

# Your Council

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## **Proposed Special Rate Variation**

Council is currently consulting with the community to determine whether we should apply to the State Government for an increase in our general rate income by special rate variation.

#### Council resolution

Council resolved at its meeting of 10 December 2014 to notify the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal ( IPART) of its intention to apply for a special rate variation of 5.9% increase to the general rate in 2015/16 (comprising 2.4% rate peg plus 3.5% special variation) and a 6.5% increase in 2016/17 (comprising an estimated 3% rate peg plus 3.5% special variation). It is proposed that the increase to the rate base be permanent.

#### Impacts

If the proposal proceeds, there would be two years of increases to your general rate at 5.9% for 2015/16 and 6.5% for 2016/17.

In the following year (i.e. 2017/18) your revised total rate would increase by the normal annual rate pegging percentage (estimated at 3%).

The cumulative impact over the two years would be 12.78% total increase with the proposed special rate variation, compared to 5.47% total increase over the two years with standard annual rate pegging. The additional income for the first year would be approximately \$170,000 and the additional income for the second year would be approximately \$185,000.

#### Purpose

The Special Rate Variation is important for long term financial sustainability and to sustain council services to the community. The funding raised by the special rate variation proposal will be used to address the following:

- to address the revenue shortfall resulting from the Federal Governments recent decision to freeze payments to councils for Federal Assistance Grants (FAG).
  - to address ongoing operating deficits in accordance with recommendations of the NSW Treasury Corporation.
- to offset interest payments on road infrastructure works under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) program.

## Information on the proposed Special Rate Variation:

The following links provide further information and opportunity for feedback in relation to this proposal:

- Long Term Financial Plan (Revised) & Delivery Program (Revised)
- November 2014 Newsletter mailed to all property owners in November 2014
- January 2015 Newsletter
- January 2015 Media Release
- Online Survey submit your feedback in this online survey (around 5 minutes to complete)
- Online rate checker You can use the online rate checker to see the impact of the proposed special rate variation on individual property rates.

## Feedback: Community Consultation and Submissions

Council is consulting with the community during the period November 2014 to 5 February 2015 and encourages community feedback in relation to this proposal.

We are now seeking community feedback as to whether we should apply for a special variation to the rate income we receive each year. All ratepayers and residents of the Narromine Shire are encouraged to provide feedback on this important proposal via the following:

PUBLIC MEETINGS were held in early December in Trangie, Tomingley and Narromine.

EMAIL - send your submission by email to: mail@narromine.nsw.gov.au

COMPLETE THE ONLINE SURVEY - Council's website (see above link)

MAKE A WRITTEN SUBMISSION - address your written submission to:

The General Manager, Narromine Shire Council

Post: PO Box 115, Narromine. NSW 2821

Fax: 02 68899998

Council Office: 120/124 Dandaloo St, Narromine. NSW 2821.

## Submissions close at 5pm on 5 February 2015

Council will consider submissions at its February 2015 meeting.

## For More Information

Contact Council: Yvonne Clarke phone 02 6889 9999

## Process for consideration of the proposed special rate variation

There are 6 key steps in this process as follows:

- 1. Council resolution of intention to apply for a special rate variation Council Meeting 10 December 2014
- Council will consult with the community during the period 13 November 2014 to 5 February 2015. Actions will include
  writing to all ratepayers with a newsletter and survey in addition to public meetings, website information, media releases
  and newspaper advertising, inviting feedback, online survey and written submissions. Submissions close at 5 pm on 5
  February 2015.
- 3. Council advises IPART whether it will be making an application for a special rate variation by 12 December 2014.
- All feedback received through the consultation process will be reported to the elected council and Council to resolve to apply for special rate variation - Council Meeting 11 February 2015.
- 5. The application must then be submitted to IPART by 16 February 2015.
- 6. IPART undertakes a formal assessment of the application with a decision to be made in May 2015.

Display # 10 🔽

Draft Revised Delivery Program & Long Term Financial Plans

Rates Calculator

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