

# Applications for special variations and minimum rate increases in 2022-23

15 February 2022

## 1 2022-23 Special Variation and Minimum Rate Applications

IPART has received 1 minimum rate (MR) and 4 special variation (SV) applications which we will assess by May 2022.

### Special Variations

Council	Application	Stated Purpose
Central Coast Council	15.55% single year increase starting in 2024-25, retained temporarily in the rate base for seven years until 2030-2031.	To extend previous temporary special variation and repay the outstanding balance of the \$150 million in emergency loans obtained to resolve the financial crisis and to secure Council's financial sustainability
Hunter's Hill Council	29.52% cumulative increase over next two years, retained permanently in the rate base.	To complete capital works programs for roads, footpaths, kerb and gutter, seawalls and environmental works and to reduce the council's asset backlog.
Kyogle Council	2.5% single year increase, retained permanently in the rate base.	To improve the council's financial sustainability and continue delivering existing services and infrastructure.
Snowy Valleys Council	35.95% cumulative increase over 2 years, retained permanently in the rate base.	To eliminate the council's operating deficit, which would enable it to continue delivering existing services, recover from natural disasters and manage grant-funded new assets.

### Minimum Rates

Council	Application	Stated Purpose
Cumberland City Council	Increase minimum rates for residential properties to \$715 in 2022-23, \$785 in 2023-24 and \$860 in 2024-25	To apply the rating burden equitably across ratepayers.

We are now accepting submissions from ratepayers and other interested stakeholders on their council's proposed special variation and minimum rate increases in 2022-23.

We encourage ratepayers to make submissions on IPART's [website](#).

## 2 Why councils apply

A special variation allows a council to increase its general income above the rate peg. General income is mainly comprised of rates income.

Special variations may fund:

- improvements in the council's financial sustainability
- reductions in backlogs for asset maintenance and renewal
- new or enhanced services to meet the needs of the local community
- projects of regional significance, or
- special cost pressures being faced within the local government area.

Minimum rate increase applications allow councils to redistribute the rate burden between ratepayers. A standalone MR application does not increase the council's general income.

## 3 IPART's assessing methodology

IPART will assess councils' applications against the criteria set out in the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Guidelines which are available on our [website](#).

## 4 Assessment Timeline



## 5 How to make a submission

Ratepayers and other interested stakeholders can make a submission to IPART about the councils' applications. We will accept and consider submissions from interested groups or individual ratepayers regarding special variations and minimum rates until 7 March 2022.

We will accept submissions:

- using our electronic submission facility that is located on the council applications page of our website at: <https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local-Government/Reviews/Special-Variations-Minimum-Rates/Special-Variations-Minimum-Rates-2022-23> or
- emailed to [localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au) or
- posted to the following address:

Local Government Team  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240.

We may also post non-confidential submissions received on IPART's website. Before publishing submissions, we generally remove signatures and identifying information such as email and postal addresses, and telephone numbers.