

ADVERTISEMENT

**LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

Residents of Lockhart Shire are invited to attend Community Consultation Meetings being held to explain Council's response to the State Government's Fit For the Future Program.

Council seeks your support for its decision to stand alone and not amalgamate.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **The Rock Memorial Hall**
Tuesday, 14 April at 6.00pm
- **Yerong Creek Hall**
Wednesday, 15 April at 6.00pm
- **Lockhart Memorial Hall**
Thursday, 16 April at 6.00pm
- **Pleasant Hills Hall**
Tuesday, 21 April at 6.00pm
- **Osborne Recreation Ground**
Wednesday, 22 April at 6.00pm

Rod Shaw
General Manger
Lockhart Shire Council
PO Box 21
LOCKHART NSW 2656

Please insert:

Eastern Riverina Chronicle, Public Notices Section,
Single Column Wed, 8 April and Wed, 15 April 2015.

MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2015

The Future of Lockhart Shire Council

At its March Council Meeting, Council made one of its most important decisions for the future of the shire. That decision was to remain independent and stand alone as a Rural Council rather than risk the uncertainty and turbulence associated with merging with a neighbour, when it can't be demonstrated that any financial gains or other benefits will result from such a union.

Mayor Peter Yates said, "Council and its community has staunchly maintained its will to remain independent and has chosen to stand alone as a Rural Council rather than amalgamate with one or another of our neighbours. The option chosen is the preferred option for our Council announced by the Independent Local Government Review Panel in its Final Report to the NSW Government".

Councillor Yates' comments follow several months of discussion between Councillors and consultation with our various neighbours locally. The same discussions have been occurring all over the State as Councils prepare their responses to the NSW Government's Fit For the Future Program which requires Councils to demonstrate their ability to remain sustainable into the long term future. Submissions from each Council are required to be lodged by 30 June 2015.

"Now that Council has made that decision", Councillor Yates continued, "a series of public meetings will be held to explain the reasons for the decision and gain the support of our various community's for the measures required to be put in place to enable retention of our independence."

He added, "Although Council's finances are in a healthy state, the revenue raised from our own resources is quite low compared to where the State Government contends it should be, and in order to be Fit For the Future, that amount needs to rise over time. This will mean that among other measures, our rate income generated will need to rise by more than the normal CPI increases. Some modest rate increases will be one of the important issues discussed with our community at our public meetings".

The public meetings will take place in mid-April and will be held in The Rock, Yerong Creek, Lockhart, Pleasant Hills and Osborne. Details will be supplied closer to the dates.

Media Enquiries:

Cr Peter Yates
MAYOR



Rod Shaw
GENERAL MANAGER
(02) 6920 5305

Newspaper Articles removed due to copyright:

Newspaper	Date	Article
Eastern Riverina Chronicle	20/01/2017	Rate increase unfair to rural ratepayers
Eastern Riverina Chronicle	12/10/2016	Rate hike to fund pools, floor works
Eastern Riverina Chronicle	30/11/2016	Lockhart Mayor, Rodger Schirmer's Council Report, November 2016
Eastern Riverina Chronicle	20/12/2016	Shires flag upcoming rate rise

Future of Lockhart Shire

Lockhart Shire Council invites residents to attend Community Consultation Meetings



Lockhart Shire Council will be holding Public Meetings in April to explain its response to the NSW GOVERNMENT'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURAL REFORM PROGRAM.

The Meetings will:

- Explain reasons for Council's decision to remain independent and stand alone
- Why we are saying "No Amalgamation"
- Explain measures needed to ensure our future sustainability
- Gain community support for these decisions

Dates

- **The Rock Memorial Hall**
Tuesday 14 April at 6.00pm
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Mayoral Report

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability.

Autumn can be a very pleasant time of the year especially with temperatures at a more comfortable level. Unfortunately the rainfall hasn't occurred but the temperature has been a lot more tolerable. Let's hope for everyone, that a good general rain is just around the corner boosting our confidence in the year ahead.

Council is also optimistic about its future and at the March meeting has decided that the Lockhart Shire will be a stand alone independent Council under the Rural Council Model. This Model was recommended for the Lockhart Shire by the Local Government Independent Review Panel. After several lengthy discussions at the monthly council meetings and at separate workshop, councillors were unanimous in their decision. Part of that decision making process was discussions held with neighbouring councils on possible mergers. After talks were held, Council believed there would be no advantage to our Shire, being part of a merger.

Our submission demonstrating we fit into the Rural Council Model has to be completed by the 30th June and delivered to the Office of Local Government by that date. In the mean time a lot of work has to be completed demonstrating we fit the criteria for a Rural Council Model. We will be holding Public Meetings during April in Lockhart, The Rock, Yerong Creek and Pleasant Hills illustrating to the residents of this Shire how we are going to achieve the criteria for Fit for the Future under the Rural Council Model. As Mayor I would like to encourage as many residents as possible to voice their opinions on the direction we plan to take and hopefully support our decision.

Residents will be aware that the State election is to be held on 28 March 2015, and Council has urged all parties, particularly the incumbent liberal party, to announce their policy position on amalgamations of Councils. Council urges that all the parties announce a policy of 'No Forced Amalgamations'.

Council has been fortunate in recent weeks to gain some very important funding from the State Government. We have been granted \$667,000 from the State Government under the Fixing of Country Roads program to upgrade the road from Ford Street, The Rock, through to Vincent's Road at the back of The Rock Hill. This includes the widening and renewing of the Braithwaite's Creek crossing. The total cost is \$1 million with the remaining amount funded by Council.



A further \$78,000 for the flood mitigation works design stage 3 for Lockhart, \$33,000 from a total cost of \$66,000 for a shared path for cyclist and pedestrians in Lockhart and The Rock as well as Kerb Ramps at specific locations along the streets. Council's contribution will be \$33,000 as well.

A new bus interchange on both sides of Urana Street at The Rock at a cost of \$146,000 with the State Government contributing \$46,000. Grants to other authorities for works within our area have also been announced including \$10,000 for a new fire trail maintenance at The Rock Nature Reserve and finally, all schools within the Shire will have flashing lights installed warning motorists of School Zones adjacent to Schools. This is a part of the State Government roll out of Flashing Lights in school zones at a cost of \$32.5 million across the State.

Council is very keen to move forward with installing a sewerage system to the residential area on the eastern side of the railway line at The Rock. The first meeting of council and the focus group (residents of The Rock) was held on the 17th March. A very optimistic and constructive outcome was observed from the meeting.

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Mayoral Report

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability.

Our Shire has benefited from some very timely Autumn rains. Gradually the countryside is turning green and it all began back at Easter when storm rains dropped between 15 – 45ml followed by a more general rain in the middle of the month of between 20 – 40mls. The rain has given us some optimism for the future and created a hive of activity amongst our farmers.



Council has been busy dealing with the Fit for the Future Program which has added additional work for Councillors, Managers and staff to the day to day running of council.

We have just completed the Public Consultation process where Councillors and Managers met with residents from Lockhart, The Rock, Yerong Creek, Pleasant Hills and Osborne communities. The public meetings were well attended with a total of 118 people attending and listening to the council presentation and then being invited to ask questions.

At the meetings council was seeking approval from residents that the Lockhart Shire remains an Independent Shire under the proposed Rural Council Model which was the preferred option by the Independent Local Government Review Panel. The second option was to merge with Wagga Wagga City Council.

In addition to becoming a Rural Council certain criteria has to be met. We are able to achieve all of the criteria except for our own source revenue. We need to increase our own source revenue from 37% up to around 60%. This will be partly achieved by revenue created from contract work for third parties. It will need to be supplemented by a modest rate rise of 4.6% over 10 years to achieve that goal.

Seventy nine percent of the people attending the meeting were in favour of Lockhart Shire staying Independent under The Rural Council Model and accepting the modest rate rise of 4.6% over 10 years to increase our own source revenue to the necessary level.

It is fair to say that everybody attending the meetings wants council to stay independent and be a Rural Council into the future but 21% weren't in agreement with the rate rise and thought we should look at other solutions for increasing our own source revenue.

Thank you to all who attended the meetings your input was greatly appreciated. To the Managers and Councillors who were able to attend - a job well done, and true solidarity was shown.

It gives me great pleasure to invite Jennifer Connor our Tourism and Economic Officer to give us an insight into her work and the projects she and her committee are working on for the Lockhart Shire Council.

Mayors Report

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Hello everyone.

This is my first Mayoral report, and I trust in time, it will be newsworthy and of benefit to all our community members.

Firstly let me say how honoured I am to be elected Mayor of the Lockhart Shire. I will endeavour to be the best Mayor I can and serve the interests of the shire to the best of my ability.

Congratulations to Deputy Mayor Greg Verdon on his election to that role. Greg has a broad range of skills and knowledge which will be of great benefit to council. To re-elected Councillors Douglas, Driscoll, and Day it's great to have you all in the Chamber for a second term. To new Councillors Ian Marston, Peter Sharp, Andrew Rockliff and James Walker, welcome, and I have no doubt that your presence in the Chamber will only help make this Council stronger going forward.

To former Mayor Peter Yates, thank you for your commitment to this shire over the last 17 years. Both you and Elayne certainly deserve a long well-earned break. Thankyou!

To the retiring Councillors McDonald and Morgan, thank you for your contributions to Council and I wish you both well in the future.

Council has had to hit the ground running, with a series of meetings planned for October across the shire to engage and inform the residents about our plans going forward. These will entail reviews of our Community Strategic Plan and also to refresh your memories and further consult about the Special Rate Variation agreed upon during our Fit For the Future Consultations some 18 months ago. Planned residential developments and sewage upgrades in the Rock, Pool upgrades in The Rock and Lockhart, as well as starting the process to ensure the long term future and economic development of our shire will consume much of our time but all Councillors are committed to this task.

Directors and Staff have been working very hard to ensure as much as possible, that roads and services are maintained throughout the shire despite continuing wet weather. I don't want to appear as though I am complaining, but if mother nature kerbed her enthusiasm



to keep us damp it might not be such a bad thing. Do you think she will take the hint??? Please be careful driving on the rain sodden roads – your safety is paramount even if it takes a few minutes more to get to your destination. Please also remember, the wet weather is causing road degradation all over the shire and it will take some time for the repair works to be done. Our staff will be working as hard as they can to clear the backlog, but please be patient. Your particular issue, although important, is only one of many with which we are dealing- but we'll get there as soon as we can.

We all hope mother nature will let up and allow us to enjoy the community events planned for October, which our whole community looks forward to each year. We have the shows at the Rock and Lockhart, Lockhart Picnic Races followed by Spirit of the Land festival to name just a few. I look forward to seeing you there.

I'm sure the road that Council will travel over the next four years will have a few bumps and hollows in it, but we will endeavour to turn it into a freeway of smooth growth, development and long term security for our shire.

Thank you for your time;
Cheers Rodg.

Community Consultation Meetings

Lockhart Shire Council invites residents to attend the following meetings to provide input, support & feedback for the following:



- Review of Community Strategic Plan
- Proposed Special Rates Variation
- Disability Inclusion Action Planning

Dates

- **Pleasant Hills Hall**
Thursday 20 October at 6.00pm
- **Osborne Recreation Ground**
Friday 21 October at 6.00pm
- **The Rock Memorial Bowling Club**
Tuesday 25 October at 6.00pm
- **Lockhart Council Chambers**
Wednesday 26 October at 6.00pm
- **Yerong Creek Hall**
Thursday 27 October at 6.00pm

Our Values: Leadership • Integrity • Progressiveness • Commitment • Accountability • Adaptability

Public Consultation

Have
your say

Community Consultation Meetings

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- ♦ Review of Community Planning Goals
- ♦ Proposed Special Rates Variation
- ♦ Disability Inclusion Action Planning

Dates

Pleasant Hills Hall - 6pm Thursday 20 October

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The Rock Memorial Bowling Club - 6pm Tuesday 25 October

Lockhart Council Chambers - 6pm Wednesday 26 October

Yerong Creek Hall - 6pm Thursday 27 October



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS

For more information visit:

www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au



COMMUNITY SURVEY



*The last day to return your completed Community Survey is **4.00pm, Friday, 4 November 2016**. Please let us take up 5 minutes of your time to complete the*

Council invites residents to provide input into a number of its initiatives by completion of a survey on the following:

- Review of Community Strategic Plan
- Disability Inclusion Action Planning
- Proposed Special Rate Variation

The community can have their say by either:

1. Completing the survey online using Survey Monkey by selecting the link on Council's website
www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au
2. Completing a Community Survey form at either the Council Administration Office at Lockhart, The Rock Post Office, Yerong Creek Post Office or Pleasant Hills Post Office

Rod Shaw
General Manager

Mayors Report

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Hello everyone;

Well this is my second report, and as usual there has been quite a bit happening.

Firstly, the Lockhart Show which although wet was successful. Everybody that attended was hoping for an end to the rain, and finally it happened. Let's hope that it stays dry to allow the farmers to once again get onto paddocks to make hay, windrow and generally prepare for harvest.

On the 7th October the start of the judging for sculptures and art began for the Spirit of the Land Festival and after a successful awards night the festival proper started. The whole festival was a roaring success and thousands flocked to Lockhart for a perfect sunny weekend out. On the Saturday morning Doris Golder was awarded her OAM in the room which houses her artwork in the Museum surrounded by family and friends. A wonderful moment!

On the 14th October Pleasant Hills School celebrated its 125th anniversary before a large crowd of past and present students and residents. The school looked fantastic. Well done Pleasant Hills!

The Local Government Conference was held in Wollongong on the 16th to 18th October. I along with the GM and Councillor Verdon attended to witness the presentation of a merit award to long serving Councillor and Mayor Peter Yates. Peter was a Councillor for 17 years, the last 8 of which he served as Mayor, during which he led the successful fight against amalgamation of the shire. A great honour and well deserved recognition for Peter!

Council has now completed its five planned Community Strategic Planning meetings across the shire. These meetings were held to seek support from the shire residents for our shire plans going forward for the next ten years, including reaffirming community support for the Special Rate Variation for which community support was received as part of the Fit For the Future Program early last year. We have received 72% majority support of residents who attended the meetings for the Variation but

unfortunately these meetings were not well attended. Residents will recall that Council asked for and received community support for a Special Rate Variation of 4.6%, or approximately 2.5% over and above a normal CPI annual increase for a period of 10 years.

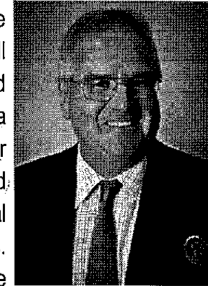
Our thanks for those in the community who have now reaffirmed their support for the Variation which can now go forward to Government for approval. My thanks are extended to those who did attend the meetings at which some healthy and positive debate took place. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the consultants from Projectura who put so much work into preparing for this programme.

Council is undertaking a very large programme of mowing on roadsides and public areas in an effort to reduce the incredible growth of grass after the long wet winter, not only to make our shire neat and tidy but to reduce the fire danger to our communities and help make our roads and intersections safer.

This month we will see harvesting operations begin and as well as wishing all farmers in our shire the very best of luck with it, I would strongly urge them to be patient with council staff if they come across road works in their area. Because of the very wet winter, our works program is way behind schedule, so it will be necessary to carry out some road works while harvest period progresses. Smile and wave as you see a grader crew repairing your road and if you must ring the Engineer, do so to congratulate him on trying to repair the water damage. All crews will be flat out this summer repairing road damage from the wet winter and they deserve praise.

Lastly, the new Council is settling in very well and I believe that your interests are being well served. Remember, we are a stand alone Council through the efforts of all shire residents. Let's do everything we can to remain that way.

Cheers Rodg.



Mayors Report

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Hello everyone

Another report that you can take to bed and read to aid in your efforts to go to sleep! The one thing that you can count on as Mayor is that you are never bored and that you never run out of things to read.

The Community Strategic Plan which is about to go out on public exhibition is a prime example. This Plan is Council's primary strategic planning document and is required to be reviewed and updated at the beginning of each new Council period. To this end, Council has been conducting a series of community consultations and surveys at which those who responded informed us about the important issues which they wished Council to achieve over the next ten years. Those community aspirations have now been compiled and will be on public exhibition for you to peruse and respond to if you wish to make comment. These plans are modified as the needs and demands of the shire change over that period, but generally it is the path forward to grow the shire and for Council to deliver within our resource capacity.

Importantly Council has resolved to apply for a Special Rate Variation of 4.6% per annum over the next 10 years which is about 2.8% annually above the normal rate pegging percentage each year. You will recall that Council received overwhelming support for this proposal from our community during the Fit For the Future Program in order to increase our own source revenue from our current level of about 30% up to the Government's target of 60%. It was also a vital component of receiving a satisfactory outcome from IPART which assessed us as being Fit to remain independent as a rural based council. Now that we have survived the merger scare, it is our responsibility to ensure we retain our scale and capacity into the future by undertaking the Improvement Plan we agreed on with the NSW Government. The Special Rate Variation was one of the most important parts of that plan. Our recent community consultations have reinforced community support for it and following Council's resolution, an application will be submitted. If successful, the variation will apply from 1 July 2017, and the additional income generated will be applied to flood mitigation, road repairs following the wet winter, and refurbishment of swimming pools at Lockhart and The Rock.

One of the other planks to remain independent is to increase our scale and capacity by increasing our

population through increased economic development. Our Economic Development Strategy workshops throughout the shire have now been completed, the aim of which being to develop a plan and strategies to attract new business and residents to our shire which will stimulate growth to aid our shire's longevity. Many promising ideas emerged from the workshops and your Council will be progressing these over time. Tourism throughout the Riverina has increased by 20% in the last year and contributed some \$331 million to the region's economy. If that trend continues, it augers well for the prosperity of our own economy

The Council has embraced the idea of reusing viable sheds and structures which may be of use elsewhere in our shire. Some sheds have become available from premises purchased by Council under the "Voluntary Purchase Scheme" section of our flood mitigation grants and if available they may be suitable to enhance facilities at sporting venues or clubs throughout the shire.

Talking of flood related issues, tenders are about to be called for the construction of flood mitigation works for Lockhart and to be followed by works at The Rock when grant funds become available. These works will enhance the safety of our towns in the future if flooding eventuates.

A reminder that council is asking for names to be submitted for worthy recipients of an Australia Day Award to be presented at the Australia Day celebrations to be held on Yerong Creek on January 26th 2017. Contact council for nomination forms, which need to be submitted by Friday 2 December 2016.

This week I had the pleasure of performing a Naturalisation ceremony for a Mr Naveen Maddhu and his daughter Nysa from The Rock. Mr Maddhu and his family are from India but have now settled in Australia and are now dinkum Aussies !!!! Well done.

Remember once again to be patient with our Council crews who are working very hard to repair roads that have been so badly damaged over this wet winter. I think

(Continued on page 7)



Lockhart Shire Council Annual Report 2016

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Mayoral Annual Report

I am pleased to present my Annual Report of the Lockhart Shire Council's Financial Year commencing 1 July 2015 and ending 30 June 2016. This is a snapshot of some of the major activities during the last 12 months. I also want to take the opportunity to recognise the great work that our staff, partners and communities have completed, and celebrate our achievements from the year.

This will be my final Mayoral Annual Report, as by the time you read this, I will no longer be a Councillor, having opted not to stand in this year's election. I am leaving Local Government to pursue my private business interests, and I can truly say that serving the Lockhart Shire community for the last 17 years has been a wonderful uplifting experience.

Once again, this year was dominated by the Fit For the Future (FFF) Program and the defence of our Shire from amalgamation. The year started well with our council being deemed Fit For the Future by the State Government. However, we were later proposed by the same State Government to merge with Corowa and Urana Shires. Months of strong advocacy and heart breaking work was finally rewarded, with our Council keeping its independence as a Rural-based Council, while Corowa and Urana Councils were merged to become Federation Council. My heartfelt thanks go out to all those who contributed in so many ways to help us maintain our independence, especially to our Local Member, Daryl Maguire and the Lockhart Shire Community Steering Committee. A celebration BBQ hosted by Council was held in Walter Day Park to commemorate the occasion attended by some 200 members of our shire community.

This positive outcome was spoiled by our sadness at the passing of our fellow colleague and Councillor, John Paterson on 6 August 2015 following a short battle with cancer. He was a strong advocate for The Rock community and well respected amongst his peers.

While the FFF Program again dominated our strategic energy, a full works program was still completed due to the dedication of our hard working staff. Some of the notable events and activities occurring during the year include:

- Council agreement to proceed with extending the sewer to the south-eastern side of the railway line at The Rock following extensive community consultation. Design of the project is in hand and works will commence during the 2016/17 financial year.
- Approval of our flood mitigation program, again following extensive community consultation. The first year of grant assistance has been received, allowing for early warning flood systems to be installed as well as the first 2 houses being purchased under the voluntary purchase scheme for those houses declared to be in the floodway.
- Council agreement in principle to proceed with the refurbishment of the swimming pools at both The Rock and Lockhart subject to satisfactory financial arrangements. Both pools are either at or near the end of their economic life.
- Proceeding with a comprehensive review of our Economic Development Strategy, our intention being to eventually increase our population to 4,500 to 5,000 people. Consultants have been engaged to assist Council with this review.
- Establishing an Out of School Hours program at The Rock in conjunction with The Rock Central School which caters for before and after school care for primary school aged children, as well as vocational care during school holidays.
- Establishing a Community Recycling Centre at Lockhart Landfill site following funding

Lockhart Shire Council Annual Report 2016

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Mayoral Annual Report

- received through REROC.
- Installation of heritage plaques throughout the main street in Yerong Creek with funds received from a Heritage Grant.
- Continuation of the Grain Harvest Management Scheme within our shire boundaries which allows grain carriers to exceed their load limits by a small percentage during harvest period without penalties being incurred.
- The works program saw many projects completed including:
 - ◊ Stage 2 of The Rock- Collingullie Road widening and upgrade.
 - ◊ Rehabilitation projects on Albury Road at Urangeline North. Other rehabilitation projects were on the Woodend- Fiveways Road and Boree Creek- Lockhart Road. The widening of The Rock- Mangoplah Road, Western Road and Osborne-Yerong Creek Road were all commenced. These projects were funded from R2R Grants, State Regional Road Repair Program as well as Council's own funds.
 - ◊ Council was successful in first round of State Governments Fixing Country Roads program and undertook replacement of the culvert bridge over Braithwaites Creek, The Rock as well as widening and resealing of Lockhart- The Rock Road from The Rock to Vincents Road, total project value of \$1M.
 - ◊ Funding of \$3.5M has been received under Round 2 of Fixing Country Roads Program and Federal Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program to upgrade Grubben Road and causeway upgrades on the Urana/Lockhart Road at Brookong. This work will commence in the 2016/17 year.
 - ◊ Various footpath upgrades and extensions were undertaken in both Lockhart and The Rock, including the commencement of cycle/walking track from The Rock to The Rock Hill Nature Reserve.
 - ◊ The first five lots of the 13 Lot subdivision on Milne Road at The Rock are now available for sale.
 - ◊ Completion of new toilet block in The Avenue, The Rock as well as a new public toilet block in Walter Day Park, Lockhart at a cost of \$200,000, fully funded by Council.
 - ◊ New BBQs and shelters at Galore Hill
- A number of community grants have been received from the State Government. These include:
 - ◊ \$33,000 for the upgrade of the Pleasant Hills Community Hall roof
 - ◊ \$3,600 for restoration of the Honour Board in the Lockhart Memorial Hall
 - ◊ \$3,600 to improve walking tracks in reserves
 - ◊ \$16,500 for a Galore Hill diversity study
 - ◊ Council also provided a grant of \$5,000 to complete refurbished tennis courts at Yerong Creek, as well as an interest free loan of \$5,000 if required.
- Council continued its support of the Spirit of the Land Festival in October with visitation estimated between 5,000 and 6,000 over the two days. The first prize of \$10,000 for the winning sculpture was presented to Andrew Whitehead. Council also provided a \$10,000 grant to The Rock Progress Association for a The Rock or Bust music festival as a follow-up to the AC/DC Rock or Bust album launch the previous year.

Lockhart Shire Council Annual Report 2016

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Mayoral Annual Report

- In January, Australia Day was hosted by the Pleasant Hills community. Valerie Parv, an author of romantic novels was the ambassador and the following Awards were presented:
 - ◊ Heather Trevaskis - Citizen of the Year
 - ◊ Joy Schultz – Citizenship Award
 - ◊ Jeanette Baker – Citizenship Award
 - ◊ Stephanie Noske – Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Congratulations were extended to Dr Ken Mackey and Doris Golder, both of whom received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honour List.
- Initiatives on the Economic Development and Tourism front not mentioned elsewhere include
 - ◊ Sculpture Trail additions of The Eagle, Kangaroos at Brookong Lagoon, Rusty Cocky, Rain Dragon, Inland Pelicans, and Dance Hall Days.
 - ◊ Creation and installation of Lockhart Love Locks
 - ◊ Two projects reaching the finals of the Inland Tourist Awards, an Encouragement Award being received for the Greens Gunyah Museum, and a Highly Commended Award for the Lockhart Sculpture Trail.
 - ◊ Installation of an RV Dump Point at The Rock to encourage additional overnight stays by caravanners
- The audited Financial Statements for Council have been completed and recorded results as follows:
 - ◊ Operating Surplus of \$3.25M, (previous year \$1.2M)
 - ◊ Operating revenues increased 28% to \$12.6M
 - ◊ Operating expenses increased 8.6% to \$9.35M
 - ◊ Cash and Investments increased 2.4% to \$7.71M
 - ◊ Revenue from Rates and Annual Charges increased 3.2% to \$3.04M. This represents 24.1% of total operating income
 - ◊ In summary, Council's financial position is very sound and is able to withstand any minor setbacks that may occur. This may be necessary in the next few years to cope with the freeze of FAGS Grants and increased competition for other grants normally taken for granted which may not eventuate in future.
- Further details of our financial position are available in the full version of the Financial Statements attached.

The 2015/16 Financial Year has been one of the more memorable and successful years the Lockhart Shire Council has endured only dented by the sad passing of a fellow councillor as previously mentioned.

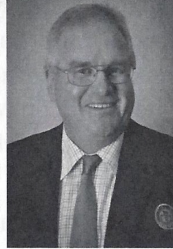
With our resounding victory from the State Government's "Fit for the Future Program" and the other achievements accomplished throughout the year, it is fitting to acknowledge the volunteers within our communities who have assisted the Shire accomplish the goals necessary to make our shire a great place to live, work and play.

We have a large number of 355 committees together with community groups and service clubs that provide social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits for the residents of this Shire.

Mayor's Report

Our Values - Leadership; Integrity; Progressiveness; Commitment; Accountability; Adaptability

Hello everyone. Belated merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to everyone. I hope that you all had a great Christmas and that you all saw the New Year in safely. January sees the start of 2017, with much happening in regard to Council. Firstly we said goodbye to Rod Shaw and his partner Jan after nearly three years of service at the helm of our Council. Rod did a fine job in steering Council through the "Fit for the Future" process and along with Councillors and staff managed to deliver our independence as a stand-alone Council. He will be fondly remembered for his happy nature and community interest. Good luck in retirement Rod and Jan.



On Rod's leaving his replacement, Peter Veneris, commenced as Lockhart Shire Council's new General Manager on the 3rd January 2017. Peter is extremely well qualified to lead our Shire into the future and under his guidance and with his staff and Councillors, and of course not forgetting residents, on board, I'm sure our future will be assured for the long term.

As Mayor I would like to publicly acknowledge the enormous effort of staff at the Lockhart Shire Council in the delivery of services to you, the residents. It is quite astounding how much is delivered to people throughout the Shire with the resources available to staff, but deliver they do and for that THANKYOU!!!! Road crews and outdoor staff have been very busy over the summer months with road repairs and parks and garden maintenance, much of it in catch up mode after the very wet winter, being close to completion if that could ever happen. We all saw the damage to our roads, but crews have done a remarkable job in keeping roads to a standard that they could still be used.

On the 26th January Australia Day will be celebrated by residents of the Shire and their friends at Yerong Creek. There are many activities planned for the day as well as the naming of the "Citizen of the Year" for our Shire. Please come along and enjoy the day.

Council has a large amount of work going forward in 2017 with the adoption of our Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and our application for a "Special Rate Variation" endorsed by ratepayers to help ensure our long term financial sustainability so that we remain "Fit for the Future". By reading the CSP document you will see the full extent of our programme going forward.

While Christmas and the New Year is a happy time for most people, some in our community lost loved ones or faced some form of crises that many close by may not be aware of. I ask that you take notice of those around you and ensure that they are okay. Many lonely people or those in crises just need someone to talk to and this simple act of kindness may just make all the difference.

In closing this report let me once again welcome our new GM Peter Veneris and his wife Leanne to Lockhart Shire. I'm sure they will grow to love this area as much as we do. Happy New Year!!!

Cheers Rodg.

4.6% SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Council will apply to the Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation to commence in the 2017/18 financial year. Council is seeking approval for a 4.6% rate increase for the next 10 years. The 4.6% Special Rate Variation will be inclusive of the annual Rate Peg amount which IPART determines each year that NSW Councils can currently increase their rates annually.

If the Special Rate Variation is successful, for 2017/18 this will result in the Rate Peg of 1.5% plus Rate Variation of 3.1% for a total Special Rate Variation of 4.6%.

Support from the community

As part of the Fit for the Future process in April 2015 the community were well informed on the process of a Special Rate Variation through local media, newsletters, emails and social media, with community meetings held throughout the Shire to ensure everyone had the opportunity to understand the process and express any concerns. Council received 80% support through the five community meetings that were held.

Additional community input was sought in October 2016 to inform the community about the Special Rate Variation and how this would impact on ratepayers. Five meetings were held throughout the Shire at different locations, with 72% supporting the proposed Special Rate Variation.

What is the Special Rate Variation?

THE Special Rate Variation (SRV) is an increase in rates above the rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) each year. Lockhart Shire Council has applied for a one off Special Rate Variation of 4.6% which includes Rate Pegging to be applied in 2017/18 and maintained for 10 years.

When will we know if it has been successful?

It is expected that a decision on Council's application will be made by IPART in May 2017. This information will be made available on IPART's website, Council's website, newsletter and local media.

How does this impact my rates?

The impact on your rates will depend on what rate category your property is in and how much the land is valued. The percentage increase is the same for all rate categories though.

Indicative impact on the typical **General Rate** component for all categories is set out below:

		Year 1	Year 10	\$ increase over 10yrs	Average pa
Farmland	Rate Peg	\$4700	\$5815	\$1115	\$111.50
	SRV	\$4700	\$7370	\$2670	\$267.00
Residential	Rate Peg	\$300	\$370	\$70	\$ 7.00
	SRV	\$300	\$470	\$170	\$17.00
Business	Rate Peg	\$470	\$580	\$110	\$11.00
	SRV	\$470	\$735	\$265	\$26.50

What does this pay for?

\$2.98 million of Flood Mitigation works

\$4.2 million Lockhart Swimming Pool and The Rock Swimming Pool

\$1 million Road Infrastructure

The rate increase will ensure that Lockhart Shire Council remains financially sustainable for the future and continue to be able to provide the services for the community, as well as providing suitable infrastructure that meets the needs of the community.

What is the benefit?

Upgrades to the roads, flood mitigation and swimming pool infrastructure will benefit the whole community and provide long term infrastructure for the community. After the unseasonably wet winter in 2016 the roads have deteriorated, which have created over \$2.2 million of works to get the roads back to standard.

The implementation of flood mitigation will provide security and reassurance for the residents of Lockhart Shire to minimise the effect of any future flooding.

The swimming pools in both Lockhart and The Rock are reaching end of life and require significant refurbishments to meet safety and operational obligations. The works will ensure the community has access to swimming facilities for another 50 years and will provide a safe and accessible facility for patrons.


What happens if SRV is not successful?

These projects will still have to occur, though the timing and scope of the projects may have to be changed for Council to be able to deliver them without impacting on the rest of the services that Council deliver.


Lockhart Shire

COUNCIL TO STAND ALONE

Looking After Your Future



Our Values: Leadership • Integrity • Progressiveness • Commitment • Accountability • Adaptability



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

THE FUTURE OF LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL

At its March Council Meeting, Council made one of its most important decisions for the future of the shire. That decision was to remain independent and stand alone as a Rural Council rather than amalgamate with one or another of our neighbours, when it can't be demonstrated that any financial gains or other benefits will result from such a union.

The option chosen is the preferred option for our Council announced by the Independent Local Government Review Panel in its Final Report to the NSW Government.

This follows several months of discussion between Councillors and consultation with our various neighbours locally. The same discussions have been occurring all over the State as Councils prepare their responses to the NSW Government's Fit For the Future (FFF) Program which requires Councils to demonstrate their ability to remain sustainable into the long term future. Submissions from each Council are required to be lodged by 30 June 2015.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Now that Council has made that decision, a series of public meetings will be held to explain the reasons for the decision and gain the support of our various community's for the measures required to be put in place to enable retention of our independence.



Although Council's finances are in a healthy state, the revenue raised from our own resources is quite low compared to where the State Government contends it should be, and in order to be Fit For the Future, that amount needs to rise over time. This will mean that among other measures, our rate income generated will need to rise by more than the normal CPI increases. Some modest rate increases will be one of the important issues discussed with our community at our public meetings.

We value your feedback and look forward to seeing you at our public meetings.

Peter Yates

Mayor

FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM

What Is It?

- The State Government has issued a reform agenda for the local government industry in NSW called the Fit For the Future Program (FFF)
- Recommendations include
 - ❖ Structural change including mergers and amalgamations
 - ❖ A review of Financial Assistance Grants ensuring the grants are directed to those areas that really need them. This should direct grants away from prosperous large city councils and towards smaller councils like ours.

Councils need to demonstrate:

- They have sufficient scale and capacity to remain sustainable in the long term by meeting a series of benchmarks set by the State Government
- Determine whether to amalgamate or stand alone and then submit their preferred option to the State Government by 30 June 2015.
- Gain broad community support for their preferred option and proposed improvement plan.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM

Is Our Shire Fit For the Future?

Lockhart Shire already meets ALL BUT ONE of the scale and capacity benchmarks set by the State Government

- Our financial capacity is rated as SOUND– in the top 20% over the whole state
- We are one of only three councils in our comparative grouping which has a positive operating surplus – ours is 20.6% while the group average is negative 14.8%.
- We have a very low backlog of infrastructure works – in the lowest 14% of the state.
- Other benchmarks met apart from Own Source Revenue (OSR)

Own Source Revenue (OSR) means the revenue raised by council's own resources and excludes all grant income. The State Government's benchmark for OSR is 60% and our level is currently around 35%. This means that substantial additional revenue will need to be generated to satisfy this criteria.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM

What Steps HAVE WE Taken?

- Council has met with its neighbours for frank interchange of views and positions.
- Councillors and staff have attended workshops to further our knowledge about the program and to discuss it with Government sources and colleagues.
- Council has taken the decision to stand alone as it believes that there are no financial or other benefits to be gained from an amalgamation.

Increasing our Own Source Revenue

There are only three ways to increase our OSR:

- undertake works for other organisations
- increase rates
- a combination of both.

Some additional income has been generated from works undertaken for an adjoining Council and we are confident that these works will continue. This income will increase our OSR but won't be sufficient to raise it to the required level.

Note: An increase in population for example from sewer extension at The Rock will also increase our OSR over time.

Reluctantly, Council has realised that some modest rate rises over and above CPI increases will be necessary to reach the target level.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM

What ARE OUR NEXT Steps?

**DETAILS OF OUR PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE
CONTAINED ON PAGE 8**

- Council has resolved to maintain its independence and to stand alone as a Rural Council. This option is the one favoured for Lockhart Shire in the Independent Local Government Review Panel's Final Report.
- Council now needs to complete a submission and lodge it with the State Government by 30 June 2015 showing why and how it will be Fit For the Future and be sustainable into the longer term.
- In order to do this, Council needs to meet the benchmarks described earlier, including the desired OSR percentage, and setting out any proposed measures to improve our organisational performance.
- The desired OSR percentage will be partially met by undertaking some contract works for third parties. This will need to be supplemented by some modest rate rises over and above normal CPI increases.

**YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL IS
SOUGHT TO RETAIN OUR INDEPENDENCE**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DETAILS

***Lockhart Shire Council
invites residents to attend
Community Consultation
Meetings on the dates below***



- **The Rock Memorial Hall**
Tuesday 14 April at 6.00pm
- **Yerong Creek Hall**
Wednesday 15 April at 6.00pm
- **Lockhart Memorial Hall**
Thursday 16 April at 6.00pm
- **Pleasant Hills Hall**
Tuesday 21 April at 6.00pm
- **Osborne Recreation Ground**
Wednesday 22 April at 6.00pm

Written comments to the General Manager
Email: mail@lockhart.nsw.gov.au
Mail: PO Box 21, LOCKHART NSW 2656
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LockhartShireCommunity

Our Values: Leadership • Integrity • Progressiveness • Commitment • Accountability • Adaptability

Fit For the Future Community Consultation Meetings

The Rock Memorial Hall – Tuesday, 14 April at 6.00pm
 Yerong Creek Hall – Wednesday, 15 April at 6.00pm
 Lockhart Council Chambers – Thursday, 16 April at 6.00pm
 Pleasant Hills Hall – Tuesday, 21 April at 6.00pm
 Osborne Recreation Ground – Wednesday, 22 April at 6.00pm



Why Are We Here?

- **2011 - Destination 2036**
All NSW Councils meet to plan how Local Government could meet future challenges
- **2012-13 - Independent Local Government Review Panel** - appointed by NSW Government after Destination 2036.
Local consultation across the state to develop recommendations for industry-wide structural change, including boundary changes.
- **April 2013 - Interim Report from Review Panel** - recommended Lockhart merge with Wagga Wagga.
- **May 2013 - Anti-amalgamation rally at Junees**
Bus-load from Lockhart Shire.
- **Sept 2013 - Professor Sansom visit to Lockhart**
Presentation to Community Meeting. Mayor emphasized our desire for continued independence.
- **Oct 2013 - Final Report from Review Panel** - recommending Lockhart remain a Rural Council in the Riverina Joint Organisation or merge with Wagga Wagga.
- **Sept 2014 - Fit For the Future Program**
announced by NSW Government as its response to the Review Panel's Final Report.



Fit For the Future Program – What Is It?

The State Government has issued a reform agenda for the local government industry in NSW called the Fit For the Future Program (FFF)

- Recommendations include:
 - Structural change including mergers and amalgamations
 - A review of allocation of Financial Assistance Grants ensuring the grants are directed to those areas that really need them. This may direct grants away from prosperous large city councils and towards smaller councils like ours.
- Councils need to demonstrate:
 - They have sufficient scale and capacity to remain sustainable in the long term by meeting a series of benchmarks set by the State Government
 - Determine whether to amalgamate or stand alone and then submit their preferred option to the State Government by 30 June 2015
 - Gain broad community support for their preferred option and proposed improvement plan.



Options for Lockhart

- The Review Panel's Report gave two options for Lockhart:
 - Option 1: Stay independent as a Rural Council in the Riverina Joint Organisation (successor To REROC)
 - Option 2: Merge with Wagga Wagga.



Are We Fit For the Future?

State Government has set a number of tough and challenging benchmarks for each council to meet.
 Lockhart Shire already meets ALL BUT ONE of these benchmarks:

- Our financial capacity is rated as SOUND – in the top 20% over the whole state
- We are one of only three councils in our comparative grouping which has a positive operating surplus – ours is 20.6% while the group average is negative 14.8%
- We have a very low backlog of infrastructure works – in the lowest 14% of the state
- Other benchmarks met apart from Own Source Revenue (OSR). Own Source Revenue (OSR) means the revenue raised by council's own resources and excludes all grant income. The State Government's benchmark for OSR is 60% and our level is currently around 35%. This means that substantial additional revenue will need to be generated to satisfy this criteria.



What Steps Have We Taken?

- Council has met with its neighbours for frank interchange of views and positions.
- Councillors and staff have attended workshops to further our knowledge about the program and to discuss it with Government sources and colleagues.
- Council has met on numerous occasions to discuss options and plan for the best way forward for its community.
- Kept the community informed by monthly updates in our newsletter.
- Council resolved at its March Council meeting to remain independent as a Rural Council – the preferred option for our Council by the Review Panel.



Council's Decision

Factors taken into account:

- Known community desire for Council to retain its independence
- Our statistics and performance compare very favourably with other Councils
- No long-term financial or other benefits to be gained from merger
- Residents rate burden may rise substantially if merged with Wagga Wagga
- Loss of representation on Council (may be only one representative)
- Uncertainty about future services availability
- Probable loss of shire-based employment over time
- A merger may stifle future development opportunities
- Loss of community passion and commitment to be involved.

Increasing Our Own Source Revenue (OSR)

Options available to increase our OSR are:

- Undertake works for third party organisations
- Increase rates
- A combination of both.

Some additional income has been generated from works undertaken for an adjoining Council and we are confident that these works will continue. This income will increase our OSR but won't be sufficient to raise it to the required level.

Note: An increase in population for example from sewer extension at The Rock will also increase our OSR over time. Reluctantly, Council has realised that some modest rate rises over and above CPI increases will be necessary to reach the target level.

Effect on Rating – Rating Comparisons

Draft Office Local Government Comparative Data Figures 2013-14

	Own Source Revenue % (OSR)	Average Ordinary Residential Rate (\$)	% Variance to Group Average	Average Ordinary Residential Rate (\$)	% Variance to Group Average	Average Ordinary Business Rate (\$)	% Variance to Group Average
Wagga Wagga	68%	\$2,317	17%	\$932	1%	\$4,971	32%
Group Average	73%	\$1,932		\$924		\$3,364	
% Variance Lockhart to Wagga			-52%		-271%		-1333%
Lockhart (201h)	37%	\$1,528	-63%	\$251	-50%	\$347	-109%
Group Average of 21 Councils	56%	\$2,493		\$377		\$726	

Average Residential Rates Notice
(incl Ordinary Rates, Garbage & Sewer Charges)
Wagga Wagga City Council \$ 1,800

Lockhart Shire Council \$ 1,050

Ordinary Rates

Lockhart Actual Totals

2014-15 %

Farmland \$1,753,000 82%

Residential \$280,000 14%

Business \$91,000 4%

\$2,124,000

Wagga Wagga

2012-13 %

Farmland \$4,313,000 13%

Residential \$20,565,000 61%

Business \$8,676,000 26%

\$33,554,000

Effect on Rating – Rating Comparisons

Average Ordinary Rates per Assessment

	Current Average Ordinary Rate	Year 10 average CPI increase-3.2%	Year 10 FFF 3.2% + 1.4% increase-4.6%	Difference over 10 yrs C-B	Average per year over 10 yrs
	A	B	C		
Farmland	\$1,528	\$2,094	\$2,396	\$302	\$30
Residential	\$251	\$344	\$394	\$50	\$5
Business	\$347	\$475	\$544	\$69	\$7

How Would We Spend Additional Revenue?

Total extra income generated from the proposed rate increase over and above normal CPI over next 10 years is \$0.6 M.

Possible Projects

- Swimming pools - \$2M for refurbishment or \$4.4M for two new pools
- Flood mitigation – Council contribution \$1M
- Road Upgrades such as Western Road \$4.5M and The Rock-Mangoplah Road \$1.8M

None of these projects are factored into current budgeting and regardless of rate increases, more additional income will be needed to bring these projects to fruition.

What Are Our Next Steps?

- Council has resolved to maintain its independence and to stand alone as a Rural Council. This option is the one favoured for Lockhart Shire in the Independent Local Government Review Panel's Final Report.
- Council now needs to complete a submission and lodge it with the State Government by 30 June 2015 showing why and how it will be Fit For the Future and be sustainable into the longer term.
- In order to do this, Council needs to meet the benchmarks described earlier, including the desired OSR percentage, and setting out any proposed measures to improve our organisational performance.
- The desired OSR percentage will be partially met by undertaking some contract works for third parties. This will need to be supplemented by some modest rate rises over and above normal CPI increases.



Community Consultations October 2016

Pleasant Hills Hall – 6pm Thursday 20 October
Osborne Recreation Ground – 6pm Friday 21 October
The Rock Bowling Club – 6pm Tuesday 25 October
Lockhart Council Chambers – 6pm Wednesday 26 October
Yerong Creek Hall – 6pm Thursday 27 October

Reason for this Engagement

- Review of Community Strategic Plan
- Special Rate Variation
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Why are we here?

- Fit for the Future Program
- IPART Submission
- Announced FFF by IPART
- Retained independence for Lockhart Shire Council
- Required Improvement Action Plan
- Special Rate Variation
 - Commence 2017/18 Financial Year
 - 80% community support

Special Rate Variation

- Proposal to increase rates by 4.6% cumulative for the next 10 years
- 80% community support for proposal

Special Rate Variation – why required?

- Previously informed community SRV required for:
 - Infrastructure projects
 - Swimming pool refurbishments
 - Flood mitigation
 - Road building
- Increase own source revenue

Special Rate Variation – why required?

Now known:

- Pool refurbishments:
 - Lockhart Pool approx. \$2.7M
 - The Rock Pool approx. \$2.8M
- Flood mitigation, Council costs approx. \$1M
- Rural road restoration estimated \$1M
- Loan repayments for pool refurbishments alone will exceed SRV increase for first four years
- Total Roads expenditure next 10yrs approx. \$53M

Our FFF Improvement Plan & these projects are now dependent on **community support** for the SRV.

Special Rates Variation (SRV)

Proposed SRV will generate additional revenue of **\$3.6M** over the next 10 years

Indicative impact on your typical **General Rate** component for following categories:

		Year 1	Year 10	\$ increase over 10 yrs	Average p.a	Average per week
Farmland	Rate Peg	\$4700	\$5815	\$1115	\$111.50	\$2.14
	SRV	\$4700	\$7370	\$2670	\$267.00	\$5.13
Residential	Rate Peg	\$300	\$370	\$70	\$ 7.00	\$0.13
	SRV	\$300	\$470	\$170	\$17.00	\$0.33
Business	Rate Peg	\$470	\$580	\$110	\$11.00	\$0.21
	SRV	\$470	\$735	\$265	\$26.50	\$0.51

Community Support Needed For Our Proposal

Lockhart Shire Council website factsheet

<http://www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au/f.ashx/BusinessPapers2017/READ-MORE.pdf>

4.6% Special Rate Variation

Council will apply to the Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation to commence in the 2017/18 financial year. Council is seeking approval for a 4.6% rate increase for the next 10 years. The 4.6% Special Rate Variation will be inclusive of the annual Rate Peg amount which IPART determines each year that NSW Councils can currently increase their rates annually.

If the Special Rate Variation is successful, for 2017/18 this will result in the Rate Peg of 1.5% plus Rate Variation of 3.1% for a total Special Rate Variation of 4.6%.

Support from the community

As part of the Fit for the Future process in April 2015 the community were well informed on the process of a Special Rate Variation through local media, newsletters, emails and social media, with community meetings held throughout the Shire to ensure everyone had the opportunity to understand the process and express any concerns. Council received 80% support through the five community meetings that were held.

Additional community input was sought in October 2016 to inform the community about the Special Rate Variation and how this would impact on ratepayers. Five meetings were held throughout the Shire at different locations, with 72% supporting the proposed Special Rate Variation.

What is the Special Rate Variation?

THE Special Rate Variation (SRV) is an increase in rates above the rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) each year. Lockhart Shire Council has applied for a one off Special Rate Variation of 4.6% which includes Rate Pegging to be applied in 2017/18 and maintained for 10 years.

When will we know if it has been successful?

It is expected that a decision on Council's application will be made by IPART in May 2017. This information will be made available on IPART's website, Council's website, newsletter and local media.

How does this impact my rates?

The impact on your rates will depend on what rate category your property is in and how much the land is valued. The percentage increase is the same for all rate categories though.

Indicative impact on the typical General Rate component for all categories is set out below:

		Year 1	Year 10	\$ increase over 10yrs	Average pa
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	SRV	\$300	\$470	\$170	\$17.00
Business	Rate Peg	\$470	\$580	\$110	\$11.00
	SRV	\$470	\$735	\$265	\$26.50

What does this pay for?

\$2.98 million of Flood Mitigation works \$4.2 million Lockhart Swimming Pool and The Rock Swimming Pool \$1 million Road Infrastructure

The rate increase will ensure that Lockhart Shire Council remains financially sustainable for the future and continue to be able to provide the services for the community, as well as providing suitable infrastructure that meets the needs of the community.

What is the benefit?

Upgrades to the roads, flood mitigation and swimming pool infrastructure will benefit the whole community and provide long term infrastructure for the community. After the unseasonably wet winter in 2016 the roads have deteriorated, which have created over \$2.2 million of works to get the roads back to standard.

The implementation of flood mitigation will provide security and reassurance for the residents of Lockhart Shire to minimise the effect of any future flooding.

The swimming pools in both Lockhart and The Rock are reaching end of life and require significant refurbishments to meet safety and operational obligations. The works will ensure the community has access to swimming facilities for another 50 years and will provide a safe and accessible facility for patrons.

What happens if SRV is not successful?

These projects will still have to occur, though the timing and scope of the projects may have to be changed for Council to be able to deliver them without impacting on the rest of the services that Council deliver.



Lockhart Shire Council

MEDIA RELEASE

27 January 2017

Lockhart Shire Council to Apply for a Special Rate Variation

Lockhart Shire Council has resolved to apply to the Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation to commence in the 2017/18 financial year. The Special Rate Variation (SRV) is an increase in rates above the rate peg set by IPART each year. Lockhart Shire Council will apply for a one off SRV to commence in 2017/18. The proposal is to increase rates by 4.6% cumulative for the next 10 years.

(It is noted that pursuant to Section 508A (2) of the Local Government Act the specified period of the SRV must not exceed 7 years however it is also noted that this subsection does not prevent a further application and determination being made that takes affect after that period.)

...2/

The 4.6% Special Rate Variation will be inclusive of the annual Rate Peg amount which IPART determines each year that NSW Councils can increase their rates annually i.e. 1.5% in 2017/18. Council is therefore seeking an increase of 3.1% over and above the Rate Peg of 1.5% determined by IPART.

As part of the Fit for the Future process in April 2015 the community were well informed on the process of a Special Rate Variation through local media, newsletters, emails and social media, with community meetings held throughout the Shire to ensure everyone had the opportunity to understand the process and express any concerns. Council received 80% support through the five community meetings that were held.

Additional community input was sought in October 2016 to inform the community about the Special Rate Variation and how this would impact on ratepayers. Five meetings were held throughout the Shire at different locations, with 72% supporting the proposed Special Rate Variation.

IPART is expected to announce its decision as to the outcome of Councils application in May 2017. This information will be made available on IPART's website, Council's website, newsletter and local media.

The impact on individual rate assessment will depend on the rating category and land value of each property however the percentage increase will be the same for all rate categories i.e. farmland, residential and business.

The rate increase will ensure that Lockhart Shire Council remains financially sustainable for the future and continue to be able to provide the services for the community, as well as providing suitable infrastructure that meets the needs of the community. More specifically the revenue generated will be used to fund the following projects:

- \$2.98 million of Flood Mitigation works
- \$4.2 million Lockhart Swimming Pool and The Rock Swimming Pool
- \$1 million Road Infrastructure

After the unseasonably wet winter in 2016 the roads have deteriorated creating over \$2.2 million of works to get the roads back to standard.

The implementation of flood mitigation works will provide security and reassurance for the residents of Lockhart Shire to minimise the effect of any future flooding.

The swimming pools in both Lockhart and The Rock are reaching end of life and require significant refurbishments to meet safety and operational obligations. The works will ensure the community has access to swimming facilities for another 50 years and will provide a safe and accessible facility for patrons.

Ends.

Media Enquiries:

Peter Veneris
GENERAL MANAGER
(02) 6920 5305