

SRV Community Engagement Summary

January 2023



**Special Rate
Variation...**



Bega Valley Shire Council
acknowledges and pays
our respects to the
traditional custodians of
the lands, waterways and
airspace of the shire.

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Introduction

Community engagement must be undertaken prior to applying for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) under the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) guidelines. In particular, IPART requires evidence that the community is aware of the need for and extent of a rate rise. The guidelines state that Council's engagement approach must utilise an appropriate variety of methods to ensure community awareness and input occur.

It is important to note that IPART's assessment is not based on the level of support received from the community but rather that the community was made aware of the impacts of a proposed SRV.

This summary report has been prepared as evidence of the extensive community engagement undertaken by Council, prior to its potential application to IPART for an SRV.

Community Engagement Plan

Council actively engages with the local community providing information in a timely, open and transparent nature, to ensure that residents and stakeholders remain well informed. This process is supported by a range of strategies which guide Council's engagement within the community.

The Community Engagement Strategy was adopted in 2019, forming the framework of Council's community consultation practices. This Strategy outlines methods and the manner in which Council should conduct public consultation for key activities. A dedicated SRV Community Engagement Plan- Appendix 3- was developed based on the principles of this Strategy.

Key Dates

	Action
May- June 2022	Community engagement on 2022-25 Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy, along with 2022-25 Operational Plan outlining need for future SRV
29 June 2022	2022-25 Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy, along with 2022-25 Operational Plan adopted by Council
21 October 2022	Meeting with IPART
16 November 2022	Council meeting resolution to advise IPART of intention to submit an SRV application
23 November 2022	Letter of Intent submitted to IPART and lodged on IPART portal
16 November 2022- 16 January 2023	SRV Community Engagement period Revised Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 placed on public exhibition including information on Council's proposed SRV options
1 February 2023	Council meeting to consider community feedback and determine if SRV application to be submitted to IPART
3 February 2023	Application due to IPART
May 2023	IPART determination
1 July 2023	If approved, SRV commences

Community Engagement Overview

In 2019, Council commenced community engagement around the need to increase rates to support the provision of the six pools across the shire which was abandoned because of the Black Summer bushfires. Since that time the financial need to invest in our assets has remained and continued to escalate in the increasingly volatile financial environment.

From May to June 2022, as part of the community engagement process for the latest suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documents, Council undertook extensive community engagement and received feedback from the community regarding the potential introduction of an SRV. A detailed report outlining the community engagement and feedback received was included in the 29 June 2022 report to Council for adoption of the IP&R documents. At that time, Council committed to further investigation and community engagement to be undertaken later in 2022 on the modelled need for an SRV.

As part of the SRV application requirements outlined by IPART, Council must fully communicate the impact of the proposed increases to ratepayers and demonstrate an appropriate variety of engagement methods to ensure community awareness and input into the process.

A dedicated SRV brand was established to align the various communication materials used throughout the engagement period. Council commenced SRV engagement based on the updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 with the community in November 2022.

As part of the engagement, Council sought feedback from residents on the proposed SRV options through an online survey, media releases, information on Council's website, social media channels, community markets, an online webinar and town hall meetings.

The online survey received 2,763 responses with 28.6% of respondents indicating they were supportive of an SRV at some level, with 71.3% of respondents indicating a preference for no SRV. During the exhibition period more than 230 written submissions were received including 3 petitions. The SRV webpage had 6,624 views, and over 50 attendees connected with staff and Councillors at markets and presentations.

The updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 placed on public exhibition in November 2022 outlined four SRV options for the community to consider.

- Option A: SRV with no service level changes - single year, 90% increase permanently applied
- Option B: SRV with no service level changes - phased over 2 years, 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025 permanently applied
- Option C: SRV with service level changes - single year, 43% increase permanently applied
- Option D- No SRV. Rate peg only with significant service level changes.

Throughout the engagement period Council highlighted a range of key messages including the impact a proposed SRV would have on ratepayers and how Council will use the additional funding from an SRV.

In order to demonstrate the impact an SRV will have on ratepayers, Council presented both a breakdown of the proposed options and the average annual rates per rating category under each option.



Figure 1: SRV Brand

Proposed SRV Options

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
	SRV with no service level changes - single year.	SRV with no service level changes - phased over 2 years.	SRV with service level changes - single year.	No SRV. Rate peg only with significant service level changes.
Special Rate Variation	90% increase permanently applied	45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025 permanently applied	43% increase permanently applied	-
Service Changes	This option will allow Council to meet current asset management and operational needs and financial sustainability ratios.	This option will allow Council to meet current asset management and operational needs, however the rate increase will be introduced over 2 years.	<p>Council will need to significantly reduce current levels of service by an average of \$13.9 million each year.</p> <p>This option prioritises catching up on our infrastructure backlog and reducing our capital program below recommended levels.</p>	<p>Council will need to significantly reduce current levels of service by an average of \$25.9 million each year.</p> <p>This option continues the unsustainable financial trajectory and will mean we are not able to manage core assets such as roads and bridges.</p>

These options all include the rate peg for 2023-24 of 4.1%. Option B includes a rate peg of 2.5% in 2024-25.

Option A is a cumulative increase of 94.75% at the end of 2024-25. Option B is a cumulative increase of 98.94% at the end of 2024-25.

Option C is a cumulative increase of 46.58% at the end of 2024-25. Option D is a cumulative increase of 6.60% at the end of 2024-25.

Option A – 90% SRV inclusive of 4.1% rate peg

This increase in revenue will allow for current levels of service in the updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 to be maintained. Council officers recommend introducing an SRV as per Option A to close the gap between current income and expenditure and allow for our current asset management and operational needs to be met as well as meet financial sustainability ratios. The SRV is recommended to be permanently included in Council's revenue.

The SRV will enhance Council's financial sustainability with the additional income used to:

- maintain service levels as close as possible to current levels
- fund the ongoing operation, maintenance and renewal of existing assets
- reduce the reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals
- manage a range of financial impacts including additional costs for maintenance and renewal of grant-funded new assets, impact of natural disasters, rising material costs and inflation.

If this rate increase is approved, it will provide future benefit and security for our community by ensuring ongoing funding needs for assets are planned. This is about intergenerational equity. This Council must make tough decisions now to ensure we don't disadvantage future generations. It is noted that should Council add additional assets or increase services and service levels in the future, planned service and asset investment will need to be reduced to avoid reverting to an operating deficit. It is important to note this model includes assumptions for securing grant income. The model also assumes that future cost increases will be in line with future income increases. Based on history, unless funding models for local government change there is still a risk this model cannot be realised due to costs increasing more rapidly than income.

Option B – 45% SRV in 2023-24 and 37.2% SRV in 2024-25 permanently applied, inclusive of 4.1% rate peg (FY2023-24) and 2.5% rate peg (FY2024-25)

This increase in revenue will allow for current levels of service to be maintained, however the increase in rates will be introduced over 2 years.

There is a cumulative impact that occurs when introducing the increase over the two years. Option B models the needed increase in income across two years to allow for current asset management and operational needs to be met. The SRV is recommended to be permanently included in Council's revenue.

The SRV will enhance Council's financial sustainability with the additional income used to:

- maintain service levels as close as possible to current levels
- fund the ongoing operation, maintenance and renewal of existing assets
- reduce the reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals
- manage a range of financial impacts including additional costs for maintenance and renewal of grant-funded new assets, impact of natural disasters, rising material costs and inflation.

If this rate increase is approved, it will provide future benefit and security for our community by ensuring ongoing funding needs for assets are planned. This is about intergenerational equity. This Council must make tough decisions now to ensure we don't disadvantage future generations. It is noted that should Council add additional assets or increase services and service levels in the future, planned service and asset investment will need to be reduced to avoid reverting to an operating deficit.

Option C – 43% SRV inclusive of 4.1% rate peg

This option will close the gap between revenue and expenditure, however it will not be adequate to maintain current levels of service. This option prioritises catching up on our infrastructure backlog in 2023-24 and 2024-25 and then reducing our capital program below

recommended levels.

- Service levels: Council will be required to reduce services by average of \$13.9 million per year. This will need to come from a range of areas including employment costs, asset maintenance and renewal and facility operation.
- Asset management: this option will mean that Council will not have sufficient income for the required renewals of assets after the first two years, where we focus on catching up on our infrastructure backlog. As a result we can expect a decline in the standard of key assets such as roads and bridges.

Option D – No SRV, 4.1% rate peg only

This means Council will need to significantly reduce its level of service to remain solvent. If Council does not implement an SRV, the LTFP predicts cost reductions averaging \$25.9 million annually will be required. Of immediate concern is the financial projection of implementing this option in that unrestricted cash for the General Fund will be exhausted by 2025.

This option shows our expenses continuing to exceed income and lower than required investment in maintaining and upgrading our assets to the point where we cannot fund any asset rebuilds. There will need to be a significant reduction in the levels of service and quality of assets, including extending the operating life of assets beyond their estimated useful life. This would mean over time bridges would start to fail, roads would become unsafe, pools would close and buildings would collapse as examples of longer-term consequences.

- Service level reduction: Council will be required to reduce services by \$25.9 million per year. This will need to come from employment costs, asset maintenance and renewal and facility operation.
- Asset management: this option means Council will not have sufficient income to fund operating costs or required renewals of our assets. When an asset reaches the end of its useful life, we won't have the funds to replace it. This will occur more frequently as this option is based on a reduction in maintenance and assets getting to end-of-life quicker.

Engagement Outcomes

Council utilised numerous methods of communication during the engagement period to raise awareness in the community of Council's intention to apply for an SRV. All SRV communication materials were branded to provide an effective, clear and consistent message to the public.

During the engagement period, Council encouraged ratepayers and residents to join the conversation and provide feedback on the proposal.

Method	Outcomes
Online survey	2,763 survey responses, approximately 15% of ratepayers. On average 42.2% of respondents indicated they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the standard of Council services and the maintenance and upgrades of Council assets. 28.6% of respondents indicated they were supportive of an SRV at some level, with 71.3% of respondents indicating a preference for no SRV.
Written submissions	236 submissions including 3 petitions
Website	6,624 page views during the community engagement period
Letter to ratepayers	12,979 hard copy letters were mailed; 5,470 letters sent to e-notice customers via email
Mailing list	80 signed up to SRV mailing list
Media releases	2 media releases distributed to local media outlets and placed on website- 11 November and 16 November
Radio Advertising	60 x 30 sec placements across November and December 2022 with 2EC and PowerFM
Newspaper Advertising	3 x quarter page ads in Merimbula News, Bega District News and Eden Magnet
Social media	17 posts with over 23,648 views
Meetings and Markets	Council staff and Councillors attended 5 community markets, hosted one online meeting and two community information sessions. Over 50 ratepayers participated in the community meetings and online engagement event
CEO Correspondence	279 community directory listings received direct correspondence from the CEO
Have your say webpage	Council exhibited its revised Long Term Financial Plan 2032-32, on its website and at Customer Service and Libraries
Staff communication	SRV information was distributed through the fortnightly internal CEO Newsletter, an online all staff briefing and contact cards were provided for outdoor staff
Council facilities	SRV flyer provided at Council libraries and Customer Service

Online Survey

Timeframe

16 November 2022 to 16 January 2023

Action

Council offered an opt-in online survey for ratepayers and residents. The survey was promoted through social media, Council's website, Bega Valley Together newsletter (2,412 subscribers) and Business News newsletter (765 subscribers). In addition, a QR Code was provided to attendees at SRV engagement events with a link directly to the SRV page, allowing ratepayers to complete the survey.

Outcome

A total of 2,763 survey responses were received, approximately 15% of ratepayers. Appendix 2- Survey Results provides all survey responses in their entirety. Below is a summary of the survey results:

- 63.2% of participants were aged 55 or older with the greatest number of responses provided from Merimbula at 12.4%
- 79.1% of respondents indicated that it was important to very important that Council maintain and upgrade the current range of assets it provides (for example roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, parks) when needed
- 69.8% of respondents indicated that it was important that Council maintain current levels of service
- On average 42.2% of respondents indicated they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the standard of Councils services and the maintenance and upgrades of Council assets
- 28.6% of respondents indicated they were supportive of an SRV at some level, with 71.3% of respondents indicating a preference for no SRV

Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to provide comments in response to the below questions:

- Do you think there are any services Council could change, reduce or discontinue?
- If you have any feedback you would like Council or the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to consider regarding the proposed special rate variation please include it below.

A summary of the key themes in these comments is as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Rising cost of living (including living expenses and other costs) | • Rates are already higher than other councils |
| • Council should look for more efficiencies and improve financial management | • Council is mismanaged and an administrator should be appointed to sort Council's financial issues |
| • Requesting full transparency on Council's financial situation | • Inadequate time and information provided during the SRV engagement process |
| • Council needs to operate within its budget/ work with current revenue | |



Take our survey

Feedback closes 16 January 2023

HAVE
YOUR
SAY

Council is faced with the challenge of making sure we have enough money to continue to deliver the large range of services we provide and to look after the shire's assets into the future including things like roads, footpaths, bridges, stormwater drains, parks, libraries, community buildings and swimming pools. We know our community values the services we provide and places high priority on the maintenance and renewal of our assets when it is needed, so the current trend of our service delivery and asset costs exceeding our income needs to change.

An increase in rates through a special rate variation (SRV) is one way we can increase the income we need to meet your expectations and remain financially responsible.

More information is available on Council's website: begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv
We want to hear from you. This survey should take 5 minutes to complete.

A few questions about you

1. Which locality in the Bega Valley Shire do you reside?

- ☐ Bega ☐ Eden ☐ Tura Beach
☐ Bombala ☐ Merimbula ☐ Wolumba
☐ Bermagui ☐ Pambula ☐ Wyndham
☐ Candelo ☐ Quanaa
☐ Cobargo ☐ Thirra
☐ Other (please specify)

2. Please specify which age group you belong to.

- ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

3. What is your gender?

- ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other

Bega Valley Shire Council - Special Rate Variation survey - Page 2

A few questions about you

Your general rates help us to:

- manage our sporting fields, parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, community halls and cemeteries
- ensure our road, bridge and footpath networks are safe and accessible
- operate our libraries, Regional Gallery, Civic Centre, Regional Learning Centre and childcare services
- process development applications
- conserve and rehabilitate our natural environment
- keep our community healthy and safe by providing rangers, building inspectors and health inspectors
- support our community and repair infrastructure when impacted by disasters
- engage with our community to ensure we are on the right track.



4. How important are the following to you?

	Not important	Slightly important	Important	Somewhat important	Very important
That Council maintain and upgrade the current range of assets it provides (for example roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, parks) when needed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
That Council maintain current levels of service.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Bega Valley Shire Council - Special Rate Variation survey - Page 3

5. How satisfied are you with the following?

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
The standard of maintenance of Council assets (for example roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The standard of upgrades of Council assets (for example roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The standard of Council services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Do you think there are any services Council could change, reduce or discontinue?

Your thoughts on the proposed special rate variation

Council has modelled 4 options in its updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32. Option A and Option B will allow Council to continue to deliver the services we currently provide and support the current assets we have as well as meeting the NSW Governments financial sustainability ratios. Option A is a 90% permanent increase to general rates. To read the Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 visit Council's website: begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
SRV with no service level changes - single year	SRV with no service level changes - single year	SRV with service level changes - phased over 2 years.	SRV with service level changes - single year.	No SRV. Rate peg only with significant service level changes.
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These options all include the rate peg for 2023-24 of 4.1%. Option B includes a rate peg of 2.5% in 2024-25.				

Bega Valley Shire Council - Special Rate Variation survey - Page 4

7. Which option do you prefer?

- ☐ Option A - An increase in rates of 90%
☐ Option B - An increase in rates applied over 2 years - 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025
☐ Option C - An increase in rates of 43% with service changes required
☐ Option D - No SRV - rate peg increase only with significant service changes required

8. If you have any feedback you would like Council or the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to consider regarding the proposed special rate variation please include it below.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey.

Your response will be provided to Councillors in February 2023 for their consideration.

Return your survey to:

Bega Valley Shire Council
 PO Box 492
 Bega NSW 2550
 OR drop it off at our main office in Zingel Place, Bega or at your local library.

Survey closes 16 January 2023.
 This survey can be taken on line at begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv

If Council resolves to submit a SRV application to IPART in February 2023, you can then make a formal submission directly to IPART in March 2023.



Figure 2: SRV Online Survey

Written Submissions

Timeframe

16 November 2022 to 16 January 2023

Action

Council encouraged written submissions to be emailed to council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or posted.

Outcome

Council received 236 written submissions including 3 petitions. Appendix 1- Written Submissions provides all written submissions and the petitions in their entirety.

Similar to the survey the following key themes were raised in the written submissions:

- Rising cost of living (including living expenses and other costs)
- Council should look for more efficiencies and improve financial management
- Requesting full transparency on Councils financial situation
- Council needs to operate within its budget/ work with current revenue
- Rates are already higher than other councils
- Council is mismanaged and an administrator should be appointed to sort Council's financial issues
- Inadequate time and information provided during the SRV engagement process

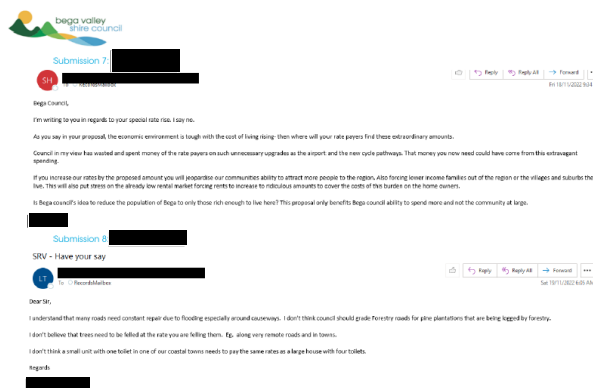


Figure 3: Written submissions sample

Website

Timeframe

16 November 2022- ongoing

Action

A dedicated SRV project page was launched on 16 November 2022 with two direct links from Council's homepage. The project page serves as the hub of information for the SRV both during and post the community engagement period.

Outcome

During the community engagement period, Council's SRV page received 6,624 views.

The screenshot displays the Bega Valley Shire Council website's 'Special Rate Variation' project page. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with links to Home, Community, Services, Business, and Council. A search bar and a 'Have your say' button are also present. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Why do we need an SRV?**: Explains the funding of local government, the impact of rising costs, and the need for a rate peg.
- Background**: Details the council's financial position, the need for a rate peg, and the impact of rising costs.
- Have Your Say**: Provides information on how to provide feedback, including online surveys and community meetings.
- Related information**: Lists various documents and reports related to the SRV process.
- Our Long Term Financial Plan options**: Discusses the council's financial sustainability and the impact of different rate options.
- Rate calculator**: A tool to help residents understand the impact of different rate options.
- Who's listening**: Identifies the council's representatives and the community groups involved in the process.
- Keen to stay updated on the SRV conversation?**: Encourages residents to register their interest with the council.
- Timeline of works**: A visual timeline showing the key milestones of the SRV process, from May to June 2022 to 16 November 2022 to 16 January 2023.

Figure 4: SRV project page

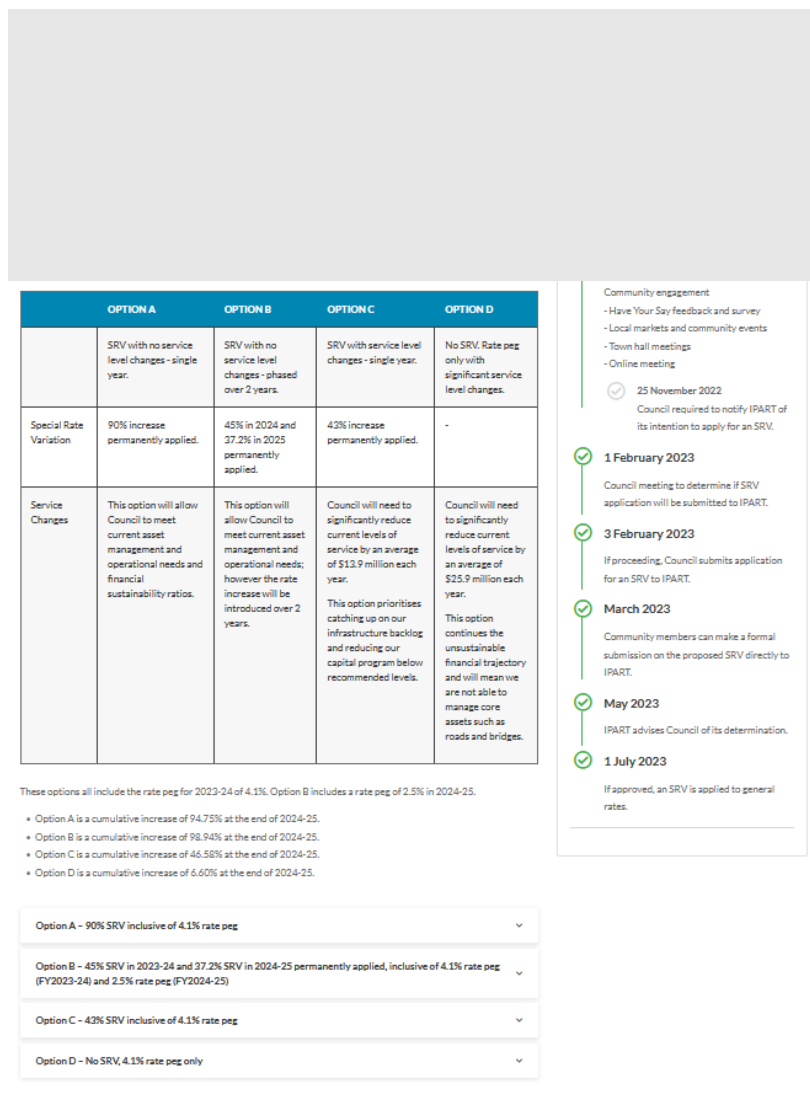


Figure 5: SRV project page (cont.)

Impact on ratepayers

An SRV is calculated on your general rates (base rate and ad valorem components) only. It does not apply to water, sewer or waste charges.

Click on the image to enlarge.



The tables below show the average impact for each of the three rating categories - residential, farmland and business.

Please note the precise outcome for each ratepayer is dependent on the particular land valuation for the property.

To calculate how the options impact your rates [download the rate calculator as an Excel spreadsheet](#).

Residential

Farmland

Business

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Special Rate Variation?

What is the 'rate peg'?

Where will the additional funds be spent if an SRV is applied?

How many other Councils are applying for an SRV?

How do property valuations affect general rates?

How does inflation impact Council's financial planning?

Who is IPART and how do they assess the SRV application?

Does Council have a financial hardship policy?

How are rates calculated?

News and Updates

Councillors to consider Special Rate Variation at next Council meeting
Fri, 11 Nov 2022

Councillors agree on rates variation pathway
Thu, 17 Nov 2022

Figure 6: SRV project page (cont.)

Letters to ratepayers

Timeframe

8 December 2022

Action

An SRV letter was sent to all ratepayers informing them of Council's intention to apply for an SRV and encouraged them to join the discussion.

The letter included the following information:

- The SRV options being proposed and SRV timeline
- Information on how ratepayers could provide feedback and join the discussion
- Average residential yearly rates under each SRV option
- Overview of what general rates pay for and how they are calculated
- How Council is keeping costs down.

Outcome

A total of 12,979 hard copy letters were mailed and 5,470 letters were sent to e-notice customers via email.

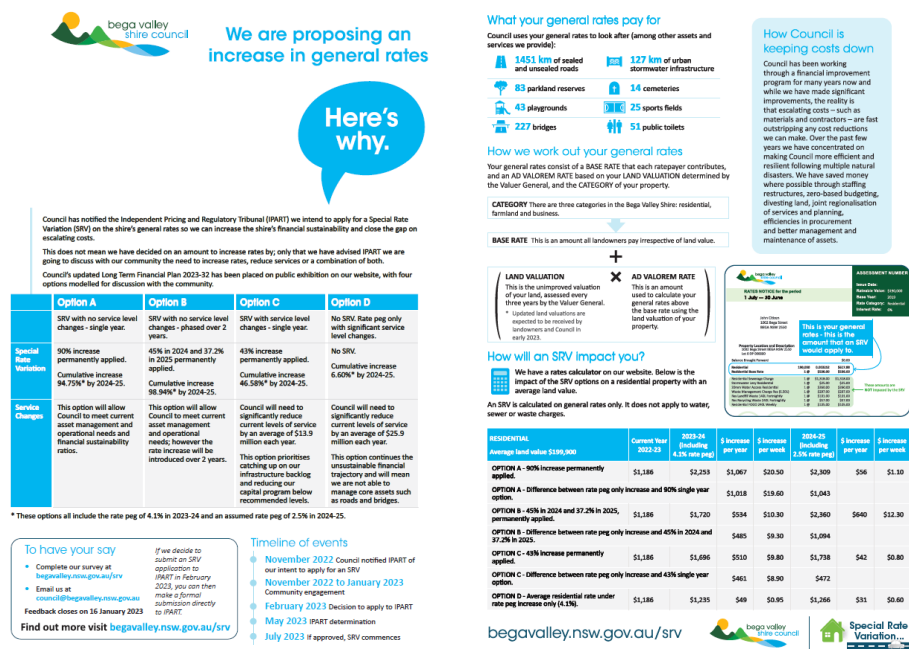


Figure 7: SRV letters sent to all ratepayers

Mailing list

Timeframe

Various

Action

In the 2022-23 rates notice distribution sent in July, a flyer was inserted to encourage registration to a dedicated SRV mailing list.

Outcome

Over 80 people signed up for the SRV mailing list with several emails shared to the recipients throughout the community engagement period.

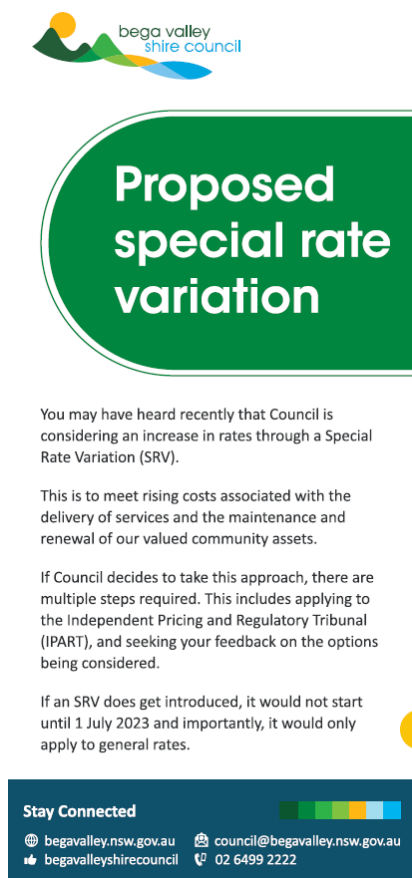


Figure 8: SRV mailing list promo flyer

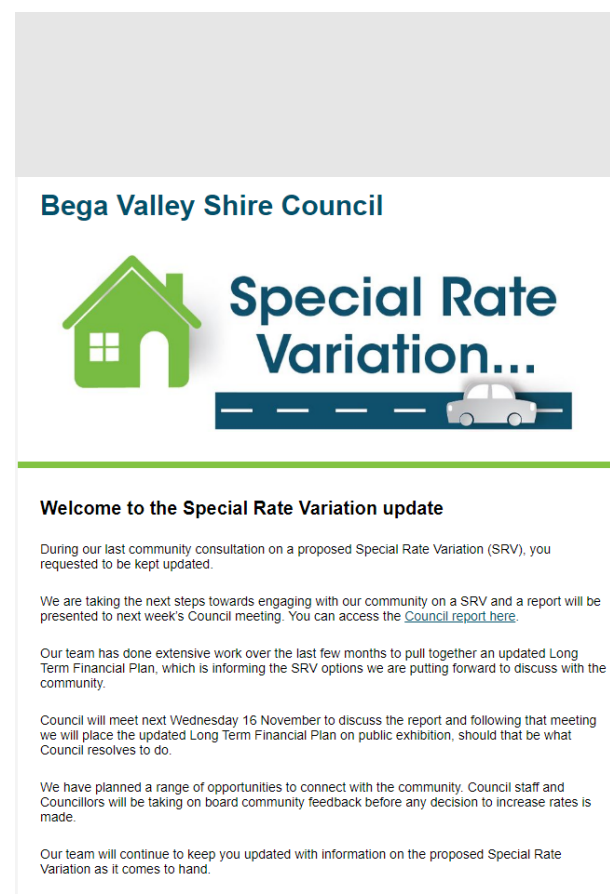



Figure 9: SRV update to mailing list

[View this email in your browser](#)

Bega Valley Shire Council



Welcome to the Special Rate Variation update

Reminder - online meeting tonight

5 December 2022

Councillors and senior Council staff will be online tonight (5 December) from 6pm to 8pm to discuss the proposed [Special Rate Variation](#).

This meeting will be held on the Teams platform.

To join the meeting you will need to [download Teams](#) or [join on the internet](#).

You can [access the online session](#) on your computer, mobile app or room device.



Meeting ID: 467 357 217 594

Passcode: rBdekZ

You can also have your say by [completing a short survey](#) on our website, emailing us at council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or calling us on 02 6499 2222.

Feedback closes on 16 January 2023.

If Council resolves to submit an SRV application to IPART in February 2023, you can also make a formal submission directly to IPART in early 2023.


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Bega Valley Shire Council



Welcome to the Special Rate Variation update

Feedback on proposed SRV closes on 16 January



10 January 2023

If you haven't provided feedback on our options for a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), we encourage you to do so before 11.45pm on Monday 16 January.

You can provide your feedback via our [online survey](#).

You can also have your say by emailing council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or call us on (02) 6499 2222.

Information on the SRV is [available on our website](#), including the timelines of the SRV process.

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Figure 10: SRV updates

Media Releases

Timeframe

11 November and 17 November 2022

Action

A media release was distributed on 11 November 2022 to provide the media and community advance notice the proposed SRV would be discussed at the 16 November Council meeting. A further media release was distributed on 17 November 2022 advising of the outcome to notify IPART of Council's intention to apply for an SRV and commence community engagement and public exhibition of the updated Long Term Financial Plan.

Outcome

The media releases were published on Council's website and several news agencies generated coverage based on the media releases.



Councillors to consider Special Rate Variation at next Council meeting

11 November 2022

Councillors will consider applying to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) at its Council meeting next week, to meet the rising costs of delivering services and maintaining and renewing the shire's assets.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Anthony McMahon said the Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 has been updated and includes three options that call for an additional increase to the shire's rate base through a SRV.

"Over the last 10 years or so our expenses have been rising well beyond our income due to reductions in federal grants, significant cost escalations in materials and the compounding effect of multiple natural disasters," Mr McMahon said.

"To remain financially sustainable into the future, we either need to increase our income or significantly reduce the services and assets we provide across our whole community.

"If endorsed by Councillors next week, the updated 10-year Long Term Financial Plan, which includes options to address these challenges, will go on public exhibition from Wednesday 16 November.

"An endorsement of the plan does not mean we have decided to increase rates, only that we will advise IPART we are going to discuss this with our community.

"As it stands, we do not have the funds needed to continue maintaining the community's assets or to continue providing the vast range of services the community relies on."

Mr McMahon said before any application is made to IPART, Council will connect with the community over the coming months to discuss the options.

"The community will be able to provide feedback via an online survey on Council's website from 16 November, talk to Councillors and senior Council staff at local markets, town hall information sessions and an online meeting," Mr McMahon said.

"To ensure everyone has the opportunity to provide feedback on a proposed SRV, the community consultation will continue through to 16 January 2023.

"When we have a full picture of how the community feels about a proposed rate increase, Councillors will meet again in February to decide on how we proceed."

More information is available on [Council's website](#).

END

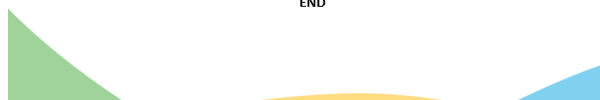


Figure 11: Media Release, 11 November 2022

Councillors agree on rates variation pathway

17 November 2022

Bega Valley Shire Councillors have responded to endemic funding shortfalls and escalating service delivery costs by endorsing notification to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of Council's intent to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) on the shire's general rates.

The decision was made at the Council meeting yesterday, with Councillors resolving to start the application process.

Council Mayor Russell Fitzpatrick said the decision came after effecting numerous cost savings and efficiencies and the subsequent obvious need to enhance the shire's financial sustainability and close the gap on escalating costs.

"Yesterday, Councillors resolved to start the process to address our precarious financial position that comes from rising costs, insufficient and capped government funding and Council taking on greater responsibilities over time often without choice," Cr Fitzpatrick said.

"It's a perfect storm that no-one wants to be caught in and certainly not unique to our shire, but today we decided to notify IPART of our intent to apply for a SRV.

"This does not mean we have decided an amount to increase rates by, only that we will advise IPART we are going to discuss with our community the need to increase rates, reduce services or a combination of both.

"As it stands, we do not have the funds needed to continue maintaining the community's assets or to continue providing the vast range of services we know the community relies on.

"Assets and services can be ambiguous local government words, so I want to make it clear that Council needs more money to maintain its 1400km of roads, its public swimming pools, its parks and playgrounds, ~~airport~~ and libraries. The list goes on."

Council's updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 has been placed on public exhibition, with four options modelled for discussion with the community. Option A is a single year 90% increase; Option B is a 2-year increase of 45% increase in 2024 and 37.2% increase in 2025; Option C is a single year 43% increase and Option D is no increase above rate peg.

"We have a responsibility to our community and future generations to remain financially viable," Cr Fitzpatrick said.

"We know any increase in rates is difficult to contemplate for many in our community, but we need to take steps to reduce the ever-expanding gap between our income and expenses.

"Before any application is made to IPART, we will connect with the community over the coming months to discuss our options.

"When we have a full picture of how the community feels about a proposed rate increase, Councillors will meet again in February to decide on how we proceed.

"It's important to understand that any SRV increase to your general rates does not mean an increase to your entire rates bill. Other billable items such as water, sewer and waste will not increase by any final SRV amount.

"The base rate is the standard charge applied to all properties within their rateable land category, such as residential, business or farming. The ad valorem rate is tied to land value, so the actual cost of any proposed increase will vary across the shire.

"We realise that cost of living pressures are significant at the moment and want to remind our ratepayers that we offer various hardship options and a concession program for seniors."

IPART is the regulatory authority that can approve or deny SRV's. If Council decides to apply for a SRV and the application is approved, it will be applied on 1 July 2023.

For more information on the Special Rate Variation and to Have Your Say, visit Council's website.

Have your say on the SRV

Councillors and Council staff will be at [markets and community events](#) this month and December to chat about the proposal.

- Eden Community Market, Saturday 19 November - 9am to 10:30am
- Merimbula Seaside Market, Sunday 20 November - 9am to 10:30am
- Cobargo markets, 26 November - 9am to 10:30am
- Bermagui Growers and Makers Market, 1 December - 3:30pm to 5:30pm
- Candelo markets, 4 December - 9am to 10:30am

We are hosting two community events, each with four sessions. To allow us to manage numbers, register your session preference online.

- **Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre - Monday 28 November**
Sessions will run hourly: 30-minute presentation; 30-minute question and answer with panel.
 - 3pm to 4pm
 - 4pm to 5pm
 - 5pm to 6pm
 - 6pm to 7pm
- **Pambula Hall - Wednesday 30 November**
Sessions will run hourly: 30-minute presentation; 30-minute question and answer with panel.
 - 3pm to 4pm
 - 4pm to 5pm
 - 5pm to 6pm
 - 6pm to 7pm

There will also be an online meeting open to all on Monday 5 December from 6pm to 8pm, comprising a 45-minute presentation and an opportunity to ask questions.

You can also have your say via:

- Email: council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au
- [Complete a short survey](#)
- Call us on 02 6499 2222.

Feedback closes on 16 January 2023.

If Council resolves to submit an SRV application to IPART in February 2023, you can also make a formal submission directly to IPART in March 2023.

END

Figure 12: Media Release, 17 November 2022

Advertising

Timeframe

November 2022

Action

Council had sixty 30 second ad placements across November and December 2022 with 2EC and PowerFM. Council also placed a quarter page advertisement in three local newspapers. The ad included an outline of Council's proposal, contact details and information on how people could provide input into the decision.

- Merimbula News Weekly Newspaper, Wednesday 23 November 2022
- Eden Magnet Newspaper, Thursday 24 November 2022
- Bega District News newspaper, Friday 25 November 2022.

Outcome

Each newspaper sells approximately 3,000 copies per edition. Council organised a radio interview for CEO Anthony McMahon with 2EC and ABC South East breakfast, where the SRV options and process were discussed. The recordings are available on [Councils website](#).

The digital version of the advertisement features the Bega Valley Shire Council logo at the top left. A large blue speech bubble on the right contains the text "HAVE YOUR SAY". The main heading is "Special Rate Variation...". Below this, a sub-heading reads "Council is proposing an increase in rates". The text explains that the Council has notified the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and is starting a discussion with the community. It lists two options for providing input: at a community event (Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre on Monday 28 November 2022, 3pm-7pm, and Pambula Hall on Wednesday 30 November 2022, 3pm-7pm) or an online meeting (Monday 5 December 2022, 6pm-8pm). A QR code is provided for more information. At the bottom, a green button contains the URL "begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV".

The physical version of the advertisement is a printed flyer with the same layout as the digital version. It includes the Bega Valley Shire Council logo, a large blue speech bubble with "HAVE YOUR SAY", and the heading "Special Rate Variation...". The text details the Council's proposal for a rate increase and the community consultation process. It lists community events at the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre and Pambula Hall, and an online meeting. A QR code is included for more information. A green button at the bottom displays the URL "begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV".

Figure 13: Newspaper advertising

Social Media

Timeframe

16 November 2022- ongoing

Action

Council has an active social media audience with more than 22,400 users engaging with Council's accounts. For the SRV community engagement, Council carried out a social media campaign on Facebook. This included a series of SRV posts and SRV event posts for community engagement activities.

SRV community engagement opportunities were published as events on Facebook and appeared as posts at the same time on 17 November.

Additional Facebook posts:

Post	Views
Council meeting wrap-up livestream – 16 November (part of wrap-up video)	550
Councillors agree on rates variation pathway – 17 November	3,100
Merimbula Seaside Market- 22 November	351
Cobargo Markets – 22 November	236
Bermagui Growers and Makers Market – 22 November	372
Pambula Hall meeting – 22 November	445
Online SRV meeting – 22 November	470
Bega Civic Centre meeting – 28 November	1,100
Pambula Hall meeting – 28 November	1,800
Bermagui Growers and Makers Market – 29 November	1,300
Pambula Hall meeting – 30 November	993
Bermagui Growers and Makers Market – 30 November	1,600
Bermagui Growers and Makers Market – 1 December	731
Candelo Markets – 2 December	2,100
6-day deadline reminder – 10 January 2023	4,700
3-day deadline reminder – 13 January	1,700
1-day reminder – 15 January	2,100

Outcome

There was strong engagement on most social media posts related to the SRV.



!! COUNCILLORS TO CONSIDER SPECIAL RATE VARIATION AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Councillors will consider applying to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) at its Council meeting next week, to meet the rising costs of delivering services and maintaining and renewing the shire's assets.

The Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 has been updated and includes three options that call for an additional increase to the shire's rate base through a SRV.

An endorsement of the plan does not mean we have decided to increase rates, only that we will advise IPART we are going to discuss this with our community.

Before any application is made to IPART, Council will connect with the community over the coming months to discuss the options.

The community will be able to provide feedback via an online survey on Council's website from 16 November, talk to Councillors and senior Council staff at local markets, town hall information sessions and an online meeting.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to provide feedback on a proposed SRV, the community consultation will continue through to 16 January 2023.

When we have a full picture of how the community feels about a proposed rate increase, Councillors will meet again in February to decide on how we proceed.

More information is available on Council's website:



begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Councillors to consider Special Rate Variation at next Council meeting

Figure 14: 11 November Facebook post, 700 views



Bega Valley Shire Council

17 Nov • 🌐

!! COUNCILLORS AGREE ON RATES VARIATION PATHWAY

Councillors have responded to endemic funding shortfalls and escalating service delivery costs by endorsing notification to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of Council's intent to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) on the shire's general rates.

The decision was made at the Council meeting yesterday, with Councillors resolving to start the application process.

This does not mean we have decided an amount to increase rates by, only that we will advise IPART we are going to discuss with our community the need to increase rates, reduce services or a combination of both.

Before any application is made to IPART, we will connect with the community over the coming months to discuss our options.

When we have a full picture of how the community feels about a proposed rate increase, Councillors will meet again in February to decide on how we proceed.

For more information on the SRV and to Have Your Say, visit Council's website:



begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Councillors agree on rates variation pathway

Figure 15: 17 November Facebook post, 3,100 views

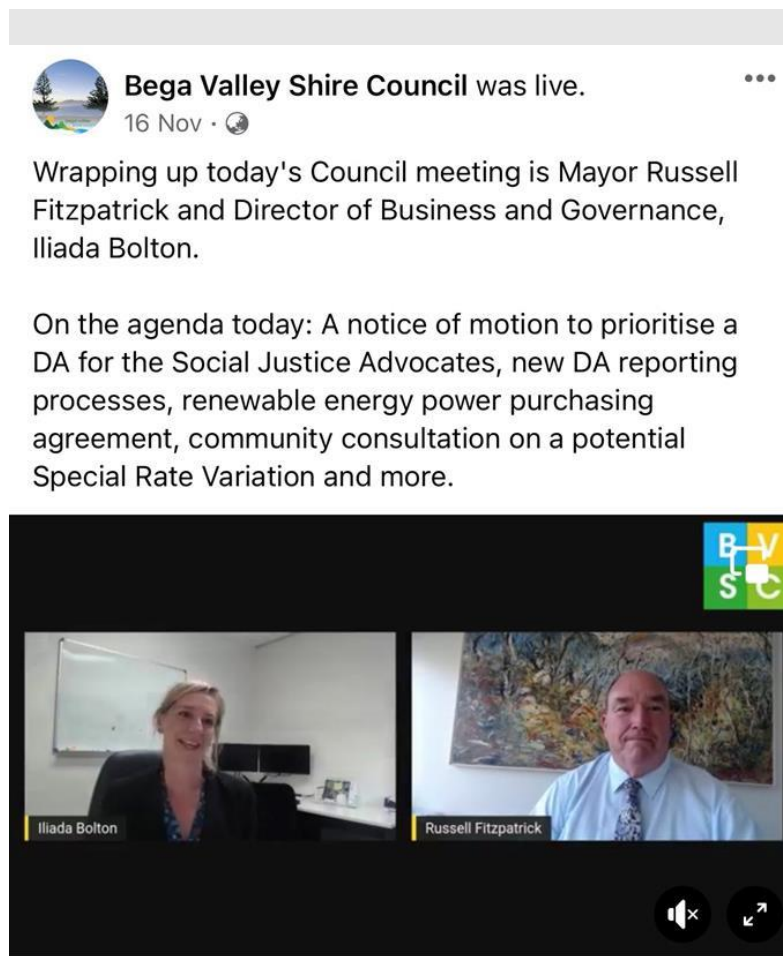


Figure 16: 16 November Facebook post, 550 views



Figure 17: 10 January Facebook post, 4700 views

Bega Valley Shire Council created an event. 22 Nov · 🌐



Special Rate Variation...

Get involved, have your say begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV

SAT, 26 NOV
Councillors in the Community - Cobargo markets

☆ Interested

Bega Valley Shire Council created an event. 22 Nov · 🌐



Special Rate Variation...

Get involved, have your say begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV

MON, 28 NOV
Councillors in the Community - Bega Valley Civic Centre - 4 x 1hr sessions

☆ Interested

Bega Valley Shire Council 30 Nov · 🌐

!! COUNCILLORS IN THE COMMUNITY SESSIONS IN PAMBULA HALL TODAY !!

Councillors and senior Council staff will be at the Pambula Hall this afternoon from 3pm to 7pm to talk to you about the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) options for the shire.

Sessions will run hourly: 30-minute presentation; 30-minute question and answer with panel:

3pm-4pm
4pm-5pm
5pm-6pm
6pm-7pm

Information on the SRV is on Council's website : begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv



Special Rate Variation...

Get involved, have your say begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV

Bega Valley Shire Council 1 Dec · 🌐

!! COUNCILLORS IN THE COMMUNITY IN BERMAGUI THIS AFTERNOON !!

Councillors and senior Council staff will be at the Bermagui Growers and Makers Market today from 3.30pm to 5.30pm to talk to you about the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) options for the shire.

Information on the SRV is on Council's website : begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv



Special Rate Variation...

Get involved, have your say begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV

Figure 18: SRV Facebook events for markets and community information sessions

Meetings and Markets

Timeframe

19 November- 4 December 2022- Community Markets

28 and 30 November- Community Information sessions

5 December- Online community meeting

Action

Council attended community markets at Eden, Merimbula, Cobargo, Bermagui and Candelo and had conversations with residents and ratepayers and collected survey responses. Council also hosted two town hall style community meetings in Bega and Pambula where the CEO of Bega Valley Shire Council provided a presentation. An online meeting via Teams was also provided where the CEO again provided a presentation.

Outcome

At the community markets a QR Code was provided to community members to complete the survey. More than 50 ratepayers participated in the community meetings and online engagement event.



Meeting video link - [Special Rate Variation - Online community meeting - December 2022 on Vimeo](#)

Figure 19: Screenshot of online meeting



Special Rate Variation...

Bega Valley Shire Council


Community Meeting November 2022




Bega Valley Shire Council

1

Introduction






- Welcome
- Format- 30-40min presentation followed by Q+A session
- Purpose
 - You leave here more informed to form and express your views on the challenges ahead
 - To discuss the multistep decision-making process involved in a Special Rate Variation
 - To hear your feedback and enable participation in some key decisions Council is facing



Bega Valley Shire Council


2

Where do your rates and charges go? At Council we provide...

Bega Valley Shire Council


Obligations to remain financially sustainable



In providing the vast range of services to the community, Council has an obligation to remain financially sustainable. The *Local Government Act* requires councils to apply sound financial management principles, including:

- Achieve a fully funded operating position
- Maintain sufficient cash reserves
- Have an appropriately funded capital program
- Maintain its asset base 'fit for purpose'
- Have adequate resources to meet ongoing compliance obligations


These are NOT NEGOTIABLE - failure to meet these obligations will lead to NSW Office of Local Government intervention.



Bega Valley Shire Council


Figure 20: SRV Presentation- Online and Community Meetings

What is a Special Rate Variation?



Special Rate Variation...


- Special Rate Variations allow a council to increase its income from rates above the 'rate peg' (the annual increase set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal each year), under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).
- SRVs can be for one or several years and can be temporary or permanently retained in the rates base.
- Council has a range of existing special variations in place to supplement the cost of existing services provided to the community including biosecurity, tourism, lifeguards, the regional gallery and the airport. The last SRV Council applied for was in 2013 to provide funding for collector roads, recreation facilities, public halls and buildings.



Bega Valley Shire Council


5

Why are we applying for an SRV?



Special Rate Variation...


- The gap between the increasing cost to support our assets and deliver services, and the fixed amount of income we collect is widening, so applying for an SRV now is a financially responsible decision.
- If we don't improve our financial position over the longer term, services will have to be reduced and assets will not be renewed when needed. The value of our cash and investments will continue to decline.



Bega Valley Shire Council


6

Financial challenges Council faces




Special Rate Variation...

- Receiving significant grant funding for new and upgraded assets which increases the cost per year to maintain and renew these assets over their lifetime (maintenance and depreciation costs).
- Cost shifting of NSW Government to deliver services to the community without appropriate resourcing e.g Emergency Services Levy
- Delivering on community expectations to provide consistent assets and service levels across the towns and villages across the Bega Valley
- Our shire is vast in relation to our low population and as a result we have high infrastructure costs, relative to a small rate base
- Increasing frequency and severity of weather events impacting infrastructure
- Council's reliance on volunteers for a range of service provision is going to change as volunteerism declines nationally
- Limited asset and service consolidation opportunities due to the geography and size of the Bega Valley Shire.




Bega Valley Shire Council

Financial challenges Council faces



Special Rate Variation...

- Breadth of services provided by Council places increased pressure on Council finances
- Maintaining the current level of spending on asset renewal to ensure continuing good condition of Council's asset base
- In the next 10-year period there is a need to replace several large value assets that are at the end of their lives and have not yet been replaced, assets such as pools and bridges that have 50-70 year lives. Many of our assets were built in the 1940s, 50s and 60s and are now nearing the end of their service lives and if they are not replaced, risk failure and closure
- Restricted opportunity for revenue generation
- Gradual reduction in Federal Government funding to Local Government. In the past, local Council's received close to 1% of federal taxation revenue through the Financial Assistance Grants and over time, this has reduced to 0.55%
- High inflation, rising costs and material and labour shortages impacting project delivery
- Government spending contraction and shift of focus impacting asset renewal



Bega Valley Shire Council

Figure 21: SRV Presentation- Online and Community Meetings (cont)

If an SRV is applied for and approved how will the additional funds be spent?

The SRV will ensure Council remains financially sustainable, with the additional income used to:

- maintain service levels as close as possible to current levels
- fund the ongoing operation, maintenance and renewal of existing assets
- reduce the reliance on external grant funding for asset renewals
- manage a range of financial impacts including additional costs for maintenance and renewal of grant-funded new assets, impact of natural disasters, and rising material costs and inflation.

Council has a range of existing special variations in place to supplement the cost of existing services provided to the community including biosecurity, tourism, lifeguards, the regional gallery and the airport. The last SRV Council applied for was in 2013 to provide funding for collector roads, recreation facilities, public halls and buildings.

Bega Valley Shire Council

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What are general rates?

Your general rates consist of a BASE RATE that each ratepayer contributes, and an AD VALOREM RATE based on your LAND VALUATION determined by the Valuer General, and the CATEGORY of your property.

CATEGORY There are three categories in the Bega Valley Shire: residential, farmland and business.

BASE CHARGE This is an amount all landowners pay irrespective of land value.

AD VALOREM RATE This is an amount used to calculate your general rates above the base charge using the land valuation of your property.

LAND VALUATION This is the unimproved valuation of your land, assessed every three years by the Valuer General. Updated land valuations are expected to be received by landowners and Council in early 2023.

ASSESSMENT NUMBER

Issue Date: 06/10/2022
Rateable Value: \$250,000
Base Year: 2013
Rate Category: Residential
Interest Rate: 0%

RATES NOTICE for the period 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

Property Location and Description: 2001 Bega Street Bega NSW 2550

Category	Rateable Value	Rate	Amount
Residential	\$250,000	0.00025	\$62.50
Residential Base Rate	1.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Residential Sewerage Charge	1.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Stormwater Levy Residential	1.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Storm Water Access Fee/400	1.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Waste Management Charge Res 12/10/22	1.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Res Landfill Access 400 Fee/400	1.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Res Recycling Access 400 Fee/400	1.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Residential 20000 400 Fee/400	1.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

These amounts are NOT subject to the SRV

Bega Valley Shire Council

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What do general rates pay for?

General rates provide income to look after our assets into the future – things like roads, footpaths, bridges, stormwater drains, parks, libraries, community buildings and swimming pools – and the vital services we provide to the community, including:

- managing our sporting fields, parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, community halls and cemeteries
- ensuring our road, bridge and footpath networks are safe and accessible
- operating our libraries, Regional Gallery, Civic Centre, Regional Learning Centre and childcare services
- processing development applications
- conserving and rehabilitating our natural environment
- keeping our community healthy and safe by providing rangers, building inspectors and health inspectors
- supporting our community and repair infrastructure when impacted by disasters.

What your general rates pay for

Council uses your general rates to look after (among other assets and services we provide):

1451 km of sealed and unsealed roads	127 km of urban stormwater infrastructure
83 parkland reserves	14 cemeteries
43 playgrounds	25 sports fields
227 bridges	51 public toilets

Bega Valley Shire Council

How do property valuations affect general rates

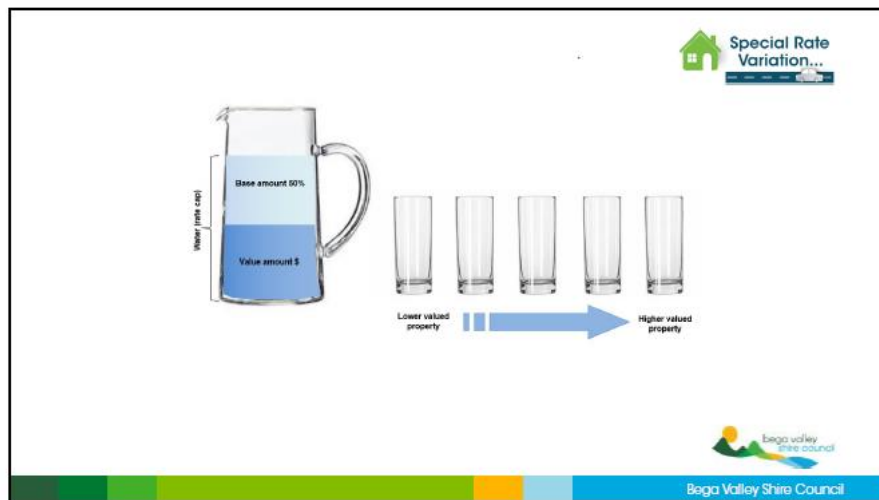
- The value of each property is used as the basis for calculating what each property owner will pay. Land value is based on the unimproved value - to make it fair for all our ratepayers
- The Valuer General oversees the valuation system and values all parcels of land in NSW and is currently undertaking a revaluation across the Bega Valley
- Council will not be in receipt of the updated land valuations data from the Valuer General until early 2023. We have been advised by the Valuer General that rollout of the new valuations for residents in the Bega Valley won't commence until April 2023

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

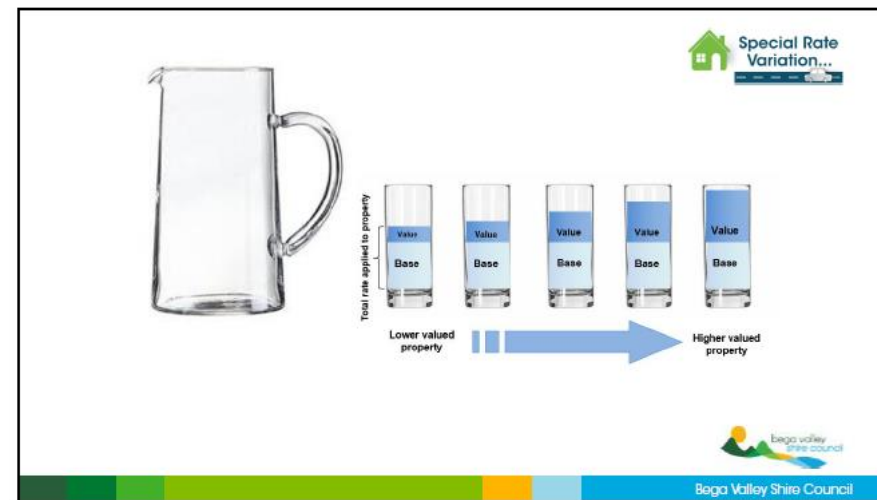
- Council does not receive any extra income when property values increase, it just changes how the total general rates income we can collect is distributed across all ratepayers

Bega Valley Shire Council

Figure 22: SRV Presentation- Online and Community Meetings (cont)



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14

Where we are in the SRV process?

- Council has notified the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) we intend to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) on the shire's general rates so we can increase the shire's financial sustainability and close the gap on escalating costs.
- This does not mean we have decided on an amount to increase rates by; only that we have advised IPART we are going to discuss with our community the need to increase rates, reduce services or a combination of both.
- Council's updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-32 has been placed on public exhibition, with four options modelled for discussion with the community.

Timeline of events

- November 2022 Council notified IPART of our intent to apply for an SRV
- November 2022 to January 2023 Community engagement
- February 2023 Decision to apply to IPART
- May 2023 IPART determination
- July 2023 If approved, SRV commences

Bega Valley Shire Council logo at the bottom right.

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Long Term Financial Plan Options

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
	SRV with no service level changes - single year.	SRV with no service level changes - phased over 2 years.	SRV with service level changes - single year.	No SRV. Rate peg only with significant service level changes.
Special Rate Variation	90% increase permanently applied. Cumulative increase 94.75% by 2024-25.	45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025 permanently applied. Cumulative increase 98.94% by 2024-25.	43% increase permanently applied. Cumulative increase 46.58% by 2024-25.	No SRV. Cumulative increase 6.60% by 2024-25.
Service Changes	This option will allow Council to meet current asset management and operational needs and financial sustainability ratios.	This option will allow Council to meet current asset management and operational needs; however the rate increase will be introduced over 2 years.	Council will need to significantly reduce current levels of service by an average of \$13.9 million each year. This option prioritises catching up on our infrastructure backlog and reducing our capital program below recommended levels.	Council will need to significantly reduce current levels of service by an average of \$25.9 million each year. This option continues the unsustainable financial trajectory and will mean we are not able to manage core assets such as roads and bridges.

These options all include the rate peg for 2023-24 of 4.1%. Option B includes an assumed rate peg of 2.5% in 2024-25.

Bega Valley Shire Council logo at the bottom right.

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Figure 24: SRV Presentation- Online and Community Meetings (cont)

Long Term Financial Plan Assumptions										
Assumptions Table										
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
Rates and Annual Charges	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
User Charges and Fees	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Grants and Contributions Operating and Capital	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Asset and Land Sales	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Interest and Investment Income	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Other Revenues	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Employee Costs	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Materials and Contracts	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Borrowing Costs	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Depreciation	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Other Expenses	4.1%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Insurance	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%

17

Residential Rate Category Impact									
How will an SRV impact you?									
We have a rates calculator on our website. Below is the impact of the SRV options on a residential property with an average land value.									
An SRV is calculated on general rates only. It does not apply to water, sewer or waste charges.									
RESIDENTIAL	Current Year 2022-23	2023-24 (incl. 4.1% rate peg)	\$ increase/ year	\$ increase/ week	2024-25 (incl. 2.5% rate peg)	\$ increase/ year	\$ increase/ week		
Average land value \$100,000	\$1,186	\$2,253	\$1,067	\$20.50	\$2,308	\$56.00	\$11.20		
OPTION A - 90% increase permanently applied									
OPTION A - Difference between rate peg only increase and 90% single year option			\$1,018	\$19.60					
OPTION B - 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025, permanently applied									
OPTION B - Difference between rate peg only increase and 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025			\$1,186	\$24.30					
OPTION C - 45% increase permanently applied									
OPTION C - Difference between rate peg only increase and 45% single year option			\$1,186	\$24.30					
OPTION D - Average residential rate under rate peg increase only (4.1%)									

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Farmland Rate Category Impact									
Special Rate Variation...									
FARMLAND	Current Year 2022-23	2023-24 (incl. 4.1% rate peg)	\$ increase/ year	\$ increase/ week	2024-25 (incl. 2.5% rate peg)	\$ increase/ year	\$ increase/ week		
Average land value \$734,040	\$2,923	\$5,534	\$2,611	\$50.60	\$5,893	\$129.00	\$25.80		
OPTION A - 90% increase permanently applied									
OPTION A - Difference between rate peg only increase and 90% single year option			\$2,511	\$48.30					
OPTION B - 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025, permanently applied									
OPTION B - Difference between rate peg only increase and 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025			\$1,195	\$23.00					
OPTION C - 45% increase permanently applied									
OPTION C - Difference between rate peg only increase and 45% single year option			\$1,137	\$21.85					
OPTION D - Average residential rate under rate peg increase only (4.1%)									

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Business Rate Category Impact									
Special Rate Variation...									
BUSINESS	Current Year 2022-23	2023-24 (incl. 4.1% rate peg)	\$ increase/ year	\$ increase/ week	2024-25 (incl. 2.5% rate peg)	\$ increase/ year	\$ increase/ week		
Average land value \$140,000	\$2,858	\$5,430	\$2,572	\$49.45	\$5,568	\$136.00	\$27.20		
OPTION A - 90% increase permanently applied									
OPTION A - Difference between rate peg only increase and 90% single year option			\$2,455	\$47.20					
OPTION B - 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025, permanently applied									
OPTION B - Difference between rate peg only increase and 45% in 2024 and 37.2% in 2025			\$1,160	\$22.50					
OPTION C - 45% increase permanently applied									
OPTION C - Difference between rate peg only increase and 45% single year option			\$1,112	\$21.40					
OPTION D - Average residential rate under rate peg increase only (4.1%)									

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Figure 25: SRV Presentation- Online and Community Meetings (cont)

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SRV Community Engagement Summary- January 2023

Project Timeline

Timeline of events

- November 2022 Council notified IPART of our intent to apply for an SRV
- November 2022 to January 2023 Community engagement
- February 2023 Decision to apply to IPART
- May 2023 IPART determination
- July 2023 If approved, SRV commences

SRV Community Engagement - HYS, Workshops, Popups	16/11/22-16/01/23
Councillor Workshop - SRV Engagement Feedback	25/01/23
Council Meeting - Resolution to submit application to IPART	01/02/23
SRV Application due to IPART	03/02/23
Council Meeting- Draft 2023-24 Delivery Program/Operational Plan and Fees and Charges on public exhibition	19/04/23
IPART - Notification of outcome	01/05/23
Council Meeting - Determine if SRV to be applied post IPART notification and adjust IPR docs for adoption	24/05/23
Council Meeting - Adopt Draft 2023-24 Delivery Program/Operational Plan and Fees and Charges	14/06/23

Bega Valley Shire Council

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Have your say

Questions and Answers

Get involved, have your say begavalley.nsw.gov.au/SRV

HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say

- Join the **online meeting** Monday 5 December 2022 6pm—8pm.
- Complete our survey at begavalley.nsw.gov.au/srv
- Email us at council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Feedback closes on 16 January 2023

If we decide to submit an SRV application to IPART in February 2023, you can then make a formal submission directly to IPART.

Bega Valley Shire Council

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Figure 27: SRV Presentation- Online and Community Meetings (cont)

CEO Correspondence

Timeframe

November and December

Action

Direct correspondence from the CEO to key community stakeholders.

Outcome

279 community directory listings including organisations such as progress associations, chambers of commerce, sporting and social clubs, support groups and organisations representing disability, seniors, bushfire recovery, Aboriginal and multicultural communities within Bega Valley Shire received the CEO correspondence. SRV communication material was also sent to all local community newsletters.



Figure 28: CEO Letter

Have your say webpage

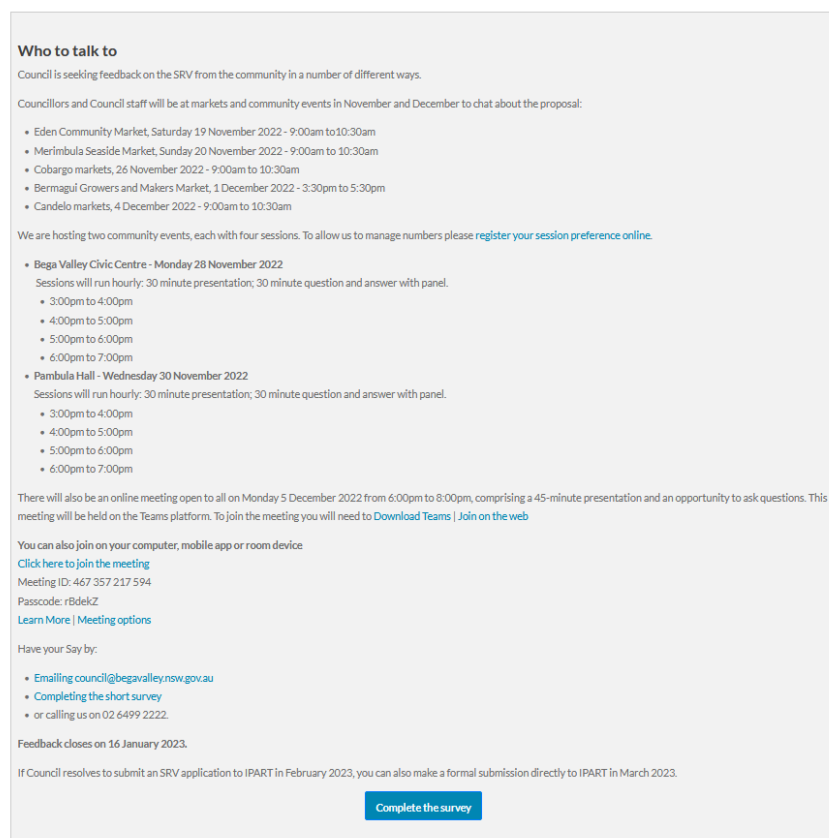
Timeframe

16 November 2022- 16 January 2023

Action

During the SRV community engagement period, an SRV Have Your Say consultation option was available on Council's website. The Have Your Say page provided the community with a range of information and options on how to contribute feedback on the proposed SRV options.

Outcome



Who to talk to

Council is seeking feedback on the SRV from the community in a number of different ways.

Councillors and Council staff will be at markets and community events in November and December to chat about the proposal:

- Eden Community Market, Saturday 19 November 2022 - 9:00am to 10:30am
- Merimbula Seaside Market, Sunday 20 November 2022 - 9:00am to 10:30am
- Cobargo markets, 26 November 2022 - 9:00am to 10:30am
- Bermagui Growers and Makers Market, 1 December 2022 - 3:30pm to 5:30pm
- Candelo markets, 4 December 2022 - 9:00am to 10:30am

We are hosting two community events, each with four sessions. To allow us to manage numbers please [register your session preference online](#).

• **Bega Valley Civic Centre - Monday 28 November 2022**
Sessions will run hourly: 30 minute presentation; 30 minute question and answer with panel.

- 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm

• **Pambula Hall - Wednesday 30 November 2022**
Sessions will run hourly: 30 minute presentation; 30 minute question and answer with panel.

- 3:00pm to 4:00pm
- 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm

There will also be an online meeting open to all on Monday 5 December 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, comprising a 45-minute presentation and an opportunity to ask questions. This meeting will be held on the Teams platform. To join the meeting you will need to [Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

You can also join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 467 357 217 594

Passcode: rBdekZ

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Have your Say by:

- [Emailing council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au)
- [Completing the short survey](#)
- or calling us on 02 6499 2222.

Feedback closes on 16 January 2023.

If Council resolves to submit an SRV application to IPART in February 2023, you can also make a formal submission directly to IPART in March 2023.

[Complete the survey](#)

Figure 29: Have Your Say webpage

Staff Communication

Timeframe

16 November 2022- ongoing

Action

A range of information was provided to all staff and Councillors on the SRV application process. The information was distributed through the fortnightly internal CEO Newsletter, an online all-staff briefing and Councillor workshops. A dedicated SharePoint page was established to assist staff in responding to community enquiries and a contact card was provided to outdoor staff to provide to the community if approached.

Outcome

Providing information to staff and elected representatives helped to ensure they were equipped to respond to feedback or queries received from the community.



Figure 30: SRV contact card



Council Operations

Councillors in the Community - SRV sessions

bega valley shire council

Special Rate Variation...

To meet the rising costs of delivering services and maintaining and renewing our community assets, Council is considering applying for a permanent [Special Rate Variation \(SRV\)](#).

Council is seeking feedback on the SRV. Councillors and senior Council staff will be at the Candelo markets on Sunday 4 December from 9am to 10.30am.

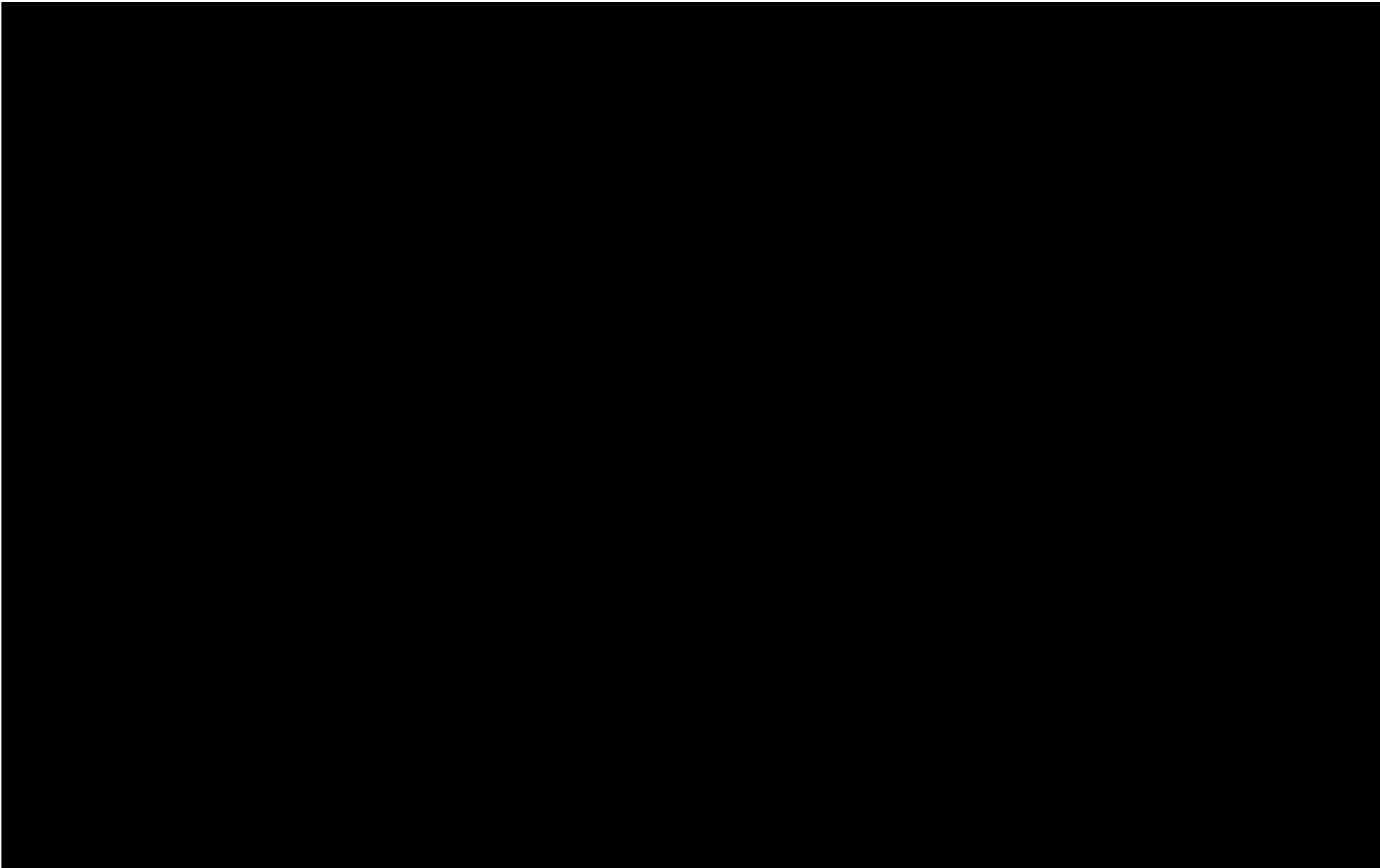
Councillors and senior Council staff will also be online on Monday 5 December from 6pm to 8pm. This meeting will be held on the Teams platform. To join the meeting you will need to [download Teams](#) or [join on the web](#).

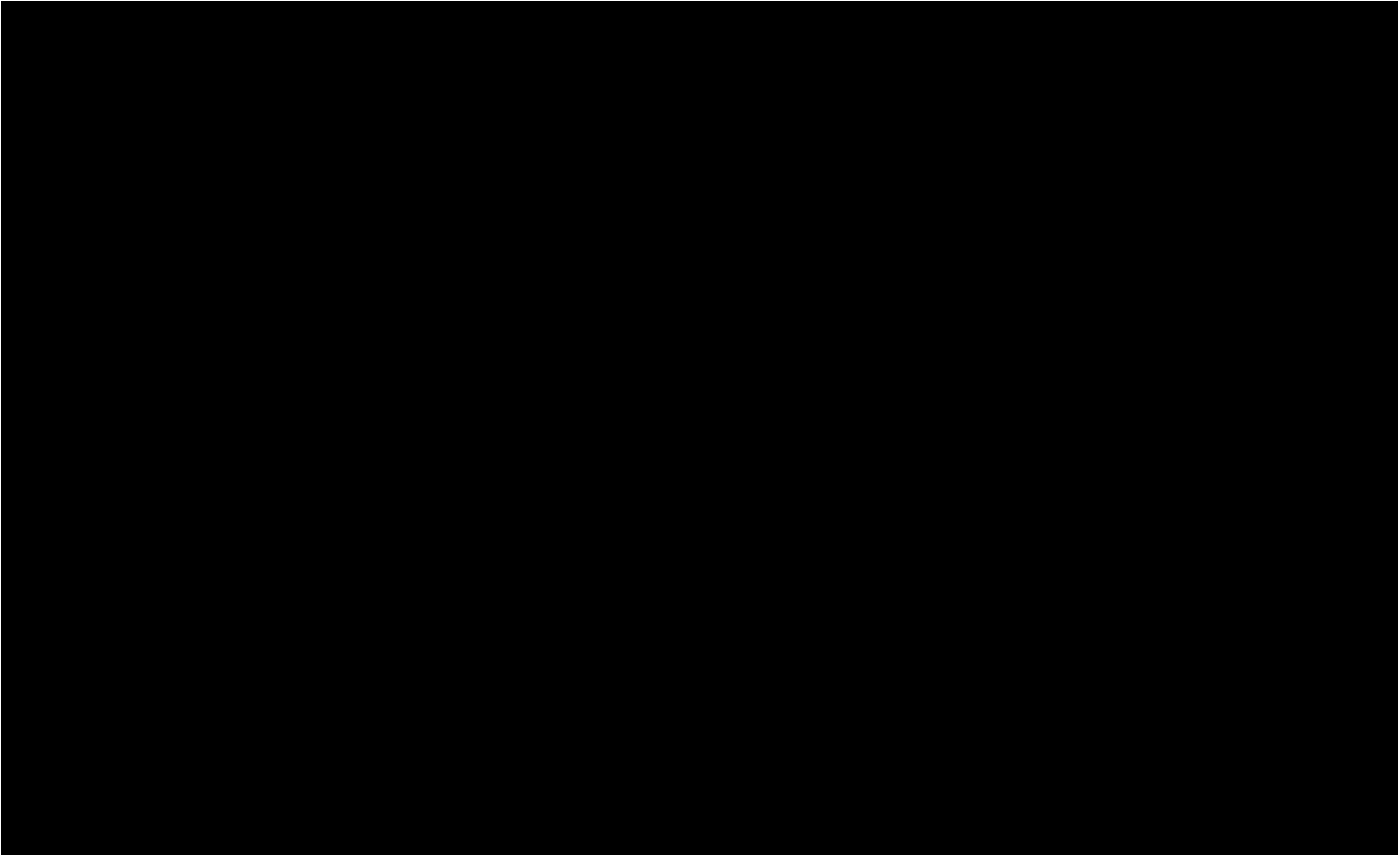
You can [access the online session](#) on your computer, mobile app or room device
Meeting ID: 467 357 217 594
Passcode: rBdekZ

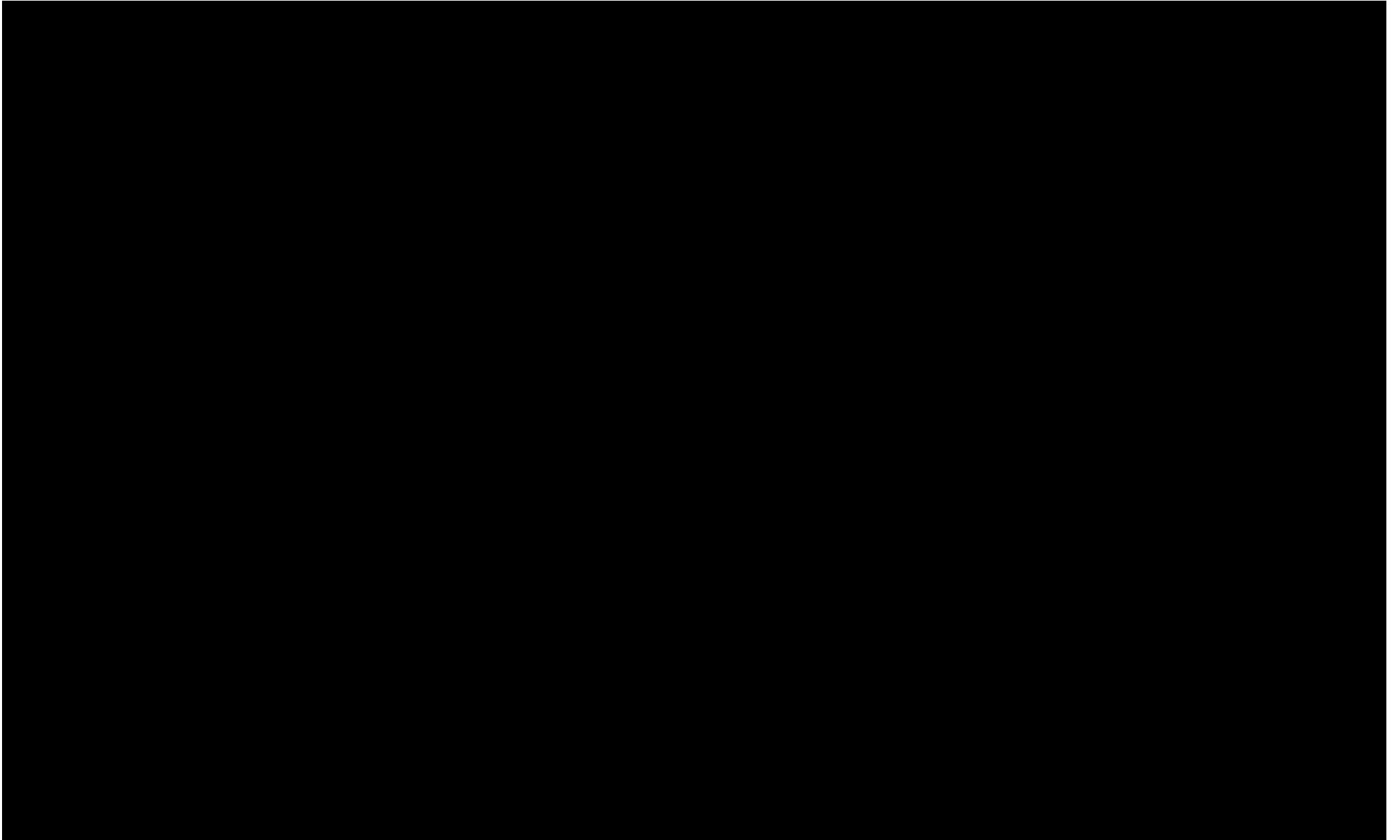
You can also have your say by [completing a short survey](#) on our website, emailing us at council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au or calling us on 02 6499 2222.

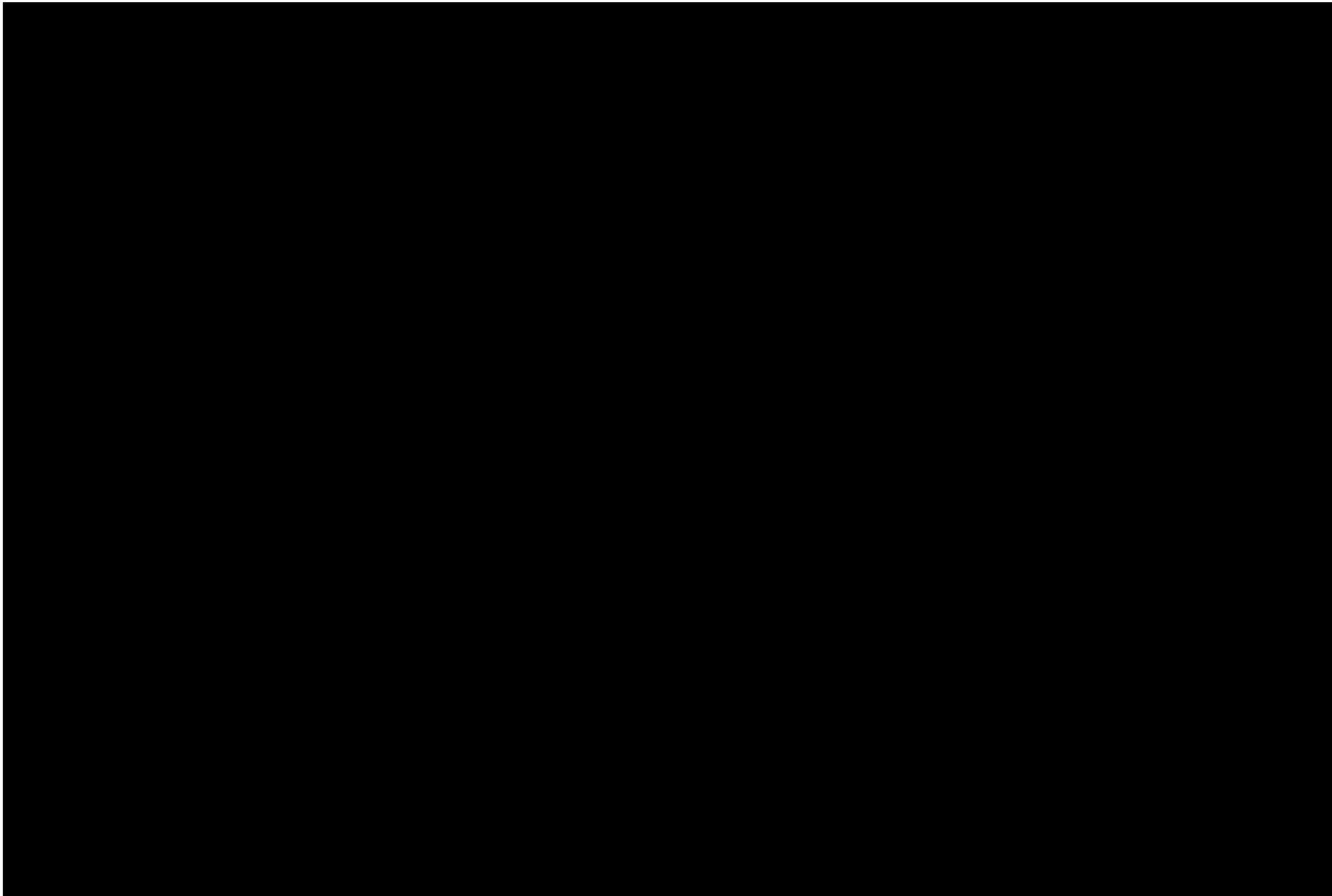
Feedback closes on 16 January 2023.

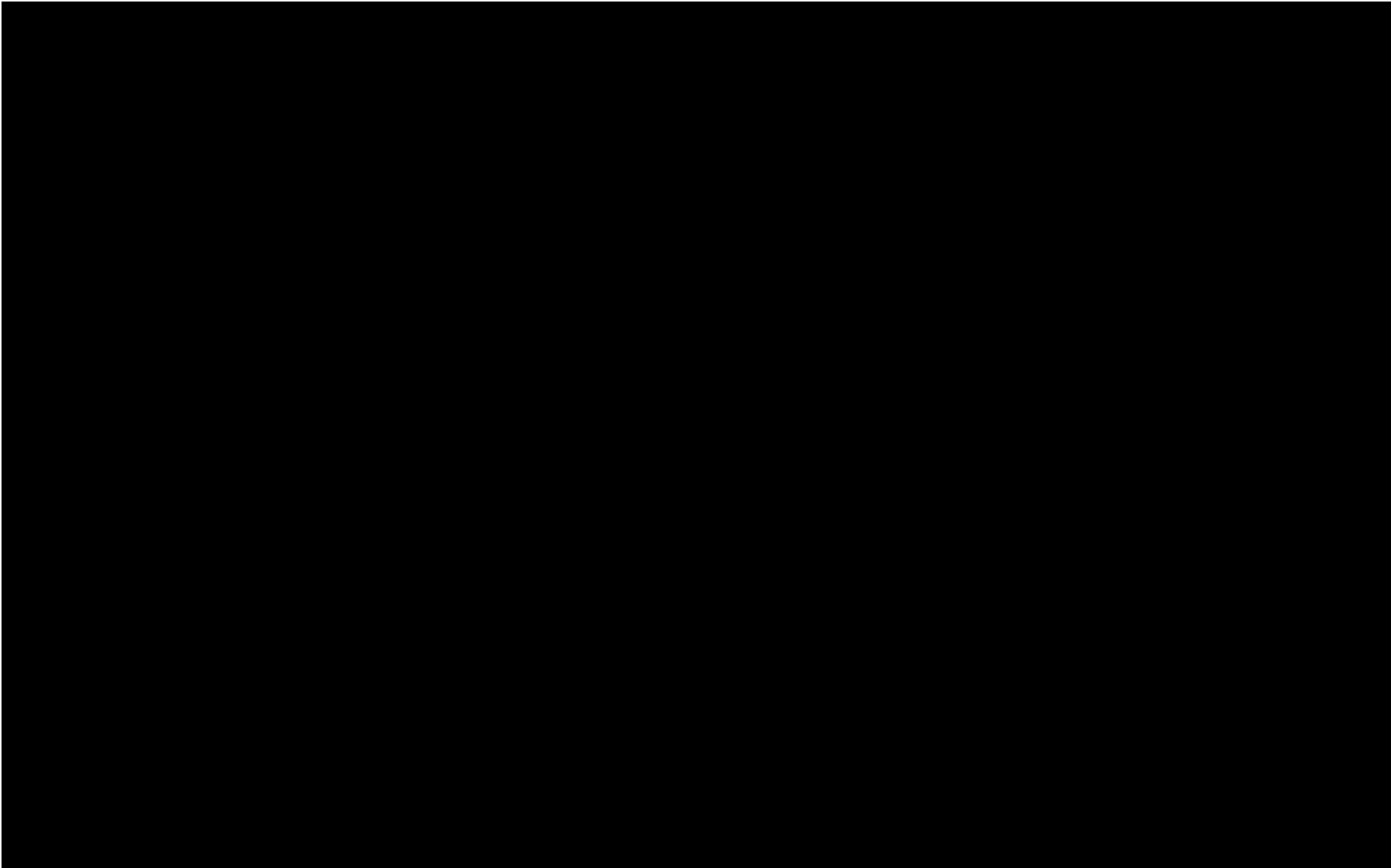
Figure 31: SRV staff communications

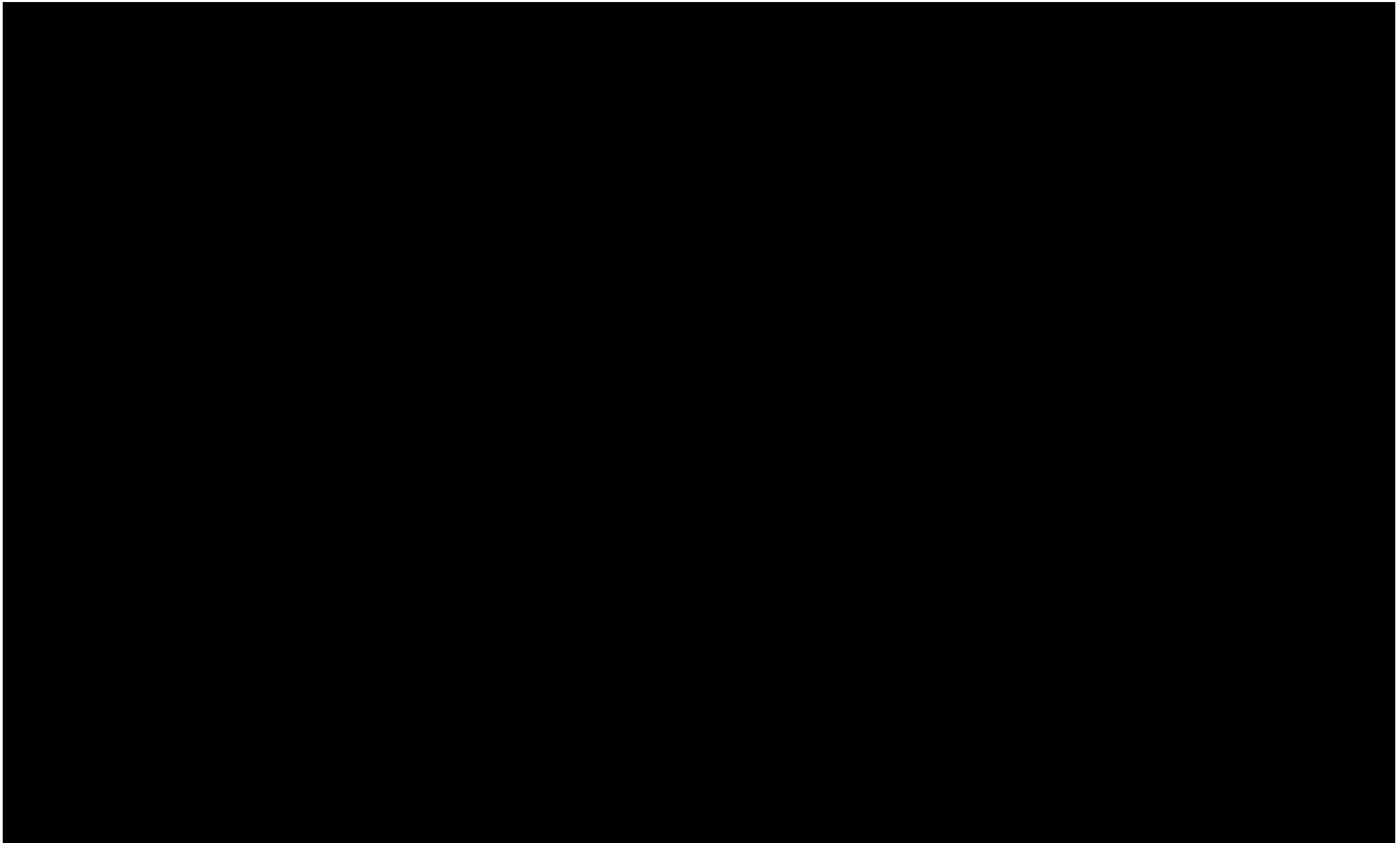


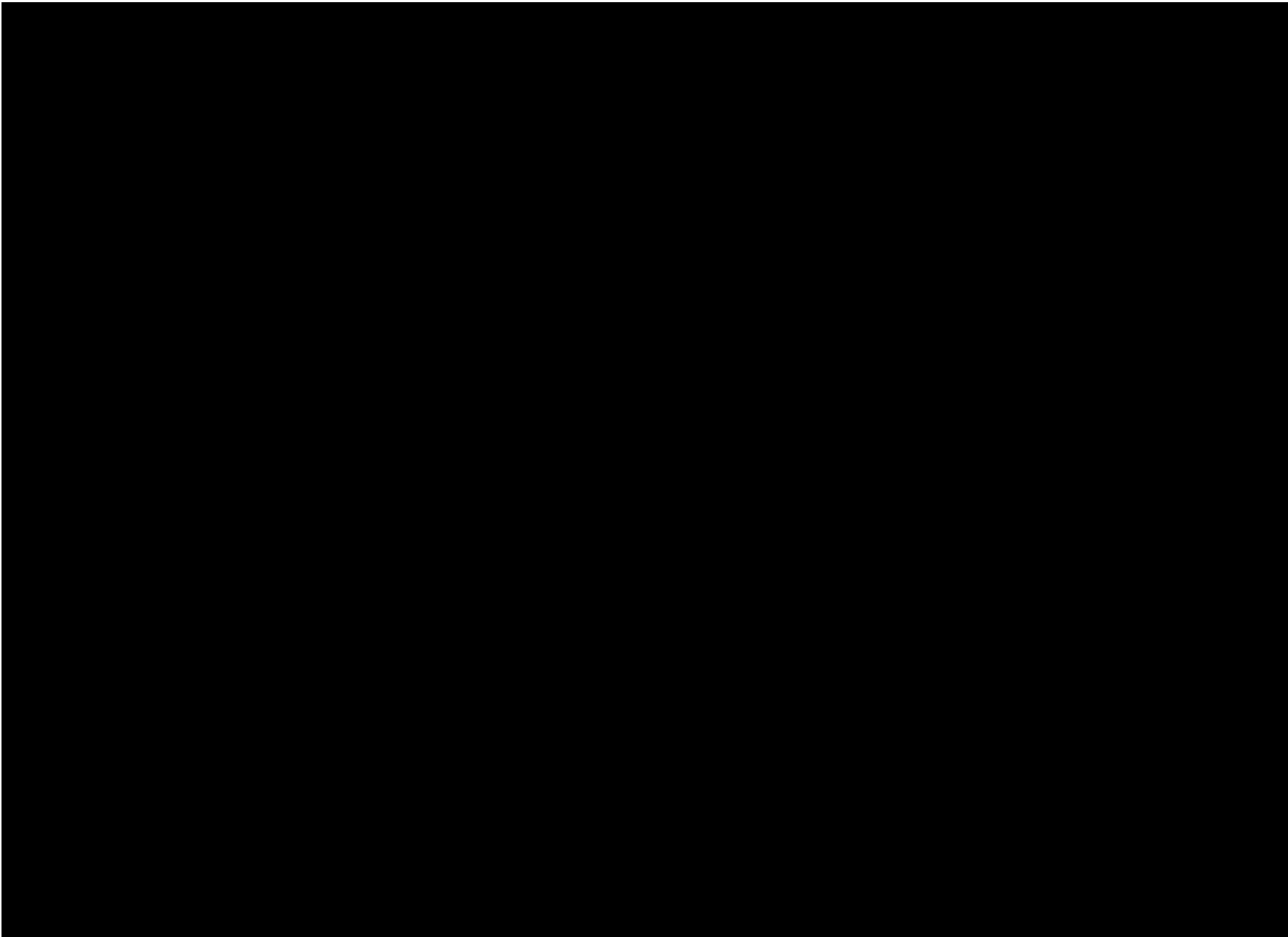














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 [begavalleyshire](https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyshire)

 council@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

 02 6499 2222

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