366	\$1,407
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,356	\$1,472	\$1,597	\$1,732
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,385	\$1,535	\$1,700	\$1,884
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,500	\$1,545	\$1,591	\$1,639	\$1,688
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,628	\$1,766	\$1,916	\$2,079
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,662	\$1,841	\$2,040	\$2,261
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$1,750	\$1,803	\$1,857	\$1,912	\$1,970
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$1,899	\$2,060	\$2,235	\$2,425
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$1,939	\$2,148	\$2,380	\$2,638
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,000	\$2,060	\$2,122	\$2,185	\$2,251
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,170	\$2,354	\$2,555	\$2,772
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,216	\$2,455	\$2,721	\$3,014
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,250	\$2,318	\$2,387	\$2,459	\$2,532
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,441	\$2,649	\$2,874	\$3,118
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,493	\$2,762	\$3,061	\$3,391
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,500	\$2,575	\$2,652	\$2,732	\$2,814
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,713	\$2,943	\$3,193	\$3,465
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$2,770	\$3,069	\$3,401	\$3,768
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$2,750	\$2,833	\$2,917	\$3,005	\$3,095
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$2,984	\$3,237	\$3,513	\$3,811
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$3,047	\$3,376	\$3,741	\$4,145
● Option 1 - Rate Peg (3% pa)	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377
● Option 2 - 8.5% x 4 yrs		\$3,255	\$3,532	\$3,832	\$4,158
● Option 3 - 10.8% x 4 yrs		\$3,324	\$3,683	\$4,081	\$4,521

Has Council done anything to reduce costs instead of raising rates?

Council works hard to ensure that we are as efficient and effective as possible. To achieve continuous quality improvements and a “best-practice” approach to all of our operations we continually review the ways our services are conducted and we have implemented a wide range of initiatives to ensure we use resources wisely, such as:

- Continuing and expanding resource sharing opportunities with other Councils
- Being smarter with purchasing, procurement and contracting
- Maximising external funding and grant opportunities
- Undertaking internal audits of all our key business activities and processes
- Focusing on staff performance and development
- Risk minimisation across the organisation to reduce liabilities and insurance premiums
- Initiatives to reduce energy and utility costs
- Making use of subsidised loans via the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme
- Long term financial planning

How do we compare to other Councils?

In its 2012/13 review of NSW Councils, the Department of Local Government found that Wollondilly Shire Council has the 17th lowest governance and administration costs per capita compared to 152 Councils in NSW.

(Circular to Councils 14/17 - Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2012-13)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollondilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
No. Equivalent Full Time Staff	208	304	623	1042	273
Population	45,322	60,546	152,612	186,938	64,592
Total Revenue	\$45.9m	\$129.5m	\$131.4m	\$217.2m	\$75.99m
Total Expenditure	\$44.9m	\$71.4m	\$133m	\$171.1m	\$64.7m
Total Revenue per capita	\$1013	\$2139	\$861	\$1162	\$1176
Expenditure per capita	\$990	\$1,179	\$871	\$915	\$1002
Governance and Admin Expense per capita	\$115	\$272	\$157	\$165	\$70
Roads, Bridges & Footpaths expenses per capita	\$315	\$270	\$107	\$133	\$183
Metre road length per capita	18m	8m	5m	6m	16m

How do our rates compare to other Councils?

The table below highlights the average residential rate, business rate and farmland rate for Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown, Penrith and the Hawkesbury. (Circular to Councils 14/17 - Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2012-13)

Comparative Data 2012/13	Wollondilly	Camden	Campbelltown	Penrith	Hawkesbury
Population	45,322	60,546	152,612	186,938	64,592
Average Residential Rate	\$1131	\$1191	\$845	\$969	\$985
Average Business Rate	\$1621	\$4490	\$5419	\$5993	\$1698
Average Farmland Rate	\$2332	\$2414	\$6154	\$2956	\$2227

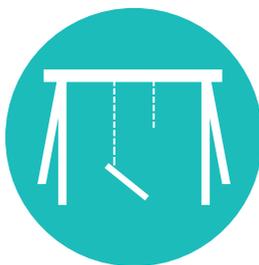
What happens if Council does not get a Special Rate Variation?

If Council does not get a Special Rate Variation, rates will only increase by the annual rate peg amount. The rate peg percentage for 2013/14 was 3.4% and for 2014/15 it is 2.3%.

This option would leave us with an \$80 million shortfall over 10 years, so it would have the following impacts:



Our infrastructure would deteriorate further. This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.



Council would have virtually no capacity for new capital works (apart from developer contributions and grants). This means Council will have difficulty funding new infrastructure such as kerb and gutter, footpaths, cycleways, open space improvements and new community facilities.



Council would need to consider a significant reduction in a wide range of Council services in order to address the funding shortfall issues.

What services does Council provide?

Council provides much more than just the 3 “R’s” – roads, rates and rubbish. Wollondilly Shire Council is a multipurpose organisation which provides a wide range of programmes and services to the community. These include:

- Cemetery Services
- Child Care
- Community Development
- Community Safety
- Cultural Development
- Youth Development
- Economic Development
- Environmental Health & Regulatory Compliance
- Community Bus
- Halls & Recreation Facilities
- Community Events
- Manage and maintain RFS/SES buildings and vehicle fleet
- Bushfire protection
- Aquatic Leisure Centre
- Tennis Courts
- Sportsgrounds
- Playgrounds
- Tourist Information Centre
- Library Services
- Environmental Education
- Animal Shelter
- Community Nursery
- Community Grants
- Emergency Management
- Programs for Seniors
- Weed Control
- Public Access to Information
- Community Engagement

Why not amalgamate with other Councils?

The issue of local government amalgamations has been ongoing from when the first local councils were created in the late 1800s. Over that time there have been periods of both voluntary and involuntary amalgamations, with a number being undertaken in the last 10 years.

However, despite the ongoing pressures for amalgamations, primarily on the assumption of economic efficiencies, there remains very little real evidence that the amalgamations have actually reduced costs to the community.

Some Councils have been identified as needing to merge to become 'Fit for the Future'. This is not proposed for Wollondilly Shire Council, with the focus of this approach being more on metropolitan Councils and very small rural Councils.

Why does Council need \$80 million compared to \$60 million three years ago?

When Wollondilly Shire Council applied for a Special Rate Variation in 2011 we identified that we required \$60 million over the next 10 years to improve the standard of our key infrastructure assets to a satisfactory level, and to increase our annual infrastructure maintenance levels in order to keep the infrastructure at that standard. The \$60 million figure was purely for infrastructure renewal for the key classes of infrastructure assets to bring them up to a satisfactory standard, based on the data available to Council at the time. We determined that an 8% increase over 7 years would allow us to meet this target, however in the end we were only granted a Special Rate Variation of 6% over 3 years. The Special Rate Variation generated \$3.38 million over the 3 years which was spent on essential infrastructure projects. However, the long term effect of the Special Rate Variation was that over a 10 year period to 2020/21, it would only generate \$17m, which falls \$43m short of the required \$60m that we had identified. As a result of the shortfall in funding, our infrastructure and facilities have continued to deteriorate.

Since 2011, Council has continued to update infrastructure data, conducting asset condition assessments on more classes of infrastructure as well as updating the existing 2011 data. An independent financial assessment was then undertaken where it was identified that in order to continue providing our current range of services as well as bring all infrastructure up to a satisfactory standard (and continue to maintain that infrastructure at that satisfactory standard) would require an additional \$80 million of funding over the next ten years.

I don't use all the facilities available in the Shire so why should I have to pay higher rates?

You might be surprised how many Council facilities you actually use. You may not use our libraries, sportsgrounds or playgrounds; but most people living in the Shire rely heavily on our roads to get from place to place as well as our rubbish and waste collection services.

Additionally, while you may not use all our facilities, your neighbours, family or friends may rely heavily on the vast number of services and facilities we provide.

For example, people from across the Shire value and regularly use our community halls and buildings for social gatherings, community events, playgroups and dance lessons; while our mobile libraries enable a diverse range of people to access library resources in their own towns and villages. As well as the countless young people and families across the Shire who use our sportsgrounds weekly to play team sports.

Wollondilly Shire Council continually strives to provide a wide range of dynamic services and facilities that the whole community can access and benefit from. And while you may not access all the services we have to offer, we believe it is important that everyone in the community has the opportunity to access and utilise all the facilities and services available. We want to be able to continue to provide quality services and infrastructure into the future for our community.

Why aren't we using the \$40 million we have in investments?

At any point in time, Council can hold a significant amount of cash as a result of grant monies paid, development contributions paid by the development industry and general income from rates, fees and charges. Whilst the money is committed to expenditure on various works and services through Council's annual budget, there is often a period of time between the receipt of the money and its expenditure. Council is also required to hold a certain amount of funds in cash and investments to cover employees' leave entitlements.

As a result, Council invests the cash it does not need immediately to generate additional income through the interest received from these cash investments. Income from these investments varies depending on interest rates and the amount invested, but is generally in the vicinity of \$1.5 million per year.

The Shire is set to experience unprecedented growth over the coming years. Won't all the extra rate payers bring in the funds needed?

The scale of this growth and its timing is difficult to predict, but what is certain is that new infrastructure will be built as part of this growth and will be used by our current and future population.

On average, for each new lot produced through residential subdivisions, an additional \$35,000 of infrastructure (roads, drainage, parks, and buildings) is created, so over time our infrastructure maintenance costs increase.

So, the additional rate income from the population growth in the Shire will significantly fund future infrastructure, but will not necessarily cover the maintenance costs of our existing infrastructure.

Are there concessions for pensioners?

Yes. Wollondilly Shire Council offers concessions to eligible pensioners by way of a rebate on their rates. The pensioner rate rebate comprises the State Government's mandatory \$250 annual rebate, plus an additional rate rebate of \$45 for the year and up to 50% of the waste service charge. Pensioners are also exempt from Council's annual Stormwater Management Charge. These pensioner concessions are available to eligible pensioners each year irrespective of the Special Rate Variation.

If you would like to find out more about Wollondilly Shire Council's pensioner concessions please contact Council's Revenue Section on (02) 4677 1100 or visit our website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

What if I'm finding it difficult to pay my rates?

Council has a debt recovery and a hardship policy which set out the process for recovering overdue rates, as well as recognising that some ratepayers may experience financial difficulties in meeting rate commitments. In such situations, Council will make arrangements with ratepayers to pay off their outstanding rates and charges through regular payments over the course of a year.

If you would like to find out more about Wollondilly Shire Council's Financial Hardship Policy please contact the Rates Department on (02) 4677 1100 or visit our website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Where does Council get all its money from?

Council has a number of funding sources, with almost all sources regulated in some way. These sources of income include:

- Rates
- Fees and Charges
- Grants and Contributions (including Developer Contributions)
- Interest from Investments
- Asset Sales
- Borrowings

The carbon price has been dropped. Doesn't this mean our rates should go down?

When the carbon price was introduced in July 2012, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) adjusted the rate peg figure to ensure Councils were not disadvantaged. Council Rate increases are determined by IPART based on the calculation of a Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). The LGCI is determined based on price movements in a range of Council expenditure items. Because the LGCI is a lagged index, the 2012/13 rate peg did not reflect the introduction of the carbon price. Therefore, IPART included a carbon price advance in the 2012/13 rate peg to assist councils to meet higher prices arising from its introduction. This was a timing adjustment whereby the rate peg figure was increased 0.4% in 12/13 and then decreased by this amount over the next two years (0.3% in 13/14 and the remaining 0.1% in 14/15). IPART also required that Councils who were receiving a Special Rate Variation at the time had to make a similar adjustment to their approved rate increases.

With the repeal of the carbon price, Wollondilly Shire Council will again follow any recommendations from IPART with regards to how this should affect rates

Need more information?

To find out more information about
the proposed Special Rate Variation
head to [www.wollondilly2033.com.au/
srv](http://www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv) or phone (02) 4677 1100.



Attachment S

Bookmark

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

There are lots of ways you can get involved in the Special Rate Variation conversation.

To see the full schedule of community conversation opportunities head to wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Community feedback can be provided until 5pm, Friday 31st October 2014

Make a submission by:

Mail:
PO Box 21,
Picton NSW 2571

Email:
srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone:
(02) 4677 1100

Web:
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv



Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Wollondilly Shire Council needs your support to make an important decision about the Special Rate Variation options being considered.

While we understand that rate rises of any kind are never welcome we believe a Special Rate Variation is a necessary course of action in order to meet the needs of our community.

Each option will have varying consequences on our infrastructure and service quality over time.

Need more information?
To find out more information about the proposed Special Rate Variation head to wollondilly2033.com.au or phone (02) 4677 1100



OPTION



Deteriorate

No Special Rate Variation

Our infrastructure would deteriorate further.

This means we will see worsening roads and continuing deterioration of facilities such as playgrounds and community buildings.

OPTION



Stabilise

Special Rate Variation 8.5% per annum over 4 years

Council would be able to stabilise the current deteriorating condition of our infrastructure as we would be able to fund our maintenance expenditure. This means the current condition of our roads, facilities and other infrastructure will be gradually improved through essential maintenance.

OPTION



Improve

Special Rate Variation 10.8% per annum over 4 years

Council would be able to deliver better roads, facilities and other infrastructure sooner as we would increase and bring forward much needed maintenance expenditure. We would also fully implement a preventative maintenance regime to reduce future costs to the community.

Attachment T

Previous SRV Works

Special Rate Variation - Works Program - 2011 to 2014

	Location	Projects
Sportsfield Lighting	Willis Park, Oakdale	Installation of 2 new towers. Replacement of 1 existing tower.
	Tahmoor Sportsground (Field 1)	Provision of 2 new towers
	Appin Park	Replacement of 4 existing towers
	Tahmoor Sportsground (Field 3)	Provision of 4 to 6 new towers. Upgrade to light fixtures.
Playgrounds	Progress Street Reserve	Replace all play equipment and install softfall
	Appin Sportsground Playgroup	Replace old timber playground due to presence of Copper Chrome Arsenic (CCA)
	Bargo Sportsground	Softfall under swings needs replacing with mulch
	Ibbotson Reserve, Tahmoor	Remove centre synthetic turf patch and fill with mulch
	Telopea Park, Buxton	Remove centre synthetic turf patch and fill with mulch
	William Woods Reserve, Appin	Remove centre synthetic turf patch and fill with mulch
	Dunbar Reserve, Silverdale	Remove centre synthetic turf patch and fill with mulch
	Hume Oval	Replace footpath
Bargo Sportsground	Playground works	
Bushfire Risk Reduction	Various Locations	Hazard reduction works in conjunction with other grants
	Various Locations	Hazard reduction works in conjunction with other grants
Recreation Facilities	Hume Oval	Tennis court repairs
	Dudley Chesham Change Rooms	Repairs
	Botanic Gardens	Replace part of pathway and access improvements to amenities
	Picton Tennis Courts	Repairs and refurbishment
	The Oaks Tennis Courts	Resurface acrylic courts, improve drainage, replace net posts, re-paint clubhouse
	Douglas Park Tennis Court	Resurface synthetic court
	Appin AIS Tennis Courts	Replace sun shade structure
	Emmett Park, Tahmoor	Embellishments / repairs
	Birrlea Park, Yanderra	Embellishments / repairs
	Bargo Park Playground relocation	Relocation of Bargo Park playground
	Warragamba Tennis Courts	Repaint courts and repair kitchen
Other Roads Assets	Various Locations	Additional linemarking and footpath maintenance
Bridges	Argyle St Culvert & Footbridge	Remove rust from the handrails of the footbridge and repaint with zinc rich paint
	Blaxland Crossing - Nepean River	Expert assessment by consultant with report and specification for recommended repair of joints
	Blaxland Crossing - Nepean River	Manufacture & replace 20 pre-cast concrete footpath panels & remove and dispose of damaged existing panels. Lift all remaining panels, clean their seating & replace
	Blaxland Crossing - Nepean River	Deck reseal
	Broughton Pass - Cataract River Reservoir - Wilton road	Consultant review of options and heritage impacts
	Mowbray Park Rd - Cedar Creek Bridge	Clean and repaint handrails
	Dog Trap Bridge, Arina Rd Nepean River, Menangle	Repair erosion where wing walls are under cut on the NE and NW with rock baskets Erosion & scour repair on northern abutment under bridge
	Stonequarry Creek Bridge	Remove vegetation in joints between concrete and stone masonry portion of piers and sill with appropriate "epoxy mortar"
	Werri Berri Creek - Burragorang Rd	Expert assessment by consultant with report and specification for recommended repair of joints
	Bridge Deck Seals	Number of minor repairs

Special Rate Variation - Works Program - 2011 to 2014

	Location	Projects
Bridges	Bridge Maintenance	14 concrete repair projects
	Bridge Maintenance	Creek works
	Bridge Maintenance	3 footpath repair projects
	Bridge Maintenance	5 guardrail repair projects
	Bridge Maintenance	Joint repairs
	Bridge Maintenance	19 painting and rust repair projects
	Bridge Maintenance	Number of minor repairs
Buildings	All Buildings	Provision for detailed inspections for remaining buildings
	Antill Park Golf Club	Repair areas of damaged and mismatched roof, verandah and associated elements
	Antill Park Golf Club	Store room walls to be repaired and painted; ceiling needs work to stop further damage from damp
	Appin Park Changerooms/Kiosk	Replacement of both 315 litre Hot Water Services
	Bargo S/G Community Hall	Replace damaged timber floor in main hall area, problem caused by external drainage problem, and lack of under floor air circulation which needs to be addressed before replacing timber floor (approx 240m2)
	Bargo S/G Community Hall	Number of minor repairs
	Bargo S/G Scouts Hall	Repaint all external walls, doors, windows, and barge boards
	Bargo S/G Storage Shed	Replace rotten timber door
	Bonnie Cottage Residence And Garage	Replace missing ceramic tiles around stove
	Council Administration Building	Front Foyer Maintenance and upgrade
	Council Administration Building	Various maintenance items
	W S C - Council Administration Building	Replace main water cooling tower unit and install new energy efficient system, including asbestos removal
	W S C - Council Administration Building	Replace old vinyl tiles with new vinyl sheeting approx 50m2
	Douglas Park Community Hall	Repairs
	Dudley Chesham Canteen	Downpipe and guttering
	Dudley Chesham Changerooms	Number of minor repairs
	Dudley Chesham Pony Club	Repaint weatherboard wall sheeting, eaves and barge boards around building
	Family Day Care Centre	Staff toilet entry is on top of ramp going to back yard, this causes a turn stepping motion, which should be modified so entry is on level floor. Suggest ramp be moved forward to alleviate this problem
	Heritage Centre, The Oaks	Number of minor repairs
	Hume Oval Club House	Replace damaged concrete footpath back of building to changing room, badly damaged, also possible concrete footpath from this path to ladies toilets (approx 40 x 1.2 m)
	Hume Oval Club House	Replace hand basin in men's toilet
	Mt Hunter Hall	Painting and repairs
	Mushroom Tunnel	Repaint brickwork along length of tunnel
	Old Post Office	Repaint all external fascia, window frames and doors around building
	Old Post Office	Emergency Lighting required throughout building
	Old Post Office	Number of minor repairs
	Picton Library	Major Refurbishment and compliance works - staged
	Pound Administration Building	Number of minor repairs
	Shire Hall	Roof replacement and installation of roof anchor points - Works to be completed in early 2014/15

Special Rate Variation - Works Program - 2011 to 2014

	Location	Projects
Buildings	Shire Hall	Replace old light switches throughout building
	Tahmoor Community Centre	Sign on disabled toilet door changed to new "Access" toilet
	Tahmoor S/G Club House	Install emergency lighting in clubhouse
	Theiss Depot - Wonga Rd	Building compliance works - stairs
	Victoria Park Changerooms/Kiosk	Replace guttering
	Warragamba Pool Amenities/Main Building	Replace cracked ceramic tiles on wall in ladies toilet
	Warragamba Pool Amenities/Main Building	Apply cement topping and re seal floor with non slip paint to plant room floor. Repaint inside acid vat bath
	Warragamba Pool Amenities/Main Building	Replace timber pvc pipe support with metal bracket support next to water heater units. Water from over flow/condenser unit piped away
	Warragamba Town Hall	Various including roof anchors
	Warragamba Town Hall	Repaint painted floor area in new access toilets
	Willis Park Amenities Block	Repaint brickwork near ladies toilet, also replace damaged brick
	Wilton Recreational Hall	Gernie of external brickwork
	Wilton Reserve - Amenities & Kiosk	Repaint all Internal Walls, Ceilings & Doors
	Wollondilly Leisure Centre Complex	Condition Report
	Wollondilly Leisure Centre Complex	Internal lining of gym walls
	Wollondilly Leisure Centre Complex	Replace carpet
Wollondilly School Of Arts	Number of minor repairs	
Road & Bridges Construction	Various Roads	Various road repair and maintenance activities funded by Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme Loan of \$9.0m - Special Rate Variation funds utilised for loan repayments
	Various Bridges and Culverts	Part funding of Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme Loan of \$1.75m for replacement of 3 timber bridges (Bargo River Road, Cawdor Road and Spring Creek Road) and repair of 3 steel culverts (Wilton Road and Mockingbird Road) - Special Rate Variation funds utilised for loan repayments