



Attachment 18 - media release one

Media release

Mayor: Richie Williamson
General Manager: Scott Greensill

LOCKED BAG 23 GRAFTON NSW 2460
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE

Ratepayers asked to respond to survey on sustainability

RATEPAYERS across the Clarence Valley should start getting information regarding a special rates variation and a range of revenue saving measures being considered by council.

Council's general manager, Scott Greensill, said ratepayers were being asked to provide their views on the possibility of a rate rise of 8% a year (inclusive of the rate-pegged limit) and a range of other measures to address council's long term financial sustainability.

"Despite meeting the NSW Government's benchmarks for efficiency, council is not financially sustainable over the long term," he said.

"Council is seeking community feedback on proposals to improve its long term financial sustainability with some of these including an 8% rise in the general rate each year for five years starting from July 1, 2016 and a review of 24 discretionary services.

"An annual 8% increase in rates would yield about \$2million annually in extra income and for average residential ratepayers would mean an extra cost of under \$2.50 a week.

"Doing nothing about council's financial situation is not an option. Council must either cut funds to services or raise money in order to address the infrastructural demands across the Clarence Valley."

Councillors will make their decision based on community feedback so all ratepayers are encouraged to provide feedback via a printed or online survey, which is available at www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/roadstosustainability

You can also contact council and have your say via email at council@clarence.nsw.au, writing to Locked Bag 23, Grafton, or leaving comments at Grafton and Mclean offices.

Consultation ends September 25, with councillors to consider survey results in October.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.



Attachment 24 - media release survey reminder

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2015

Residents reminded to submit rates survey

CLARENCE Valley residents have been reminded to submit their views on measures to improve the Council's long-term financial sustainability before the closing date on September 25.

Council general manager, Scott Greensill, said he had been impressed by the number of people who had already responded, but wanted to make sure everyone had the opportunity to have their voice heard.

"As of this morning we have had more than 3300 printed survey forms returned and another 400 who have filled in the online survey at www.clarenceconversations.com.au/roadstosustainability," he said.

"We've also conducted a random phone survey of 500 Clarence residents to get their views.

"That's a pretty decent response, but we don't want to miss anyone who wants to express a view."

Survey forms are available at council offices in Grafton and Maclean or can be done online at www.clarenceconversations.com.au/roadstosustainability

"Where possible, we would prefer people to take the online survey as it makes it easier to collate the results," Mr Greensill said.

Release ends.

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Media release

Attachment 26 - Media release re 1.8% 2016-17 rate peg

Mayor: Richie Williamson
General Manager: Scott Greensill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2015

More money to go on roads

THE decision of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to cap local government general rate increases at 1.8% for the 2016/17 financial year could result in about an extra \$1million being spent on Clarence Valley roads and related infrastructure.

Clarence Valley Council on Tuesday night acknowledged IPART's 1.8% cap (rate peg) for 2016/17 but voted to continue with its application for a permanent special rate variation (SRV) of 6.5% in each year of the five years from July 1, 2016.

Council had previously resolved that if the special rate variation was approved by IPART, all money raised above the rate-pegged amount would be spent on roads and related infrastructure. At the time that decision was made council estimated the rate peg for 2016/17 would be 2.5%, which would have meant the remaining 4% of the increase would be spent on roads and related infrastructure.

However, IPART's decision to set the rate peg increase at 1.8% for 2016/17 together with council's on Tuesday to proceed with an application for a 6.5% per year increase, means 4.7% of any approved increase for 2016/17 would be spent on roads and related infrastructure. Over the five years of the intended SRV increases the reduction in the rate peg, would make available about \$1million extra in roads funding. This additional funding is included in the table below.

Council has assumed a rate peg of 2.5% for each year of the remaining years of the SRV from 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Council general manager, Scott Greensill, said the estimated \$1million extra spending on roads and related infrastructure would mean equivalent savings would need to be found in other council functions.

"The IPART resolution to restrict increases in the general rate to 1.8% for 2016/17 means things are going to be fairly tight in a lot of areas, but I'm sure members of the public will welcome the additional spending on our road network," he said.

"Time and again roads have been identified as a priority spending area."

The table below is a summary of how additional income from an approved special rate variation would be spent on roads and roads-related infrastructure repair works.

Amount	Notes	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Road Pavements and Surfacing inc surface maintenance, heavy patching and reseals	Currently ~26,000m ² area requiring treatment Reseals ~\$3.50/m ²	\$ 738,969	\$ 1,679,492	\$ 2,345,968	\$ 3,100,981	\$ 3,907,627
Shoulder Repair and Grading includes edge break repair and gravel resheet of shoulder	~3,600 linear Km of road edge	\$ 350,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 1,850,000
Drainage Maintenance includes open and piped drainage	6941 culverts 6140 pits	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 500,000
Kerb & Channel Maintenance repair and replacement of K&C	currently ~77000m of K&C at condition 3	\$ 100,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 500,000
Total Additional Expenditure		\$ 1,288,969	\$ 2,489,492	\$ 3,795,968	\$ 5,215,981	\$ 6,757,627

Release ends.

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