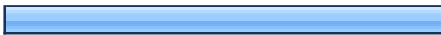

















1. How long have you lived in Gilgandra Shire?

		Response Percent	Response Count
More than 20 years		70.5%	385
11-20 years		10.8%	59
6-10 years		8.8%	48
3-5 years		3.1%	17
Less than 2 years		2.0%	11
Don't live in Gilgandra Shire		4.8%	26
		answered question	546
		skipped question	0








2. In which area of Gilgandra Shire do you live?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Gilgandra Township		51.6%	282
Armatree		3.7%	20
Coboco		1.3%	7
Curban		8.4%	46
Tooraweenah		5.7%	31
Tooraweenah Village		1.6%	9
Other Rural		22.5%	123
Outside of Gilgandra Shire		5.1%	28
		answered question	546
		skipped question	0


3. Are you Male or Female?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		59.7%	326
Female		40.3%	220
answered question			546
skipped question			0

4. Which Category below includes your age?

		Response Percent	Response Count
17 years or younger		0.0%	0
18-29 years		3.3%	18
30-39 years		9.2%	50
40-49 years		20.0%	109
50-59 years		22.5%	123
60-69 years		20.7%	113
70-79 years		17.8%	97
80 years or older		6.6%	36
answered question			546
skipped question			0

5. Which of the following categories describes your status?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Resident		3.3%	18
Resident & Ratepayer		90.1%	492
Non Resident Ratepayer		6.6%	36
answered question			546
skipped question			0

6. Growing Economy

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
Tourism & Promotion	16.8% (91)	48.8% (264)	11.1% (60)	17.4% (94)	5.9% (32)	541
Economic Development	26.2% (142)	48.8% (264)	13.7% (74)	8.3% (45)	3.0% (16)	541
Visitor Information	16.5% (89)	50.1% (271)	12.4% (67)	16.8% (91)	4.3% (23)	541
Residential Development	20.1% (109)	44.2% (239)	14.8% (80)	16.6% (90)	4.3% (23)	541
Industrial Development	25.5% (138)	44.0% (238)	14.6% (79)	11.5% (62)	4.4% (24)	541
Customer Service	31.6% (171)	44.4% (240)	12.8% (69)	7.2% (39)	4.1% (22)	541
Administration & Financial Management	38.6% (209)	39.2% (212)	13.5% (73)	5.0% (27)	3.7% (20)	541
Governance (Contribution by your local Councillors)	31.2% (169)	40.1% (217)	16.6% (90)	8.1% (44)	3.9% (21)	541
answered question						541
skipped question						5

7. Strengthened Infrastructure

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
Street Cleaning	18.1% (98)	54.2% (293)	7.0% (38)	16.1% (87)	4.6% (25)	541
Stormwater Drainage	25.3% (137)	51.8% (280)	8.3% (45)	11.5% (62)	3.1% (17)	541
Public Cemetery	28.3% (153)	56.4% (305)	8.7% (47)	5.4% (29)	1.3% (7)	541
Public Toilets	32.9% (178)	48.8% (264)	6.1% (33)	9.2% (50)	3.0% (16)	541
Swimming Pool	18.3% (99)	49.4% (267)	10.9% (59)	16.5% (89)	5.0% (27)	541
Sports Grounds	17.4% (94)	56.0% (303)	10.4% (56)	11.5% (62)	4.8% (26)	541
Parks & Gardens	19.8% (107)	56.0% (303)	10.2% (55)	11.5% (62)	2.6% (14)	541
Urban Roads (Town Streets)	26.6% (144)	55.3% (299)	7.6% (41)	8.1% (44)	2.4% (13)	541
Rural Roads	55.5% (300)	36.2% (196)	3.9% (21)	3.1% (17)	1.3% (7)	541
Regional Roads	44.0% (238)	44.7% (242)	7.4% (40)	2.2% (12)	1.7% (9)	541
Bridges	42.9% (232)	42.5% (230)	6.8% (37)	5.0% (27)	2.8% (15)	541
Footpaths	22.2% (120)	48.8% (264)	10.9% (59)	12.9% (70)	5.2% (28)	541
Aerodromes	12.2% (66)	40.5% (219)	19.0% (103)	19.8% (107)	8.5% (46)	541
Carparks	16.3% (88)	46.8% (253)	12.9% (70)	18.7% (101)	5.4% (29)	541
Street Lighting	23.5% (127)	48.2% (261)	11.5% (62)	12.4% (67)	4.4% (24)	541
Water Supply Services	37.7% (204)	44.2% (239)	5.2% (28)	7.4% (40)	5.5% (30)	541

Sewerage Services	37.7% (204)	42.9% (232)	5.9% (32)	7.8% (42)	5.7% (31)	541
answered question						541
skipped question						5

8. Thriving Environment

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
Contributions to Town & Rural Fire Brigades	26.4% (143)	47.5% (257)	13.1% (71)	10.2% (55)	2.8% (15)	541
Contribution to Emergency Services	29.4% (159)	48.4% (262)	12.0% (65)	8.9% (48)	1.3% (7)	541
Animal Control	12.4% (67)	47.3% (256)	17.0% (92)	18.5% (100)	4.8% (26)	541
Food Shop Inspections	25.5% (138)	46.4% (251)	12.6% (68)	11.3% (61)	4.3% (23)	541
Control of Noxious Plants	24.8% (134)	53.8% (291)	11.6% (63)	6.8% (37)	3.0% (16)	541
Town Planning (Development Assessment)	14.0% (76)	45.7% (247)	20.1% (109)	13.9% (75)	6.3% (34)	541
Waste Management & Recycling	26.6% (144)	56.0% (303)	7.2% (39)	7.9% (43)	2.2% (12)	541
Heritage Advisory Services	5.9% (32)	28.3% (153)	21.3% (115)	28.8% (156)	15.7% (85)	541
Building Control & Inspections	12.4% (67)	50.5% (273)	14.4% (78)	15.9% (86)	6.8% (37)	541
answered question						541
skipped question						5

9. Inclusive Community

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
Youth Services	17.9% (97)	55.5% (300)	13.1% (71)	10.5% (57)	3.0% (16)	541
Ageing Services	44.2% (239)	45.5% (246)	5.2% (28)	3.5% (19)	1.7% (9)	541
Disability Services	37.5% (203)	48.4% (262)	7.8% (42)	4.6% (25)	1.7% (9)	541
RTA, Centrelink & other Government Agencies	27.5% (149)	55.1% (298)	7.8% (42)	8.5% (46)	1.1% (6)	541
Community Housing	10.7% (58)	41.6% (225)	20.0% (108)	19.2% (104)	8.5% (46)	541
Public Library	17.2% (93)	48.2% (261)	14.6% (79)	15.9% (86)	4.1% (22)	541
Public Halls	14.4% (78)	53.8% (291)	15.5% (84)	12.0% (65)	4.3% (23)	541
Community Events (Australia Day, Senior Citizens' Week etc)	13.5% (73)	45.8% (248)	14.6% (79)	18.7% (101)	7.4% (40)	541
Medical Centres	58.8% (318)	35.5% (192)	2.8% (15)	2.6% (14)	0.4% (2)	541
Dental Centre	50.1% (271)	37.9% (205)	5.5% (30)	4.6% (25)	1.8% (10)	541
Community Care Service (Meals on Wheels, Community Transport etc)	39.2% (212)	48.1% (260)	6.8% (37)	3.5% (19)	2.4% (13)	541
Cooee Heritage Centre - Galleries & Orana Arts	12.2% (66)	39.9% (216)	15.7% (85)	17.9% (97)	14.2% (77)	541
answered question						541
skipped question						5

10. Capital Works Program

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
Terrabile Bridge	30.6% (165)	29.1% (157)	21.7% (117)	12.0% (65)	6.7% (36)	540
Grandchester Bridge	17.6% (95)	29.3% (158)	30.2% (163)	15.7% (85)	7.2% (39)	540
Gumin Bridge	18.7% (101)	30.2% (163)	28.7% (155)	15.2% (82)	7.2% (39)	540
Lucas Bridge (part funding further \$1.5 million in following 10 year plan)	16.1% (87)	30.2% (163)	30.4% (164)	15.6% (84)	7.8% (42)	540
Industrial Subdivision Development	11.3% (61)	32.8% (177)	21.9% (118)	23.0% (124)	11.1% (60)	540
Residential Subdivision Development	11.3% (61)	32.4% (175)	22.0% (119)	21.9% (118)	12.4% (67)	540
Miller Street Masterplan	10.4% (56)	29.6% (160)	24.3% (131)	23.0% (124)	12.8% (69)	540
Depot Upgrade	3.7% (20)	19.8% (107)	26.7% (144)	30.2% (163)	19.6% (106)	540
Parks, Playground & Exercise Equipment	7.6% (41)	46.3% (250)	18.5% (100)	19.1% (103)	8.5% (46)	540
Cooee March Centenary 2015(Re-enactment)	8.1% (44)	31.7% (171)	22.4% (121)	23.5% (127)	14.3% (77)	540
Administration Building & Library Upgrade	4.6% (25)	28.0% (151)	22.4% (121)	28.3% (153)	16.7% (90)	540
Pool Upgrade	14.3% (77)	33.5% (181)	18.7% (101)	23.0% (124)	10.6% (57)	540
Youth Club Facilities and Plan	8.3% (45)	33.0% (178)	25.7% (139)	22.0% (119)	10.9% (59)	540
Windmill Walk Extension	7.4% (40)	17.4% (94)	19.8% (107)	33.7% (182)	21.7% (117)	540
Cooee Heritage Centre Gallery Upgrade	5.6% (30)	18.9% (102)	18.7% (101)	33.1% (179)	23.7% (128)	540
McGrane Oval Lighting Upgrade	6.9% (37)	24.4% (132)	24.3% (131)	29.8% (161)	14.6% (79)	540

answered question 540

skipped question 6

11. Importance of Rural Road Network.

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
How important to you is Council's Rural Roads Network?	55.4% (299)	31.5% (170)	4.8% (26)	6.7% (36)	1.7% (9)	540
answered question						540
skipped question						6

12. Standard of Roads

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Unsure	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Response Count
Are you satisfied with the current standard of Council's Unsealed Rural Roads?	2.8% (15)	27.8% (150)	18.5% (100)	28.0% (151)	23.0% (124)	540
Are you satisfied with the current standard of Council's Sealed Rural Roads?	3.3% (18)	47.2% (255)	19.3% (104)	19.6% (106)	10.6% (57)	540
answered question						540
skipped question						6

13. Support of Proposal

	Very Supportive	Supportive	Unsure	Not Supportive	Very Unsupportive	Response Count
Do you support your Council's proposal to improve its Rural Road Network over the next 10 years?	27.4% (148)	40.2% (217)	15.9% (86)	8.9% (48)	7.6% (41)	540
answered question						540
skipped question						6

14. Budget Surplus

	Very Important	Important	Unsure	Not Important	Very Unimportant	Response Count
How important is it to you that your Council continues to be in a sound financial position over the next 10 years?	32.4% (175)	46.1% (249)	10.6% (57)	7.4% (40)	3.5% (19)	540
How important to you is it that your Council's draft model 10 year Long Term Plan is flexible enough to address unforeseen circumstances over the life of the plan	23.7% (128)	39.6% (214)	18.0% (97)	12.2% (66)	6.5% (35)	540
answered question						540
skipped question						6

15. General Rate Increase

	Very Supportive	Supportive	Unsure	Unsupportive	Totally Unsupportive	Response Count
Do you support your Council's proposal to increase your rates in line with the draft 10 year Financial Plan?	3.7% (20)	15.0% (81)	12.0% (65)	19.3% (104)	50.0% (270)	540
answered question						540
skipped question						

16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

	Response Count
	301
answered question	301
skipped question	245

Page 6, Q16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

1	Longer period to increase rates Review the non core services/projects Proposed community services levy Strict non core services financial support from general rates / fund policy	Sep 29, 2011 1:19 PM
2	I think rate increase should be considered each year in light of the rural sectors financial situation eg floods droughts general income & expenditure of such activities. Rate increase is necessary each year to keep abreast of economy however it may not be able to be fully increased as council proposes meaning some "town business " will have to be curtailed. Rural sectors make the most use of roads for business & pleasure not town walk ways	Sep 29, 2011 11:16 AM
3	Council needs to review its financial management skills . I feel ratepayers deserve much better services now for the rates we already pay. In summary the financial management of Gilgandra Shire is a basket case in need of a huge shake up at the managerial end.	Sep 29, 2011 10:47 AM
4	I would assume that Council has access to professionals who can look at alternatives which would include a much smaller rate increase & expenditure on absolute necessities only. In the Mayors words "Council is broke".It appears that surrounding councils are not requiring the significant rate increases that Gil Shire is - perhaps you should take a look at their models ! In case you havent heard there has been a GFC which has affected rural ratepayers as well as other impacts eg drought flood falling returns	Sep 29, 2011 10:16 AM
5	stick with rate increase and learn to budget within your income just like we have to in running our own family finances and expenditure. I could not think of a worse time to financially burden our community with this proposal	Sep 27, 2011 10:44 AM
6	for monies to be used only where it is told to us where it is going to be used unless on completion of the project there is a surplus which can than be used elsewhere. people budgeting on project be more accountable, trained better or something. Staff be made responsible for their work in that if they continue to forget, didn't know or whatever that their employment be terminated without consequence to the shire	Sep 27, 2011 10:36 AM
7	no rate increases at all. our financial outlook for the next 10 years is looking very green, we are having a had time now affording the basic cost of living especally now elecetriciy cost and general house hold cost are rising rapidly we do not want any increases at all	Sep 27, 2011 10:27 AM
8	I believe 12.5% is a little heavy maybe 8% to 10% increase for 3 years would get most of the infrastructure done	Sep 27, 2011 10:13 AM
9	we just can't afford 54% increase in rates	Sep 26, 2011 5:49 PM
10	no bridge at curban	Sep 26, 2011 5:44 PM
11	council should live within it's means, better plan would be 6.5% over 6 years	Sep 26, 2011 5:30 PM
12	1- clean out top end of council at chambers 2- cut cost and say no more often 3- ground staff be more efficient it is a job not a lifestyle 4- IN general council how it is run and work ethic by it's staff, if it was in the private sector would shut down and gone broke	Sep 26, 2011 5:21 PM
13	in Gilgandra user pay. You pat for rubbish @tip, you pat everything you use and then you want to put the rates up, It is more expensive to live in	Sep 26, 2011 5:13 PM

Page 6, Q16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

	Gilgandra than most other rural neighbours can you tell me why ? Too many staff at the council that fluff their own nests, don't listen to anyone that pays rates/ resides in Gil absolute disgrace to even think the rates should be increased	
14	the rate increase for rural proerties seems to be very large compared to individvals in town having more land may not necessarily equate to lots more money to pay the rates	Sep 26, 2011 4:52 PM
15	all this has been a long term problem. We had a rate rise 2 yrs ago and still there is no improvement on our rural roads council is good at taking our manie from rate payers and yet our services are going backwards. We ask you where dose the rate payer money go ? In my opinion council is too top heavy maybe it's time council takes a good hard look at themselves	Sep 26, 2011 4:42 PM
16	increase in line with c.p.l annually	Sep 26, 2011 4:28 PM
17	reduce the percentage requested,it is too high for most rater payers	Sep 26, 2011 3:53 PM
18	council has an untouched gold mine in it's hands - sell the sand out of thr river to bring the river back to normal. use council staff to do outdoor jobs concreting, tree lopping etc. Instead og contracting jobs- council used to have over 30 staff to do these jobs - how many have we got now? use council equipment to contract outside jobs- RTA etc . To the fullest cut down on office staff that are not necessary	Sep 26, 2011 3:47 PM
19	Longer term eg 5% over 8 years	Sep 26, 2011 3:36 PM
20	reduce councils clerical staff by 15 persons	Sep 26, 2011 3:32 PM
21	It is very hard to answer most of these questions in the survey without being on Council. I might suggest increased use of contractors as from my observation Council equipment is not used for enough hours per week. Expenditure on Council services & capital works as listed in this survey are all important to someone in the community & it is difficult not to answer important or very important to all services & works, Most important of all however is who is responsible for financial management ? will council spend our rate money efficiently & effectively. I would be happier with a one year rate increase of 12.5% & see how well Council manages this before agreeing to an increase of 12.5 % for 3 years.	Sep 26, 2011 3:29 PM
22	Council needs to increase its rate base, rural rate payers after 10 years of drought & a flood last year can not afford any rural rate increase. It is not a financial option. Council needs to look at amalgamations with other Councils to increase its rate base to ensure its viability , there is no other option, Compare Gilgandra rural rates with other councils eg Narromine which are only two thirds of Gilgandra at present without a 50% increase over 3 years	Sep 26, 2011 3:18 PM
23	would you like to plan a survey that is not written in such a slanted way to obtain the only result you want ie increase rates	Sep 26, 2011 3:12 PM
24	stop employing so many paper shufflers and get some real work done on the roads etc	Sep 26, 2011 3:06 PM
25	It is very hard to comment on other suggestions for alternatives as it is hard from the outside looking in. It is the people employed, paid and governed (councillors) the council with the responsibility of managing the shire council .	Sep 26, 2011 3:06 PM

Page 6, Q16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

If this was a private business we could not just increase the rate that we sell an item for or increase the margins on . It would be devastating to the business. As it just wouldnt work. Raising rates is an easy option to cover the loss or deficit. If this was a private business customers would buy elsewhere. It is hard especially for the rural sector as they dont get much service for the rates as it is & then you look to increase them above the standard rate. Is frustrating & pouring more money down a black hole to them. Also I do recall a few years ago the option of amalgamation with neighbouring shires was tabled. Gilgandra stood and said it could stand by itself and was financially viable. Maybe the option to merge could be an option or look at alternative shires & see how they are managed . It is a hard task & maybe should have been raised earlier to minimise the high increase. Has the shire funds been poorly managed ?

26	get an administrator in	Sep 26, 2011 2:59 PM
27	Reduse staff levels in office, consolidate RTA back to Council Chambers, Stop buying expensive new equipment, buy 2nd hand gear, sack Myles who wastes a lot of money, New GM is a must Paul has been here too long and we need new ideas.	Sep 26, 2011 2:48 PM
28	I think council needs to become a more efficient organisation before it asks for more rate increases. I have seen jobs done that have had to be redone because it was not done right the first time. This still occurs. Once these problems are fixed only then would i consider rate increases.	Sep 26, 2011 2:43 PM
29	Live within your budget	Sep 26, 2011 2:38 PM
30	although i identify the need for rate increase over time, i would like to see funds better managed within council, i would like to suggest the following; - better management of staff -improvement of work ethic -better management of rate payers money. -multi-skill staff to decrease employees. If some of the suggestions above are improved I would be happier to support the rate increase	Sep 26, 2011 2:35 PM
31	The rates increase is excessive. There doesn't seem to be an alternative so I do support the increase on a smaller scale	Sep 26, 2011 2:34 PM
32	Council needs to stand in the tunnel look at the light at the end. Do not stand in the light and say what good people we are.	Sep 26, 2011 2:29 PM
33	Get the money from somewhere else rather than the rate payers. Nock some off the staff at the office. I remember when it only took 2 people in the office Bob Foran & Esmae Toll. Now look how many people work there. What do they all do.	Sep 26, 2011 1:23 PM
34	Council needs to concentrate on its core activites of road maintenance (urban, rural & regional roads), water & waste management, dental & medical services. If these services are in place tourism, ecomonic and industrial development with follow. Am in favour of rate increase on the condition that no more office jobs are created to administer the increase	Sep 26, 2011 1:10 PM
35	Maximise State and Federal grants applications & income Enhanced financial efficiencies and budgetary constrantns Increased management strategies to reduce and minimise expenditure and financial waste	Sep 26, 2011 1:04 PM
36	Have an independent auditor oversee all financial statements of Council.	Sep 26, 2011 12:53 PM

Page 6, Q16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

	<p>Make cuts in costs & running of Council if it is suggested by the auditor. There is an obvious problem in the way the finances of Council is managed. This independent audit is a must.</p>	
37	<p>Totally unsupportive of rate increase for rural residents we dont get the services that the township does and the rural roads rarely get fixed/repared as is</p>	Sep 26, 2011 12:25 PM
38	<p>Increase the rates for the urban residentswho receive most of the services, garbage, sewerage etc. Do not increase rates for the rural landholders who do it tough already and receive minimal services. Dont waste money. Use the money where it has been allocated and not to fund alternate projects at whim.</p>	Sep 26, 2011 12:18 PM
39	<p>Residents of Gilgandra Shire Cannot afford to pay this increase. We should join with other Councils Halve the wages and have our rates collected by them and close the Council offices in Gilgandra</p>	Sep 26, 2011 12:13 PM
40	<p>I think you should sell Cooee Lodge and go back to being a decent Council</p>	Sep 26, 2011 11:59 AM
41	<p>Get value for money Grow assets - capital spending Limit service spending no increase in staff</p>	Sep 26, 2011 11:28 AM
42	<p>Plan first to avoid expensive rework from initial rush to start a project</p>	Sep 26, 2011 11:02 AM
43	<p>The farming community the very life blood of Council rates income has had probably the worst 15 years of drought, floods & high exchange rate in Gilgandra history , this suggested rate rise is one of the most hipocritical cruel & plain stupid at a time like this. If the executives of Council took the same wage hits as farmers over the last 15 years I would be more sympathetic . My family arrived in Gilgandra in 1902 and Gilgandra is very important to me & my family and always will be . Stuart Beveridge</p>	Sep 23, 2011 5:10 PM
44	<p>look at cost savings . look into the top wage earners in the shire , a small shire that we are do we need all or any of them . They need to be made accountable for councils current position. Our shire cant afford to have a high number of employees on big \$. we may have to sack them all. council staff need to learn how to run a no frills budget to complete their 10 year plan. If you want new business in town you dont want to be the highest charging rate collection around. Put it simply council needs to stop wasting money & start supporting the town that keeps them employed. as a rural landowner a rate rise is out of the question,rural rates are to high compared to the services we receive.</p>	Sep 23, 2011 5:05 PM
45	<p>keep rate increases at a minimum and just live within your measn just like I have to, also I sincerely hope you take our feedback seriously and not just push ahead with your own agenda beacause just like the last time i have no doubt that the government will approve whatever you request</p>	Sep 23, 2011 4:51 PM
46	<p>Only if working smarter ! Keeping an eye on production. Accountability on time management,costs and results. Roadworks are not managed well with all stopping for tea / lunch breaks together where time management could see more production & better utilisation of time eg scattered lunch breaks ? Road grading operation on works/roads less than 2 km away there were wash aways but were dealt with months later. gear had to be brought back out again ! where it could have been done at the time - not cost effective. This is a waste of time money & effort Happens often get time sheets to&</p>	Sep 23, 2011 4:47 PM

Page 6, Q16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

see if it takes that long . get someone who can do it better and effectively . If council & councillors brought their own lunch & cared about catering costs food/alcohol this would help the obesity problem which effects peoples lives. When are these figures pesented to the public ?

47 Yes model 10 as put to your Councillors Motion Cr Chapman & Cr Lummis , 6% increase in rates per annum above rate pegging over a 7 year period , 25 % increase in the base for rural roads expenditure, an estimated \$1.8 surplus at the end of the 10 year period Sep 23, 2011 4:45 PM

48 Take bums out of some work vehicles, halve staff in house & depo, Mainly get rid of Paul Mann then in ten years you might reach your goal Sep 23, 2011 4:23 PM

49 The rate rise is way to high. How much will the access to other services ie water & sewerage go up during this time? people arnt aware of this, this rise is to top up the bottomless pit of money that has run out due to mismanagement Sep 23, 2011 3:55 PM

50 6. training in governance for councillors needed. Administration & Financial services (not appearing to work overly well on the budgetting side of finances(training for councillors) Budget 5. no guarantee ! that the proposed rate increase will be enough wording in document obscure and a draft rise is huge consideration to income increase of private individuals. POINT you have an 8 page survey and 1 small box to put any ideas forward by individuals Sep 23, 2011 3:08 PM

51 Sand mine Castlereagh River, Open up farm land for generation of solar/wind power return to grid, Less cost to purchase land (cut back on fees & red tape) to encourage investment, Canvass Government agencies to set up in Gil, Build camplng & 4WD area along river, Carbon credits, Seek Government funding/incentives, Use two-ways at Council not mobile phones, Employ a successful business person to enhance Gilgandra's potential, Let farm subdivide land to sell so more people living on same land area / to make available parcels of land of a larger and affordable size & returns to Gilgandra Council from more ratepayers, Restrict use (home) of council vehicles & picking up staff for work, Make Gilgandra hub of affordable/safe retirement, Build the third runway here, Toll on Jack Renshaw Bridge, Very large truck/caravan/parking/fuel we are on 5 highways utilise it. All questions are ambiguous of course Gilgandra people want better services & facilities but by just raising rates is not the answer, think outside the square we are paying people to improve Gilgandra make them do there job and be accountable, Gumin Bridge wasn't it covered under insurance Sep 23, 2011 2:50 PM

52 I dont beleive council will use the increase on rural roads when i have to ring to inform the engineer that the road i travel every day needs grading and if i dont make this call the road can go ungraded for more than 2 years at a time. We the rural landholders pay our rates & what do we get back in return. we are not receiving a weekly pay packet to budget on and after years of drought you ask can you increase the rates. Go back to the drawing board and tighten your belts like the rest of us Sep 23, 2011 2:40 PM

53 Not in favour of rate rises to pay for infrastructure which should be paid by taxes we pay the government Sep 23, 2011 2:30 PM

54 More Government grants, as a pensioner these increases will be harder to meet maybr half would be easier Sep 23, 2011 2:24 PM

Page 6, Q16. Would you like to put forward an alternative suggestion to the rate increase proposed in Council's draft 10 year Financial Plan.

55	Increase rates by 5 or 6% above rate pegging . This would allow things to still be achieved albeit a little longer. I cannot see the necessity for a surplus since we havent had one for a while. I do understand we are playing catch up because councils in years gone by have not upgraded infrastructure . We need to do this gently - anything above 6% will stifle consumer spending in our community & ultimately negate the short term improvements being proposed	Sep 23, 2011 2:01 PM
56	Whilst it is important for council to be in a sound financial position ,I question the need for a \$4 million surplus. Currently there are increased financial pressures on the shire families.I appreciate the current rate pegging does not give council desired financial flexibility however i feel 12.5% increase too high . Perhaps can increase by 6% would be more realistic	Sep 23, 2011 1:33 PM
57	There is nothing in this plan that increases the productivity of our business to cover the cost of your rate increase.at no stage is there an offer to put the rates back down to 2011 levels.Our rates will go from approx \$9000 to approx \$13500 , this is a big increase in one input to our business. I dont believe the council needs a \$4 million surplus - nice cream. You are using my overdraft to float your account in the green.The councils of NSW need to be looking for money up the food chain & not down. We are bleeding from years of drought and cannot afford this at all. Have you considered a 20 year plan - spread it out.There will be more external funding opportunities from the government (Fed & State) over the years to come. NO NO NO to the rate increase	Sep 23, 2011 1:18 PM
58	If the Council was actually going to do the work on what they have said I wouldnt mind a rate increase ,however judging on what the council has been doing I dont believe that the rural work will be done, as far as this council is concerned once you go past the city limits , NO ONE Exists !!!	Sep 23, 2011 1:04 PM
59	Cut some of the useless spending & jobs in administration	Sep 23, 2011 12:52 PM
60	Wake up ! you are on your way to send a lot of businesses broke. Most of the survey has nothing to do with Council . Every thing you have had anything to do with has gone arse up	Sep 23, 2011 12:47 PM
61	amalgamate with another shire such as Warrumbungle Shire. Consolidate resources with Warrumbungle Shire. Amalgamation is likely to achieve significant Administration & Financial savings with greater capacity to obtain grant income-particularly for rural road network. Terminate the general manager. The financial plan concept is responsible but unpopular & unlikely to gain ratepayer acceptance/ ministerial approval - All resources should be utilised to acheiving an amalgamation with adjoining shires	Sep 22, 2011 5:59 PM
62	That mining Co's contribute their share of monies towards road maintenance say \$100,000 - \$200,000 pa as they will be pounding the roads daily where as ratepayers only use the rural roads once a week at most	Sep 22, 2011 5:22 PM
63	The rate increase is to much in such a short time you will have people that cant pay 12.5% per year increase. Rates increase should have increased every year no more than 2%/3% per year. New public toilets need screening on posts to cover big white toilet doors & a sign for visitors on the street.	Sep 22, 2011 5:15 PM
64	- charge Santos \$s for use of roads.Lets face it there will be trucks etc. do they pay rates ? Under no circumstances would I want to pay rates with a mining company using these roads and not having a structured rate plan.	Sep 22, 2011 5:07 PM

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Apparently 200 & something people work for Gil shire Do we need that many people ? Justified ? !

65 It is fine if the rate increases are used wisely by the Council & the Works Committee . if they do not this paper is a complete waste of time & energy filling in . Col Walton 239 Warren Road Gilgandra Sep 22, 2011 4:51 PM

66 Council needs to get back to basics - if close to 3/4 of the ratepayers are rural ratepayers than that is where the majority of council works should be focused on -not town development After close to 10 years of difficult times for farmers-it is obscene that this council wants such hefty rate increases. It is hypocritical of council to propose this when council has been involved in saving the Rural financial counselling service-because so many farmers are in dire need of that assistance. Council needs to either cut its expenses (like farmers have) by either divest themselves of other interest such as cooee lodge (should be privitised),road maintenance be put on contract basis & reduce staff therefore reduce costs. That is what farmers have had to do to survive .Otherwise since councils rate payer base is not large enough then council needs to seriously look at amalgamation with other local government areas Sep 22, 2011 4:46 PM

67 Seperate budgets for seperate sections I pay \$1400 rates 412 residential 320 Waste 199 Water usage 212sewer 237 Sewer 25 stormwater. How does 412 pay for roads sports grounds cemetery parks & gardens cooee lodge footpaths trees plant. If we have to pay for cooee lodge put it on the rates notice Sep 22, 2011 4:22 PM

68 the proposed rate rise of 12.5% above the rate pegging level is totally unacceptable . If staff numbers were cut by 12.5% it would give the same result. If you cant do it , I suggest an administrator - he would. An Administrator would not allow 1) Whole road gangs to be shut down while one man is off sick 2) The fine for effluent water still being paid to EPA two years after the problem was fixed. 3) Bushfire issues \$3,000,000 totally unnecessary , they get all they need out of insurance levies (that is another issue of over staffing and no money left for equipment) yours fathfully Max chandler PS road maintenance should be contracted out to private enterprise it would be much cheaper Sep 22, 2011 4:00 PM

69 Cut council vehicles for staff. Dont charge ratepayers for Council asstes cut Council plant which is excessive Sep 22, 2011 3:43 PM

70 All items listed are important. however like life itself we can only have what we can afford even though we might like more.We can only have what ratepayers can afford and with many unemployed people , pensioners and farmers who are struggling after 10 years of minimal returns we cant afford a 50% increase. I would suggest that the architects who devised this plan get a grip on themselves Sep 22, 2011 3:37 PM

71 I feel the rate rise is too great . I do support a rate rise but not 54% over 3 years.A smaller rise would be easier for all ratepayers in the current financial climate Sep 22, 2011 3:01 PM

72 Amalgamation with another shiremay be the answer. It appears that Gilgandra shire is not viable to run on its own. Farmers as we are, are struggling now to keep their properties viable and cannot put their prices up for any of their saleable goods, but every thing we have to pay for goes up in price. We pay for the useof Gilgandra rubbish tip, we have never used it and Sep 20, 2011 5:52 PM

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are never likely to use it, how fair is that.

73	Main street footpath is very dangerous, not level. There has been a number of people falling.	Sep 20, 2011 5:18 PM
74	Cut down on staff personal vehicles Stop wasting on unprofitable projects like main street, pines water diversion etc without community vote/approval Stop councils after/end of year party and end expensive socialising Cut down on overspending when the money is not there instead of trying to afford everything, cut back so no extra money is needed.	Sep 20, 2011 5:15 PM
75	Yes sack 50% of all bludgers in admin - seems to be four people for every real job - start at the top and clean out.	Sep 20, 2011 5:11 PM
76	To get more ratepayers in to shire land such as Flora Reserve Road should be cut into 4 to 10 hectare blocks and let them live in caravans or their lifestyle. As they will be ratepayers and got to still buy their food etc from town, their children will go to school. That will have more teachers etc. The flow on from it. As land such as Flora Reserve Road land is only good for that.	Sep 20, 2011 5:07 PM
77	Do your best	Sep 20, 2011 5:02 PM
78	As a landholder within this council like so many more we have suffered 8 to 10 years of very tough times. Money for maintenance such as fencing, buildings, soil con work, machinery repairs etc has been very limited. We simply can't take a rise in rates. Gilgandra town has had a big share for the present. Any available money must now be spent up grading our roads and bridges. Council simply might tighten its belt like farmers have had to do for years. Besides most of our money is spent in Gilgandra.	Sep 20, 2011 4:32 PM
79	Council should look at staff levels. Council should maintain traditional local government activities and the scope of their abilities and financial capacity	Sep 20, 2011 3:21 PM
80	Sack half the indoor staff and live within your means like the rest of us have to do. All rural roadworks should be tendered out to private contractors. My current rates are over \$100 per week and for that I get absolutely nothing. James - Ewenmar.	Sep 20, 2011 3:19 PM
81	Reduce council numbers, outdoor staff as well as indoor staff. Cut the workforce by 25%, stop giving work vehicles to drive home and for own pleasure. Dug and alcohol test daily for all staff. Support local tradies in business houses with shire work. This is where I finish as I could go on and on and on.	Sep 20, 2011 3:12 PM
82	Reduce staff and vehicles at Council office building. An extremely tough move but this is tough times. We as pensioners are asked to find extra finances why not council do some hard yards too.	Sep 20, 2011 2:44 PM
83	Lights to be turned back on at end of Farrar Street please.	Sep 20, 2011 1:44 PM
84	Councillors and senior staff (not workers) take a 50% paycut. This will save the council an enormous amount of money especially the \$100,000 wage earners. Our rates are pver \$8,000 per years add 54% oor over \$4,300 (12,300) just to get our road graded once in every three years is a joke. Our mayor should reassess his plans, why shoudl the council have a 3 million dollar surplus of our money just to lose like councils did a few years earlier.	Sep 20, 2011 1:35 PM

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85	Rate rise is too high in the present financial climate, yes we do need these things but not the expense of people losing their livelihood or leaving town. Too much pressure on the people. Need to wind back plans a little, maybe 6% over 6 years.	Sep 20, 2011 1:27 PM
86	Stop wasting money on stupid spending eg Gilgandra Weekly August 30 page 4 full page message from your mayor. A quarter page would be ample if any (not needed). Cut down on office staff, too many chiefs not enough indians, staff walking around office with nothing to do. Four people to fix water leaks around town (one working three watching). How much money did this survey cost to produce and post out - a lot of money I would think. What a waste of money nobody will take any notice of it. Very few ratepayers can afford a rate increase.	Sep 20, 2011 12:57 PM
87	Government should foot the entire bill. Taxpayers have funded government via super since 1992 so government should pay as it is liable for regional NSW. Look at 'census' records - work out how many resident ratepayers can actually 'afford' a rate increase. I expect most are either 'retired' on a pension/unemployed or 'struggling'. It is unfair to expect a THOUSAND OR SO individuals to pay for the MAJORITY'S expenses for infrastructure. Ludicrous in fact. A typical labour approach to offend. If one implements this as per 'expected' the community will vote you out next election - this is predictable. This will also decrease new ppl's interest in becoming new members to our community due to higher rates.	Sep 20, 2011 12:25 PM
88	As long as general rate increase comes back to normal (3%) after the three years of extreme increases.	Sep 20, 2011 12:16 PM
89	Our road used to be completed from point a to point b in two days. It now takes a fortnight. Extra money is not the answer, it is expertise.	Sep 20, 2011 12:13 PM
90	There appears to be a lot of wasted man hours by external council workers, perhaps a work performance agreement should be entered into starting from the top to increase efficiency.	Sep 20, 2011 12:08 PM
91	Consider investing in alternative power supply technology, such as solar, to offset or eliminate electricity bills for council facilities/premises. The large amount saved after equipment payback period will only increase as electricity charges increase over time. A medium to large investment in a good system or systems across the shire, now will pay back handsomely for us before long.	Sep 20, 2011 10:56 AM
92	More street lighting More maintenance to roads More development and structure to the township Access to more training for the aged and disability services before employment More job opportunities on the shire More TAFE courses need to be available to the community	Sep 20, 2011 10:50 AM
93	Cut some of the administration costs. Council is too top heavy in administration eg too many managers for a small council.	Sep 20, 2011 10:46 AM
94	Get rid of 1/2 the office staff and stop wasting money on unneeded things like Frog Hollow!! The money spent on the plaza is a complete waste.	Sep 20, 2011 10:43 AM
95	At the curban meeting when asked the question where council could save money we were assured by the general manager there were no places that money could be saved. You are asking our family (2 households) to increase our rates from \$24,500pa to \$37,440pa then an increase of \$1,123pa after	Sep 20, 2011 10:40 AM

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	that. In a difficult year this is HUGE. The Gilgandra shire has become too bureaucratic and not responsible to the ratepayers. The general manager is responsible for this and his time in Gilgandra should end. He has no more to offer. Greg Peart.	
96	You need to get an independent party in to assess where money is being wasted and to find areas where you can be more cost effective and efficient. Areas that we think are of greatest concern are: Staff numbers - are they all needed and are they value for money? Road work - would it be more cost effective and efficient to contract private companies as we believe the rural roads are not being kept in a safe condition.	Sep 20, 2011 10:32 AM
97	Live within your means. Six years without crops and you want more money. No Way! Have not seen a grader for 2 years on our road.	Sep 20, 2011 10:22 AM
98	Raising rates by 12.5% above rate pegging does not address the wages and salaries issue within a top heavy bureaucracy. Myles Humphries is leaving, don't replace him and save the salary. Review employee use of motor vehicles and other council equipment for private purposes. If ratepayers have to pay a hire fee employees should also have to pay.	Sep 20, 2011 10:18 AM
99	I support that the council need and want to implement the long term financial plan. However, I do feel that the 12.5% increase in the rates is higher than most rural landowners can afford at the moment. Is it viable to have a lower rate increase? A tough one for the council, I feel many rural landowners may not support the high rate increase.	Sep 20, 2011 10:11 AM
100	Even though we are supportive of this plan we feel it should be 5-6% over a longer period say 6 years and thereafter a very low increase each year.	Sep 20, 2011 10:07 AM
101	A decrease in indoor staff	Sep 20, 2011 10:04 AM
102	Sack the general manager, if this does not work sack council and appoint an administrator. \$4 million surplus would be a first for this mob. General manager has been here too long. Too much weight in saddlebags. Should be turned out to grass.	Sep 20, 2011 9:45 AM
103	Supportive but with a lower increase over five years.	Sep 20, 2011 9:31 AM
104	Assume the rate increase is approved!! Would it be viable to borrow the amount required for the improvements, invest it and use it as required? Advantages? 1. Interest would offset loan cost. 2. Funds available. 3. Rates would repay loan. 4. Shorten the time line for the improvements. Perhaps you could have the loan over a greater period than the time allowed for your improvement thus making it easier to repay.	Sep 20, 2011 9:27 AM
105	I do not support any rate rise at all. Seeing things are bad enough as it is. If council gets any extra rates it will only waste it on things that don't really need to be fixed. If council was run like any other business it had better look at where the waste is and like any other business it would trim them rather than asking for more money.	Sep 19, 2011 5:54 PM
106	Independent audit of council and its workings closer look at workings of Cooe Lodge improve roads and better financial management - live within your means. stop wasting money	Sep 19, 2011 5:38 PM
107	This survey is a joke! It should be weight to those who have the most to lose	Sep 19, 2011 5:25 PM

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	or pay! Any more ratepayers should not be surveyed. This grab for money by a group who have so mismanaged previous council funds and the mayor still can't guarantee nay of these works will be completed. How do I know this willnot be placed in the shredder when opened by council staff. Where is the independent umpire.	
108	Things marked as not important or very unimportant are marked as such if council is in a desperate financial state. These should be left to other government bodies, grants, sponsorship, private industry, although some still a waste of tax payer funds.	Sep 19, 2011 5:20 PM
109	Too much - cut some work, extend plan, cut proposed surplus 5-6% + CPI over 4-5 years	Sep 19, 2011 5:02 PM
110	Terminate the general manager and the councillors. Bring in an administrator to sort our the mess that our irresponsible general manager and councillors have created. With the decline in economy whorldwide only Gilgandra shire council would believe an increase in rates would be beneficial and why have your given a non ratepayer the opportunity to complete this survey. Of course they are going to say yes to your questions, they don't have to pay for them do they? This council is irresponsible and out of touch, its time to leave.	Sep 19, 2011 4:55 PM
111	Gilgandra Shire priorities should be Bridges Roads Water and waste facilities.	Sep 19, 2011 4:37 PM
112	Q16 Yes! The council should terminate the general managwers employment and bring in an independant auditor, then resign themselves. When councils finances are under control and transparent, as no two figures offered by council ever correlate, then a fresh election shou8ld go ahead and those councillors that have endeavoured to do the right thing by the ratepayers would then no doubt be re-elected. No I do not agree to a rate rise above the pegged rate set by the State Government as this was done to stop irresponsible councillors raising the rates to fund their own incompetence. This council should stop the waste and spend 100% ofg the rates they received now wisely and as far as the general manager heading an inquiry into Cooee Lodge. This is a joke as this is his pet project.	Sep 19, 2011 4:29 PM
113	I suggest Council operated within their means and more efficienmtly. After the last 'oneoff' rate jump services did not change. I suggest the council general manager be held accountable for the poor state of councils finances.	Sep 19, 2011 4:16 PM
114	1. Council capital work program should be rethought, plant purchases and every high \$713,000 per year Staff must be very hard on the machines. 2. Town signage why \$20,000 when things are hard it is not important. 3. IT purchases having new computer ever year. 4. What is OLD Housing (groups homes) Council should not be in this field. 5. The Miller Street masterplan should be scrapped. It is not very nice, it is just an eyesore. 6. The administration of the shire should liik at and all the deadwood remove from the office, it has too many staff that are not pull their weight.	Sep 19, 2011 4:13 PM
115	Redistribute the burden of the rate increase so that the increase impacts farmland loss and residential or little more and business a lot more. Flatten the rate structure for farmland - a farm on a \$5 million property does not use five times the services of a farmer on a \$1 million property. Work more efficiently within the current budget Many of the capital works costs should be recouped by the beneficiaries of those works to have a nil impact on the long term budget. eg waste facility upgrade by increasing waste charges,	Sep 19, 2011 4:06 PM

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	town signage by business ratepayers, aerodrome by aerodrome users (including federal government for medical flights, land development by land purchasers, housing by tenants etc. Would like to have seen a comparison with other councils rates and services.	
116	Smaller white collar staff More productive and co-ordinated blue collar staff	Sep 19, 2011 4:00 PM
117	Reduce rural rates and increase town rates to be in line with rural rates. It is unfair for rural ratepayers to make up 70% of rates and receive less services than town people.	Sep 19, 2011 3:57 PM
118	I think we pay enough in rates to have respectable roads without a rate increase. There is too much time wasting in the road gangs. Use the rate money you're getting wisely. Did depot need a new fence around it. If this goes ahead I will be paying an extra \$7000 as compared to a resident in town who will only pay an extra \$630. Yet they will benefit from his increase and have access to the proposed improvements more so than myself. This seems to be very one sided attack on the rural residents.	Sep 19, 2011 3:54 PM
119	Have less people on big wages sitting in the council chambers spend less money on unnecessary things.	Sep 19, 2011 3:43 PM
120	Reduce staff at councils office and depot. Stop buying land thats not important and live within your means.	Sep 19, 2011 3:28 PM
121	3% increase on top of rate pegging and cut back some projects. Like most households have to in tight times. Tighten the belt up.	Sep 19, 2011 3:25 PM
122	I consider this an ill conceived plan sounds good on paper and when spoken about quickly. But the added financial stress on ratepayers, especially farmers, business people and pensioners is too great to be borne. Please rethink, reconsider and replan the whole concept. Look for avenues to cut costs eg high wages of duplicated council staff.	Sep 19, 2011 3:19 PM
123	No	Sep 19, 2011 1:46 PM
124	Council needs to be more careful with ratepayers money and reduce wastage.	Sep 19, 2011 1:43 PM
125	Continue current rate only. Increase at 3% over 10 years and continue to lobby for increased federal and state government funding for roads and health services. To increase councillor contribution to budget and financial matters as in a finance committee as discussed recently.	Sep 19, 2011 1:35 PM
126	Council must in the future: 1. Cut back on staff in the shire office. 2. Cut back staff on the parks and gardens 3. Cut down on costs by not doing feasibility studies on some projects because its usually wasted money. EG flood mitigation of the Castlereagh River.	Sep 19, 2011 1:24 PM
127	With reference to part 4, rural roads, our unsealed rural roads have clearly been completely unsatisfactory to the point of being dangerous. One cannot support the councils proposal Q4-13 when such an extraordinary amount of this finance will be extracted from rural ratepayers. The services provided by Council can in no way reflect the huge contribution to be made by rural ratepayers in the 10 year plan. A far more equitable and reasonable plan must be devised. Potential land buyers will look elsewhere. Gilgandra shire council should be modelling strategies appropriate to the current economic	Sep 19, 2011 1:17 PM

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times eg diligently seeking alternative funding sources for arterial roads. Rural people are contributing a highly disproportionate amount in the current model and the proposed model would exacerbate this hugely.

128	Reduce the amount of capital works program intended to be funded from existing budgets to fund some of the discretionary capital works such as bridges and depot upgrade and rural roads. Reduce staff number by 50% and engage contractors when funds are available.	Sep 19, 2011 12:57 PM
129	We do need to support our council and we also need to thank the men and the women who not only give of their time but those that are to make it possible. Full marks!	Sep 19, 2011 12:47 PM
130	The amount over 3 years is too much. It needs to be spread over a wider timeframe. If ratepayers have to have this increase, then council needs to revisit its own costings and wastage. Council will say that we have already done this and there is nothing to trim, but look at the little things: Council vehicles not part of contracts. Why do they go home at night and not stay in the depot yard? The extra fuel that is used unnecessarily - a huge cost. We all see them being used for personal use. Consistent damage to plant and equipment by stupidity of the operator. Start and make them responsible for damage caused by their own fault, not just a mechanical fault. Make them have to pay the repair bill, instead of just another insurance claim or budget blow out. Any member of the community could name at least one instance of where this has happened. I am sure that the heads of the relative departments could name a lot more. Changes need to be made so that staff take pride in their work and Gilgandra. There is still very much the 'feeling' within the general community that various staff (for want of a better word) do not care about what they do, what they break/damage and what it costs council. To those people, their attitude is that 'council will buy another one'. These people need to be weeded out in whatever manner is possible. they are costing council \$s of \$s.	Sep 19, 2011 12:44 PM
131	Prune indoor staff. Increase outdoor staff. Shire in need of administrator.	Sep 19, 2011 12:07 PM
132	I appreciate that the rates levied are determined by land value but essentially this is the problem: agriculture is a very capital intensive business and the value of farmer's assets, land being the major asset, has little bearing on our ultimate income. A farmer with land value of \$2 million in reality, over the long term, would earn a similar "take home" income as a business in town with a land income of \$200,000. HOWEVER, the business in town's council rates will rise to \$5,601, an increase of just under \$2,000 which is bearable, whereas the farmer's rates will increase by over \$8,000, a fourfold increase. The council needs to accept that it's this disparity that's causing a majority of the resistance by the farming community to these rate increases.	Sep 16, 2011 10:42 PM
133	First I would like to say that your information for the normal basic education person is not good. I believe that a lot of people can not understand your basic accounting figures. People want to know how it will effect them and how it will benefit them. My friend lives in campbelltown in sydney pays already less rates then we do and has everthing available and maintained and having travelled down there on numerous times it appears they may have a very good manged system or they may be more financially funded, I don't know but it upsets me that you are asking for an increase with rates. As I would say most have basic incomes and already have struggles with rates and other essential items. I do not have street guttering or street lights??? So everything makes me wonder within the shire. An I do not like	Sep 16, 2011 9:46 PM

questions that a lot of surveys ask, how about asking for comment at each question, this may also assist you with comment. Not simple ticks and that's all.

1. Roads, Bridges etc. Consider the OH&S of all people that live and visit the shire. Use the resources better and have them better managed within the controlling federal and state managements guidelines. As long as everything is safe and meets the specific requirements unnecessarily expenditure should not happen. Look at government grants and further partnerships would assist. Talk to al those who live and understand everthing.
2. Water and Waste Management: these are 2 necessary things we need to look after for the environment. Water is necessary for us to live and survive in the community. We should continue to have the best managed water. That's is looking after it. Ensure no wastage occurs and the council should set an example and not waste. We need waste management to keep with the nsw guidelines in waste management so as not to hurt the environment with incorrect disposure.
3. Community demands: with parks, playground and exercise equipment, It should prioritise the % that actually uses these. Do we really need the equipment, as many fancy parks and playground. perhaps looking who does use these. Why has the equipment, and such like been left so long in the first place. Does this include all the sporting ovals and areas: eg should consider this on a % of use and will it benefit the whole community or a low percentage. although all is good, can we as rate payers support everthing.
4. Yes Miller street may need fixing, but is it necessary. Prioritise.
5. why have the workshoop< existing store and warehouse in such a poor repair> who has managed these< antiquated staff amenities> yes staff are important, but what is actually wrong with them. Long as they meet the standard required I don't believe they need to be fixed.
6. Industrial Subdivision, yes this seemed to be a secret till the land was bought????? Do we need it, Do they think it will benefit everyone and employer all those in it comes into reality. Most industrial industries still seem to be around the metropolitan areas and large municipalities. A lot are closing and so are a lot of things, look at the jails just recently.
7. Yes, the re-enactment is a good idea. But do we really need to contribute and increase our rates to do so. Fund raising, sponsorships and grants would be the best way, not to add this to our rates also. Look at the prioritising.
8. Administration Building, i have visited the shire building at times where we are allowed to go and yes it would be great to have new everything, but is it essential and what type of improvements do we need. i have seen many people administer in worse places then those. If it is safe and also meets the OH&S no I wouldn't like my rates to improve a major lot. It should have been all managed and use preventative maintenance rather then wait till it is broke before you fix it. The Library Building, yes another thing that would be great to be upgraded. But is it essential and do we realy need it. If its clean, safe and meets the OH&S act. Just keep it that way and use preventative maintenance.
9. Pool Upgrade. What about a new pool. Apply for funding, grants and fundraising. Look at Lightning Ridge and other small places they seem to be able to get great pools Look how we can utilise it more and increase use and increase revenue as well. Look at the % of the people that use it.
10. Youth club, yes we always love our youth and other people that can use these facilities, but do we really need to improve these further. Area other grants and special funding available? What is the %. that actually use these. Can we utilise the Schools? and their equipments also?
11. Windmill walk: yes I do walk around this area. but its not great/ No good at night and I find it hard to walk on already. Most people walk on edge of the roads or on them early mornings and some nights. Extensions needed, I personally think not. Good to say grant funding with the RTA dollar for dollar. but should we use extra rate money for this.

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12. Mcgrane Oval Lightning: Do the lights really need replacing, how often does it get used. Look at %. of population. yes some funding may be there, how often does it get used and why at night? Can the people that use the lights help raise funding and be a more active part of the community and feel good about it they helped raise funding and help use it and maintain it. 13. Whats wrong with the gallery, the airconditioning, what has happened with it, its not that old. is it poor maintenance, faulty equipment, cheap equipment bought in the first place that?? Yes it may be matched dollar for dollar, but we need to look at this also. % of use by visitors and town Further comment: I do not know the confidential information or intellectually trained to understand everything with rules and regulation and requirements, It comes back to everything MONEY, an increase in rates would make it hard for myself and my family to financially meet my normal food and electricity, water and basic uses. I already pay substantial rates and I believe a basic standard of living. I pay already large electricity bills, especially in winter to keep myself well and healthy. I don't want to get sick and have to go to hospital with Pneumonia like a lot of elderly people and end up in a place like coo-ee lodge or another type of hospital/hostel. And this would be a burden on the taxpayers again. I do not want an increase. manage the fringe benefits, account for everything better. Everything is expensive, but I want to live and survive. I do not have large incomes like some people. I am not university educated, but I still have a sense of pride in the community. but realistic, think we are all low incomes 99% of the town or on pensions, part pensions unable to get work etc. Increasing rates increases rent for some poor families also. they might end up on the streets or poorly housed or just plain leave the district. Please next time put a better survey out and let people put what they think like I have here. even though you asked for a different type of input. Please think of the community. I

134	Need to see work carried out in such a way for Council outside staff to earn their pay, no loafing on the job by workers, today's thinking is do as little as possible for as much pay as possible - not sure how you police this but am sure money is wasted in this area. How many people do you need to run Council? Seems to me it takes a lot - can money be saved here? Being a pensioner we get a cut but the farmers are the ones I feel for - is all the money they are going to have to pay be worth it for them.	Sep 16, 2011 5:42 PM
135	Reduce some top end staff and use contract labour and services	Sep 16, 2011 5:22 PM
136	Cut back on vehicles	Sep 16, 2011 5:18 PM
137	I feel the questions could have been worded differently. You could have asked how satisfied we were with the current services instead of how important they were to the community as without them we would have nothing to offer as a town.	Sep 16, 2011 4:43 PM
138	Such a large increase would be a big burden on most ratepayers. I truly believe that once the rates are increased they will NEVER come down. I think if any increase is truly required it should be more gradual. Remember we can't always have EVERYTHING we want.	Sep 16, 2011 4:31 PM
139	To give perspective to my answers - "unsure" mostly equates to "the status quo is OK" and an increase in service is not warranted enough for a 54% increase in our rates by the end of the third year. It does NOT mean that the services are unimportant. The residential and industrial developments need funding and ARE important. However their funding should not come absolutely and permanently from rates. Suggest it be done as a project with	Sep 16, 2011 4:30 PM

loans funding and the costs should be redeemed over time as the land is taken up. If it takes too long to redeem the funds for this approach to be used, then the developments are premature and should not go ahead anyway. Planning is the key. Where is the Department of Health for checking food shop hygiene? Noxious weed control on Council controlled land is I presume, required by law but outside that should it be a Council responsibility? Roads are essential to maintain the efficiency of this farming area. It's a no brainer. The produce has to be able to move. Without primary production prosperity, Gilgandra suffers, as made painfully obvious over the last droughty decade. Maintain the roads and bridges as a priority. My social centre is Tooraweenah. Other than that I am served equally by Coonabarabran, Gilgandra and Dubbo. I pay approx \$6000+ per annum in rates which will blow out to approx \$10,000 in three years under your scheme (and then even more as the regular rate increases are imposed annually thereafter). I do not begrudge (other than the 3 x garbage rates for only one household) paying rates to Gilgandra Shire Council . On the whole it does a reasonable job of balancing the books and keeping services going. However this is not the financial climate to be aspiring to do a great deal more than that. Over the past decade we and most agricultural enterprises have foregone many capital works and are still trying to regain a satisfactory maintenance level of old assets. I personally wish to see the additional \$3000+ that you want from me, going to where I can best see value for my money - here on farm. I am aware of inflation and the need to increase rates commensurately. Fifty four percent in three years is EXCESSIVE. Farm incomes will not reliably keep pace. Have ambitious plans, but please be realistic. Also - previously Gilgandra Council did not increase rates in tight times, ignoring the effects of inflation and had financial difficulty. Mayor Moppett then achieved, over three years (from memory approx 18% total above pegging?) a level of rate income that was supposed to "catch up" the rates to a sustainable level assuming regular base rate increases were then maintained. This "essential pain" to which we agreed did not satisfy the ever growing list of Council responsibilities to which you have just added many more aspirations. Where did this solution fall short and why? Figures to 2008/09 on the DLG website show that Gilgandra is well above the mean and median farm rate level for NSW. Unless many other rural councils are behaving in a similar manner to Gilgandra, asking for massive increases, at the end of three years we will be one of the highest rated farm land areas in NSW! Incomes here do not support this trend. Suggestion: Classify as Essential and Optional all Council responsibilities in the 10 year plan being practical and using this survey as an indicator of ratepayers views. Fund all essential services adequately. Set a REASONABLE rate increase to cover this with some small leeway. Prioritise all optional services and fund what you can when you can. (As mentioned above, roads and bridges should not be discretionary - careful ongoing maintenance should obviate major expense for upgrades/replacements. As this has not occurred, a one-off solution has to be found. Alternate funding arrangements are required and despite past inability to find sources, the search must continue for solutions. Everyone uses and benefits from roads not just the locals - the crux of federation is to spread the load!)

140 To increase overall rates by 58% over three years is totally unreasonable. Half of that would be more palatable but as a primary producer to imagine even a 25% increase over 3 years is stretching the limit. I believe that primary producers pay some 75% of the rates collected in the shire but I don't believe the would benefit from 25% of the total. It is a difficult situation that requires careful consideration and good planning - long term - and no, I

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	do not have the solution at hand.	
141	Better manage the funds raised by rates already. Do as all big and small businesses do, cut out any dead wood you may have.	Sep 16, 2011 3:13 PM
142	Less councillors, out of town councillors needed.	Sep 16, 2011 3:06 PM
143	Council needs to manage financial matters better - size of projected profit after 10 years is unrealistic. Did not like format of survey eg what is NOT important for me may still be important for the shire.	Sep 16, 2011 2:54 PM
144	Before an additional rates increase over cpi i would like for council to demonstrate how and where they are or can make cost savings to their operations through streamlining, efficiency improvements etc. I want to be sure my additional rates are being managed by a competent team who look to save money before seeking additional revenue through rates etc. Kind Regards Adam Baker	Sep 16, 2011 2:40 PM
145	Fundraisers. Community events which attract tourism, therefore bringing in money	Sep 16, 2011 1:57 PM
146	Increasing rates will only stop people wanting to move to the area. Most employees are getting paid too much for what they do, that extra money should go to improvements or no more flexidays and work longer hours would achieve alot more. We can't afford to pay more than we are now we are already paying more than any other shire. If rates were to increase by 50% over three years I think you will see people leave the area.	Sep 16, 2011 1:47 PM
147	Start being accountable for your rates funding and management at council, needs to be restructured	Sep 16, 2011 1:43 PM
148	Such an increase of council rates is not realistic or attainable for a farming community to meet the proposed increase of 12.5% over the three year period to 2014/15, a total of 54%. It has been difficult to meet the existing shire rates over the last ten year drought. Every article or service supplied has increased greatly in price over that long drought period. Bank balances have deteriorated. I suggest the shire councillors hold on to their drem but defer their plans for the present until the community recovers financially. It is commendable to be looking forward but the timing is paramount.	Sep 16, 2011 1:26 PM
149	If rates must go up 12.5% then senior managers and councillors could look at 12.5% in their wages or expenditure for conferences and other junkets such as overseas trips.	Sep 16, 2011 12:55 PM
150	12.5% above rate pegging is too much 5-6% would be acceptable. Put more emphasis on user pay where ever possible.	Sep 16, 2011 12:50 PM
151	External grant funding. Reduce other overheads. Prioritise and increase rates at a more reasonable and lower rate.	Sep 16, 2011 12:46 PM
152	Estimate of costs allocated to each program? Residential Subdivision Development - don't see why council needs to fund further subdivision development when ratepayers themselves are applying to subdivide their own land and council won't let them.	Sep 16, 2011 12:26 PM
153	Reduce staff - particularly in administration. Council has got itself into an unmanageable financial position and an ADMINISTRATOR should be	Sep 16, 2011 11:30 AM

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appointed to oversee councils management decisions to bring it into line and curb unnecessary costs.

154	After the completion for your 10 year long term financial plan survey, I would like to take the opportunity to express my thoughts about the current matter. I would like to state firstly that I strongly oppose any increase in shire rates. With the future expectation of the Australian economy seen as volatile, I believe that people are realising that the rising cost of living is soon going to be of great concern. In saying this I know that everything on your 10 year agenda is important, I am a member of the community and would like to see the benefits but we must live within our means even if this requires only maintenance of the current infrastructure. Another issue that has become apparent to me in relation to the increased shire rates is the effect this bears on the resale of a property. As a potential property buyer myself, the cost of shire rates is always brought to my attention affecting my decision to purchase property. Andrew Ettershank	Sep 16, 2011 11:23 AM
155	Rationalise - cut the number of people working in the administration offices of the shire - make efficient change in attitude of some. Encourage groups to meet in Gilgandra for conferences etc Cut wasting money full page ads etc.	Sep 16, 2011 11:05 AM
156	We see the need to increase our rates but not through the huge steps council is wanting. Small increases over the years so that OUR budgets can be kept at home and in our business. We can better cope with small increases.	Sep 16, 2011 11:00 AM
157	No	Sep 16, 2011 10:49 AM
158	If the people working in council can't stick to a budget maybe they should be swapped for people who can! Council should also look at trimming staff (office) numbers.	Sep 16, 2011 10:41 AM
159	I am TOTALLY AGAINST this plan - rate notice rise as farmers are not able to increase their prices to compensate their charges and besides, Gilgandra Shire rates are at a HIGH level at present. So I suggest to Council to take a long hard look at the wastage and unproductive positions in Council (including long ads in the local paper, among other things!). I think this proposed rate increase will have a massive impact on the farming/grazing section and if you haven't got the farmer you won't have a progressive town!!	Sep 16, 2011 9:57 AM
160	I need to ask council why do our rates need to go up every year as I see. Decrease office staff and also your Mr Mann as he is not doing his job - been here far too long. Also outdoor staff for intense 6 men to stand and dig a hole. Come on wake Gilgandra we ratepayers mostly are pensioners, have no confidence in you.	Sep 16, 2011 9:51 AM
161	If we have to pay the rate increase, this means that it takes money out of our wages, so council high paid workers or management should not get any wage increase for the next 10 years. Also needs better management.	Sep 16, 2011 9:47 AM
162	I would agree to some degree of rate rise but not that much. I'm not sure that we need a surplus that big??	Sep 16, 2011 9:19 AM
163	1) Very important that Council is told that our farm of 1900h cannot support paying over \$20000pa rates in 3 years time. 2) I believe the Tourist Information Centre costs Council \$450000 / year. It should be leased out (including all services) maybe with a small subsidy from Council and install a	Sep 15, 2011 10:49 PM

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kitchen at the Heritage Centre suitable for functions, which would be a source of income. 3) Council vehicles should not travel 7000km for private fishing trips! 4) I am concerned that Council purchased land last year for \$250 000 with a final cost close to \$1 million when a local businessman wanted to develop the site. 5) The main street plan is extravagant, with \$250 000 spent on the public toilet and over \$1million spent on the Main Street master Plan. We need a public toilet but one we can afford! 6) The only way I will support a rate rise is the ratio of the revenue raised through rates be changed so urban rate payers pay more of the share of the rates in line with neighbouring councils. 7) I would like an independent audit into Council operations especially with the number of employees being one area of concern. Warrumbungle Shire has 200 employees, Warren has 70, Narromine has 120 while Paul Mann at the Curban meeting said Gilgandra has 240. 8) The audit should include investigations into whether Council should build e.g. hall at Cooe, Windmill Walk, \$60 000 garbage bins when our rural roads and some bridges are a disgrace. 9) Recently it was reported in our local paper that Council contracting for the RTA realised a profit of over \$400 000 for the Council. This sort of money should be put in a special fund for the whole Council in reserve. I disagree with the report in the paper that said some of the revenue was going to update Council employee facilities. 10) I want to live and retire in the shire but I am worried that if the Council continues to live beyond its means there definitely won't be a shire and much of a town to live in.

164	How can the below possibly cost what has been stated? IT purchases \$759,000 per year. Villa units \$300,000 each!!!! Why is industrial subdivision and residential subdivision \$700,000 and \$1,000,000? Surely these will be offset by sales. No other developer goes into a development expecting to lose these amounts of money.	Sep 15, 2011 5:11 PM
165	Council needs to reduce staff in the admin section. In every business there is dead wood. No rises in pay till Council is on its feet. Pensioners who are on a single pension are having trouble to pay increases in water, groceries, electricity etc. They will be unable to pay any rise in their rates. They are under a lot of stress trying to make ends meet. Expenditure must be reduced by Council.	Sep 15, 2011 5:06 PM
166	The proposal to fund these works by what is a substantial cumulative increase in rates in the current economic climate when particularly pensioners & ratepayers on fixed incomes are already being assaulted by increases in energy costs, the flow on from an inconceived carbon tax & other general increases in the cost of living displays a total lack of concern by this council. Is council aware that many local businesses are hurting & experiencing depressed levels of trading. There are a number of local businesses for sale & others are considering sale/closure. This substantial & cumulative increase in operating costs could well provide the impetus for further businesses to go on the market & before long we may see empty shops in the main street. If the proposed works are considered essential then council should reconsider the proposed application for an increase in the General Rate, the continued cumulative effect of which will be ongoing well beyond the proposed 3 years & will cause future financial hardship to many ratepayers particularly the most vulnerable on pensions & fixed incomes. An alternative approach would be a levy on top of the General Rate to last for a fixed period of say 3-5 years with council also taking the normal approved CPI rate increase each year. This proposal would remove the onerous ongoing cumulative effect on ratepayers of the proposed rate	Sep 15, 2011 3:57 PM

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	increase & would allow Council to carry out the proposed capital works.	
167	Amalgamate	Sep 15, 2011 3:47 PM
168	Everybody is pressed for money at this time due to drought, it has affected farmers and businesses alike raising rates at this time will only put more pressure on ratepayers. It is time to consolidate, I look at councils first priorities and have services that are not affordable for better times. Country roads, water and sewerage and waste disposal in urban areas.	Sep 15, 2011 3:13 PM
169	Part 4/rural roads does not facilitate a reasonable response. The 10 year proposal is completely inequitable for the rural rate payer. The actual amount which will be paid by this sector is markedly disproportionate to services offered (and the contribution of the non rural dweller). The survey has been devised to interpret that lack of support for council's 10 year plan also means lack of support for improvement to regional (unsealed) roads - which is NOT the case. Taking disproportionately more money from those who receive fewer services does not fit with the concept of inclusivity. A more balanced plan must be devised	Sep 15, 2011 1:59 PM
170	Gilgandra council would be better to reduce the number of services provided as they cannot afford so many services, this could mean a reduction in staff to administer these services as Council appears to have a large staff for the size of Council. Rural areas do not get equal recognition for the amount of money paid, that the town area receives. Hard times mean hard decisions and its time of make our state and federal governments realise that country people are not getting their fair share	Sep 15, 2011 1:43 PM
171	Trim the fat at headquarters. Live within your means.	Sep 15, 2011 1:22 PM
172	Council needs to look within and see where savings can be made in administration, in the number of services provided and get back to providing essential services expected of councils, roads, water, sewerage, bridges, sporting fields (within reason), waste disposal. Council should also press State and Federal Governments for money to provide further services.	Sep 15, 2011 1:19 PM
173	Live within your means like any business	Sep 15, 2011 1:15 PM
174	No rate increase above current ratepegging acceptable. Council to look at cutting costs eg administrative staff. Amalgamation with Dubbo or Coonamble	Sep 15, 2011 1:12 PM
175	Support improvement not how they intend doing it???? Change at council elections will be great. Less paid workers in council chambers. Unwarranted payrise by councillors, too many councillors. Plant and equipment purchases not warranted and don't get used. Need to look at big picture????	Sep 15, 2011 1:06 PM
176	Gilgandra Shire Council does not seem to be able to handle money, it looks as if it grows on trees.	Sep 15, 2011 12:52 PM
177	Utilise the allowable standard rate increase every year. If additional increase needed have a smaller increase over a longer period	Sep 15, 2011 12:39 PM
178	I would suggest that you carry out your maintenance better then you would not have a big bill after 10 years. You have enough trucks and cards for two shires. The town is a mess. Footpaths, lights, old falling down houses, oval fencing falling down due to lack of maintenance. How can you expect people	Sep 15, 2011 12:26 PM

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	to pay more. Houses being flooded by poor drainage.	
179	The rate increases suggested 12/5% each year for three years will put a lot of small businesses on the rocks. The survey itself is poorly worded with the term (unsure) too vague.	Sep 15, 2011 12:09 PM
180	D Kennaugh Kingsley Park	Sep 15, 2011 11:37 AM
181	I am opposed to the suggested rate increase at the time - everyone has to tighten their belts and I believe Council has to do likewise not bleed the ratepayers even if it means less facilities	Sep 15, 2011 10:43 AM
182	No other rate increase other than the estimated 3%. Reduce vehicle purchases and keep them longer. Reduce office staff. Industrial and residential subdivisions are assets. Water supply is paid for by ratepayers. Cooee land and hostel are allpaid for by inmates and residents and don't incur that cost.	Sep 15, 2011 10:22 AM
183	Natural attrition in councils workforce to make savings Improved customer service if rate rise is to be justified - staff can be rude and not helpful on occasion, they need to remember their job is to SERVE the community. A smile now and then wouldn't hurt. Council staff seems to be a boys club where those in the know get work done. Promote Gil as an alternative to dubbo to live, need to attract more young families, which will increase rates, and build our community. Same as all country towns, Gil is very insular and needs to look outside for growth, not keep hitting it's own people up for money Gil needs to grow, at the moment it's stuck in the past.	Sep 14, 2011 11:45 PM
184	Aim to balance the budget rather than a \$4mil surplus. If you would like my support for the extra rate rise, the community will need more information. Look at council expenses (eg. electricity, staffing, running costs) and see if we can add to the needed funds through savings here. Have you done an energy audit (this can be done inhouse so as not to incur additional costs). Having a look at council minutes there seems to be certain losses that need more information. For example, why was there a loss for sewerage? Could you provide us with more information on the cost and income of different services where there is a large cost subsidised by other areas or ratepayers. Does the Cooee Lodge or the Villas pay for themselves? From comments in the Gil Weekly I am confused? I suggest that we redo this survey so ratepayers can feel confident that their money is being spent wisely. Rather than ratings from "Very important" to "Very unimportant" perhaps rating areas in respect to their perceived priorities would be more helpful, to indicate luxuries and essentials. The current survey appears biased because listing a service being "very unimportant" appears as the only way for a respondent to indicate that they would prefer their money not to be spent in that area. When times are tough in a household, people have to decide which items are necessities and then they prioritise additional expenses. Could council provide us with a costed list of their "essential expenses" and then the extras that we could rank in order of preference to us. With finances so low, perhaps we are not in a position to purchase any additional land for future development. The proposed additional increase in rates is unaffordable to most people I have spoken to. Most people would love to see the services provided by Gil Council retained and perhaps even expanded into public transport or council clean ups as provide by Dubbo Council. With rising electricity costs, the proposed Federal Flood Levy and uncertainty about the effect of the carbon tax many families are already wondering how they will fund these things whilst still paying mortgages and	Sep 14, 2011 5:51 PM

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	<p>other commitments. If rates go up I assume landlords will be passing some or all of them on to their tenants as rent increases. This will not help our town to grow. Can the shop holders afford this? Many have signs in their windows saying they are already for sale. I implore you to think of another way to help fund our council. Thanks</p>	
185	<p>If council wants to increase rates 15.5% then it should cut expenses/wages etc by the same. The ratepayers can't be expected to take all the strain.</p>	Sep 14, 2011 5:47 PM
186	<p>Council needs to be more transparent with financial expenditure eg what % of funds goes to administration. Proposed rate increase is far too great for rural landholder for what is received for their expenditure. If passed and the proposed capital works completed will the rates be reduced?</p>	Sep 14, 2011 5:27 PM
187	<p>Rural properties should be rated on a pro-rata basis with an index according to the number of kms travelled to reach a continuous sealed surface. Thus, if a property fronts and is adjacent to poor roads, it should be rated concessionally. A property on a sealed road should pay a higher rate. There should be a program to seal roads rather than just resheeting.</p>	Sep 14, 2011 5:24 PM
188	<p>Given that Council has forgone rate rises over the past years a catchup is necessary, however the items in the 10 year plan need to be ranked and reflect the real needs of the overall shire. Rural roads will always wear out and with a limited gravel resource, money is better spent on bridges and bus routes to ensure adequate access by those less able to be counted. Ratepayers may be more willing to take on 8-10% increase over 5-6 years as opposed to a three year frenzy. It also allows for increased flexibility in the plan. Water and sewerage works should not be included in the 10 year plan as they have separate funds and subject to their own business plans as you well know. Thanks</p>	Sep 14, 2011 5:04 PM
189	<p>Without the proposed upgrades, Gil will not realise its potential. It may be that Gil will become an industrial 'satellite city' for Dubbo - benefits for all!</p>	Sep 14, 2011 4:53 PM
190	<p>Gilgandra council will have to try and source revenue for major projects like bridge building of the four bridges that require renewing. Also some of the major road works, with resheeting and formation required after flood damage.</p>	Sep 14, 2011 4:49 PM
191	<p>We suggest you cut out some of proposed spending eg Windmill Walk extension, depot upgrade to name only two projects The rate increase of 12.5% is far too much and will have a big impact on rural landholders especially. Council needs to put money to better use and not waste so much.</p>	Sep 14, 2011 4:43 PM
192	<p>I think Council should spend the next three years showing the community they can manage the funds they do get well before any rate rises above the ratepegging be considered again. A focus should be placed on essential services - roads, water etc. All works carried out should be done at a reasonable cost not a 'blown out' cost. It would be good to have a process in place that will enable council to get the best price without forfeiting quality for any projects carried out, whether it be with council labour or outsourced labour.</p>	Sep 14, 2011 4:36 PM
193	<p>Q16. We would like to offer an alternative to the current 10 year plan for the shire. 1. Take a good look at staffing. The shire employees seem to be top heavy. (Too many chiefs and not enough indians). 2. Make all shire employees accountable for productivity (Time wasted is time lost). To be</p>	Sep 14, 2011 3:01 PM

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more specific on a number of occasions I have witnessed shire employees on mobile phones talking to whomever and not working. I have seen a shire worker on the mobile phone stopped for at least half an hour whilst mowing the lawn at Cooee Lodge. Are we paying for personal calls? Personal mobiles should be banned in the work place. This is only one instance I have witnessed. Private employees would not allow this waste. 3. If you insist on raising rates, does it all have to happen in the next 3 years? 10 years at 3% sounds more attainable by the ratepayers. After the last 10 years of drought and the majority of our ratepayers are rural ratepayers given them a break. Please remember the farmers have not recovered from the last 10 years and this year is not shaping up too good either. Maybe projects will have to be put on hold but at least rates might be paid. We don't need properties being sold for back rates. As we were informed at the meeting councillors are ratepayers and can afford the rate rise unfortunately we are not all in this position. 4. We believe roads are a priority within the shire not civic functions and town beautification. Make a goal like Coonamble Shire to replace all wooden bridges. 5. We don't need a huge surplus of \$4 million. Ratepayers are hurting. Remember rates have to be found by farmers before they even make any money. 6. Introduce a system that rates can be paid monthly, quarterly or yearly depending on the ratepayers' circumstances. 7. Invest surplus monies wisely and only within Australia in sound investments not overseas. Please make this policy. 8. Have a DO IT ONCE DO IT RIGHT POLICY not like the Viewing Platform at Tooraweenah. Since the recent rain it is now all bogged up. Motorists were unaware it was on gravel not tar.

194	I am a self funded retiree - I won't be getting a 12.5% increase in my next 10 years. My concern is for farmers who will want to buy land in 10 years time with the cost of rates. I am very proud of our town and like to see it looking good and thriving, but we all have to keep within our budget and manage the best we can and Council needs to do the same with increase.	Sep 14, 2011 1:50 PM
195	Can't afford any more rises in the cost of living	Sep 14, 2011 1:46 PM
196	\$4 million surplus won't happen, it will be chewed up by blowouts in other projects. Work within a budget like the rest of us. Not in favour of a 10 year plan, it would be better with a smaller rate increase to end in a nil surplus.	Sep 14, 2011 1:43 PM
197	Better financial management. Less spending 12.5% less. Less waste of time and money. Less non essential projects.	Sep 14, 2011 1:34 PM
198	At the meeting I attended regarding this issue all that was talked about was what would be done with this rate rise. At no time was it mentioned how Council could be more efficient or cut expenditure. I think it would be better if Council learned to be more accountable with its existing income as all other do in the general community.	Sep 14, 2011 1:27 PM
199	Too much too soon. Pensions won't go up by 54% in this time.	Sep 14, 2011 1:23 PM
200	I am dead against raising rates anything above the allowed ratepegging. This council should look at more government grants and not expect rural ratepayers to subsidise all their great plans.	Sep 14, 2011 12:41 PM
201	Sack half of the council office employees	Sep 14, 2011 12:27 PM
202	Stop upgrading machinery & get rid of dead wood in council.	Sep 14, 2011 11:38 AM
203	Cut spending	Sep 13, 2011 8:02 PM

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204	For Council to have become into such a financial mess - is inexcusable - the CEO should be sacked and replaced by a competent person. There are no excuses. Checks must be carried out on any employees. Previous Councils history before engagement to prevent disaster	Sep 13, 2011 4:53 PM
205	Things will be alot different by the end of the 10 year plan. So unless its going to be done asap well I don't see how anyone could even think that far ahead. There's a lot of things that I don't see that needs to be done, leave Miller Street as it is. It will only get destroyed by the people who roam the streets at night with no home to go to, so it would seem. And with the town been mostly on Centrelink payments its not going to make it easier to pay a rate rise and by the 10 years even the likes of myself will be an older person so I think just leave it as it is. Y K Clifford (Bonny).	Sep 13, 2011 4:39 PM
206	not with a rate increase	Sep 13, 2011 4:33 PM
207	Rural roads should be financed by the users	Sep 13, 2011 4:10 PM
208	My husband and I being in our 80s and nearly 80 years. We won't be here to worry about the rates or anthing so will leave that to the younger residents. on a pension there is not much spare money for anything extra.	Sep 13, 2011 4:06 PM
209	A rate increase ABOVE pegging is totally the wrong imposition on our struggling rural community. We need to (as a Shire) live within our means - as all ratepayers are expected to. Manager the budget - what you have is the serious implicationof the current economic situation and the physical climate which seriously restricts the spending of farmers and townspeople alike. We are still in a financial drought. Take the hard decisions and lets not get all fancy and go for all the trimmings. The basics are not nearly getting down.	Sep 13, 2011 4:02 PM
210	Do an INDEPENDENT time management study with the aim to reduce employee numbers and council waste. Look at stormwater drainage in town areas as they do not cope with rainfall at present. Make sure the riverleveee bank is a major priority becauseif it is breached we will not have a town. Cut the cost to ratepayers for development applications to encourage new buildings and development. LISTEN TO THE RATEPAYERS!!! Our money is very hard to come by - don't waste it!!	Sep 13, 2011 3:17 PM
211	How about the Council look at itself and cut its costs. People cannot take many more cost increases etc electricity, food, HCF and more. NO RATE INCREASE	Sep 13, 2011 2:59 PM
212	Rural properties in Gilgandra Shire have had negative income for past 10 years. Now is not the time for huge rate increases!!! I suggest a massive expansion of Cooee Lodge Dementia Wing. It'll be full of demented farmers soon enough!! Lets get over the rural recession first!	Sep 13, 2011 1:48 PM
213	Going by previous rate meetings Council will do what they want regardless of ratepayers opinions sop why waste time and paper. This is only to look as though all the ts have been crossed.	Sep 13, 2011 1:37 PM
214	Put 50 percent of indoor staff off. Put 50 percent of outdoor staff off. Save money and still same amount of work would be done at half the cost.	Sep 13, 2011 1:26 PM
215	a much smaller increase	Sep 13, 2011 1:21 PM
216	No. Let the rate increase occur. We cannot continue to expect more for no	Sep 13, 2011 1:10 PM

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	increase in cost. You get nothing for NOTHING. Less outdoor staff standing around at jobs whilst 1 or 2 do the work would be good. If the job required 1 or 2 people, why are there 3 or 4 present? More work - less driving around, standing and talking please. Geoff Kiehne. Resident Ratepayer. 1.9.11	
217	Though I am supportive of the 12.5% increase, I believe a 6% increase per annum over say 6 years would be more palatable.	Sep 13, 2011 12:55 PM
218	I would like NO increase in rates above ratepegging. I suggest trying to get more funding from State and Federal Governments. Especially for bridge works. Also look at cost savings, for example maybe the old fence around the works depot could have been repaired instead of being replaced. Street bins at \$60,000 really. Plant purchases delayed by repairing existing plant. Fully recouping the costs of subdivisions. Windmill Walk extension, scrap that one. SES headquarters at \$500,000 that a heck of a shed.	Sep 13, 2011 12:51 PM
219	Council should think very carefully about such a high rate rise. It would cripple the farming community. Farmers are still in a drought. Crops have not been very good over the last few years. It is important for Council to be in a sound financial situation. Rates have been going up each year and Council still can't keep within their budget, so things will not change with a bigger rate rise. It is an insult to think rate payers would agree to such a rise.	Sep 13, 2011 12:42 PM
220	Council's proposed increase is not a viable option for a number of reasons: 1. Given the current climate and conditions rural ratepayers may well be put into financial jeopardy 2. Pensioners and self funded retirees with withering super funds and fixed incomes have no capacity to absorb such an increase. We believe Council must take a harder look at its own administration and costs. Fund high priority works only and work within the budget constraints of a max 5% rate increase per year for the next three years. Local Government collectively needs to keep pressure on State and Federal Governments for increased funding. To simply apply massive rate increases sends the wrong message to Sydney and Canberra. WAe do accept some increase however not the ridiculous.	Sep 13, 2011 12:29 PM
221	I found this survey to be very simplistic. Too difficult to cross reference cost benefits some questions too general eg "are you satisfied with the current condition of council's unsealed rural roads " some are good others are not. Costings should have been included along side expenditure(not just some costings on a separate sheet) to make a financial decision not just how important the item is to us as we know it is financially challenging to achieve council's ambitions. Therefore I don't support plan. We wouldn't be in this situation if council had a financial team that spent within budget. Can you spend \$15 if you only have \$10????? Alternatively present a model reflecting size of the shire and its population capacity to support a "wish" list with some attempt showing how council will be financial into the future. Will there be more rate rises of this magnitude to be sustainable? Are we too small to exist?	Sep 13, 2011 12:18 PM
222	Dear Councillors - I would like to make some suggestions that could save Council quite a few dollars. 1. Would be to cut one million dollars from the plant fund and save \$1,000,000 over ten years maybe more. 2. Do away with a few middle managers 3. Industrial and Residential land should be self funding and show a small profit 4. Building control and inspections all done from inhouse - more dollars. All the things in this survey are important if Council can afford to do them. Council had the increase outside rate pegging in previous years that was going to solve the financial problems	Sep 13, 2011 11:13 AM

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which had very little support from the ratepayers. You Councillors are expected to set money policy that fit in with ratepayers need and ability to pay and leave the general manager to carry policy out within those limits. If you as councillors feel the general manager is not doing this you certainly need to take action.

223	Learn to live within your means like we have to and stop the huge waste of money on unproductive people and activities.	Sep 13, 2011 10:15 AM
224	Very disappointed with survey - no room for comment on individual questions, inappropriate responses available, leading questions. Disappointed that only one financial plan alternative given (leading to a whopping 54% rate increase over 3yrs) - why no alternative with just essential services/capital expenditure? Have Councillors not heard that things are tough in all businesses??? It appears that surrounding councils are not requiring the rate increase Gilgandra Shire is wanting to impose. Perhaps councillors should take a look at their models? Perhaps it's time to bring in the 'razor gang' to look at staff/staffing levels, productivity, budgets - go thru the whole business & establish just where the ratepayers money is being spent. What happened to the ~18% increase 5yrs ago which was agreed to with the assumption that the council would be in a better financial position - obviously we are now in a worse situation. In the Mayor's words - 'Gilgandra council is broke' - so the only expenditure until this situation improves should be on essential expenditure ONLY.	Sep 11, 2011 10:41 PM
225	The previous money allocated for the construction of the Terrabile Bridge be located to fund the project. To avoid any rate rise Council needs to adopt the model that works within the budget ie spend only what you have	Sep 11, 2011 10:12 PM
226	I totally reject the councils 10 year plan of the rate increase. When businesses strike financial hardship the usual procedure is retrenching - in the shires case in the administration department, starting at the top. The rural sector pay the biggest portion of the rates and received nothing in return. Living on a roadtrain route - which is unsealed, we feel very lucky to see a grader once a year - not good enough. There are too many residents in Gilgandra Shire who do not pay direct rates. After a ten year drought plus one good year how could any business be expected to agree to such an enormous jump in rates - NEVER.	Sep 9, 2011 5:55 PM
227	The percentage for the first three years is too great. Why not have say 5% i.e. annual general rate increase plus 2% for the next 10 years. This would result in a 50% increase at the end of the 10 year plan. Council obviously is experiencing difficulties but so too is the residential and rural rate payers!!	Sep 9, 2011 5:30 PM
228	No suggestion as such, but Council needs to be more proactive in its approach to bring big ticket development to town. eg Wellington jail either private or government. We should be exploiting our geographic position to its utmost. We need a Fletchers or jail (or something of that scope) to kickstart and provide a base to the local economy and should be busting our gut to get it. We need to grow and be proactive to make it happen.	Sep 9, 2011 5:14 PM
229	I think the council us TOP HEAVY. By this I mean a little less administration positions at the top end.	Sep 9, 2011 5:08 PM
230	Council has worded survey questions to suit Council's agenda. I DO NOT however, support a rate increase. I would propose Gilgandra Council and area be run and managed by Dubbo Council.	Sep 9, 2011 3:20 PM

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| 231 | <p>Firstly, it is disappointing to note that in much of the public commentary around this proposal (eg articles in the Gilgandra Weekly) the fact that the 12.5% increase is on top of normal rate increases hasn't been mentioned. In my discussions with other ratepayers, it seems that this fact was not widely understood. Prior to the council publicly putting forward the current draft model, council looked at other options including a smaller increase in rates spread over a longer period of time, which achieved the same increase in rural roads funding. This option would be a far more responsible course to take, rather than attempting to gouge ratepayers with a massive increase over three years. Also, seeking a large increase in rates to attempt to guarantee a sizeable surplus in ten years "just in case" seems to be a rather foolish approach. Previous increases in rates have been put forward along the same lines, and yet council seems unable to explain where the money from those increases has gone. Ratepayers would be far better served with a smaller increase to achieve the required level of ongoing roads funding, with appropriate levels of debt being considered to support one-off major capital works. A focus on a more "user-pays" approach in relation to some funding proposals should also be considered, for example in the case of the pool, gym and heritage centre. The adoption of levies on these facilities, or a general increase in fees, would more fairly place the costs on those who wish to use the services, rather than those ratepayers (particularly those who reside outside the township) who have no want or need for the facilities. It seems that all current councillors are either town residents and/or ratepayers, or (in the case of Cr Spencer) non-resident and non-ratepayer. The biggest impact of this massive increase in rates will be felt by ratepayers outside the Gilgandra Township, who appear to be utterly unrepresented by the current council, despite contributing the bulk of rates funding. This reflects a broader issue which needs to be addressed, and could be rectified by the adoption of wards within the shire to better reflect the composition of the shire and remove a town-centric focus. I also note in the proposal what seems to be a large amount of IT spend. Could council please explain to ratepayers where this money is going? As a suggestion, I'd certainly encourage council to look seriously at a major overhaul of the council website - information is not well presented, and the rather dated technology used seems to seriously lack flexibility. A good indication of this is that this survey is being hosted by SurveyMonkey, and not managed as part of Council's website - something that should be simple for any reasonable Content Management System. A lack of focus on using the website for timely information also seems to be a problem which was particularly evident during the floods early this year. Coonamble shire had regular updates (several times a day) on their website, and showed the status of all rural roads within the shire, compared with Gilgandra's website which provided very little in the way of real information, and was not well updated. In short, council needs to re-evaluate its priorities and put forward a well-considered proposal that is actually truly based over a ten-year period, rather than the current three-year big bang approach which is clearly unaffordable for ratepayers, particularly for those ratepayers who have holdings outside the Gilgandra township.</p> | Sep 9, 2011 2:42 PM |
| 232 | <p>I would like to see a business administrator to come and clean out any dead wood. Totally independent of anyone at Council. They would come and run this Council as a business. Put in measures to cut costs not just always want more money. If Council want more money they should at least show where they plan to make some cuts to their costs. Just like any other business is doing in 2011. Lets employ a general manager with real business skills behind him/her. Possibly a degree in business management or a MBA. Someone with authority to make hard decisions with his/her head and not</p> | Sep 9, 2011 1:32 PM |

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the heart! Gilgandra administration needs a fresh approach which should start at the top!

233 Strongly advise reducing administration staff numbers Council needs to look elsewhere for funding eg State and Federal grants, lobby State and Federal ministers to access increased funding especially for bridges Sep 9, 2011 1:23 PM

234 I admire the shires objective but the 12.5% increase I feel is too much. On top of ratepegging, I would think 6-7% on top of ratepegging would be more affordable for the general ratepayer. Sep 9, 2011 1:15 PM

235 The first step in ensuring a sustainable and financially viable business is to conduct a financial audit to ensure there is no unnecessary spending occurring and to ensure the money already being spent is being utilised to maximum effectiveness. It is IMPERATIVE that council conducts a financial and performance audit on themselves before increasing ratepayers costs. At present council employs a very large number of staff, and it is possible for an audit to show just whether we require all these staff. In today's society it seems that there are multiple people doing a job that previously used to be done by one person, so a review of staffing and expenditure within council itself should be the first step. A review of management positions, do we really need lots of management positions, can some of these be consolidated? Look at funding and grants. We have several large companies that operate out of Gilgandra eg Graincorp and AWB, given they are part of the reason we have large road trains chewing up our roads, can they be approached to put some money back into the community to help with road maintenance costs? As a rural ratepayer we currently pay the largest proportion of rates into council and get very little 'bang for our buck', our tips are not maintained, our recycling is not collected from the tip as promised, and our unsealed roads are graded on average every 5 years so they deteriorate to the point of causing damage to vehicles and placing people at risk who drive on them, however LOTS of money has been spent in town on the Miller St Upgrade, propping up Cooee Lodge, Orana Lifestyle Directions, Carlinda and Jack Towney. Rather than propping up these part funded council services would it not be better to conduct an audit on them and work out why they're losing money and work out a plan to help make them viable rather than just throwing money at them to prop them up. Do we need to outsource them to private enterprise? Do they need to change their work practices, management structure etc to help make them viable? Any funded organisation by Federal and State is accountable and must undergo regular audits and reviews to ensure they continue to receive their funding and are eligible, surely this makes more sense than council just continually baling them out. A total independent review and audit of council and it's services and business arms should be council's first step before looking at a hugely exorbitant rate rise that will largely be paid for by rural landholders, who are only just coming out of a long period of drought, only to be devastated by flooding resulting in little or no harvest in 2010/2011. Let alone having to pay extra taxes in flood levies to help rebuild QLD. If council wants to be viable over the next 10 years like any good business they need to tighten their purse strings and look at financial savings they can make themselves before putting the cost onto the consumer. Just increasing costs is not a good way to run a business and will in fact lose not only consumers but landholders, as people sell up when they are unable to afford ongoing costs. Sep 9, 2011 10:42 AM

236 This survey is biased in its presentation. Of course all infrastructure is IMPORTANT and of course we want the area to go ahead BUT it should not Sep 8, 2011 6:06 PM

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be the Rural people paying the biggest portion of the bill. We cannot keep paying- it is not feasible nor in our case is it an option. If this rate increase comes in to play we will be forced to make changes- either sell off land or further erode our living standards. The comparisons between town rates (and the services they receive for these rates) and rural rates is not FAIR. The comment made by the Mayor that rural people need representation on council is also "off putting ", I was under the assumption(wrongly it would seem) that councillors were elected to serve all the region not just their home turf. Silly me! Please rethink this ten year plan it is not feasible and we cannot keep paying.

237	Reduce staff numbers - we should reduce the position of the economic development officer reduce wages of higher paid employees eg Paul Mann, Neil Alchin Reduce our councillor numbers and stop paying their wages and benefits they get I own more than one property, why should I get charged more when you people do less. I can't get you to grade my road now. Why would I want to pay more for you not to do something that is your responsibility Cancel council picnic day - you can save money that way. You can also save money by not sending out these colourful brochures-surveys. It would have been cheaper to do black and white	Sep 8, 2011 6:04 PM
238	Maybe 6%	Sep 8, 2011 5:50 PM
239	Clean up Gilgandra Cemetery this is badly needed. Thank you S Spooner.	Sep 8, 2011 5:03 PM
240	Need to manage what they have and what they get better, maybe less admin staff	Sep 8, 2011 5:00 PM
241	Oppose the rate increases as rural resident we are the hardest hit with these increases with very little benefit.	Sep 8, 2011 4:56 PM
242	Leave Terrable Bridge as is, spend money on Gumin Bridge. Culvert idea is ridiculous, must be two lane concrete bridge at existing level of current bridge. Concentrate on spending on roads, sewerage, water and waste management and cut back on all other programs.	Sep 8, 2011 4:42 PM
243	Way to high of a increase. Times are hard enough at the moment with the cost of living to try and find this money. Families are struggling already to keep homes due to rate increases ontop of increases with food, fuel and electricity. How much more can you get from a rock?	Sep 8, 2011 4:39 PM
244	As a non resident ratepayer I am unsure of what capital works need to be done, however, I am not in favour of the rates increasing as much as projected. I have just bought a residential property in Gilgandra to assist family and I rent it out at a minimum rental. I have only owned this property for 8 months and I ask the question, why do I have to pay an increase of rates for work that should have been done prior and planned for in past and future business plans.	Sep 8, 2011 4:20 PM
245	Council needs to tighten its belt also, only so many dollars to go around	Sep 8, 2011 4:03 PM
246	Stop wasting money outsourcing when we already have and pay people to do the job.	Sep 8, 2011 3:57 PM
247	NO as we never get our roads repaired, graded or anything. We are still waiting for the roads to be fixed from the last floods. Your council is unable to fix a road/bridge without having to return for more repairs, get a team of	Sep 8, 2011 3:54 PM

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	works who knows what they are doing and fix the problem the first time.	
248	We all want a thriving community so find the overall approach to this survey very frustrating as you are making out that people don't want the best for their town but council needs to carefully review the efficiency of their spending. Not at the cost of massive rate increases. Not to the detriment of rural properties struggling to survive. Farmers would need to have an unprecedented massive increase in commodity prices to justify such a high rate rise. Council needs to do what rural families have been doing for the past 10 years. Tighten the notch on their spending with greater efficiency in budgeting and cutting labour force to bare minimum. Council to closely scrutinise the efficiency of their spending taking a closer look at labour costs and the efficiency of that labour. Council to spend more time with farmers to learn how to effectively use limited labour and financial resources to successfully run a viable business. Massive overheads destroy us all!	Sep 8, 2011 3:49 PM
249	Big savings should be possible if Terrible Creek Bridge is replaced with a low level structure	Sep 8, 2011 3:42 PM
250	I think we have to have an increase but believe 12.5% is a bit savage!	Sep 8, 2011 3:39 PM
251	Work within the budget you already have.	Sep 8, 2011 3:35 PM
252	I believe Council needs to offer rural landholders (particularly large or valuable holdings) a lot more for their per capita contribution to Council. eg full time weeds inspection/control personnel and not only on Council lands i.e. roads and reserves, similar for vermin, mobile drummuster, rubbish collection. Rural councils and LHPAs could combine!!	Sep 8, 2011 3:31 PM
253	I ticked not important to me some of the boxes in question 10 because I have never travelled those roads and probably never will. While these bridges are important to anyone that needs them, the question asked - how important are they to me. I think the shire hall is very important to the town therefore should be maintained.	Sep 8, 2011 3:20 PM
254	Cut back on some of the plant purchase, wages, bushfire and many other beautifying projects. That's how farmers stay in business, cut costs when doing it tough work smart.	Sep 8, 2011 3:16 PM
255	I feel some savings to the budget could be made by reducing senior staff, eg General Manager who has passed his 'use by date'. A town our size cannot support the number of executives who do not actually produce any positive outcomes for the community. A restructure is imperative and the Council facilities will then be sufficient. Todd Fergusson is supposed to be in charge of Community Services (including Cootee Lodge) and yet when there is a spokesperson for that facility it is Paul Mann who makes the statement. Who should it be? That is just typical of the duplication - let each entity do its job and stop unnecessary reporting - just for the sake of the hierarchy.	Sep 8, 2011 3:10 PM
256	We would like to say that Tooraweenah seems to be forgotten when it comes to the services Gilgandra Council offers to its town residents.	Sep 8, 2011 2:57 PM
257	Council needs to be run as a profitable business but needs to keep in mind that pensioners cannot keep up with rate increases on their private homes, will we have to sell our homes??	Sep 8, 2011 1:52 PM
258	Reduce staff numbers and make the remaining staff actually earn their	Sep 8, 2011 1:48 PM

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	wages. There is more to Gilgandra Shire than what happens in Gilgandra itself. Rural ratepayers cannot afford a 50% or more rate rise. If you could see something for your money it might be different. Money wasted on this survey could have been put to better use.	
259	Less staff in chambers. Reduce special rate increase of 54% 2014/15 is unacceptable.	Sep 8, 2011 1:44 PM
260	I have lived on a property in the Gilgandra SZhire for 17 years. In that time my rates have tripled and I see less for my money now than I did then. I have had my access road graded 3 times - the table drain - NOT the road. I do not support the rate increase at ALL. I propose that you cut the staffing level to fill in any shortfall in the budget. AWhen I looked at the percentage of the budget that was spent on staff I was ASTOUNDED. Gilgandra Shire does not need the amount of staff that it currently empys, many of whom are not doing their jobs properly anyway and are being WAY overpaid. After talking to many of my friends and family that live in Gilgandra we are all in agreement. When I have to cut back my expenses the first things to go are the things that are not essential.	Sep 8, 2011 1:38 PM
261	Ratepayers need to see council making an effort to dreduce costs and be more accountable, eg how can IT purchases at \$759,000 per annum be justified? SES headquarters, do they need to spend \$500,000?	Sep 8, 2011 1:16 PM
262	Support of a lower rate increase and over a longer period of time than has been proposed. Supportive on the basis that sound financial management takes place, that there is increased productivity over ALL areas of Council senior management and operations. Tougher times call for tighter budgets.	Sep 8, 2011 1:06 PM
263	Keep hounding State and Federal Governments they are collecting fuel taxes which should go into expenditure for rural roads and bridges	Sep 8, 2011 12:59 PM
264	Do we need so many council workers? Do we need so many boss' on Council. Why does Jill Blackman need a boss over her? Why are there so many office workers at Cooee Lodge???	Sep 8, 2011 12:54 PM
265	Put in an administrator	Sep 8, 2011 12:50 PM
266	Less administration costs ie too many people to do administration jobs. What is the description of indoor and outdoor staff. There are way too many indoor staff.	Sep 8, 2011 12:46 PM
267	To save rate increase reduce office staff. Stop works staff driving around all day and have them do a days work for a days pay. Cut down on personal usage of vehicles.	Sep 8, 2011 12:33 PM
268	My thoughts are that it should be 6% over 6 years and we push both State and Federal Governments for a more equitable funding of services being done by Local Government that used to be provided by those government departments. Our Shire is becoming unviable because we are small, administration under present funding is too high versus services we used to provide before the many services government departmnenjt used to provide, we also have had many extra requirements placed on us by particularly State Government eg building requirements, ratepegging, medical services, aged care and community care. Perhaps we should seriously consider joining with both Coonamble and Warrumbungle Shires. They all compliment each other because of the Castlereagh River and Warrumbungle Mountains.	Sep 8, 2011 12:19 PM

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	Plant could be movbed for maintenace of roads when storms and sligh rain events happen. Administration should be able to be reduced. Grader operators should be put in charge of sections of shires rather than having other staff tearing around in vehicles.	
269	The current financial set up is unsustainable 1. There needs to be cost cutting in the administration area 2. There needs to be a better balance between rural and town rate collection. 3. We need to get back to living within our means and not bit off the hand that feeds you which is what will happen if this 10 year proposal goes ahead. I remain yours faithfully AR Vickers	Sep 8, 2011 12:11 PM
270	Make cost cuts in administration	Sep 8, 2011 12:05 PM
271	Apply for grants if possible	Sep 8, 2011 11:58 AM
272	If the increase is a necessity lower it and put it ovber a much longer period of time. The cost of living is already high - how much can we take? It is suggested that the new bin covers around town could have been made locally for half the cost council paid. Therefore council could lower its expenses by possibly looking locally to have goods made. You want us to SHOP LOCAL!!!! Council should and could lower their own expenses.	Sep 7, 2011 5:58 PM
273	Please grade dirt roads fairly. Some get graded regularly and others never see one. Come on, take care of your rural ratepayers.	Sep 7, 2011 5:50 PM
274	Amalgamate with other shires and save on labour and machinery. The council rates in Gilgandra are double what the coastal areas are and we have not got half the benefits. I cannot see the value of a street sweeper running around and doing half a job when there is little rubbish to sweep up.	Sep 7, 2011 5:39 PM
275	If Council cut out so many excesses such as conferences at the coast, over training (courses), catering for things like the opening of new shelves at the library (just put in the bloody things) and it could save so much. Sell off street sweeper truck and make businesses responsible for the cleaning of own footpaths.	Sep 7, 2011 4:52 PM
276	Cut administration costs. Review Councillor salaries and spending	Sep 7, 2011 4:39 PM
277	We have no objection to a rate rise if we see marked improvement. In January 2010 our roads were washed out with the floods and approaches on the highway side of Lucas Bridge was washed out and have not been repaired to a safe level. Some work has been done but safety should be an issue. Late last year we were sent paperwork to ask if we want the cattle grid on the road removed. We sent the request back and after approximately a year nothing has been done. We feel our area tends to be forgotten.	Sep 7, 2011 4:24 PM
278	Just cut out the silly spending, look at ways of saving a dollar or two. If you are going to put a tunnel under the bridge might as well put one under the road onto Warren Road so the drunks won't get hit by a car or get rid of their hill. \$200,000 seems a lot for the walk, should be put towards the pool or information centre. Try to save more stormwater. Need to seal road up to Flora Reserve.	Sep 7, 2011 4:11 PM
279	Let everything fall to pieces and close them seems to be what some residents would like Council to do. To be progressive we need repairs and progression. We can't do this withoutg a cost to residents. We need to do	Sep 7, 2011 4:06 PM

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	what we need to do.	
280	Get rid of buckets	Sep 7, 2011 3:07 PM
281	Council, stop buying land for future THOUGHTS! Let residents move forward.	Sep 7, 2011 3:00 PM
282	Would not mind a small increase but our farming community is still in trouble and this rate increase would be a burden. They may not be able to afford.	Sep 7, 2011 2:54 PM
283	Suggest AGED pensioners should be EXEMPT from any rate increases for the three year period 2012/13 to 2014/15!!!!	Sep 7, 2011 2:50 PM
284	This is not an alternative but we need to put more pressure on our State and Federal Representatives for more funding.	Sep 7, 2011 1:43 PM
285	No - but don't support an equal increase across all ratepayers - rural properties don't benefit from MOST other council services othe than the VERY OCCASIONAL road grading! We would be very unhappy with the proposed % increase in rates and would struggle to find these additional funds.	Sep 7, 2011 1:20 PM
286	No	Sep 7, 2011 1:13 PM
287	<p>People just can not afford this rate increase. Some can but most can not. Those in council positions who come up with this proposal are privileged to have very good wages far higher than the average wage earner. An increase they can afford. But do not forget our town consists of Low Income Earners , Elderly Citizens , Retirees, Unemployed, Landlords Of Rental Properties Who Will Pass On Costs, Businesses Who are just making a living, Farmers who go through years of hard times. With increasing cost in fuel, electricity, food , carbon tax hanging over peoples heads what a poor time for council to want their share. Council and Councilors are there to do the best for our community sometimes I think they forget this. I do not disagree the town should progress and have upgrades and so on. Council may say the rate increase is going to this going to that but in reality once brought in the money gets lost in the system. Next thing you know we looking for funding for Industrial subdivision, Residential subdivision, Grandchester bridge and so on. Council should be trying to generate money in other ways. To me it does not seem very professional of management if all they do is hold their hands out and want. Maybe if there was a small community levy on our rates and every year a project is done i might be happy with that. This money would be able to be monitored and the community would get something every year The community gets to decide maybe out of few things to choose from. Not spent somewhere else. There might be better ways to develop residential land offering incentives . Maybe develop small sections at a time with potential owners contributing in the cost. DO not forget more ratepayers more income Spend more time looking in to grants a lot of items in the capital works program seem like they would be eligible for grants. Industrial subdivision good but we need residential population for industry. We need to look at what sort of industry would want land. Most rural industries are already set up. Point I am making think smarter work out what would make gil bigger and better and generate money for council thus helping in its future financial stability. Making money from more rates and not trying to bleed dry from what little rates you have. Take a good look around places like Dubbo and other areas there rate income is extraordinary that's what helps make them .</p>	Sep 7, 2011 1:05 AM

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288	The population is decreasing in the rural part of the shire and farms are getting bigger. Less people live on the roads but you want to spend more money. Change the mix of the rates so the rural people pay less percentage, they will still complain the same but the future of Gilgandra is in the town not on farms.	Sep 7, 2011 12:09 AM
289	I think rates are cheap and Council should increase them provided they do what they say they are going to do.	Sep 6, 2011 9:50 PM
290	Rates are cheap in Gilgandra, fully support an increase provided the Council doesn't waste the money. Council should make sure it finishes the main street.	Sep 6, 2011 9:42 PM
291	All rate payers should not pay for a new Bridge for Councillor Lummis family. The bridge is not broken Fully supportive of Council promoting jobs in the form of industrial subdivisions.	Sep 6, 2011 9:34 PM
292	The 10 year plan is very ambitious, however I believe the rate payers of Gilgandra Shire cannot afford it. I don't know enough of the Council budgeting requirements to offer an alternative plan. May I ask a question, is it the responsibility of all neighbouring Councils to fund Fire Brigades, Emergency Services, Animal Control, Noxious Plant Control, Youth Services, Age Care Services, Disability Services, Community Housing, Community Care Services and Orana Arts? All these services are fantastic however should they be the main responsibility of the rate payers of the Shire? Could I suggest more focus could be on the current rate payers and residents of the Shire to enable them to access necessary services and conduct their business by roads and bridges suitable for today and tomorrows needs. I did investigate the cents in the dollar rate of neighbouring Councils only to find that Gilgandra is by far the most expensive at the current rate and has over double the number of employees. I wish you luck and I hope you get lots of replys to the survey. We are in South Australia and our survey didn't arrive before we left home so I am happy to have the opportunity to fill it out on line. Noeline Lummis	Sep 6, 2011 7:00 PM
293	Extend the long-term goal of a balanced budget and increasing expenditure for rural roads and capital works by limiting the general rate increase to 7% above rate pegging each year for five years [rather than 12.5% each year for three years] from 2012/13. It may assist alleviate the impact of rate rises on all ratepayers - particularly rural landholders battling on-going seasonal conditions that swing from floods to drought within months. That obviously has a detrimental flow-on effect to local businesses. Council has lead an upgrade of Miller Street in Gilgandra [including the ill thought out new public toilets in what was a valuable and much-used car parking area]. Nothing more needs to be done by Council in the main business sector in the immediate future - other than maintenance. That must assist the budget bottom line. Tourism promotion and development can be scaled back and savings made as there does not appear to have been an appreciable increase in tourists throughout the shire in the past 20 years. Gilgandra/Tooraweenah was the gateway to the Warrumbungles once, but that has been let go to Coonabarabran/Warrumbungle Shire and that area is reaping the benefit. Whilst the Gilgandra Visitors' Centre will always attract travellers, that can be our focal point for the distribution of information, along with very targetted attendance at specific regional promotions [some have worked, most don't]. Gilgandra gained an enviable reputation for its Cooee Lodge Aged Care facility and village, but the management and staff turnover has raised concerns in both the local and wider communities. Perhaps it is	Sep 6, 2011 5:36 PM

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time that Council considered withdrawing its management responsibilities for Coee Lodge in favour of an experienced aged care provider [there are numerous]. It will be controversial and so far removed from the original intent of the Bidon CWA Group to assist the elderly in the community, but we are now in the 21st century and things change. For the record, this ratepayer has had a family member utilise the facility/village and expects to do the same in the next 15 years [with luck]. Withdrawing management responsibilities will also make a significant difference to Council's budget bottom line. Council has tried its best to take on responsibilities way beyond the original roads and rubbish days [who would have thought 15 years ago what waste management entails nowadays]. Roads are no different. Those extra responsibilities have often been forced on local government by State and Federal governments "cost-shifting". A protracted local government agitation for those "extras" being removed from local government funding just may see this new State Government consider such initiatives as new ways to fund such essential services as our three emergency services. That would be another significant saving to Council's budget bottom line. Best of luck.

294	Employ less people in the Shire office, and make them multiskilled and more efficient!	Sep 5, 2011 6:49 PM
295	Directors need to plan and stick to a budget	Sep 5, 2011 3:20 PM
296	Medical and aged care are very important to me. Coee Lodge is a excellent facility but needs a stable, efficient person to run the day to day care. This is important as our growing population ages.	Sep 3, 2011 1:07 PM
297	Unable to offer an alternative suggestion as we have not been provided with a proposed budget for the next 10 years. All we have presented to us is turn over figures no use at all when making these decisions, we need income figures as well. EG..... new villa unites over 10 years this is not a decision by council but rather the coee management committe. and is funded by the residents and not council. so why include \$ 3,000,000 into the picture you are creating for a rate increase. These figures mean nothing.. Ian Smith. 75 coee drive, Gilgandra.	Sep 2, 2011 1:39 PM
298	We elected the nine Councillors, who together with Council staff have examined the alternatives which appear to be cuts in service standards. Let the Council do its job.....	Sep 1, 2011 11:07 AM
299	Town residence cannot take further hits in the wallets. Public purses are running dry.	Aug 31, 2011 9:05 PM
300	Council should honor the 2.5% rate pegging set by high levels of Government. Council should audit staff job rolls ,asserts which can be sold of and lose spending to address their financial position as the theme of the 10 year long plan. Services must be cut.	Aug 31, 2011 8:48 PM
301	The mix of rates is one issue that could be looked at. The population and the economic base of our community has slowly drifted to the Gilgandra township. I think if there was an increase to the base residential rates and got the mix to 65% rural to 35% residential and business, increases might be more palitable to people. This could be done over the twn year period of the plan. I dont think there is an alternative to this plan. Potentially with a variation to the mix of the rates and an additional year (54% over 4 years) it might be a better sell to ratepayers. Increasing user pay is a must. As an example the swimming pool - ratepayer are subsidising non ratepayers. If	Aug 30, 2011 12:17 PM

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the cost was increased even by \$2 per entry the there would be greater revenue from the pool. The Shire Hall would hardly ever be used at the full rate as every group seems to be able to get a discount. Set a rate so we can get a decent income. I think there is a need to review some operations and functions of Council that would cost large amounts. Mobile Phones, electricity are examples. They are obviously needed but useage and plans can be monitored. Overall its not about cutting anything, its about doing it better and smarter. A small Council like Gilgandra shouldnt do thinks klike everyone else, it needs to do it better and for less. This is achieved through innovation and using new techiques that can save time and money