



Wednesday 23 November 2022

The Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop
NSW 1240

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION 2023/24

Under section 508(A) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Bellingen Shire Council formally nominates its intention to apply for a permanent special variation (SV) for two years of 8% (including the rate peg) for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and two years of 6% SV's per year (including the rate peg) for 2025/26 and 2026/27 (compounding to 31.06% over the four year time period). Revenue from the SV, if approved, will be used to offset the impact of the inflationary pressures facing Council as a result of ongoing global disruption due to for example, the ongoing pandemic, strained supply chains, increasing operational costs and skills shortages. In addressing the impact of the inflationary pressures on Council's finances, Council has identified a number of budgetary savings and operational efficiencies facilitated through its Financial Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan. A key action within the strategy is the use of SV's to offset the impact of the inflationary pressures facing Council. At its 23 November Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to nominate and undertake a series of community engagement to further inform the process in support of a formal application to IPART in February 2023.

RESOLVED (Cr Tree / Cr Cook)

That Council notify the NSW Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal (IPART) of its intention to lodge an application for a Special Variation (SV) for the 2023-24 to 2026-27 financial years.

For (Mayor Allan, Cr Cook, Cr Brotherton, Cr Glyde, Cr Tree)

Against (Cr Fenton, Cr King)

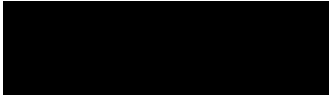
Motion has been Carried

Council is currently undertaking a process of community consultation and engagement in accordance with the Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) guidelines. This engagement will further inform Council's consideration regarding its application for a SV. Community engagement is planned to continue until late January 2023.

Council also notes advice from IPART advising the rate peg including allowance for population growth in the amount of 4.5% for 2023/24.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Todd Williams on (02) 6655 7300 Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Yours sincerely



Liz Jeremy
General Manager