



Council Ref: VM/cmc

Mr Hugo Harmstorf
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

10 December, 2013

Dear Mr Harmstorf

Re: Notification of Intention to Apply for a Special Rate Variation

Please be advised that Glen Innes Severn Council resolved at its Ordinary Meeting held on 28 November 2013 to apply for a Special Rate Variation, commencing in the 2014/15 financial year.

The Special Rate Variation is part of a comprehensive financial strategy, aimed at ensuring the sustainable management of Council's assets, and reversing the trend in the growth of the infrastructure backlog.

In determining the Special Rate Variation percentages, Council has compared its rating categories with the average Division of Local Government (DLG) rating comparative information for comparable Councils, as well as averages of rates charged by Local Councils within the same geographical region. The rates paid by businesses in the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area (LGA) are comparable with those across the region, so is not suggested for this category to be subject to a Special Rate Variation. Residential rates are below the average, so a one-off increase of 10% above the Rate Peg is proposed for this category. The main disparity discovered has been farmland rating. The proposed Farmland rate increase would be 10% per annum for each of three (3) years on top of the permitted Rate Cap increase.

In late January and early February extensive Community Consultations regarding the Special Rate Variation will be held throughout the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area. An Extraordinary Meeting will be held on 20 February, for Council to consider the results of the Community Engagement sessions, before submitting an application to IPART by the due date of 24 February 2014.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Council's Director of Corporate and Community Services, Anna Watt, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Vanessa Menzie
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER