

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS****SPECIAL RATE VARIATION**

1311/003

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation of 6% across all rating categories for 2 years starting 2014/2015 financial year excluding existing Special Rate Variations in place;
2. That Council modifies its Long Term Financial Plan to project rate increases of 6% for Farmland rate category and 10% for all other categories, excluding existing Special Rate Variations in place, for 4 years starting financial year 2016/2017;
3. That Council undertake a review of the rating structure to combine rate groups and review the base rate for the new rate descriptions;
4. That Council provide advice through the local media and councils newsletters as to the decision of Council on the special rate variation; and
5. That Council work with Village committees and NSW Farmers to consider, review and develop the future special rate variation from 2016/2017. (Radburn/Somerville)

**CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS****REPORT OF COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AS AT 30 OCTOBER 2013**

1311/004

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report indicating Council's investment position as at 30 October 2013 be received and noted.
2. That the certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report be adopted. (Kingham/Oates)

**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2013**

1311/005

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Quarterly Review of Council's 2013/2014 Operational Plan including quarterly budget review as at 30 September 2013 be noted.
2. That the adjustments to votes of income and expenditure and restricted cash (reserves) be adopted. (Ewin/Somerville)

**ADOPTION OF WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

1311/006

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. That the Workplace Health and Safety policy be adopted and included in Council's policy register. (Radburn/Oates)

**SURVEY ON FUTURE DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

1311/007

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council note the Survey on Future Delivery of Services report. (Oates/Radburn)

01) **SPECIAL RATE VARIATION**  
(General Manager)

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council adopt a Special Rate Variation, and
2. That Council prepare and submit an application to IPART to seek the recommended Special Rate Variation, and
3. That Council provide advice to the community as to this decision through local media and council newsletters

**REPORT**

Over the last 18 months Blayney Shire Councillors and the staff have been undertaking a detailed review of the future direction of Council and the level of services required, to ensure that the Shire roads, bridges, buildings, parks and ovals and community service levels are maintained at a high level. Council's review has recently been confirmed by the community survey that was undertaken where the respondents identified that roads, bridges, and recreational facilities are a high priority to this community.

Council has undertaken a detailed review of its assets and has inspected the bridges, the roads, footpaths and buildings to identify unfunded maintenance works. This review is part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) requirements of the NSW Government and has required Councillors to take a detailed look at the organisation and to ensure that it is heading in the direction that residents, identified in the development of the IP&R (community direction) documents. Under these rules, Council, was required to go to the community and seek advice on a ten year program that acknowledged what the community wanted and to provide advice to the community on the delivery of those items, review the conditions of its assets (roads, bridges, footpaths, buildings etc.), to determine its workforce and to produce a budget that could fund the works and services for ten years.

The work undertaken in the review of the assets, budgets and the IP&R documents has highlighted that Council due to rate pegging over many years has fallen behind in what it can afford. Without a Special Rate Variation (SRV) we will continue to fall further behind and our roads, bridges and other service areas will continue to deteriorate and become unusable.

The Council has been talking to the community about introducing a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and has discussed the acceptable level the community can afford and the expected level of service they require Council to meet into the future. Council had discussed and determined that it would present to the community the basis of a SRV and to allow the community to give feedback on the level of service that they believe is acceptable. A community survey was conducted that identified service levels and item importance.

Council has also undertaken an independent review of the SRV to determine if the community can afford the SRVs proposed and to identify groups that