

24 November 2022

Mr Edward Jenkins  
Principal Analyst  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority Tribunal  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Dear Mr Jenkins

### **Intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation**

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Following recent discussions between Council and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority Tribunal (IPART), I wish to formally advise of Council's intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

At its meeting on 23 November 2022, Council resolved as follows (a copy of the Council minutes is attached to this letter also):

THAT:

1. The contents of General Manager's Report No. GM34/22 and Morrison Low's Community Engagement Outcomes Report, which provide details of the outcome of the public exhibition process conducted between 4 October 2022 and 8 November 2022 in respect of Council's draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Council's intention to make application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) for the 2023/24 financial year, be received and noted.
2. Council advise the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) by 25 November 2022 of its intention to make application for an SRV in respect of the 2023/24 financial year. The SRV would be spread across the first four years of the LTFP for 2023/24 to 2032/33 in the following manner:  
An 8.5% increase for 2023/24 (inclusive of the 3.7% rate peg determined by IPART for that year)  
A 7.5% increase for 2024/25 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.5% for that year)  
A 6.5% increase for 2025/26 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.0% for that year)  
A 5.5% increase for 2026/27 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 2.5% for that year)
3. Council adopt the LTFP for 2023/24 to 2032/33.
4. Council note the purpose of the SRV is to address the ongoing resilience of Council's capacity to support its community through the continuation of current services (financial sustainability), long term sustainable management of community assets and the implementation of several strategic initiatives.
5. Council progress its SRV application such that it is completed and submitted to IPART by the due date of 3 February 2023.
6. Subject to the approval of the SRV application by IPART, Council increase its pensioner rate concession by \$50, to \$300 per annum, commencing from the 2023/24 financial year.

7. Council undertake a comprehensive review of its Hardship Policy in accordance with both the guidelines provided by the Office of Local Government and current industry best practice. This review is to include consideration of pensioner ratepayers such as those on a disability or other pension that are not eligible to receive the existing or proposed increase to the pensioner rate concession and to be completed and reported prior to the adoption of the 2023/24 Delivery Program and Budget. Following adoption of the Policy, Council develop a comprehensive communication policy to ensure that our community is aware of options for support provided within this revised Policy.

In summary, Council intends to apply for a cumulative SRV of 31.05% over a four-year period, commencing in 2023/24.

The purpose of the SRV is to:

- Address Council's projected operating deficits over the next 10 years to ensure the continuation of current services.
- Allow Council to maintain and renew assets in line with its Asset Management Strategy and Plans.
- Deliver currently unfunded strategic initiatives to address actions in 35 adopted Council strategies.

Council's Director Corporate Support, Glen Magus will be Council's principal contact in relation to its application. Glen's contact details are as follows:

Email: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Mobile: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Steven Head  
**General Manager**

TRIM Reference: D08540934

## **MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING**

Held at COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HORNSBY

on Wednesday 23 November 2022

at 6:30pm



## **PRESENT**

Councillors Ruddock (Chairman), Ball, Greenwood, Heyde, McClelland, McIntosh, Pillamarri, Salitra, Tilbury and Waddell.

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

The General Manager opened the meeting in prayer.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY**

Statement by the Chairman:

*"We recognise our Shire's rich cultural and religious diversity and we acknowledge and pay respect to the beliefs of all members of our community, regardless of creed or faith."*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Statement by the Chairperson:

*"Council recognises the Traditional Owners of the lands of Hornsby Shire, the Darug and GuriNgai peoples, and pays respect to their Ancestors and Elders past and present and to their Heritage. We acknowledge and uphold their intrinsic connections and continuing relationships to Country."*

## **VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Statement by the Chairperson:

*"I advise all present that tonight's meeting is being video streamed live via Council's website and also audio recorded for the purposes of providing a record of public comment at the meeting, supporting the democratic process, broadening knowledge and participation in community affairs, and demonstrating Council's commitment to openness and accountability. The audio and video recordings of the non-confidential parts of the meeting will be made available on Council's website once the Minutes have been finalised. All speakers are requested to ensure their comments are relevant to the issue at hand and to refrain from making personal comments or criticisms. No other persons are permitted to record the Meeting, unless specifically authorised by Council to do so."*

## **APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

## **POLITICAL DONATIONS DISCLOSURE**

Statement by the Chairman:

*"In accordance with Section 10.4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, any person or organisation who has made a relevant planning application or a submission in respect of a*

*relevant planning application which is on tonight's agenda, and who has made a reportable political donation or gift to a Councillor or employee of the Council, must make a Political Donations Disclosure Statement.*

*If a Councillor or employee has received a reportable political donation or gift from a person or organisation who has made a relevant planning application or a submission in respect of a relevant planning application which is on tonight's agenda, they must declare a non-pecuniary conflict of interests to the meeting, disclose the nature of the interest and manage the conflict of interests in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct."*

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

#### **PETITIONS**

Nil

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

#### **RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil

#### **MAYORAL MINUTES**

Nil

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

- 1 GM34/22 Adoption of a Long Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 – 2032/33 and Progression of a Special Rate Variation Application for 2023/24**

**(F2022/00255-001)**

████████████████████ addressed Council regarding this item.

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████████████████████ addressed Council regarding this item.

████████████████████, provided a submission to Council regarding this item.

████████████████████ addressed Council regarding this item.

████████████████████ addressed Council regarding this item.

MOVED ON THE MOTION OF COUNCILLOR MCCLELLAND, seconded by COUNCILLOR HEYDE,  
THAT:

1. The contents of General Manager's Report No. GM34/22 and Morrison Low's Community Engagement Outcomes Report, which provide details of the outcome of the public exhibition process conducted between 4 October 2022 and 8 November 2022 in respect of Council's draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Council's intention to make application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) for the 2023/24 financial year, be received and noted.
2. Council advise the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) by 25 November 2022 of its intention to make application for an SRV in respect of the 2023/24 financial year. The SRV would be spread across the first four years of the LTFP for 2023/24 to 2032/33 in the following manner:
  - An 8.5% increase for 2023/24 (inclusive of the 3.7% rate peg determined by IPART for that year)
  - A 7.5% increase for 2024/25 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.5% for that year)
  - A 6.5% increase for 2025/26 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.0% for that year)
  - A 5.5% increase for 2026/27 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 2.5% for that year)
3. Council adopt the LTFP for 2023/24 to 2032/33.
4. Council note the purpose of the SRV is to address the ongoing resilience of Council's capacity to support its community through the continuation of current services (financial sustainability), long term sustainable management of community assets and the implementation of several strategic initiatives.
5. Council progress its SRV application such that it is completed and submitted to IPART by the due date of 3 February 2023.
6. Subject to the approval of the SRV application by IPART, Council increase its pensioner rate concession by \$50, to \$300 per annum, commencing from the 2023/24 financial year.
7. Council undertake a comprehensive review of its Hardship Policy in accordance with both the guidelines provided by the Office of Local Government and current industry best practice. This review is to include consideration of pensioner ratepayers such as those on a disability or other pension that are not eligible to receive the existing or proposed increase to the pensioner rate concession and to be completed and reported prior to the adoption of the 2023/24 Delivery Program and Budget. Following adoption of the Policy, Council develop a

comprehensive communication policy to ensure that our community is aware of options for support provided within this revised Policy.

AN AMENDMENT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH, seconded by COUNCILLOR SALITRA,

THAT:

1. The contents of General Manager's Report No. GM34/22 and Morrison Low's Community Engagement Outcomes Report, which provide details of the outcome of the public exhibition process conducted between 4 October 2022 and 8 November 2022 in respect of Council's draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Council's intention to make application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) for the 2023/24 financial year, be received and noted.
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  - A 6.5% increase for 2023/24 (inclusive of the 3.7% rate peg determined by IPART for that year)
  - A 7.5% increase for 2024/25 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.5% for that year)
  - A 7.5% increase for 2025/26 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 3.0% for that year)
  - A 6.48% increase for 2026/27 (inclusive of the forecast rate peg of 2.5% for that year)
3. Subject to the amendments required to the draft LTFP consequent upon Council's resolution in Point 2, Council adopt the LTFP for 2023/24 to 2032/33, noting that:
  - a) The reduced income derived from rates over the term of the LTFP (totalling \$3,995,430) is to be matched by expenditure reductions of the same amount.
  - b) The expenditure reductions are to be drawn pro rata from operational funded items (as opposed to capital expenditure items) identified within the Strategic Initiatives component of the publicly exhibited LTFP and SRV application i.e.
    - i) \$1,310,149 from Sustainable and Resilient Community Initiatives
    - ii) \$217,088 from Planning for Our Future Initiatives
    - iii) \$0 from Upgrading Community Infrastructure
    - iv) \$170,657 from Connected Cycling and Walking Paths
    - v) \$2,047,884 from Protecting Bushland and Improving Open Space
    - vi) \$249,652 from Improving Our Technology
4. Council note the purpose of the SRV is to address the ongoing resilience of Council's capacity to support its community through the continuation of current services (financial sustainability), long term sustainable management of community assets and the

implementation of several strategic initiatives to the extent of available funding.

5. Council progress its SRV application such that it is completed and submitted to IPART by the due date of 3 February 2023.
6. Subject to the approval of the SRV application by IPART, Council increase its pensioner rate concession by \$50, to \$300 per annum, commencing from the 2023/24 financial year.
7. Council undertake a comprehensive review of its Hardship Policy in accordance with both the guidelines provided by the Office of Local Government and current industry best practice. This review is to include consideration of pensioner ratepayers such as those on a disability or other pension that are not eligible to receive the existing or proposed increase to the pensioner rate concession and to be completed and reported prior to the adoption of the 2023/24 Delivery Program and Budget. Following adoption of the Policy, Council develop a comprehensive communication policy to ensure that our community is aware of options for support provided within this revised Policy.

THE AMENDMENT MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH, seconded by COUNCILLOR SALITRA, WAS PUT AND LOST.

FOR: COUNCILLOR MCINTOSH

AGAINST: COUNCILLORS BALL, GREENWOOD, HEYDE, MCCLELLAND, PILLAMARRI, RUDDOCK, SALITRA, TILBURY AND WADDELL

THE MOTION MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MCCLELLAND, seconded by COUNCILLOR HEYDE, WAS PUT AND CARRIED.

FOR: COUNCILLORS BALL, GREENWOOD, HEYDE, MCCLELLAND, MCINTOSH, PILLAMARRI, RUDDOCK, SALITRA, TILBURY AND WADDELL

AGAINST: NIL

#### **CORPORATE SUPPORT DIVISION**

Nil

#### **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION**

Nil

#### **PLANNING AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION**

Nil



**INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION**

Nil

**PUBLIC FORUM – NON AGENDA ITEMS**

Nil

**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Nil

**THE MEETING** terminated at 7.55pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at the meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022, at which meeting the signature hereunder was subscribed.

CONFIRMED

CHAIRMAN

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