



Rockdale City Plan 2013 – 2025



Draft Community Engagement Feedback Report

February 2013

DRAFT

Important

This document contains important information about Rockdale City Council. If you do not understand, please visit Council's Customer Service Centre at 2 Bryant Street Rockdale, Monday – Friday from 8.30am – 4.30pm, Saturday from 9am – 1pm. Council Staff will be happy to arrange interpreter services for you.

You may also contact Telephone Interpreter Services on 131 450 and ask them to ring Rockdale City Council on 9562 1666 on your behalf.

Arabic

هام:

تحتوي هذه الوثيقة على معلومات هامة عن بلدية روكدايل. إذا لم تكن قادراً على فهمها، يرجى زيارة مركز خدمة زبائن البلدية على العنوان التالي: 2 Bryant Street في روكدايل من الإثنين إلى الجمعة بين الساعة ٨.٣٠ صباحاً و ٤.٣٠ مساءً، والسبت بين الساعة ٩.٠٠ صباحاً و ١.٠٠ بعد الظهر حيث سيقوم موظفو البلدية بتأمين مترجم لك بكل سرور.

كما يمكنك الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية على الرقم 131 450 والطلب منهم الاتصال ببلدية روكدايل على الرقم 9562 1666 نيابةً عنك.

Chinese

重要消息

本文件載有關於 Rockdale 市政府的重要資訊，如果您有不明之處，請於星期一至星期五，上午 8 時 30 分至下午 4 時 30 分，及星期六上午 9 時至下午 1 時，前來位於 2 Bryant Street，Rockdale，市政府的顧客服務中心。市政府的職員會很樂意為您安排傳譯員的服務。

您也可以聯絡電話傳譯服務處，電話 131 450，並請他們代您致電 9562 1666 給 Rockdale 市政府。

Greek

Σημαντικό:

Αυτό το έγγραφο περιέχει σημαντικές πληροφορίες για τη Δημαρχία Rockdale City Council. Αν δεν τις καταλαβαίνετε, παρακαλείσθε να επισκεφτείτε το Κέντρο Εξυπηρέτησης Πελατών [Customer Service Centre] του Δήμου στο 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, Δευτέρα - Παρασκευή από 8.30πμ - 4.30μμ και Σάββατο από 9.00πμ - 1.00μμ. Το Προσωπικό του Δήμου θα χαρεί να κανονίσει υπηρεσίες διερμηνέων για σας.

Μπορείτε επίσης να επικοινωνήσετε με τις Τηλεφωνικές Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων [Telephone Interpreter Services] στο 131 450 και να τους ζητήσετε να τηλεφωνήσουν στο Rockdale City Council στο 9562 1666 για λογαριασμό σας.

Italian

Importante:

Questo documento contiene importanti informazioni sul Comune di Rockdale City. Se avete difficoltà a comprenderne il contenuto, recatevi presso il Customer Service Centre del Comune a 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale dal lunedì al venerdì dalle ore 8.30 alle 16.30 e al sabato dalle 9.00 alle 13.00. Il personale del Comune sarà ben lieto di procurarvi un servizio interpreti.

Potete anche chiamare il Servizio telefonico interpreti (TIS) al numero 131 450 chiedendo che telefoni per vostro conto al Comune di Rockdale City al numero 9562 1666.

Macedonian

Важно:

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Исто така, можете да телефонираше во Telephone Interpreter Services (Служба за преведување по телефон) на 131 450, и да ги замолите во ваше име да се јават во Градската општина на Rockdale на 9562 1666.

Spanish

Importante:

Este documento contiene información importante sobre el Rockdale City Council (Municipio de Rockdale). Si no la entiende, le rogamos concurrir al Centro de Servicio al Cliente del Municipio, ubicado en 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, atención de lunes a viernes, de 8:30 am a 4:30 pm y el sábado de 9.00 am a 1.00 pm. El personal del municipio se complacerá en obtener los servicios de un intérprete para usted.

Puede asimismo llamar al Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes al 131 450 y pedirles que llamen de su parte al Rockdale City Council, teléfono 9562 1666.

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Table of Contents

1 Executive Summary	4
2 Methodology	6
3 Demographics	8
3.1 Community Engagement	8
3.2 Awareness Raising	8
4 Results.....	10
4.1 Entire Community Engagement.....	10
4.2 Renewing Rockdale Survey.....	10
4.2.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works.....	14
4.2.2 SRV Funding Proposal	16
4.2.3 Other Funding Ideas.....	17
4.3 Information Booths.....	20
4.3.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works.....	20
4.3.2 SRV Funding Proposal	20
4.3.3 Other Funding Ideas.....	20
4.3.4 Non Renewing Rockdale Results	21
4.4 Community Forum	22
4.4.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works.....	22
4.4.2 SRV Funding Proposal	22
4.4.3 Other Funding Ideas.....	23
4.4.4 Non Renewing Rockdale Results	23
4.5 Renewing Rockdale Information Line.....	24
4.5.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works.....	24
5 Conclusion.....	25
6 Appendices.....	26

I Executive Summary

The Renewing Rockdale Community Engagement Program ran from 6 December 2013 to 19 February 2014.

The Program had two specific purposes.

Firstly, to ensure as many members of the Rockdale City community were aware of and understood:

- the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of Works
- Council's intention to continue to fund infrastructure renewal through a Special Rate Variation (SRV) for the period 2014/15 to 2017/18 and
- the potential impact on rates in the Rockdale City Local Government Area if Council was to be successful in its application for a SRV.

Secondly, to enable the City of Rockdale community to consider and comment on the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works and the potential impact on the City's residential and business rates.

A range of methodologies were used to inform and provide people with an opportunity to comment. Specific consideration was given to reaching people from a non-English speaking background, young people and the business community.

The Renewing Rockdale Community Engagement Program builds on previous community engagement undertaken as part of the City Plan development which informed the development of the Rockdale City Plan 2013-2025, as well as the 2013 Special Rate Variation consultation.

Council was successful in engaging with a total of 868 members of the community as part of the Renewing Rockdale Community Engagement Program.

Overall the results indicate that:

- There was support from the community for the proposed Program of works with 33% of survey respondents indicating strong support and 49% showing some support. Anecdotal evidence obtained face to face at the Information Booths also represented a high level of support for the work already undertaken by Council and the Renewing Rockdale proposed Program.
- The majority of respondents would prefer that rates did not increase at all or beyond the IPART rate peg. Particularly amongst survey respondents, with 61% indicating that this was their preference for funding/not funding the proposed works. Feedback at the Information Booths was more positive with respect to the proposed rate rise with a direct correlation reported to completed and proposed works.

Overall, participants supported the proposed Program and the SRV because they felt:

- renewal will increase amenity, maintain/increase residential and business value
- the area is in need of renewal and a facelift and we need to rectify past mistakes not to undertake work
- renewal will benefit all demographics and areas
- renewal is needed to support present and future generations

- there was evidence that Council had already spent existing SRV's well and was improving the area. The proposed Program would continue to do this.

Lack of support for the proposal was based on participant's belief that:

- rates are too high as it is and/or Council receives enough money from rates to undertake the required works.
- affordability was the biggest issue and connected to other increasing costs of Sydney living. Particular concern was expressed for pensioners, self funded retirees and low income earners
- the proposed 6% annual rise is too high
- inequity amongst different demographic groups with a sense that people should not be funding improvements they will not directly benefit from
- inequity across LGA of spread of proposed works.

To alleviate the financial burden on ratepayers Council received suggestions to either modify the proposed rate rise, amend the Program of works or increase the timeframe for implementation.

Participants also indicated Council could look at alternative means to fund both the proposed works Program and also its operations in general. The main suggestions were:

- make productivity and efficiency improvements in its operations
- manage its finances more efficiently and responsibly
- introduce user pays for users of specific assets and/or non-residents using local infrastructure.

2 Methodology

To ensure that as many people as possible were aware of the Renewing Rockdale Program and the SRV proposal the following methods were used to inform and engage the community. Council's intention was to:

- clearly communicate the need for and extent of rate rise to the broader community
- detail the full impact on ratepayers so that ratepayers could identify the impact on them personally with relative ease
- explain what the SRV will fund
- report back on previous SRVs and the works that have been undertaken with those funds.

Engagement Methodology	
To Involve	Dates
Renewing Rockdale Survey (self select) - online via Council's website - online Speak Up Hub (young people) - hardcopy distributed to 38,000 households and businesses via letterbox drop with Information Brochure - available at Information Boards in the Customer Service Centre and branch libraries <i>(Survey located in Appendix A page 27)</i> <i>(Survey feedback located in Appendix B page 29)</i>	Open 22 January to 19 February 2014
Community Forum, Rockdale Town Hall <i>(Presentation located in Appendix C page. 69)</i>	11 February 2014, 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Workshop to test language that would be used to promote the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works. <i>(Presentation located in Appendix D page 84)</i>	Monday 25 November 2013, 6.00pm to 7.00pm
To Inform	Dates
Information Booths: 1. Carols by The Sea Event, Brighton Le Sands Lady Robinsons Beach 2. Bexley North Nairn Garden 3. Arncliffe Town Centre 4. Carlton Stell Reserve 5. Ramsgate Organic Foodies Market Ramsgate Public School 6. Australia Day Event Dolls Point, Peter Depena 7. Rockdale Plaza <i>(Feedback notes located in Appendix E page 97)</i>	7 December to 30 January 1. Saturday 7 December 2013, 6.00pm to 9.00pm 2. Tuesday 10 December 2013, 3.00pm to 6.00pm 3. Tuesday 14 January 2014, 3.00pm to 6.00pm 4. Tuesday 21 January 2014, 3.00pm to 6.00pm 5. Saturday 25 January 2014, 8.00am to 1.00pm 6. Saturday 26 January 2014, 10.00am to 1.00pm 7. Thursday 30 January 2014, 3.00pm to 7.00pm
Renewing Rockdale Information Brochure with survey distributed to 38,000 households and businesses via letterbox drop. <i>(Brochure located in Appendix F page 98)</i>	22 January 2013 to 19 February 2014

Council's website <i>(Website information located in Appendix G page 106)</i> <i>(Rates Calculator located in Appendix H page 120)</i>	6 December 2013 to 19 February 2014
Information Board, Brochure, surveys and response box	20 January to 19 February 2014
St George & Sutherland Leader advertisement (s) <i>(Rates Calculator located in Appendix I page 121)</i>	12 December 2013
Media release(s)	30 January 2014
On hold message for people phoning into Council	20 January to 19 February 2014
Renewing Rockdale Information Line <i>(Feedback located in Appendix J page 122)</i>	20 January to 19 February 2014
Speak Up Hub (to target young people)	20 January to 19 February 2014
<p>To access specific groups in our community we provided the Information Brochure and survey to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St George & Sutherland Migrant Resource Centre (to target Non-English speaking, particularly emerging communities) • Chambers of Commerce and their members • St George Youth Centre • Rockdale City Youth Council. <p>Community members who have been involved in previous SRV and City Plan engagement programs were also provided with information via email.</p>	

3 Demographics

3.1 Community Engagement

The total number of people Council heard from during the Renewing Rockdale Engagement period was 868. Below is a snapshot of the method participants chose to express their views.

Method	Number
Focus Group	10
Community Forum (residents)	44
Information Line	21
Information Booths	260
Total Survey respondents	533
<i>Survey hardcopy</i>	<i>516</i>
<i>Survey online</i>	<i>17</i>
Total Participants	868

The following demographic profile shows the characteristics of the total survey respondents who provided us with their details. Other participants were not asked to provide detailed information about themselves.

- 51% were male and 49% female
- 10% spoke a language other than English at home with the main languages being - Cantonese, Portuguese, Macedonian, Greek, Spanish and Chinese.

The majority of survey respondents were residents of City of Rockdale and also paid rates.

Connection to Rockdale	Number
Live	500
Work	60
Pay residential rates	508
Pay business rates	16
None of the above/visitors	11

3.2 Awareness Raising

Although it is unclear how many people we captured through our awareness raising campaign we do have the following information.

	Engagement Method	Numbers
Electronic	Renewing Rockdale Have Your Say webpage	753 Document Downloads
	Renewing Rockdale Have Your Say	1,012 visitors who viewed 2,079 pages and spent an average of 2min 27sec per visit.
	Rockdale City Mayoral Community Forum email invitation with links to Renewing Rockdale Have Your Say webpage <i>(Feedback located in Appendix K page 125)</i>	657 community members
	Rockdale City Council Facebook Renewing Rockdale post boost <i>(Facebook Post located in Appendix L page 126)</i>	Reached 32,555 people within 5 mile radius of Rockdale, Kogarah and Sans Souci
Face to Face	Australia Day Event	Council spoke to 60 community members and an estimated 600-700 people attended the event.
	Carols by the Sea Event	Council spoke to 30 community members and an estimated 2000 people attended the event.
	Ramsgate Organic Foodies Market	Council spoke to 100 community members and an estimated 3000 people attended the event.

4 Results

4.1 Entire Community Engagement

Amongst all participants of the Community Engagement Program there was a positive response to Council's intention to continue to renew assets and in particular the Renewing Rockdale Program of works. An overview of the main reasons for supporting/not supporting the Program are shown below.

Support for Program of Works	No support for Program of works
Renewal will increase amenity, maintain/increase residential and business value	Rates are too high as it is and/Council receives enough money from rates to undertake the required works
The area is in need of renewal and a facelift and we need to rectify past mistakes not to undertake work	Affordability was the biggest issue and connected to other increasing costs of Sydney living. Particular concern was expressed for pensioners, self funded retirees and low income earners
Renewal will benefit all demographics and areas	The proposed 6% annual rise is too high
Renewal is needed to support present and future generations	Inequity amongst different demographic groups with a sense that people should not be funding improvements they will not directly benefit from
There was evidence that Council had already spent existing SRV's well and was improving the area. The proposed Program would continue to do this.	Inequity across LGA of the spread of proposed works

To alleviate the financial burden on ratepayers Council received suggestions to either modify the rate rise, amend the Program of works or increase the timeframe for implementation.

Participants also indicated Council could look at alternative means to fund both the proposed works Program and also its operations in general. The main suggestions were:

- make productivity and efficiency improvements in its operations
- manage its finances more efficiently and responsibly
- introduce user pays for users of specific assets and/or non-residents using local infrastructure.

Following is the feedback provided by participants per engagement method.

4.2 Renewing Rockdale Survey

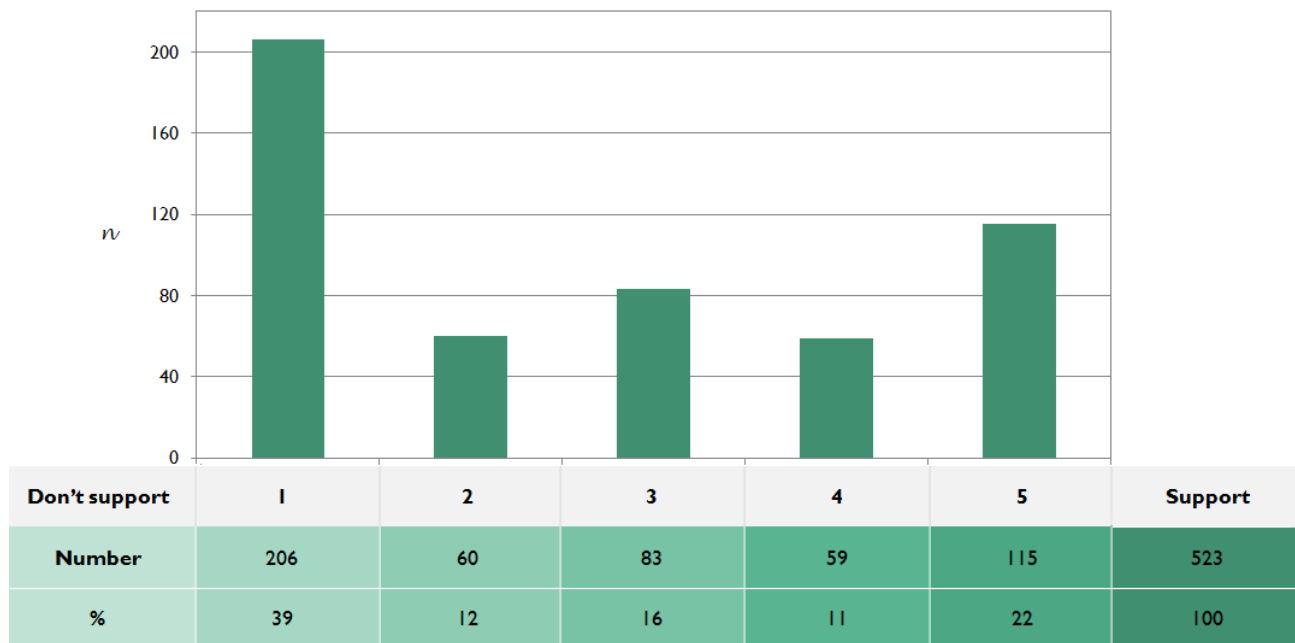
The survey was designed to provide the community with an opportunity to tell Council how they felt about both the Renewing Rockdale Program of works and Council's intention to fund the works with a proposed SRV.

Respondents were asked to what extent they supported the Renewing Rockdale Program of works to improve the City's infrastructure assets. They were asked to indicate their level of support by

circling the number on a scale of 1-5, where 1 was don't support at all and 5 was strongly support. They were also asked to provide a comment on why their decision was made.

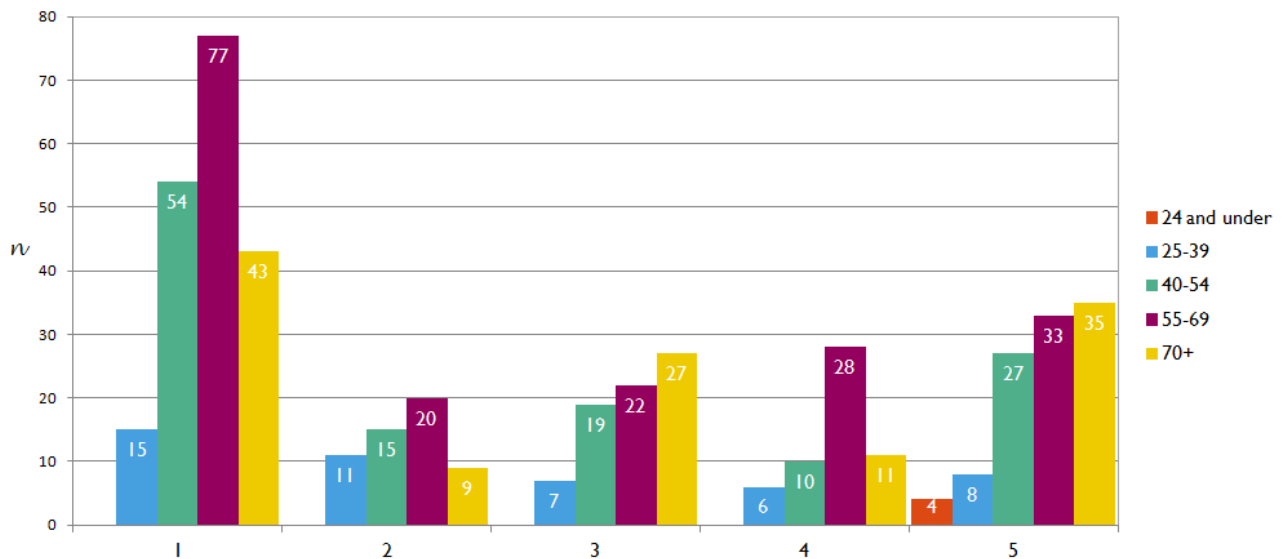
Overall, amongst respondents there was a reasonable level of support for the proposed Program of works.

Level of Support For the Proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of Works



A breakdown of support by age range is presented below.

Level of Support By Age



Survey respondents were also asked to indicate how they preferred Council fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works. They were given the following three options to choose from and an opportunity to comment further.

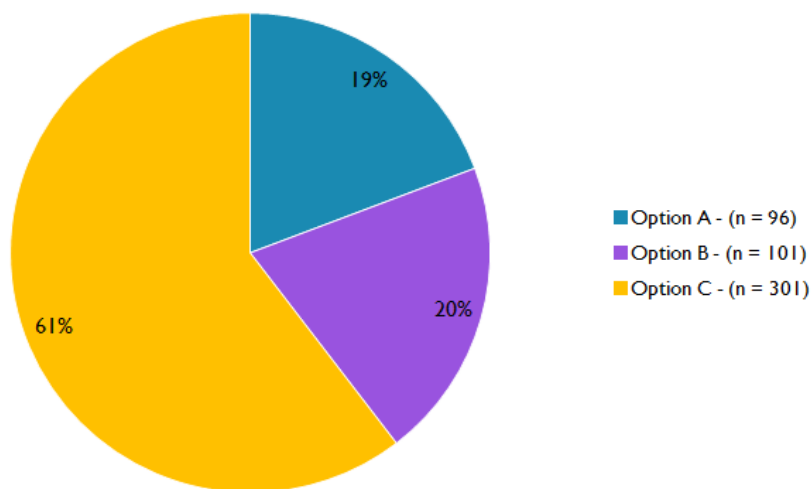
Option A: Rates increase by the full 6% each year for four years and after that remain at the new level as a base for the standard rate peg. Renewing Rockdale Program of works will proceed as planned and in full.

Option B: Rates increase but not as much as 6%.

Option C: Rates do not increase at all beyond the IPART rate peg.

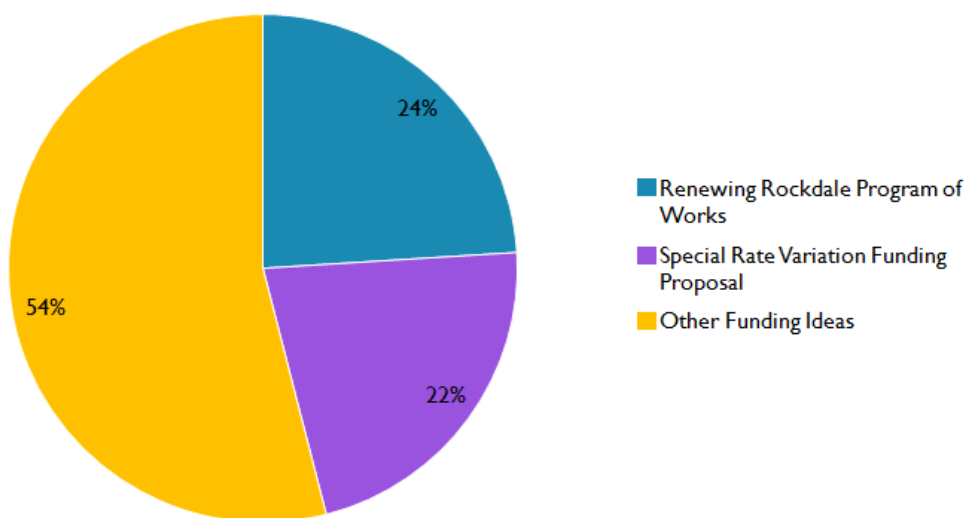
Most (61%), preferred that the works not be funded by any increase beyond the IPART rate peg. 39% indicated they were happy for an SRV to fund the works either by the full amount proposed or a lesser increase.

How Should Council Fund the Proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of Works?



Of the comments received to both questions, the majority (54%) believed that Council should source other means of funding the proposed works, 24% commented on the actual proposed Program of works and 22% were specific to the SRV proposal.

Renewing Rockdale Survey Feedback By Theme



The following table provides a brief overview of the comments received. These are explored below and also contained in full in Appendix B page 29.

Theme	Topic	%
Renewing Rockdale Program of Works (24% of all comments)	Renewal is needed	22
	Modify Renewing Rockdale Program of Works	45
	Inequity across Rockdale City	10
	Benefits the Community	7
	Support the Renewing Rockdale Program of works	16
Total		100
SRV Funding Proposal (22% of all comments)	Affordability (increasing costs)	9
	Affordability (low income earners)	18
	Affordability (6% too high)	26
	Support SRV proposal	5
	Modify SRV proposal	20
	Proposed costs excessive	22
Total		100
Other Funding Ideas (54% of all comments)	Better financial management	18
	Introduce user pays	16
	Increase revenue with fines and tax	8
	Back to local government basics (rubbish and roads)	6
	Reduce administration costs	6
	Productivity/efficiency improvements	25
	Seek partnerships (business and Government)	5
	Other	13
	Developer contributions	1
	Amalgamation	2
Total		100

4.2.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works

The main areas of support for the proposed works were that renewal was necessary and that the proposed works would benefit the whole community.

[Renewal is necessary to maintain the area:](#)

"I fully support investing in today and tomorrow. Our rates need to meet community expectations".

"It's important to keep asset at top condition unfortunately most councils don't do this. We must look forward so that future generations can also enjoy a safe, clean green environment to live in".

"I completely support the proposed improvements. To have a highly maintained infrastructure and good facilities keeps the area highly desirable to live in, improves the general amenity of our city and maintains the asset value of residences, business and Council facilities".

"I don't want to live in a community with crumbling, broken, poor infrastructure".

Respondents indicated that renewal is needed because it would be good to see the City's infrastructure improved as there has been deterioration and a devaluation of these public assets. Specific issues like safety and useability of assets were mentioned. More generally there was a feeling that Rockdale needs a "facelift" and that Council and the community need to start addressing this. Maintaining a positive public image, making the City attractive, improving property values and ensuring there is no further deterioration of assets were all important.

Broader community benefit:

"We require as a community to undertake these improvements".

"The proposed works benefit every demographic in the community".

"Have just moved to Rockdale with two small children and plan on staying for many years. I want my children to grow up in a lovely area where facilities are well loved by the community and looked after by the council. The plans are in place - you just need the \$\$\$\$. Happy to invest in this".

Some respondents felt that the Program was of benefit to the entire community. Others were happy to see money invested in infrastructure renewal now for present and future generations.

Modify Renewing Rockdale Program of Works:

"If you can't afford to do all the proposed work without this extra increase, then perhaps start with what is truly necessary. Sorry, but I think \$1,600,000 is a bit much for your interior refurbishment".

"We suggest that Council prioritise the renewing program of utilities and other Council works on safety issues rather than cosmetic e.g. the interior refurbishment of Council admin building surely is not essential".

"Organise works depending on priority of each location".

"Council should firstly concentrate on commercial improvements, e.g. to shopping centres, kindergartens, etc. safety renewals should also be given priority".

Many respondents suggested that the Program of works could be modified to reduce the burden on ratepayers. There was a message that Council should prioritise the proposed Program and a range of suggestions on which proposals should be removed from the schedule. There were also a range of ideas and works requested that were not on the proposed schedule.

Inequity across Rockdale City:

“We all pay rates not all areas renewed”.

“There is little evidence to suggest that my suburb has benefited greatly in the past or will in the future”.

“I have lived within Rockdale boundaries all my life. Most of expenditure appears to be undertaken in high income area while low income not so”.

Some respondents felt that there was a level of inequity in the distribution of the proposed works across the City. Particular references were made to individual suburbs and locations as well as some more localised issues.

4.2.2 SRV Funding Proposal

Affordability:

“6% is too high for pensioners and others struggling on low incomes: their income is not being increased by 6%”.

“People are struggling now to pay their bills and you want them to pay more money???”.

“We are family of 5 and currently feel economic pressure from all our living expenses. All of our bills have risen and we find many of the works suggested in our local area unnecessary”.

“We are aged pensioners and it is hard enough to pay present rates”.

Of the comments received on the SRV funding proposal the majority (53%) cited affordability as a reason for not pursuing an SRV.

Affordability was concerned with the cost of living in Sydney (including existing rates) already high enough and rising. With wages and salaries not increasing at 6% each year a rate rise of this size would be unaffordable. Of particular concern was affordability for pensioners, self funded retirees and low income earners.

Support for SRV proposal:

"I don't support anything that costs me money but if its going to keep up the good standards maintained I am for it".

"The longer to leave the more it will cost".

"You do a good job".

"I support the program. RCC need to maintain infrastructure on a continual system".

"I congratulate Council on the work completed and proposed".

Respondents who supported the proposal overall indicated that they thought improvements were necessary and Council was essentially doing the right thing.

Modify SRV proposal

"I understand you need the money but 6% is too much I would support 4%".

"I think that 6% is too much, how about 3%".

"Extend the time to complete proposed works".

"If I have no money I don't try to do everything I want in 2 years. Think long term".

Other than the suggestions made to modify the proposed Program of works respondents also identified options for reducing the financial burden by changing the amount of the rate

Proposed costs excessive:

"Engage contractors to do work who charge less - really cost of demolishing and building of toilets \$330,000 each - ridiculous. The Council receives all this money where does it go apart from overpaying contracts to do work that i am sure would cost 1/5 of what they are being charged. It's so embarrassing to have a council overcharge".

"Receiving and approving more competitive quotes for maintenance/repairs/building of public areas".

"The prices quoted for the Renewing Rockdale program are excessive. Already evident by the cost involves and wasted on 3 architect-designed toilets".

"Proposed budgets for items appear excessive - Is Council properly tendering this work?"

Costings for proposed works seem and respondents suggested that Council seek better/alternative quotations and/or contractors to carry out the works.

4.2.3 Other Funding Ideas

Respondents provided a range of suggestions for how Council could either reduce its spending and/or increase its revenue.

Productivity/efficiency improvements:

The majority of the ideas presented for alternative funding options were about Council becoming more efficient to make productivity improvements.

Better Financial Management:

“Better management. Run it like private enterprise does”.

“Rates too high now. Use our money more efficiently as though it were your own”.

“Rates should not increase at all. Use the money you have more wisely”.

“Because we pay enough as it is Council should have more than enough necessary funds to cover proposed program”.

“None of your proposed works benefit me in any way. Take a leave out to Botany Council. Council workers there a visibly performing works that benefit all residents. They even mow the footpath lawns. You don't spend our money wisely”.

Respondents were also very clear that they believed Council should improving its financial management.

“We already pay enough rates. Council should have enough money to fund those projects”.

“Manage your funds better”.

“The Council should cut spending and live within its means as we the ratepayers have to do.”

“Rates should not increase at all. Use the money you have more wisely”

There was a strong feeling amongst respondents that opposed the SRV, that the community already pay enough rates and Council should find other ways to fund the works and “stop wasting” (ratepayers) money.

Introduce user pays:

"The system should be "user pays". I do NOT use the majority of what the Program will cover".

"Generally speaking I agree with the works proposed but I oppose any increase in Council rates until the Council imposes a parking fee on non ratepayers who use our parks of a weekend and who park free of charge. Why should I as a ratepayer incur additional charges for these non ratepayers to freely use the facilities which we have paid for?"

"Suggest user pay principle be applied. I use none of the so called improvements and have paid Council rates to cover past improvements for the past 50 years, bollards to prevent illegal parking? Have some sense!"

"Bexley Oval should be with spectator payment not with rates".

"Why not introduce a small fee for car park at beach like Bondi Beach for more revenue. Keep up the good work".

A reasonable proportion of respondents indicated that they believe that the proposed works and other such projects should be funded through a user pays system. They felt this was more equitable as the people using the asset would incur the cost. This was suggested for a range of facilities and amenities. There was also a strong sense that visitors to the area (particularly the beachfront) should be required to pay for the upgrades as they benefit directly through their use.

Increase revenue with fines and tax:

"Police those take dogs at the beach every day, booking them and rubbish our Cook Park and illegal parking along the Robinson beach".

"Patrol beaches during weekends and issue fines for dumping rubbish, illegal parking, etc".

"Issue fines and more fines for those littering. How many fines issued??? If I had a fine book and authority I could fund half these improvements in a week....".

Increasing revenue through increased patrolling and issuing of fines for a range of infringements (including people littering, dumping waste and parking illegally) was a strong message from respondents.

Back to local government basics:

"Stop all works that are not essential. Stop all services that are not used by the majority of the residents".

"Better street gardens rather than weeds and cleaner streets to increase property values. NOT endless sports facility upgrades. I don't wish to live in a filthy dive but have a nice 'Footy Oval' ".

"Council has forgotten the basics which should come first".

"I would support increase rates for improvements to basic services only".

"It seems most money is being spent on Parks and Reserves. As this may seem as a good thing more money should be considered for footbaths, roadways, etc".

Some respondents felt it was appropriate that Council focus on the basics of local government (roads, footpaths, rubbish, streetscapes) and not on a range of additional facilities and services that only service some members of the community.

Reduce administration costs:

“Cut salary of public workers to save money”.

“Do not increase any salaries of any employees”.

“Councillors to take a pay cut & stop bonuses”.

“Reduce existing staff levels. Look at outsourcing all outdoor maintenance and construction services”.

“Cut back on Councillor spending - they don't need new Council cars, phones or business trips”.

“No Councillors travelling for sister cities trips”.

Reducing the staffing and Councillor costs was also a strong theme that emerged in the feedback. Linked to this was the concept of outsourcing in areas where traditionally Council has had a paid workforce.

Seek partnerships:

“I believe that some of the listed items should be federal or state funded (foreshore infrastructure)”.

“Ask State Government for funds.”.

“Seek Corporate sponsorship (St George & other banks)”.

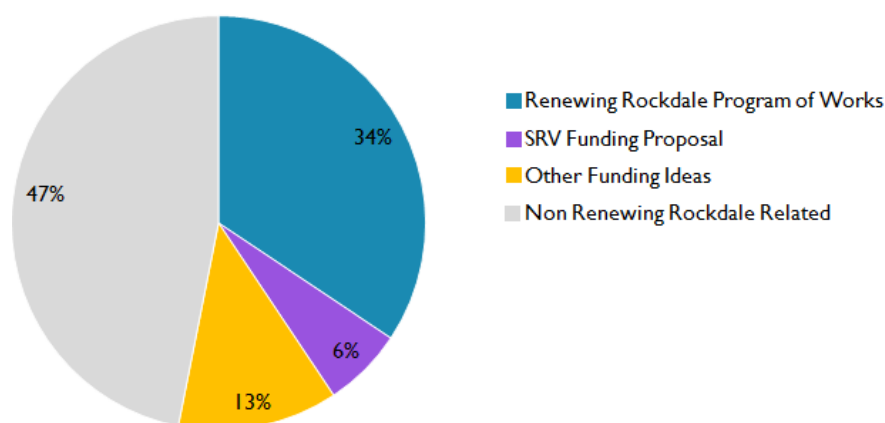
“Apply to the State Government for assistance”.

A small proportion of comments suggested that Council should seek financial or other support from state and federal governments as well as explore opportunities to partner local business.

4.3 Information Booths

Council held 7 Information Booths across the Rockdale Local Government Area (LGA) where we spoke with an estimated 260 community members. Community feedback was generally positive with comments on approved SRV projects, the need as well as desire for the proposed program of works and general feedback on Council projects. The following is a brief summary of the feedback received, the complete list of feedback is noted in Appendix E page 97.

Information Booth Feedback



4.3.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works

Of the feedback, received 34% of the comments were on the Renewing Rockdale program of works. Comments ranged from support for the program of works to suggestions for community education programs and additional works. Overall community feedback on the Program of works was generally positive.

“Parks need to be upgraded and there is a need for open space with growing population”

“I support the playground upgrades, recently moved to the area and have young children”

“Council needs to increase community awareness and education on sand erosion”

“Wolli Creek needs more infrastructures such as schools and roads”

4.3.2 SRV Funding Proposal

Only 6% of the total feedback noted at Information Booths was on the SRV funding proposal. Two members of the community stated they had completed the survey in support of the funding proposal and one member of the community was against the funding proposal stating “I’d rather have my 6% stay in my pocket”.

4.3.3 Other Funding Ideas

Other funding ideas represented a small number (13%) of the total feedback noted at the Information Booths. All of the noted funding suggestions were focused on issuing fines for litter on the beach and illegal parking.

4.3.4 Non Renewing Rockdale Related

Of the feedback, the majority (47%) of the comments were not related to the Renewing Rockdale proposal. The noted comments included: traffic, parks and reserves, parking, building developments and waste.

“Bonar Street, Arncliffe – major problem with cars, accident almost every day. Can’t get out of Bonar Street”

“You guys do a good job. I use to live in Rockdale, good Council”

“More affordable café restaurant along the coast line and why doesn’t the Ramsgate Life Saving Club have a café?”

“Rockdale Station train track noise – clunky noise on tracks, noise is getting worse”

“Waste falling out onto the street during waste collection”

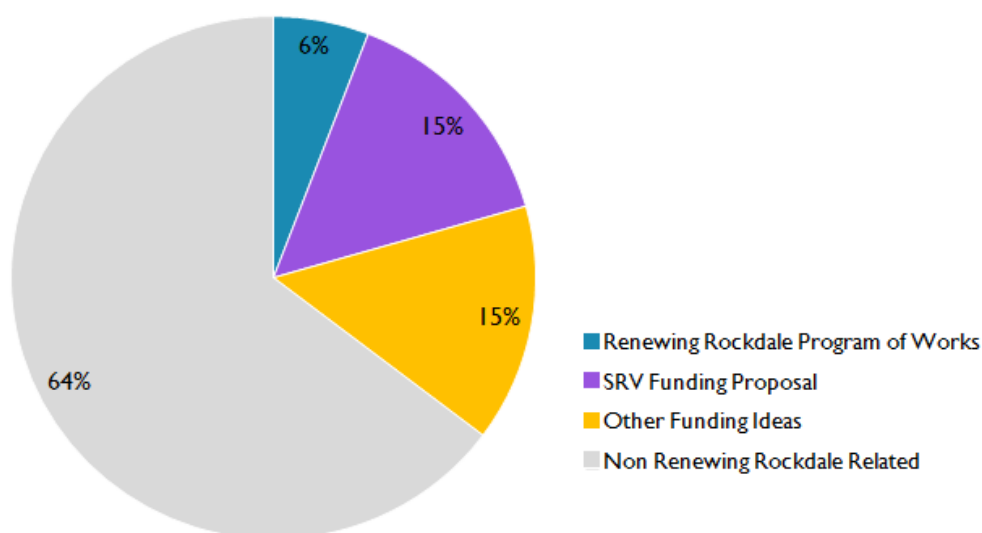
4.4 Community Forum



44 community members attended the Community Forum held on Tuesday 11 February. The Forum was an opportunity for the community to find out more information and discuss the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works as well as the SRV application. Forum attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback on the Renewing Rockdale proposal. Overall, Forum participants discussed the SRV funding proposal, shared alternative options to fund the program of works and were interested in non Renewing Rockdale related topics.

The following is a brief summary of the Forum questions and feedback collected from the evening, discussion feedback notes are located in Appendix M page 126.

Community Forum Feedback



4.4.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works

The Renewing Rockdale Program of works was discussed least (6%), forum participants suggested Council renew 'Bexley North Library Toilets' and to 'not leave Carlton out in the cold'. The Mayor asked community members to support the Program and to trust Council will deliver the proposed program of works.

"Council is asking you to support and recognise the good work we've done so we don't leave a legacy of unfinished work to future Councils.. Trust the progress of the last 18 months and give us a chance to prove ourselves"

4.4.2 SRV Funding Proposal

The SRV funding proposal received a reasonable amount (15%) of questions and comments. Forum participants were interested in the SRV application process questioning the probability of Council receiving approval for the SRV application.

“How likely is it that IPART will approve SRV application?”
“How are SRV’s dealt with by IPART and why does the increase remain in the rate base?”

4.4.3 Other Funding Ideas

Suggestions for alternative funding options formed a reasonable point of the discussion. These included: productivity improvements, amalgamation, developer contributions and user pays were the main suggestions for alternative funding ideas.

“Where does revenue from developers go, particularly in Wolli Creek?”
“Overtime for Saturday and Sunday, workers at Scarborough Park Playground”.
“Paid parking along Lady Robinsons Beach/Cook Park”.
“Amalgamate with other Councils”.

4.4.4 Non Renewing Rockdale Related

The majority of discussion (64%) was not specific to the Renewing Rockdale proposal. The topics discussed included community engagement opportunities, off leash dog park areas, beach litter concerns and maintenance of parks and reserves.

“Dogs off leash – why was the dog park changed no transparency”.
“Rubbish removal due to happen the week of the 20th January 2014 finally removed today 30th January 2014”.
“Saturday 25th January 2014 – Tindale Reserve – due to RCC gardeners not maintaining our reserve regularly, moth vine killing shrubs and trees, 2nd time I have removed this vine. I pull down Moth Vine on 25th January 2014 and they still lay there as 30th January 2014”.
“Dog owners not represented”.
“Area selected for dog park ‘don’t bother’ area floods and I will not take my dog there”.
“Beach litter”.
“Will residents have a say on how Rubbish Taskforce acts/makes decisions community input?”
“Genuine interface between Councilors and community. Why can’t we have genuine community Panel?”

4.5 Renewing Rockdale Information Line

The Renewing Rockdale Information Line was active from 20 January to 19 February and received a total of 21 calls. Community members generally phoned with a specific question regarding the Renewing Rockdale Program of works and to register their details to attend the Community Forum. A complete list of call notes is located in Appendix J page 122.

4.5.1 Renewing Rockdale Program of Works

Community members and business owners who called the information line were generally interested in the specific renewal that was occurring at a particular location and when the proposed projects were planned for implementation.

“What upgrades are happening in Wollongong Road?”

“Why isn’t Arncliffe Town Centre part of the Renewing Rockdale Program?”

“When will the Ramsgate Beach Thriving Town Centre project commence?”

“Does Council provide support to assets owned by community organisations - particular reference made to the Guild Theatre project?”

Community members also phoned the information line to inform Council they had not received their copy of the Renewing Rockdale Newsletter and survey. Community members and rate payers were mailed or delivered a copy of the newsletter and survey to a nominated address.

5. CONCLUSION

Council was successful in engaging with 868 people from across the LGA through the Renewing Rockdale Community Engagement Program. Many more people had the opportunity to receive information on Council's proposal via a range of methodologies and in particular a comprehensive brochure which was letterbox dropped to all households and businesses in the area.

Overall, there was good support for the Program of works by survey respondents and people we spoke with at Information Booths. The main reasons cited for this support included: a genuine need across the area for renewal, the desire to increase amenity and the value of the area and that there was already evidence that Council was making improvements to the area.

The proposed rate rise was the least favoured option for funding the works, particularly amongst survey respondents. A belief that rates were sufficiently high and concern about the affordability of the proposed rate rise were the biggest reasons for this lack of support.

There are many ideas and issues to be further explored in the feedback provided by participants of this Engagement process. They form a base for ongoing dialogue with the community about common issues or potential initiatives.

Appendices

Appendix A – Renewing Rockdale Survey	27
Appendix B – Renewing Rockdale Survey Feedback.....	29
Appendix C – Community Forum Presentation	69
Appendix D – Focus Group Presentation	84
Appendix E – Information Booth Feedback	97
Appendix F – Renewing Rockdale Brochure	98
Appendix G - Council’s Website.....	106
Appendix H – Online Rate Calculator	120
Appendix I – St George & Sutherland Leader Article	121
Appendix J – Renewing Rockdale Information Line Feedback.....	122
Appendix K – Email Invitation and Information	124
Appendix L – Renewing Rockdale Facebook Post.....	125
Appendix M – Forum Feedback Notes	126
Appendix N - Poster.....	128
Appendix O – Renewing Rockdale Feedback Articles (copy removed).....	129
Appendix P– City Plan Engagement and Feedback.....	134
Appendix Q – Community Telephone Survey Results Summary	143

Appendix A Renewing Rockdale Survey

Have Your Say on... *Renewing Rockdale*

1. To what extent do you support the Renewing Rockdale Program of works to improve the City's infrastructure assets as set out on pages 4-5 of the Information Brochure?

To indicate your level of support please circle the number on the scale of 1- 5 below where 1 is don't support at all and 5 is strongly support.

Don't support 1 2 3 4 5 Support

Please tell us why:

2. To fully fund the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works Council needs to apply for an SRV which would increase rates by 6% each year for the next four years (including the IPART rate peg). At the end of the four year period in 2017/18 the SRV remains in Council's rate base and rates will then only increase by the IPART rate peg.

Without the full SRV Council would be unable to undertake the entire proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works. A partial SRV would mean that some of the works in the Program would be delayed or not undertaken at all. Without an SRV most of the proposed Program will not be funded. Refer to pages 4-5 for the detailed Program of works.

Please circle which of the following options you prefer to fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works.

- A Rates increase by the full 6% each year for four years and after that remain at that new level as a base for the standard rate peg.
Renewing Rockdale Program of works will proceed as planned and in full.
- B Rates increase but not as much as 6%.
Implementation of Renewing Rockdale Program will be delayed as shown by ■ on pages 4-5.
- C Rates do not increase at all beyond the IPART rate peg.
Works marked with ■ on pages 4-5 will not be funded

If you circled B or C above, please tell us how you would prefer Council to fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works:

**Thank you for your time and contribution to the Rockdale City Council area
Please return to Council by Wednesday 19 February 2014**

Notes: SRV = Special Rate Variation; IPART = Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal



▲ SEAL HERE ▲

www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

▼ FOLD HERE ▼



Reply Paid
if posted in Australia



Reply Paid 27
Rockdale City Council
Renewing Rockdale – SRV 2014
PO Box 21
Rockdale NSW 2216

▲ FOLD HERE ▲

About You

To help us get an idea of who in our community has had their say, please complete the following questions:

☐ Male Age: ☐ under 15 ☐ 15 to 19 ☐ 20 to 24 ☐ 25 to 29 ☐ 30 to 34 ☐ 35 to 39 ☐ 40 to 44
☐ Female ☐ 45 to 49 ☐ 50 to 54 ☐ 55 to 59 ☐ 60 to 64 ☐ 65 to 69 ☐ 70 to 74 ☐ 75 and over

You: Work in the City of Rockdale: ☐ No ☐ Yes Suburb: _____

Live in the City of Rockdale: ☐ No ☐ Yes Suburb: _____

What language do you mostly speak at home? _____

Do you pay residential rates? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Do you pay business rates? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Please return to Council by Wednesday 19 February 2014

Appendix B Renewing Rockdale Survey Feedback

SRV Funding Proposal

Theme	Comment
Affordability (Increasing Costs)	Rates are far too high already. Too many increases. Rates in Sutherland much lower than Rockdale. Leave as is no rises please.
	Not sure we can afford such increase, with all other things to pay.
	The proposed 12% increase above IPART would be a huge burden to base. Whilst I understand the initiative, power/gas/water/Council fees have gone through the roof in recent years. It is not sustainable.
	Council should be funded by the Government and people taxes. By increasing the rates indicates people to struggle more than ever financially and neglect their necessities for daily needs.
	I think many people are struggling with extra fees by Government services & general cost of living in Sydney.
	Rates are high enough as it is.
	Keep in mind that your proposed increases are but one of many imposed by Governments and others e.g. fares, insurance such as Body Corporate which increases each year even though no claims are made home and contents and as admitted by Council this cleanup of graffiti at great cost.
	We pay enough Council rates that should cover essentials, life is expensive. I don't agree in paying more at all.
	Too many increases, rates high enough already. I look at Sutherland much lower.
	As a pensioner any rate rise is a burden. I am sure our land value will rise this year so on top of your predicted 6% it will be a big jump.
	As a self funded retiree who does not received any rebate on rates and with increase rates at a 50 year record low and every expense I have increases e.g. water, electricity, gas, insurance, telephone, private health fund, postage set to rise and rates and necessary operations have left me out of pocket \$20,000 especially being in a top private health fund. I cannot afford yet another levy on top of levies already on my rates.
	We are family of 5 and currently feel economic pressure from all our living expenses. All of our bills have risen and we find many of the works suggested in our local area unnecessary.
	Because we have enough bills to pay as it is and things are ok as they are.
	We have enough tax to pay
	People are struggling now to pay their bills and you want them to pay more money???
	Wages are not growing at rate of 6% p.a. or near it.
	My rates are going to increase approx 60% due to moving in to a new rate range.
	Because I do not want my rates to rise. Electricity, gas and strata expenses have increased greatly. Council rates are already expensive. I do not want more financial worries.
Affordability (Low Income Earners)	I cannot afford \$450 increase within 3 years. I understand rates need to rise, but in line with wage increase. I am not an economist or Council employee so could not comment on funding options.
	Bigger business contribution, or don't apply this to pensioners. Get the police to patrol Bay Street. They where racing each other on holiday. Monday, funny how they managed to have a breathalyser on Frederick St the same day lighting is dire around Bexley (Gladstone St area).
	Increase in rates difficult for pensioners.

Theme	Comment
	Pensioners cannot afford rate increase year after year, full stop.
	Pensioners struggle to pay rates now-hot summer, cold in winter. But Arncliffe Park gets new grass?
	We are struggling financially at the moment with 4 kids I say leave your project at least for another 3 years.
	We are aged pensioners and it is hard enough to pay present rates.
	I think there should be some assistance for people who will find this increase difficult to budget for.
	Council should not increase rates yearly by 5-6% for 4 years even though Council will be unable to undertake the entire proposed Renewing Program. If continued on this basis most home owners will be struggling to pay Council rates and Council will have difficulty in receiving payments.
	I am a self retired person and I could not afford to pay after paying land tax of investment property, my only income, and no rebates from the Council and facing financial hardship.
	Mainly we struggle now to pay our rates. It's a very large amount of money now we are retired and on limited income. We have lived here over 40years and paid rates. Perhaps now you could help us pensioners with a better rebate.
	As I am about to retire rate increase of 6% per year will impact my budget as I live alone.
	We are pensioners and can't afford the rise.
	We already pay 4 times the minimum rate-that's enough. Would the Council consider increasing my pension by 6% so that I could re-paint my house, update my car, etc. I doubt it. Council must live within its means like the rest of us.
	I financially cannot afford to pay. Those programs aren't a necessity. Please consider the residents who are experiencing financial hardship.
	I don't use any of them. I am an aged pensioner and I think the age rebate on rates should be on a percentage basis based on the UPV. It has been \$250 since I can remember.
	I am a pensioner and cannot afford it.
	I am single pensioner with no money, assets at all and increase in any bill makes my life harder than it already is.
	I receive a single pension rate and I find it hard to keep paying more in Council rates
	I, and many people like me can only get casual work for our whole lives. We suddenly lose jobs and have difficulty finding new work, do a lot of unpaid work to keep our jobs. We can't afford rates/other costs as it is, we can't afford increases.
	I am a pensioner and have been waiting since 2008-09 for things to be fixed in the street that I live and nothing has happened even your present Deputy Mayor came and have a look and said I will convey to the attention of your Councillor but nothing has happened. I have been very patience and now upon ask for this and nothing has been said how pensioner will be able to pay increases each year. Please explain.
	After paying rates to RCC for 60years I think it would be gracious of them to give the pensioners a half cut instead of an increase of any kind. When I see all the multi story buildings being built think of the rates they are collecting???
	I think will be too much in the coming 4years for the elderly people.
	Improvements to facilities are always good but as a self funded retiree. I find rates already seem excessive and I am not unenthusiastic about contributing more.
	I know what a struggle it is to pay all bills now on a pension.
	There is little help to elderly. It just going to cost more for what.
	As a pensioner can't afford to pay more with the rising costs of everything. Husband of 80 we need footpath mowed as Council land but you have stopped doing that so

Theme	Comment
	why should we pay more for less services to elderly.
	We are self funded retirees and are very much aware of increases in costs.
	My wife and I are both pensioners and the discount on Council rates has not changed for pensions in the past 10 years. The pension has only increased by CPI and no change to pension discounts. We are finding it difficult to continue increased payments on our pension income.
	Waste of money. Can't afford rate rise, I am a pensioner.
	As an aged pensioner I find it difficult to pay the rates at the present rate I don't know if I will cope with the increase.
	6% is too high for pensioners and others struggling on low incomes: their income is not being increased by 6%.
	If it's a case of glossier facilities, then consider the elderly and struggling rate payers who won't be able to cope with 6% increases.
	Please live within your means and stop gouging ratepayers. We are trying to raise a family, including a disabled child, and constant increases in the cost of living are a significant issue. Do not make it any harder than it already is, please.
	Our household is supported by the age pension.
	Even though in 4 years an additional 6% will be added so in other words, we continue to pay more.
Affordability (6% Too High)	6% increases is simply unaffordable for average resident and well above the CPI.
	My income does not go up by 6%.
	I am sick and tired of this rates rise. I am paying \$1,600p.a. This rate too much compare to other Councils, we're not millionaires suburbs compare to Double Bay and Rose Bay Councils.
	Will already be paying much more and the 6% per year is an increase of 26.3% over 4 years a significant shift in the base rate without further IPART increases.
	Any other way but not an increase. Living in a unit I pay higher rates than Hurstville Council residents. I don't understand why??
	6% which in association with other generally increasing expense a burden. According to program, this will delay only-not indefinitely defer-lower increase for longer acceptable. Is rate increase against a certain base year or previous year, if this compounding C is choice. i.e. from base 6% compounded over 4 years = 24% is a NO
	Council needs to live within its budget. Our rates are now just under \$2000 p.a. we would be forced out of the area with further increases and little benefit to local residents.
	My pension will not increase 6% per year.
	From my point of view the rates has been on increased and do not wish to see any increase. I do not use a lot of the facilities but keep raising rates.
	As a pensioner I would find the 6% beyond my budget.
	It's got through all these years with IPART increases.
	Don't believe permission for the 6% increase (total increase 24%) is warranted - we certainly don't seem to getting value for money now - the city won't work smarter and another increase will be wanted, we will keep the program of works-to check what actually is achieved in the coming year.
	Existing Council rates provide funding for proposed works. There should not be an increase of 6% per year as proposed.
	Rates are already much higher than other Councils.
	Rates to increase with CPI not by amount requested. Other expense of Council members to be curbed.
	As been made clear that once our rates increase, after the 4th year, they will not be going anywhere but up. Plus don't be misleading and say its only 6% p.a. when you

Theme	Comment
	should aim to be completely transparent and say that rates will be increasing 25% over 4 years.
	6% cumulative means that rates will rise by 21% in 4 years and that would then be the base for further rate rises all to fund a Council Maintenance program and new toilets.
	Council needs to be realistic some are struggling. I live in a small unit but rates are now over \$1000 p.a.
	6% is a huge hike. I am already paying close to \$4000 p.a. for a 450 sqm block, people one block behind me are paying less than \$1500 for a 600sqm size.
	Rates not to increase for 1 year because my wages have not had an increase at all.
	6% increase per year for the next 4 years it's fairly high.
	Increase in rates at 6% each year shows 24% in 4 years. Not acceptable. Save funds by no overseas visitations by Council members.
	First reason is the rate increase will remain permanently. Second, the 24% increase is excessive to 'remain permanently'. The relevance of some of the amenities and buildings is questionable. We do not support.
	Do not want a big rate increase
	6% pa compound = 24% over 4 years. Completely 'over the top'. Retain the rate peg(IPART)
	As I understand it, you propose to increase rates by 24% by 2017 and then apply the IPART rate peg to the rates that have increased by 24%. It seems like an enormous hike. Would you ask the Australian Government to increase the age pension by the same amount? If that were granted, I would whole heartedly support the works.
	24% increase in rates over 4 years is excessive
	The rate increase by the end of the 4 years will be \$332.88 that is a big increase. I can't justify paying that much more to facilities we rarely use.
	Excessive increase. Costs need to be reduced rather than large increase in rates.
	A 6% rolling increase for 4 years is too excessive.
	Stop wasting money. Nobody gets pay increase of 6% every year people cannot afford to pay such increase. Reduce spending on unnecessary projects.
	Why should rate payees foot the bill? Council rates are already high. Have fundraising program to improve facilities.
	People have to live within our means. This increases our rates by 25% and over next 4 years. Not on.
	Compared to other localities, RCC rates are quite high at present
	Rates are significantly high already
	Residents unable to meet this rate rise. Salaries, investments are not rising as much as 6% p.a. this is an unrealistic proposal. Keep it in relation with the CPI
	People's salaries cannot support a big increase. 6% is higher than inflation.
	Residents' rate increases would be just too much to pay.
	Council's rates are already expensive enough, any proposed rise in rates would just allow Council to further waste resources.
	Don't want to pay higher rates
	The first reason I do NOT support the RRP is the rate increase will "remain permanently". Secondly, the total of 24% is excessive to "remain permanently". I find the relevance of some of the amenities & buildings is questionable. I definitely do NOT support this.
	6% a year is outrageous considering us public health employees are stuck on 2.27% and lower. Rockdale rates are way above other councils. For example Newtown 2 bedroom unit = < 1000 a year.
	Enough is being paid in rate 1000s of households every year. Expecting us to pay

Theme	Comment
	eventually \$2000 p.a. on average is ridiculous.
	Rockdale Council rates are already comparatively high compared with other Councils when land values are looked at. The proposed increases will further distort this.
	I am aged pensioner of 74 this year. It would be hard on us to pay out extra monies from our pensions to fund these new proposals for the Rockdale area.
	Council has simply been wasting our rate money. Rate rise is excessive and unnecessary.
	6% for each year for 4 years - far too much the Council rates are high enough as is - self funded and pensioners are battling now.
	I understand Council has to meet needs and forward plan. However I think 6% for four years is too much.
	Only support increase in rates must be capped to CPI only.
Support SRV Proposal	Must pay for all of this you cannot do anything without funds. I hand a career in the Commonwealth Public Service. Any project must be costed and payed upfront.
	I fully support investing in today and tomorrow. Our rates need to meet community expectations.
	If we want to have a better and the best local community then we must pay for it.
	I would be happy with the yearly 6% rate if the Council planted more trees, irrigating grass is a waste of money and unsustainable.
	If it maintains the facilities to a high standard, it is well worth it.
	The Renewing program is in urgent need to be done therefore only Option A.
	Please fund the above projects anyway to ensure its fastest delivery.
	It is time that Council did more - we already pay exorbitant rates -yet cannot see where it all goes. Other areas of Sydney have upgraded and landscaped their Town Centres and yet nothing ever gets done here. The Beach Promenade is ugly - the railings are changed (partly) and left to rust. We need experts who are innovative to design and upgrade our area - as it has been neglected for far too long. The proposed upgrade to Ramsgate Beach town centre leaves a lot to be desired. Why not build underground parking and make a mall closed to traffic.
	Keep up the great work and thank you to the current Mayor & Councillors and staff for your Jawasie support to the Australian Ecuadorian Cultural Association.
Modify SRV Proposal (funding)	Have the increase reduced by 2% and increased by 2-3 extra years.
	If residents and Council want unaffordable improvements to its infrastructure they should be funded on an individual basis paid by a levy on each individual so we all contribute the same amount as we will all benefit on an equal basis. We will also know exactly how the money is being spent.
	One off renewals of assets does not need a persistent increase of rates. A lower rise would still achieve the same result over a longer term, beyond the next Council election. A lower increase would also save better as a more efficient method. Problems built over decades and need not be fixed in one Council term.
	Reduce the scope of works, 3% increase then 1/2 scope
	Prioritise. Delay non-urgent works. Increase business rates.
	I have circled B above as if is the closes that I can agree with. It should only be raised for the 4 year period and then automatically be lowered back to the rate before the works started as this is only fair, as I don't think Council does a great job spending monies received by rate payers.
	Increased rates but not 6% may have to delay some projects.
	Consider increasing the rates that home unit owners pay relative to those that house owner pay - as currently home owners bear a disproportionate and unsustainable burden. Rates should be based on use of services not value of land.
	Completing work in phases. Reducing the scope of some of the works to reduce

Theme	Comment
	spending.
Modify SRV Proposal (funding) Less than 6%	Increase business costs rather than residential.
	I think less than 6% should be enough.
	I understand you need the money but 6% is too much I would support 4%
	I think that 6% is too much, how about 3%
	I understand an increase would be required but I don't believe 6% is required. Will this increase pay for additional resources to complete the renewals in the 4 year period or will they just get rolled over.
	There is much more credibility in the IPART increases verses the 6% p.a. the council wants to impose.
	With costs lowered, a lower rate increase would still cover the program.
	Your catch is you want to increase rates for 4 years then continue at final rate basis. Too much spin!
	Rate increase of 1% no more. My salary does not increase by 6% p.a. get businesses to sponsor some improvements/renewals/works and give credit e.g. a plague, the Leander coverage etc. source other ways of raising funds, not just hit ratepayers. Fight for a 2nd airport. House and land values will increase, Council funds will increase. Don't listen to Macquarie who claim Sydney Airport capacity is sufficient in their own self interest to monopolise our airport, for their own profitability/coffers.
	Because rates are very expensive. I live in a unit.
	You're asking people pay above CPI Government Rates of pay is capped at 2.5% you're asking people to pay more than double.
	Rates increase as per CPI each year for the next 4 years then revert to IPART rate peg.
	6% ratepayers-exceptions. 3% should be appropriate - you already would have recorded on computer these ratepayers who clearly need every cent and cannot afford 6% (this may apply to some self funded retirees).
	The IRART rate has better accountability on a council I believe 6% does not give value for money.
	A much lower rate will be something we could support 1% to max 2%, 6% is way too high. If the works are going to take longer to complete so be it. I am a single mother and can't pay that rate.
	I think a partial increase is necessary but only to fund essential upgrades and meet safety requirements e.g. zebra crossing at Levey St, Wolli Creek as there is no proper crossing for children to go to the playground.
Modify SRV Proposal (funding) Timeframe	Be patient.
	If I have no money I don't try to do everything I want in 2 years. Think long term.
	Delay works until funding is available.
	The program of works should be delayed based on available funds.
	Please wait until you have enough in your pocket.
	Extend the time to complete proposed works.
	I don't think all of the projects necessarily have to be completed in the next 12mths. Could a gradual upgrading be better over 10year time frame & projects prioritized.
	It is natural that all these works cannot be carried out in one year and Council has a responsibility to prioritise each category and state the year in which the work is expected to be carried out.
	The Renewing Rockdale does not have to be completed within 4year period-extend the time, reduce the funding for Ramsgate Town Centre to \$400,000, permanent plantings in the town centres no more flowers.
	I agree there must be a need for some projects but I hope we can manage when some

Theme	Comment
	are done.
	Given Councils current financial position it does not make sense to be completing all these projects. Phase the approach in a manner which does not cause such a financial burden.
	If council does not have the funding works should be delayed until money is available.
	24% increase is outrageous!!!
Proposed Costs Excessive	Get some decent quotes: Jack & Jill Kindergarten: Ramp toilet \$150,000 outrageous, that's nearly 1/2 the cost of a small house. Bicentennial: Demolish/contract new amenities - \$530,000 you can build a large house this.
	Get better quotes because the prices quoted seem to be outrageous.
	Rates should not be increased above CPI. It is necessary if most of your proposed improvements were administrative properly with correct costing not over pricing as indicated on most of the sections on page 4&5.
	Council could try to save money and when doing works try to get cheaper quote.
	Again works need to be investigated.
	Cut back on Councillors expenses and jaunts especially those who do not contribute and numbers of Councillors. Get better value and more realistic quotes some expenses are exorbitant and unrealistic e.g. Guild theatre does need a new roof but I cannot see how it will cost \$422,000, I have a large house and removing and re-roofing and new gutters were no way this figure. Stop using over priced consultants, this brochure would have cost a pretty expense.
	Council should realistically review all projects and not spend astronomical amounts of money on unnecessary projects, most of which will not benefit the majority of residents in the area.
	They could be funded if your stopped wasting money and paying more than the going rates for any building work.
	Get more than 1 quote, but not from your friends.
	Receive reasonable Tender's on your project. Cut down on dead wood and duplication.
	Also when you put out a tender, state what your budget is and then choose a contractor willing to build it for that price. Council gets ripped off by huge quotes from contractors.
	Keep tenders at arms length and get 3 quotes for every job.
	Seek more competitive quotes for works and reduce cost of program.
	Engage contractors to do work who charge less - really cost of demolishing and building of toilets \$330,000 each - ridiculous. The Council receives all this money where does it go apart from overpaying contracts to do work that i am sure would cost 1/5 of what they are being charged. It's so embarrassing to have a council overcharge
	Receiving and approving more competitive quotes for maintenance/repairs/building of public areas.
	Several detailed quotes should be obtained for all works and all work until completion has to be supervised by Council and not by people employed by companies subcontracting to Council. If this occurs we will not end up with problems like the previous Federal Government hand: 1) Building school halls/rooms 2) Installations of pink batts. i.e. the company obtaining the Government contract made most of the profit and the person completing the actual work very little (squeezed). Also, refurbishing Bexley Oval, toilets at Kiosk \$50,000 - quote appears to be hugely overpriced and further detailed quotes to be obtained.
	Almost half a million to create uses for Wilson's Cottage? You must be joking.

Theme	Comment
	Renewing Rockdale program not affordable or needed.
	Find cheaper contractors. Those estimate figures are way too high.
	Furthermore, the proposed costs seem very excessive for works to be performed i.e. \$2.5M for Scarborough Park.
	Too expensive
	Absence of any investment in natural areas. The projects are also highly inflated estimates. How can it cost \$1/4M to demolish and build a small toilet block at Bexley North. You could build a whole house for less.
	We cannot afford those extravagant expenditure
	Don't agree with some of the costs involved in some of quotes e.g. \$1.6M refurbished interior of Admin building. Refurbish Kyeemagh boat amenities \$275,000 that could be done for \$100,000. Wilson Cottage what opportunities, did you have in mind for that \$430,000 (Waste)
	Other than 4 numbers that seem exact, the rest are estimates. The costing of these seems high e.g. \$130k to identify and implement opportunities for Wilson cottage?? 1.6M to refurbish Admin building? Why not sell and lease?
	The cost of the projects excessive. Suggest an independent assessment of the major projects.
	There are 10 locations for upgrade, refurbish or new public toilets/amenities averaging \$369,243 per location for a total cost of \$3,692,435. These funds are excessive for 1 toilets and money better spent as per 2 below.
	What is going on at Rockdale? You could build a luxury home for the amount of money Rockdale needs to build a toilet block. Don't ask for more money until you can get your financial house in order.
	Many of the costs appear extortionate, \$1,600,000 to refurbish an Admin building interior. That's excessive. \$500,000 to upgrade Bexley Oval, toilets & Kiosk. You must be joking. What economies has the Council made to minimise rate increases. More transparency needed i.e. no kickbacks.
	Many quoted prices seem too expensive
	The prices are outrageous and in most cases the improvements etc are not necessary
	Inefficient use of money-with over inflated figures from builders, etc. no real value or cost analysis.
	Would hate Council to be building our home if a toilet block in Bexley North will cost \$250,000. New toilet blocks constructed along Botany Bay were extremely over priced plus they are not kept clean.
	Too expensive
	Don't see how all these upgrades need to cost so much money. Much publicity was made about the \$1M toilets which don't seem to be used by the majority of Rockdale residents.
	Many of these works seem to be unnecessarily over priced.
	The prices quoted for the Renewing Rockdale program are excessive. Already evident by the cost involves and wasted on 3 architect-designed toilets.
	There are a lot of proposed renovations and the costing does not look correct.
	I also see Council wasting money on overpriced projects e.g. toilet blocks, so I do not have confidence in Council work cost estimates or ability to perform the renewal works cost effectively.
	Proposed budgets for items appear excessive - Is Council properly tendering this work?
	I just hope several quotes are sought and money is not wasted on greedy companies. We need people with good work ethics to run the show.
	I feel council pays too much for some projects.

Renewing Rockdale Programs of Works

Theme	Comment
Renewal is needed	Foreshore renewal (especially the old fences in Sans Souci Beach)
	Sports & Recreation, Playground and park improvements
	ONLY the foreshore renewal and protection of beaches, coastline and natural assets is truly essential. Why is 'sport' given the same priority? Makes no sense.
	Renewal needs to be ongoing.
	What is the condition of current playground equipment? Is it a safety concern of visual PR to replace it? Agree with upgrade to amenities.
	Would like to see City's infrastructure improved, but would like Council to understand that their efforts to bring in new development have led to insufficiency of existing infrastructure. If is not our (existing residents) fault - nor should you make us pay for it.
	There has been deterioration in the overall quality of Council public works of a commensurate devaluation of assets.
	Rockdale City's infrastructure is in a poor condition and will only deteriorate further unless action is taken. A small increase in rates for a short term period will result in big improvements into the future.
	Necessary maintenance of existing amenities. Strongly support improvement and purchase requirements for Council libraries.
	Because improvements are needed
	Rockdale is dirty and dilapidated. Would be great for it to have a facelift to have a newer and nicer place to shop/eat.
	Because maintenance is essential for keeping facilities attractive and useful
	All of the projects are worthwhile
	Strongly support foreshore renewal. These projects need to be done in order to keep the areas of Rockdale maintained and looking acceptable.
	Because it improves the area.
	It's important that public infrastructure is kept safe, clean and tidy just like any home and should occur on a regular basis.
	A lot of aging facilities need upgrade it is great to see that the Council realises this need for the community.
	Move to the future, continuing maintenance
	Particularly the given areas and Erosion Robinsons Beach Monterey
	It is important to renew and improve the services in such a great part of Sydney.
	Costs to rejuvenate and update community facilities are always on the increase.
	We live in the southern region of the Rockdale LGA and as such utilise more of Kogarah Councils assets rather than Rockdale's. I understand the need for this SRV but as a lot of the proposed works don't benefit me directly, I can only moderately support this.
	Because I don't want to live in a community with crumbling broken or poor infrastructure.
	For too many years all levels of Government have spent too little on infrastructure causing a serious back log of renewal. At some stage catch up needs to occur. Do it now!
	Its important to keep asset at top condition unfortunately most Councils don't do this. We must look forward so that future generations can also enjoy a safe clean green environment to live in.
	Important to keep buildings & infrastructure maintained. Also increased population in

Theme	Comment
	Rockdale boundaries require increased infrastructure.
	I think its important to maintain existing infrastructure and undertake new projects to ensure that the Rockdale area remains one we be proud of.
	I believe that spending appropriate funds will our city stay vibrant and inviting. The improvement to Bexley Play Ground must be a priority.
	The infrastructure needs a boost. It seems to fall behind compared to neighbouring cities like Kogarah or Hurstville.
	The local playgrounds and amenities all require updating. Please include more litter bins and litter signs.
	The whole of Rockdale looks very old/tired/worn out due to years of RCC neglect
	I completely support the proposed improvements. To have a highly maintained infrastructure and good facilities keeps the area highly desirable to live in, improves the general amenity of our city and maintains the asset value of residences, businesses and Council facilities.
	The work needs to be done.
	I presume a lot of research has gone into producing pages 4-5. So I just have to trust you. I can't do the research myself and don't really know what's best. But of course you could have it wrong.
	It is important to maintain a high standard of public spaces as it affects my property values.
	I support it because it appears we have little choice due to many years of chronic underspending. I am not happy about it and also have grave doubts about council's ability to deliver this program but feel I have little in the way of other options to get the infrastructure we should already have. Council's delivery of this program will be watched very carefully.
	Maintenance is important for increased value and attraction.
	Facilities are tired and aged, and facilities and infrastructure need renewing.
	Rockdale LGA requires significant infrastructure upgrades- one of the most dilapidated LGA's in Sydney
	Totally support the Rockdale Renewing program. The only way forward is to improve facilities, roads in particular have been neglected, gardening side of Grand Pde e.g. grass, trees upgrade and flowers could be upgraded.
	Arncliffe needs some TLC it feels old and rundown but the recent improvements to Arncliffe Park seem to have given at least that area a fresh new look.
	Maintaining existing facilities is important. Replacing things for the sake of it is poor management.
	I would like to see the amenities buildings in particular maintained and upgraded when needed.
	Renewing programs always great.
	Lots of work needed around the community to make it safe.
	Obviously if amenities are unsafe, then they need renewing.
	If improvements aren't made, infrastructure will become run down.
Modify Renewing Rockdale Program Of Works	Leave Administration Building until last. Refurbish toilets and demolish when funds allow.
	By better management of existing funds exactly as the rest of the community has to do it and proper competitive tendering.
	I have paid rates for a long time and all I get is my garbage picked up once a week no work has been done in this street since 1970, but I look around and see so much wasted, toilet blocks over hill, flower beds I could go on for ever if I had the space,

Theme	Comment
	not happy.
	Some playgrounds the conditions are still good. Don't understand why we need to upgrade.
	Allocate the \$800,000 of the shopping centre to 3 or 4 of the purple box projects.
	I would select A if the Council committed to Brighton Le Sands Pier and the Crystal Tower proposal.
	Would appreciate new toilet and change facilities at Sandringham baths. Also to discourage cyclists on walkway above baths where children and elderly citizens enter baths. There is a round way behind the parked cars to save a future accident.
	Eliminate unused public toilets, playgrounds and public amenities, rate pegging percentage works for all other Councils, why can't Rockdale Council function within its means? Every year it's just more toilets, more playgrounds and public amenities. Can't think of anything better?
	I also would like to see Rockdale Council put lifts for young mothers, handicapped people and the elderly at Bexley North Station and Bardwell Park Station. Then all lines will be covered.
	Make more parking available to compensate for the large increase in residency. Thousands of new residents are now living in these areas but infrastructures seems inconsiderate. Stop fixing children playground and fix your Council territory.
	You have allocated only \$2,350,870 for kerb and resheet road pavements rehabilitation. This is inadequate with the poor state of some of these basic infrastructures.
	I ask again the Council, Bexley North Train Station needs very much a lift on escalator, we have very difficult to walk down and too many people like myself.
	Concentrate on Arncliffe so that it is a more attractive suburb to live in and visit. It is growing in popularity due to its location/proximity to the CBD but it looks like a neglected outer suburb especially the main shopping area. We need a fresh new look and new business.
	I have been supporting the dog off leach areas especially near Captain Cook Bridge. No mention.
	By economising within. However, the state of the library is a disgrace and this should have been addressed years ago.
	With an ageing population some thought has to be given to making life easier, I know that in your list of things Council provides, no mention is made of bus shelters. After reading that Council provide one at Wolli Creek, I propose more consideration be given to provide more. Here in Kyeemagh we have one at a bus stop with no bus. Please think about it in extreme weather.
	Footpaths and curb and gutterail no bike track along Alice St Sans Souci what a waste of money nobody uses it, etc.
	Don't need the whole of Rockdale renewed. This sounds very much like a wish list. Remember the Botany Bay/Brighton Pier I have still got the video. Let's put some money in the bank.
	Roads and drainage, bikeways, foreshore areas are a priority from what I can see.
	Again there is no priority only category. So playground and parks are ignored unless full increase achieved. I think your proposal is poorly representing works to be done.
	Scrap the library and do your job.
	Review costs of works provided. Only commence essential upgrades. And administration building-delay upgrade.
	We really don't mind which works are not funded.
	Refurbishing is a better, more affordable option to demolishing. The proposal is

Theme	Comment
	grossly inflated estimates 'get real'. I also do not see an allocated section of beach where families and dogs can enjoy a day. The proposal is of no benefit to me.
	I suggest Council have a priority list of "projects to do" and proceed from there when funds are available.
	We suggest that Council prioritise the renewing program of utilities and other Council works on a safety issues rather than cosmetic e.g. the interior refurbishment of Council admin building surely is not essential. It's difficult for us to understand the increased revenue from the rates on the increased units/apartments in Rockdale area that require minimal roads/kerbs and gutter etc. The improvements to Slade Rd Reserve are unnecessary as these parks are rarely used.
	Invest in maintaining and enforcing heritage buildings. Recent building approvals for tearing down old houses to make room for private certified builds is a crime and contrary to Council's Mission statement.
	When will the Sandringham Pool/beach be available for elderly and young children? We still pay the rates plus increases but the beach is gone for 2/3 years.
	'Refurbishing' Gilchrist park amenities for \$530,000 is ludicrous, as is \$430,000 to 'identify/implement' ideas for public use of Wilson's Cottage. Local experts would do that for free.
	Don't demolish toilet blocks but refurbish only. Don't construct prize-winning toilet blocks.
	I would prefer Council to utilise the current funds in a more effective manner for works that will benefit the 'majority' of the community. Surely every park does not have to be upgraded especially when these facilities are very rarely used in today's society.
	Renovate and restore old buildings - stop demolishing! The only one who benefit from new construction is the builders. My City of Sydney rates for a unit in Potts Point are the same as my Rockdale rates and that area is immaculate especially garbage collection.
	Rates already very high; Sport & Recreation simply not a priority. Upgrade to public amenities such as toilet blocks is important, but they do not need to be demolished and rebuilt.
	Most of these improvements are luxury not essentials.
	Not to waste anymore money on expensive toilet blocks.
	Focus on improvements which are required for safety or security.
	Prioritise - lots of parks & reserves.
	Reduce the number of improvements.
	Too much high rise. Not enough car parks. Units have no personality or colour. Not enough live shows we could pay for.
	Too much money will be spent in marginal suburbs like Arncliffe
	Rockdale Council has for years fiddled around the edges. First fix major problems. Get together with the State & Federal Governments to build the F6 extension. Get traffic off residential streets. This is the only place I know where families and children walk within 3 metres of double B trucks. A whole family will be wiped out soon.
	If you can't afford to do all the proposed work without this extra increase, then perhaps start with what is truly necessary. Sorry, but I think \$1,600,000 is a bit much for your interior refurbishment.
	We already pay high rates. Too much of our rate money goes to 'foreshore'. Thriving Town Centre program is code for more development. Ramsgate beach is a village. Brighton Le Sands is dirty and overcrowded.
	The canal waterway through Sans Souci has not been cleaned for many years and they

Theme	Comment
	still appear not to be a priority.
	Other things could be fixed up not just all the sports ground amenities. Walking footpaths are needed in Toyer Ave Sans Souci-gets very wet & slippery walking on grass with kids
	Whilst list of works is extensive I feel an oversight in not upgrading amenities at Monterey/Barton St swimming enclosure which is in a state of disrepair.
	\$14,671,030 on toilets, public amenities, playground and sports and a mere \$2,350,870 on road!!!! President Ave needs a resurface. Public parking at Bay St and Rockdale needs upgrading. Has there been a research how many kids use the playgrounds, how many people use public toilets? Intelligent use of funds is needed.
	Council should firstly concentrate on commercial improvements, e.g. to shopping centres, kindergartens, etc. safety renewals should also be given priority.
	Because most of works you claim to do are simply bull shits to use the raise of rates. Most of the thing has nothing to do with rates which should be financed with own resources like Kingsgrove library should be paid by Canterbury Council most of it is under Canterbury.
	Please do not forget the upgrade of the Bexley Swimming complex
	I don't think some works are a priority
	Think RCC waste lot of money (toilet block, etc)
	Scarborough park will end up freeway. Most of 2.5m will be wasted. Ramsgate Beach thriving centre changes will cause traffic chaos and improvement of cycling amenities will be fruitless e.g. Alice St cycle markings which are mostly unused or ignored.
	You have wasted enough money in the Arncliffe area in the past.
	There seems to be an imbalance
	I support looking after amenities for families, but what about amenities for older people. Community Centres, footpaths lighting, shop front upkeep on the Queen Victoria Street side of Kogarah Station. You are only spending \$40K on footpaths. What about seating in parks for older people.
	Most of the money being spent is not on 'infrastructure'. No mention of improving areas with safety issues such as Rockdale Station surrounds.
	I understand these facilities are important but I believe more infrastructure is needed for our youth. Basketball courts/drop in centres/the light discos, teenagers fun days, etc.
	The rates I pay are already high enough, you people spend it on things that are waste of money this Ramsgate Beach Town Centre \$1,600,000 is going to fail, too many cars already not enough parking and you are going to widen the footpaths what a joke!
	Brighton Early Childhood Centre is rarely used. I believe money could be spent on signage at Brighton Beach proximity using promenade path to set tables for dining, entering water with clothes on, more penalties or patrolling for people littering promenade and beach. More police stopping noisy motorbikes and modified costs.
	Too many refurbish-demolish-construct-amenities. St David's Church to pay for it. Administration Building-no-save \$1.6M Okay to footpaths, roads, the rest later.
	There are lots of unnecessary works on the list.
	Using proposed SRV Works Program (2014-18) to justify permanent 6% increase (beyond 2018) is not entirely reasonable. The SRV works program is asset maintenance by repair and renewal. This does not appear to include any preventative measures/initiatives to reduce future maintenance requirements.
	I am in favour of improving infrastructure in the area but why are so many of the projects located in parks, etc. that mainly non-residents utilise. I do not want to pay extra for visitors to come to our area smoke it out with stupid BBQs and leave their

Theme	Comment
	mess.
	To maintain my support-would like to see funds spent on waterfront, Brighton especially on rubbish removal and improvements of beachfront landscaping through to Kyeemagh.
	I think it is too ambitious to perform all this upgrades all at once. Analyse needs to be done to direct funding to new and developing areas e.g. Wolli Creeks, Cahill Park which will have new apartment developments in the coming months with families moving in and creating demand.
	Most are not essential works
	Essentials needed are replacing asbestos roof - Guild Theatre. Fix roads. Keep pathways safe boardwalks, etc.
	Too many existing structures will be demolish when they may be able to be refurbished therefore less funds will be spent.
	Not all improvements are necessary, particularly playground and park improvement, sports & recreation, parks are also adequate.
	Nothing has been upgraded in this area for 20-30years. Your recent upgrade of Ramsgate Beach Sports Hall-is disappointing-it is aesthetically unpleasing to the eye and no landscaping at all. The toilet block down the road is much more innovative yet you have not provided a decent footpath or upgraded the parking area there.
	There are some worthwhile initiatives listed but I don't believe that they are absolute frontier. RCC should invest in amenities e.g. BBQ, toilets.
	I find that Dunmore St new homes have new footpath in front. We live in Byrnes St but footpath is terrible. Please investigate. We pay Council rates.
	The proposed program of works appears to be a total waste of rate payer's money. i.e. Wilson's College \$430,000-99% of people won't know where this is. Administration Building \$1.6M - this is 5 star upgrade. \$3.3M for parks that won't be used. I could go on and on but I've run out of room.
	Water system at Cook Park and Parks on Chuter Ave, more crossing options along Grand Parade and better wheelchair accessible facilities, roads and paths so bumpy.
	Council has a responsibility to provide community services to its residents. But we (residents) should have hand opportunity to prioritise projects (consider participatory 'budgeting exercise' - Google it)
	This is a huge expenditure - amazed that so many facilities need repairs or upgrading to this colossal amount \$18M a ridiculous plan, try about one tenth of the proposals.
	We would like to see upgrade on Bexley Pool, fixing up the traffic. Have issues around Wolli Creek area especially the Woolworths supermarket to relief congestions and unnecessary minor car accidents in the wow parking lot. We also prefer to see funds spent on upgrading and creating shops, cafes and restaurants to boost attractions to buy into the area and consequently boost property value.
	Many works programs listed. Seek public vote to focus on wanted upgrades. Admin building for one - when was the last refurbishment?
	A number of the initiatives applied to benefit social interest groups and a limited number of people in the community. I support the civil infrastructure initiatives but feel a number of the other programs are limited or no benefit to me.
	For many projects, Council is not spending wisely. For example, a far more economical and user friendly solution would have been to simply install more outdoor shower amenities at Ramsgate Baths and other beaches, instead of the expensive new amenities at the Baths - why in Australia do we need hot showers at the beach? and the women's indoor showers are cramped and unpleasant.
	Organise works depending on priority of each location

Theme	Comment
	The cost estimates for the Admin building refurbishments is unreasonable and feel a great disparity between your proposed spending on community parks, etc. Also Rockdale should 'preserve' and not erect ugly new buildings.
	Scarborough Park why? Admin Building, not necessary. Community building and public amenities. Foreshore (unrealistic) Civil infrastructure (unrealistic amounts)
	Kindergarten and sport facilities are not used by all community
	Parks are good to upgrade, but town centre on Wollongong Rd at Arncliffe a total waste of money, there is a saving of \$1.5 million dollars.
	I support most proposed improvements with strong reservations for the so-called "Ramsgate Beach Thriving Centre". I worry that this low-built outdoor based thriving shopping centre is going to turn into a Westgate style soulless closed-in indoors thing, with the approval of 21m height.
	Don't see it as Councils responsibility to pay for refurbishing old St David's Church or any other church or religious building places of worship don't even pay rates, do they?
	No town centre upgrades.
	I would like to see off leash dog areas included in the plan.
	I am disappointed that there is no mention of the refurbishing of Bexley Pool.
	Please can we have an outdoor gym included in any park upgrade or a basketball half court.
	The rationale in your brochure makes no sense, you say if we do not renew assets now, it will cost more to replace them later. Yet many of the proposed works listed are demolition construction of new amenities. Families are sick of bill rises in every aspect of life well above inflation.
	No value in playground and park improvement. No value in town centres program. Not enough information. Nonsense allocation for kerbs/gutter/roads. Review requirement and value for accessibility operators.
	Investment for the well being and amenity of the majority, not just special interest groups. New toilet blocks - new caravan parks for mobile homes, free facilities paid for by ratepayers.
	These projects should be funded through savings of community involvement. There is no mention of Bexley Pool upgrade by the way.
	Way too much money spent on sporting facilities.
	There's nothing in the projects about upgrading Bexley Pool.
Inequity across Rockdale City	Don't renew as it is not for all of Rockdale, mainly for San Souci, Ramsgate, Brighton, nothing gets done in other areas.
	You may fund your projects by only increasing rates for residence and businesses. You have scheduled improvements for. Why penalise everyone!!!
	No improvements at Carlton.
	Spread your services across the community. Arncliffe streets are littered with rubbish (besides [REDACTED] business location) I think that stink.
	We all pay rates not all areas renewed.
	Why are no funds allocated to improve my suburb of Carlton???
	It provides little for Wolli Creek
	More attention needed in Bardwell Valley, Bardwell Park, Turrella especially for maintenance of parklands, reserves please
	Kogarah does not receive enough of the improvements
	Our money is not being spent on essential services. Very little is spent to improve Bexley Town Centre and foreshore improvements are constant.
	I live on the border of Kogarah & Rockdale Council. There is very little/nothing in

Theme	Comment
	these works that will improve my block or surrounding streets. I probably should be in Kogarah Council. Your plan does prioritise works, the works are listed by category.
	There is a very little in the Bexley area that would of benefit to me.
	I live close to the Hurstville Council border and we get nothing from this renewing Rockdale program. Our area is constantly overlooked as it is perceived by most that we are in either Kogarah or Hurstville Council.
	Too much focus on infrastructure that will not benefit the majority of rate payers.
	Preferential treatments given to some areas while none is give to others e.g. Brighton, Ramsgate, Arncliffe. Bay Street always untidy condition also footpath between Farr St and West Botany St. rough and dangerous.
	There is little evidence to suggest that my suburb has benefited greatly in the past or will in the future.
	It seems, however, to concentrate on the young and not much thought for the elderly. One major problem-listed below.
	All the rise goes to sport. There is nothing for the elderly and retired who have been paying their Council rates for so many years-not getting anything in return.
	Why the shops in Arncliffe and Rockdale and now in Bexley spills in to footpath. Wollongong Road, Ramsgate - why nobody else can do that, but they can ???
	Carlton does not seem to be included and there is no mention of planting more street trees. Many have been removed with over development.
	Because I live in Bexley and it needs to be renewal before Rockdale and more lighting in top end of Dunmore St - too dark and very unsafe and dangerous! Rockdale is already one of the dearest council and parts of Rockdale are always being renewed.
	I have lived within Rockdale boundaries all my life. Most of expenditure appears to be undertaken in high income area while low income not so.
Benefits The Community	Better for everyone
	It seems clear the Council needs funds in order to provide nice services for the community. I can afford it.
	These are important community assets which needs to be maintained to help keep this a great area to live and work in.
	The works are essential to maintaining the city's infrastructure assets and for providing amenities for the community.
	We need to invest in maintaining and building new infrastructure. Communities can only thrive within a safe and comfortable physical environment. Council should also proceed with rebuilding Bexley Pool.
	I think the more good infrastructure programs aimed at all community sectors are a good asset as it means the whole Rockdale electorate benefits across the board. It's great to see money being spent on Ovals and fields which benefit families and sporting communities.
	We require as a community to undertake these improvements
	RCC area deserves to be updated and checked that everything is at top standard so that everyone can enjoy the RCC area.
	I live and teach in the area and the improvement in toilet blocks and ovals is great for the kids.
	The proposed works benefit every demographic in the community.
	It is good for all the community
	With growing populations and consequent multiculturalism and the additional needs of an ageing community, we need to continue programs which will support and encourage a growing community and encourage participation, communication, networking, etc.

Theme	Comment
	Because we need to keep Rockdale City up to date. Building and keep cleaning making it a better place to live. We need to be at the forefront. Leaving it, the infrastructure assets, etc. better for generations to come.
	Have just moved to Rockdale with two small children and plan on staying for many years. I want my children to grow up in a lovely area where facilities are well loved by the community and looked after by the council. The plans are in place - you just need the \$\$\$\$. Happy to invest in this. Looking forward to the future new pool and library!
	It's great that we are improving our community. However, I would personally have liked the Council to work on the project for Brighton Le Sands Pier. This would significantly benefit the region.
Support Renewing Rockdale Program Of Works	Civil Infrastructure. Community building & Public Amenities. Sports & Recreation. Park Improvements.
	I would really like to see Bexley Oval and park upgraded. I live in the area and would love to have a different surface for the playground. The woodchips can be a bit hazardous.
	I live in the area. We need to cut down on development and keep the open spaces for families, etc.
	The 'Renewing Rockdale' brochure explains a costed plan for civic improvements, which I strongly support-as long as they are of good quality such as the new amenities blocks along the Botany Bay Foreshore.
	Very good improvements but everything does not have to be done at once.
	Yes it must be granted with City's infrastructure
	I think all the ideas put forward in the "Renewing Rockdale" program are fantastic. The rate increase are reasonable also though I would like to see more funding spent on modern arts, architecture and design to solidify over place as a Sydney hub. Most of my friends have no idea where I live when I tell them Banksia.
	To a point with infrastructure its lovely what Rockdale is doing increase on everything. We need more public toilets, footpath maintenance.
	I don't support anything that costs me money but if its going to keep up the good standards maintained I am for it.
	I support most changes that Council has in place.
	Your pamphlet explains it. Pay a smaller amount now or a larger amount later, I prefer a smaller among now.
	It is preferable to do it now as cost will only rise in the future.
	I moved here and love it but the Ramsgate area has become old fashioned and dilapidated around the shopping area making it unappealing to shop.
	Good infrastructure shows as a good place to live with associated benefits-less 'run down' equates to less vandalism as Council is no doubt aware.
	The investment in improving public infrastructure should be encouraged to build civic pride. However, I feel there is still a long way to go to get Rockdale to the same level as Canterbury & Marrickville Councils.
	I do believe in the support of the program but please see my comments below re funding.
	We support your renewing Rockdale program subject to the money raised being used in the projected way and not for any other purpose until the area as a whole is brought up to a state of repair and good condition. No more wasteful and expensive plans for piers into Botany Bay.
	Great to see and hear of improvements. I hope my comments are joining that many saying 'well done, with the renewal of Town Hall' I love the foyer restoration, the update of the toilets, the floor and the date of construction. It is a pleasure to walk

Theme	Comment
	into the building and I do hope many people admire the detail in the foyer. I haven't had a pleasure of being in the hall nor upstairs yet.
	More amenities means a higher standard of living and improved value in residential properties
	The longer to leave the more it will cost
	You do a good job.
	My wife and I fully support the 'Ramsgate Beach Thriving Town Centre' program and any other upgrades to the Botany Bay Foreshore areas.
	It's always good to see the suburb improve and fixed.
	It is an easy decision-we agree to the program and necessary rate variation or accept a continuing deficit of infrastructure renewal.
	Improving infrastructure is important but improving public transport is more important especially in the Kyeemagh area.
	To keep the areas tidy, also create jobs.
	The more money the Council can pour into the area the better, especially the coastal areas like Ramsgate Beach. It's a small contribution from ratepayers that will help our property values and the appeal of our suburbs increase.
	I approve of Council funding for public amenities which all of the community would possibly use at sometime and even an access ramp for a kindergarten.
	Yes-playground upgrades, refurbish existing lighting upgrades, new drainage, new amenities, R&R kerbs etc.
	Improvement to any facilities, parks will not only be aesthetically pleasing, it will also add value to residential properties.
	I support the program. RCC need to maintain infrastructure on a continual system.
	I agree with your plans to improve the City's infrastructure.
	I congratulate Council on the work completed and proposed.
	I am also keen to see Scarborough Park maintained in good order.

Other Funding Ideas

Theme	Comment
Better Financial Management	Stop wasting money on push bike lanes. Council Annual Report 2012-13: Rockdale Opera Company grants \$25,000 & Rockdale Musical Society Grant \$20,000 - Really... Council Food & Beverage Expense \$213,000 what are 'External Hire Charges' \$224,000
	The City of Rockdale covers a very large area and has many homes, units, villas & Town Houses and they all pay rates. I find it hard to believe that you need to raise the rates every year in my opinion that Rockdale Council should have a lot of money its not like you are spending a lot of money in fixing roads, footpaths when it rains and a lot of the streets flood. You never clean the drains, I could go on and on.
	The Council will be collecting more revenue from all the new high rise developments - this can cover the cost. The council should better manage the rate payers money and not splurge.
	Cut other wasteful spending.
	Prioritise what needs to be done. Complete projects or programs only when Council can afford them.
	Stop spending and keep rates low.

Theme	Comment
	Only use fund available.
	Try to do more with less - manage our budget better. Perhaps get rid of some of the managers who do little and delegate to the "Foot Soldiers" our rates are high enough.
	We already pay enough rates. Council should have enough money to fund those projects.
	Use excess funds left from current taxes. If you cannot afford to do a project wait until you have the money.
	Because we pay enough as it is Council should have more than enough necessary funds to cover proposed program.
	Use existing money.
	Manage your funds better.
	Better management. Run it like private enterprise does.
	Take some money out of your reserves.
	Council should have enough money from all the new apartments in Arncliffe and Wolli Creek.
	Learn to budgets your money correctly.
	Do not fund any more projects. Live within your limited income. Every company is cutting staff and costs.
	With the amount of high density living in the Rockdale Municipality I find it difficult to understand how such rates from the overall properties are not funding these projects as well as all the other and on fees, DAs, etc.
	Rates too high now. Use our money more efficiently as though it were your own.
	I think Council should pay for any improvement themselves without the rate rise.
	Use the rate money we pay.
	The Council should cut spending and live within its means as we the ratepayers have to do.
	I would prefer Council to complete the items as funds become available.
	Rates should not increase at all. Use the money you have more wisely.
	Manage Council's finances smartly, expertly and without wastage.
	This will be 24% in total. Live within the budget! Sans Souci is an expensive area, so are the rates. Clean up Rockdale and help establish civic pride by setting an example. Dumped rubbish - labels attached stating illegality - not removed. As a resident my costs are increasing above low interest rates so I balance my budget not to incur debts.
	Like any person that cannot afford what he/she wants I suggest Council live within its means. If that means we wait for facility renewal/replacement until we can afford it, then so be it.
	Better manage funds so that they go further.
	King St Mall was renewed a couple of years ago!! I should not have to tell you, your job. I am not a councillor or an engineer. I pay enough in council rates now! Live in a unit and we can't even get the garbos to empty all the bins that we pay money for! too much high rise and over development and stop wasting money and increasing my rates. Pay for it out of the slush fund!!!
	There should budget on road, parks, maintenance on everything for one year.
	Ratepayers are your employers and we are sick and tired of Council wasting our money e.g. crazy amounts spent on project management fee and going on junkets. Council is getting millions extra rates when previously a few homes were and now there are multi storey complexes.
	Council needs to live within its means like anyone else. I'd like a new kitchen, but I

Theme	Comment
	can't ask my boss for a raise to pay for it. I have to save and manage my budget.
	I do not believe that the proposed 'Renewing Rockdale' cannot be funded adequately by current rates funding.
	Fund Council activities out of Government approval rates - eliminate waste, combine Councils - remove political problems.
	Budget better by spreading funding evenly (not 16M on a library and not \$300,000 on a toilet).
	Within current budget or user pays.
	Proper budgeting and cost control.
	Council live within your means.
	The extra money raised from the numerous new apartments throughout Rockdale should easily be able to fund this as well.
	Because we pay enough already, why don't you take 6% out of your pay for the next 4 years. How much did it cost the rate payers to paint 12 windows in the Town Hall - waste.
	Budget your income more professionally.
	Canada Bay Council actually reduced Council rates. With increased population and business activities, Rockdale Council should be in a good position to maintain Council assets.
	None of your proposed works benefit me in any way. Take a leave out to Botany Council. Council workers there a visibly performing works that benefit all residents. They even mow the footpath lawns. You don't spend our money wisely.
	I am a pensioner and I believe that current rates are not being utilised correctly
	Unless you can do it within budget.
	Where did all the money disappear to? Developers are supposed to pay 10% every time they build new apartment block. Where does this money go?
	I like to know what Rockdale Council do with their money they collect at the moment. They should have plenty to spend on their projects.
	We all need to live within our means if you are not capable then resign so we can get people who can budget responsibility.
	I pay rates for Council to manage this and I am not prepared to pay an increase in my rates to support the lack of management by RCC.
	After accepting the rate rise last year, it was a big surprise to get asked for more money again so soon. Particularly, looking at the condition of local infrastructure such as Forest Rd near the Princes Hwy (terrible section of road) new Town Hall and accommodation of Council staff by contrast ... where do rates go?
	As a retiree I live on what I have. An ever diminishing sum. This means living within my means. Suggest Council attempt to do the same. Abandoning monthly picture galleries showing Councillors could be a start. What waste?
	Rates are high enough. Better fiscal management would enable public works to be completed as required. Less corruption would be nice too!!!
	Rates are too high now. Income from rates should be sufficient to maintain assets. Income from Government grants, interest on investments, developer contributions and fees and charges should be used for new programs. It's all about better management.
	I live in Arncliffe. The amount of new apartments that have been built in Arncliffe and Wolli Creek in the last decade would generate so much income for RCC. I estimate that it would be a few thousand new residences each paying land rates. What has RCC done with that money?
	There has been an SRV in place for the last few years. And now Council wants double

Theme	Comment
	(triple IPART rate for 4 years? A 24% rate increase in 4 years is not on. If no asset maintenance is possible (fm 'normal' rates, what is Council spending them on??)
	Rockdale rates are high already and if money had been invested correctly there would be enough money already to do the work.
	Rockdale Council cannot manage money and are out of touch with residents
	Council amenities/facilities need to be maintained but within Council's means.
	Don't do it if you don't have budget.
	Council continually uses ratepayer's money inappropriately wastefully.
	Rockdale Council economic performance has been poor. Stop asking for more money to cover for your failure to manage the money you have been given in an efficient way. Ratepayers should not have to pay for your incompetence.
	With all the new rates coming in from the new high-rise along Rocky Point Road why can't Council fund the new projects? Could the Council spending its money more efficiently in order to pay for the rates.
	Our rate is too high already Council should try to be more efficient and find ways to save.
	Rockdale Council is one of the worst 'money grabbing' entities in local Government sufficient funds should already exist for the over period proposal.
	Council should have more funds for this work whereas in the past one block of land generated one lot of rates - now one block generates multiple rates with high rise dwellings, etc. revenue from infringement notices - no parking zones, etc. have increased.
	Infrastructure should be in line for residents benefit and not wasted on excessive projects. Council needs to be more cautious how ratepayer's money is spent.
	Council should be able to balance their money, we do.
	Has Council heard of 'Running, Repairs & Maintenance?' Those of us who have paid 'rates' for 40 years and more are not even receiving the Council care of yesteryear and the majority of us do not live along Botany Bay. Slowly - when funds are available! Learn to live within your budget!
	Many reasons - but mainly council need to manage money better for the appropriate projects. Soccer fields that have been moved from Arncliffe to Scarborough Park!!!
	Rates are high enough. Learn to manage our funds more effectively.
	If you haven't got the money to spend then neither do we. If your pocket is empty what makes you think ours isn't so? Please do not top up your bank balance by raiding our wallets.
	If the council doesn't have financial skills to manage this then maybe they should find someone who can.
	Do the most important projects first and the rest as you can afford it. Stop the waste of funds and economise like the rest of us have to do.
	Pretend it is your private business and be careful with our money. It seems that no matter what residents say Council does at it pleases and has planned. Politics is the name of the game. Residents are not all informed as to what is occurring until it is too late. Residents are so busy these days they can't be chasing up Council decisions they need to receive ongoing reports. The residents pay your wages. None of my friends or relatives in San Souci received this survey. Ratepayers are paying for beautification and cleanup for visitors from out of the areas.
	Don't support as the Council should be spending the money that they already collect from the rate payers wisely. The council should manage the money better and not increase the rates. It's absurd. My income does not increase by 6%.
	As most households and businesses stay within their means and budgets, I can't see

Theme	Comment
	why Rockdale Council can't do the same. We do not have a Money Printer to use as we please, therefore YOU the Council should do the same and budget your affairs.
	I have to budget. I prioritise what needs doing and when I can afford it then I do it. Council should do the same. The residents of Rockdale already pay a lot in rates.
	Rates and developer fees plus business money would be adequate to improve infrastructure.
	Council's need to learn to keep within a budget.
	I work for State Government we have to stay within budget and do work from it why can't you.
Introduce User Pays	As stated above put parking meters on General Homes Drive, Lady Robinson & Peter Depena. This would contribute funds and people who use these parks, playgrounds and amenities can actually make a contribution to the Rockdale Community. Although, I believe rate payers should have a free parking sticker so they are able to park for free and use the amenities they contribute to in their rates.
	User pays. We do not use a vast majority of what the program will cover.
	Install parking meters for visitors along the whole foreshore, as our beaches and parks are mostly used by people visiting from inner suburbs, and they leave a lot of cleaning up after a weekend. It is disgusting. Rate payers should have a free parking permit like so many other Councils are doing.
	User pays
	The system should be "user pays". I do NOT use the majority of what the Program will cover.
	Generally speaking I agree with the works proposed but I oppose any increase in Council rates until the Council imposes a parking fee on non ratepayers who use our parks of a weekend and who park free of charge. Why should I as a ratepayer incur additional charges for these non ratepayers to freely use the facilities which we have paid for?
	All the works suggested for the beach, park and toilet amenities should be funded by metered parking along Cook Park. These areas are neglected and misused by visitors throughout summer and not by the residents. Council workers are continually clearing rubbish left by visitors this is costing Council money which could be used elsewhere.
	Paid parking in beachfront parking areas for non ratepayers. These areas are used by people from areas outside the Rockdale Municipality who park for long periods for free and in most cases arrive at dawn and leave at dusk leaving their mess. The rate payers hence have to foot the bill for the cleanup.
	I do not use any of the facilities like most probably 80% of the other residents in RCC area so why should I pay an increase in rates and receive absolutely no benefit from that increase.
	There needs to be some way of getting those people living outside of Rockdale who continuously utilise the services. We, as rate payers, are providing e.g. pay for parking (resident exempted).
	Loaded more to those who would mostly benefit e.g. foreshore renewal should be levied by mostly rate payers on adjacent properties.
	Perhaps set the bar a little lower. I think too many upgrades are proposed and it is unreasonable to expect all residents to support these especially those who the upgrades will not benefit.
	Suggest user pay principle be applied. I use none of the so called improvements and have paid Council rates to cover past improvements for the past 50 years, bollards to prevent illegal parking? Have some sense!

Theme	Comment
	By installing parking meters with an exemption for ratepayers/residents that reside in the location. Visitors from other municipalities enjoy our parks and beaches and leave a mess and park illegally - make them pay other beachside, Council do it.
	Make people visit Rockdale pay for parking in parks and beaches.
	Sponsorship. User pays.
	Parking revenue on beaches (car parking) and time parking around Coles centre.
	Maybe Council should consider other means of funding - paid beach parking for e.g. as implemented in most Sydney beaches charged only to non resident visiting the area.
	Install parking meters for non residents particularly along the foreshore at Brighton, Dolls Pt, Sans Souci, etc. rangers to patrol beaches on weekends to fine people for illegal parking, rubbish dumping, illegal BBQs etc.
	Sharing the expense with those who use the facilities that are non residents. For instance, paid parking in beach/sporting areas for non residents. Non rate payers who use facilities would also contribute to the upkeep. Other Council charge parking of non residents.
	Why don't you charge for parking at the beaches so the people that are not residents and spend the weekend trashing the place, can pay for the amenities since the residents can't enjoy due to the huge amounts of westies that come in each weekend.
	Rockdale Council needs to be more creative in running funds so that outsiders and users contribute more for the amenities they use e.g. beachside car parks and facilities. User charges and fees relative to rates are 'hugely low' I would like to see user charges to be say 35%
	Parking especially to Beachside localities, the visitors are the ones who most use the facilities. They should pay say \$4/hr, do not force this cost to ratepayers.
	I believe that you can generate enough money to support future projects by charging people parking on our beaches.
	For some of these programs of work, funding could be raised through the social interest groups and sporting groups who use these amenities. Additionally, for events such as the local NYE fireworks a user pay approach could also be adopted to help fund other amenities and works in the area.
	It seems to me that some of this work is needed because people from outside the area who don't pay rates, deface, damage and leave their trash in public facilities. User pays? Or at least have rangers in pairs for safety - five offenders.
	User Pays, including the thousands of people who use the area every weekend and holidays but contribute nothing locally. Yet take advantage often at the expense of residents.
	I don't believe a lot of it needs doing. Secure donations from people who really meant to see these changes.
	Make those user pay.
	Old places - ex 'old St David's Church' is it worth paying good money in trying to repair it. Opera at Council if still going should pay for itself.
	Getting community to contribute user pays. Foreshore renewal should be paid for by the residents directly affected (1.5M!!!)
	Introduce parking metres at Brighton/Monterey/Ramsgate/Sans Souci for non rate payers to help pay for the daily cleaning by Council. User pays for non rate payers, many other cost savings could be made.
	Bexley Oval should be with spectator payment not with rates.
	A waiting list and maybe the community groups maybe using the facilities partly contributing to the cost of the upgrades.
	The cricket/football clubs plus the other hires have to pay top dollar to hire oval (user

Theme	Comment
	pays).
	Charge parking fees in Cook Park. Charge higher rates to Kingsford Smith Airport.
	To cut the waste is the first step. No more junkets for 'study leave'. Increase fines for wrong doers e.g. taking up footpath with tables and chairs and for produce without a Permit (e.g. Waltz St Rockdale) upgrading amenities not in general public interest, only selected members of communities, increase fee for hiring etc. sporting fields
	Charge non residents for foreshore parking, cut down on wasteful gardening as on corner Chuter and Alice. Most of the 7 1/2m for public amenities will be mainly of advantage to weekend drop ins.
	User pays. A lot of people using these facilities are not RCC residents. Find some way of charging for use of these facilities e.g. beaches and parks.
	Council should introduce a co-payment program where users of amenities share the costs by way of metered parking along foreshore and parking facilities.
	To start a program of recuperation from those who visit the area especially Cook Park & Peter Depena Reserve such as timed parking fees (voucher).
	Council should address renewal/works with safety and public need as priority, and have local sports groups/clubs fundraise to support their own facilities.
	Start charging people that use the Council amenities that don't live in the area.
	The Council should do what a lot of other Councils have done e.g. Waverly fit parking meters along the beach front.
	Start generating income from those who use our facilities the most (not all local to RCC) i.e. parking fees.
	Think it should be funded by the area's seeking the upgrade.
	Put parking meter at Cook Park and Lady Robinson Beach.
	Introduce a paid parking system along Botany Bay Foreshores - for non Rockdale Council ratepayers.
	Timed parking at the beach areas.
	Also, charging parking fees at the beach to pay for the upkeep of the regularly cleaned Council beaches and already upgraded facilities.
	Consider paid parking in Cook Park.
	Alternatively, introduce increase as 'user pays' scheme for sporting fields, etc.
	Charge non ratepayers for parking along Botany Bay.
	Place parking meters at beachside similar to Cronulla.
	Other than for safety or security needs, all City infrastructure improvements should be funded on a 'user pays' basis. Many non-Rockdale residents use (and abuse) our resources and assets. Council needs to find ways to charge non-residents for using our facilities and resources.
	A lot of the public amenities and park improvements etc are used by people who are not rate paying residents who come from outer suburbs and do not contribute to the local community. Perhaps, putting in parking meters on Lady Robinson Beach & Peter Depena Reserve could fund some or fines for littering at these places could fund these projects which are being used by non rate payers.
	To get things done. Also introduce paid parking at Bay beaches to help pay for cleaning and maintaining facilities, one free parking sticker per household, why should ratepayers subsidise all users.
	There are many facilities which we do not use. We use other Council facilities.
	A lot of the projects are for amenities that people use outside our area. Why not introduce parking fees to help cover costs by outsiders. I shouldn't have to foot the entire bill.
	The Renewing of City assets should be completed on a priority basis as well as user

Theme	Comment
	pays arrangements within suburbs/areas. Why should people subsidise works in other areas that does not affect them directly?
	We have so many people from outside our Council boundaries who use our parks, playgrounds and other amenities. Why should we pay a SRV, rates are expensive enough.
	This area will be the new Bondi - in the south and as people start moving into development as Bayview and old caravan park it will become very upmarket. Please bring in metered parking metres to stop people (not rate payers) using area all day long and leaving terrible mess (no respect, etc) to clean. Organise rangers weekend to fine people that leave mess behind.
	Parking meters along the beachfront
	Believe in user pay system. Parks used by sporting should pay to upgrade maintain, etc.
	No direct benefit. User pays
	Council should use more User Pay
	The number of people who use these places is a very small percentage of the residents. Charge \$5 or \$10 to use the parks.
	Facilities should be maintained. However, many people who use these facilities should also contribute; the amounts do not need to be massive but could be another source of income.
	I only support in my area which is Rockdale/BLS as the other areas are irrelevant to me as I don't go to the other areas.
	I just don't want to pay for the ones who enjoy our parks and beaches from all suburbs as far as Liverpool. Just visit Brighton Beach and Taren Point to see what I mean.
	My family and I will receive zero benefits from the expenditure. Most benefit will go to visitors.
	The work should be done, but Council needs to consider seeking additional funding such as the imposition of parking fees in the foreshore areas. The facilities proposed are most often used by non residents & they should contribute to the renewal & ongoing maintenance.
	RCC needs to rein in its excessive spending on such projects as the toilet upgrades or start charging for their use e.g. car parking. You are providing wonderful amenities but not charging for them and taking the lazy option of whacking rate holders only 6% compounding is a lot more than a flat 6% which would be fairer on base.
	Maybe a new fee for all the café on the streets and shop with all user pay fee.
	Our rates allow for the maintenance and improvements along the foreshore from Kyeemagh to Sans Souci-facilities enjoyed by wind surfers, kite flyers, jet skiers and people from other Councils who do not contribute one cent to the upkeep.
	Charge non residents to use beach areas. Cut out programs for pensioners/seniors. Increase costs for use of Council amenities.
	Some recreation projects might be funded in even a small way by clubs using the parks.
Increase Revenue With Fines And Taxes	Police those take dogs at the beach every day, booking them and rubbish our Cook Park and illegal parking along the Robinson beach.
	Increase Council income by enforcing the laws we already have re littering, parking, etc. fine people who continuously disregard the law and make rate paying resident lives difficult, then I would reconsider a rate increase. Although you may not be on a pension and are proud to support yourself, your rate increases are making life very difficult.

Theme	Comment
	There is no need to hit the ratepayers. Just put meters to park along the shore (which is in operation in every other suburb) then you will have enough funds to take care of all Rockdale program works.
	If the Council issued to all the illegal parking in Waltz St every day i.e. double parking, parking over crosswalk, no standing, etc. the revenue raised would be substantial to carry out works, not rates.
	Through fining the Tossers in the picnic areas and also through parking infringements (locals don't trash their own area) it's the outsiders.
	I would like to see Council use other forms of revenue e.g. rangers actually patrolling the beaches re littering and dogs on beaches. There are constantly people taking their dogs to the beach without leashes and they get away with it because there is never a ranger. If you are going to have rules you need to monitor them. Not just have pointless signs.
	Patrol beaches during weekends and issue fines for dumping rubbish, illegal parking, etc.
	Fine people as mentioned above until they learn respect all for the community. Then we won't need to increase rates as much.
	Issue fines and more fines for those littering. How many fines issued??? If I hand a fine book and authority I could fund half these improvements in a week. Arncliffe Park - a mess - beach side reserves - a mess. Require non residents pay for beachside parking as occurs in north shore. Have we looked into this?? It's most viable. 2 passes with rates paid...easy.
	No rangers - pollution from Westies - no bins or control over weekends.
	Increase penalties for illegal dumping.
	The greater issues of RCC is the lack of focus on illegal rubbish dumping and litter particularly Watkins St, Harrow Rd. It is embarrassing.
	Start fining people who dump rubbish in our streets.
	Charge parking fees along Botany Bay.
	Revenue generation should be based on a broader range of sources. Handing out fines to people littering.
	Increase fines for littering. Rate payers should not have to carry burden of funding Councils, Councils with careful planning should fund these projects, cut waste.
	Litter along beach front is not acceptable. Fines should apply. Money raised would assist Council with costs.
	More consistent and stricter fining of non compliance such as littering, dogs on beaches, etc.(inc parking) zero tolerance based on fines and charges so that it is not all based on residents paying for everything.
	People use the beach front from Ramsgate to Dolls Point every weekend, the beaches are left with those rubbish, they don't clean up their own rubbish and people that are residents are left to pick up or Council. It is disgusting maybe the beaches should be patrolled.
	It's the visitors to the area that use a lot of these amenities and then drive off leaving the parks looking like rubbish dumps. Instead of slugging ratepayers collect some revenue from the visitors as other Councils do.
	Infringement notices and fines for many that illegally park at Brighton Beach and surrounds and those who leave all their rubbish on our beaches. Employ some rangers to patrol.
	Fine people for littering.
	Put a tax rate upon the many developers building. Multi residential units in the Rockdale LGA. Not penalising existing rate payers. Start handing out fines to people

Theme	Comment
	who discard rubbish along the Cook Park Foreshores.
	I would like to see a 10 cents litter tax on all take away food sold in the area to help offset the cost of cleaning up the beachfront. More Council rangers fining people for littering. A phone number to dub in people who litter and fine them.
	Have parking restrictions adhered to for safety reasons especially in Walters St & Wollongong Rd Arncliffe that would fund quite a lot of money and keep the residents (pedestrian especially) safe.
	If Council needs extra cash then they should look at ways of generating income outside of rate payers e.g. fining people who litter the beach.
	Increase fines through coin operated BBQ spots, increase fee parking areas.
	All others (e.g. Sports & Recreation; Playground & Parks; etc) should be funded on a 'user pays' basis, through park-use fees, parking fees, etc.
	If I am going to pay levy next 4-5years, and have people coming from other areas to trash our parks leaving rubbish & baby nappies, why can't the Council fine these people and also through parking fines, use the money for these people to make the areas better and not put more burden on rate payers, therefore I am against the extra rates.
	If you actually fined people for infringing current regulations e.g. parking illegally in the Grand Parade, dogs on the beach and dogs off the lead, charcoal fires, littering, install parking meters, enforce one way systems.
	I think that Council does not fine people for hanging clothes lines on balconies of units, bedding hung over balcony rails, parking on footpaths. If these aren't in Council by-laws they should be, what good is it to improve infrastructure if people don't respect where they live.
	Put a tax upon the developers-building the many residential units in the Council area to pay for that RRP.
	Council can still not police clearways. See Forest Rd Bexley Harrow Rd to Queen Victoria 1500-1900hrs. Stoney Creek Rd Forest to Henderson.
	A lot of money is used to clean up "dumping" by dodgy builders and tree loppers. Set up cameras at these points and fine them. The cost of cameras will save money, alternatively, decrease cost of dumping rubbish illegally-it must be too high.
	More patrol and fines are necessary.
	Why not introduce a small fee for car park at beach like Bondi Beach for more revenue. Keep up the good work.
Back To Local Government Basics	The Council states over 60% of the population are either couples with children or single parent families. Many of the younger people have to use the round way to push their strollers etc. aged people need good walking conditions. So why not complete the footpath requirements before doing all these cosmetic projects. Use the money for the basics.
	I would support increase rates for improvements to basic services only.
	I will not support increase when Council controls the illegal rubbish dumping on the beaches of Monterey and Ramsgate Baths i.e. nappies, food scraps, plastic, open fire BBQ's, illegal parking.
	Furthermore, Council wasted money on CALD community forum and then ignored its recommendations. Therefore, I feel a rate increase entirely unjustified. As an elderly resident, who has paid rates for more than 30 years, I prefer my money was spent on practical things i.e. a footpath.
	Would love to see the bottle brush trees removed along our streets & replaced with a tree that will make our wide streets beautiful and shandy.

Theme	Comment
	Only essential maintenance such as road side needed. Library services could be reduced to 3 days a week.
	Maintenance of footpath.
	Fix up footpaths and nature strips with grass and not weeds especially around Bexley. Provide mowing services on nature strips for elderly again.
	Fix up footpaths and nature strips with grass and not weeds especially around Bexley. Provide mowing services on nature strips for elderly again.
	I think it will be nice if you could look after the streets more often as we live close by the Carlton public school. We think you spend monies on things which are not necessary. Trees need to be trimmed regularly, footpath fill up with cement.
	Council should live within its means and not undertake extravagant work unnecessarily. The new toilets constructed at great expense already require maintenance due to 'peeling' on the fancy wooden beams. Bad choice. We need drains cleaned, footpaths and Council intervention on some nature strips outside home in Sans Souci.
	Please keep our streets clean. Clear the rubbish that is constantly dumped outside units and on the corner of Queen Victoria and Warialda Street. Our streets are a disgrace!
	Stop all works that are not essential. Stop all services that are not used by the majority of the residents.
	What about the trees on streets in San Souci - never trimmed or attended to. Hand for elderly owners like myself to cope with clearing up leaves and branches after winds, etc. even garage trucks break off branches trying to empty bins.
	Better street gardens rather than weeds and cleaner streets to increase property values. NOT endless sports facility upgrades. I don't wish to live in a filthy drive but have a nice "Footy Oval".
	Council should stick to absolute necessities, not luxuries.
	Cut back the fluff and prioritise.
	Get the gutters and nature strips cleaned at least every monthly. If it can be done by machine get men to do it that don't enter streets.
	Better street gardens rather than weeds and cleaner streets to increase property values. NOT endless sports facility upgrades. I don't wish to live in a filthy dive but have a nice "Footy Oval".
	Council should stick to absolute necessities, not luxuries.
	Cut back the fluff and prioritise.
	Get the gutters and nature strips cleaned at least every monthly. If it can be done by machine get men to do it that don't enter streets.
	Rockdale falls short with garbage collection.
	How can the Council justify "Renewing Rockdale" when it hasn't completed basic services in the first place. It appears the old saying is correct "got the cart before the horse". There are areas where there is no proper footpath. Why aren't these being done before all the cosmetic projects proposed?
	Stop the illegal dumping of rubbish on Chuter Ave. between Ramsgate Rd & Sandringham St. Clean the streets in the same area i.e. broken glass and rubbish in gutters.
	Stop wasting money on unnecessary infrastructure, e.g. rebuilding toilet facilities. Repair but stop being extravagant. Spend money on road repairs and parks. Toilet facilities have lasted hundreds of years.
	Council's priorities are all wrong. Surely matters of public safety are more important than spending \$1,600,000 on the administration building, etc. I wrote to Council,

Theme	Comment
	regarding the danger of people having to walk on the road at Lorraine Ave and 8 months later I received a reply form the Mayor's office stating that a footpath may be constructed within the next 3 years. It's laughable!
	You should be concentrating on upkeep of roads, footpath and general upkeep of infrastructure. There have been accidents where individuals have been injured because of the lack of good upkeep.
	It seems most money is being spent on Parks and Reserves. As this may seem as a good thing more money should be considered for footpaths, roadways, etc.
	So much has been spent on cycle ways resulting in local residents unable to walk freely around the bay. Look after local footpaths and basic needs of the community first.
	Get your street workers to work and you'll save heaps. I dread to think what a new footpath costs per square, any new houses should have a footpath outside a newly built home, regardless of what footpath is in the street. Stop taking the money and spending it elsewhere.
	I think council should be going back to providing the basic services before it spends money on warm and fuzzy feel good projects. Council should be concentrating on pedestrian access ,safe roads, rubbish control amongst other things
	Why go for expensive flashing options? We already pay enough rates. Fix the potholes that have remained for months with no action (eg. Sybil Lane, Brighton)
	I'm knee high in street rubbish most weeks, little or no effort to police it. Council has forgotten the basics which should come first.
Reduce Administrations Cost	Councillors to take a pay cut & stop bonuses.
	Stop the corruption, poor management and nepotism.
	Council should cut costs, freeze wages, reduce other areas of cost continually to cost any budget increases.
	No Council funded overseas trips. Less spent on Council salaries "entertainment" etc.
	Also no more NYE fireworks, Christmas carols and lighting of the Christmas tree and any other activity that is non-essential.
	No more pay rises for the employees of the Council.
	Forget the program of works - start with reviewing the work done by Councillors, management and staff and make savings there. I am sure there is plenty of waste.
	Get competent management not little empire builders.
	Reduce costs in Council such as travel.
	Cut back on administration costs.
	Council can 'understand' similar Councils overseas by use of computers - not overseas travel - no need for o/seas travel for any Council member - save our funds. Remember Council elections are not far off. We will remember, photocopy kept as a future reference.
	Reduce existing staff levels. Look at outsourcing all outdoor maintenance and construction services.
	Review how Council spends/waste money on unnecessary project. Review Council's administration processes, staff and policies and stream line - assess cost benefit. Stop corruption and terminate those from Council that waste funds and resources.
	Fund - money coming in building works (too much)? Current Rates Ok. Freeze your pay increases/cut perks. Manage/supervise your works efficiently.
	By reducing your cost and administration. Work on the important project first. Councillors freeze your wages for 1 or 2 years.
	Cut back on Councillor spending - they don't need new Council cars, phones or business trips.

Theme	Comment
	Do not increase any salaries of any employees.
	The Government is talking about work for the dole, how about trying this. Cut Councillor's allowance.
	Making savings in other areas (cut Councillor allowances to start).
	Reduce Council staff.
	No overseas trips by Councillors
	No Councillors travelling for sister cities trips.
	If rate payers are asked to pay more, will the Councillors, staff and mayor wheel in their expenses/travelling allowances/entertaining allowance and other fringe benefits.
	Because Council's non essential staff levels are much too high. Save money first before thinking about increasing rates.
	Funds for renewal of Council rates should be set aside over pervious years as the value of the assets is down. However, Council have acted negligently by excess generosity to the Council visitors, Council officers and Councillors in allowing too high pay rise and perks, wasting the money of residents.
	Cut cost to fund
	Too much waste by Councillors
	Inflation is lower, our wages are lower, your wages are always increasing, why? Too many buildings especially high rise, where is all this money going? Infrastructure can never be complete for you are making it impossible. Need new caring management.
	Each year rates go up so does the staff level taking most of money raised.
	Cut down payment to Councillors including the Mayor's allowance, it never used to be this amount. If any and I used to look at Rockdale area with pride, money should be spent in the right direction e.g. Arncliffe Park - keeps getting vandalised and you keep spending our money to fix it. Must admit it looks lovely now.
	Cut salary of public workers to save money.
Productivity/Efficiency Improvements	Do what we do in small business and look very closely at our expenses and motivate staff to work at a very high productive level.
	Find more cost effective ways to rejuvenate the spaces. Re-prioritise. Why can't you only find a way to save \$250,000 (with only 0.5% savings)? Are there no other ways to increase productivity?
	Use out of work people who are on the dole. Run raffles to raise money in the shopping centres and streets. Put on theatre shows. Give people value for their money, in the way of entertainment.
	By becoming more efficient.
	Ask for volunteers, donations.
	The Council will be collecting more revenue from all the new high rise developments - this can cover the cost. The council should better manage the rate payers money and not splurge.
	Given Rockdale council is labelled the "Stingiest Council" at service provision (Highest Rates- Stingiest Council - SMH) Council should consider operating effectively to minimise public money wastage before it considers a SRV
	Fund what you need to by cutting your Rockdale council expenses. Exactly what is done in the state public service.
	Cut down overspending and expenses. Build long lasting basic structures (not high-tech toilets which can be broken down and have to wait a long time to repair).
	This is the job of the City Councillors.
	Streamlining the Council at all wastage costs.
	With our present rates how it has been doing in the past.

Theme	Comment
	Strong opposes SRV as I stated survey. The Wolli Creek new ratepayers have topped up Council's coffers. I don't mind Council cutting back on some of the festivals. Art by the sea, special ethnic pays if Council funds are low don't have them.
	No rate increases! You will have to think of how to fund programs.
	Control expenditure on unnecessary items: flags, planting of non native plants, etc. spend what the increases in the IPART allow.
	Stop wasting money on quarterly clean up days. They cost too much. Just have 6 month clean up days instead.
	Be more prudent with public spending e.g. street sweeping at 6am when cars are parked on streets is a waste of Council money.
	Stop wasting Council money on dreams! Like the planning a few years ago. How much did that Destinations cost and nothing was achieved.
	Employ new graduate architect or Town Planner. Job based lower wages. Fresh ideas and innovative. Help them to gain practical experience. Locals only.
	Forego public entertainment like NYE fireworks, crackers last 10mins. Assets are forever. Slug developers who provide less than one parking space per bedroom.
	Priority to Council owned land and buildings for funding and lease privately owned properties to privately fund by people who use them. Donations to a building project would probably be tax deductible anyway.
	Run a more efficient Council
	The presentation of available choices is misleading. Large efficiencies should be found in the ongoing operations of Council in order to fund the bulk of projects. Take a year to trim down to a lean size and increase productivity and use these savings to fund the bulk of valuable community initiating....large contributions must come from Council not just rate payers.
	No value for money and always seems overtop for spending. Councillors need to stop giving themselves pay rises - it's a joke! But I am not laughing.
	If there isn't about money management in the RCC the extra money the RCC gets from all the construction in the area and the greater number of land rates. The Council could do all the above and more without any increase. Of course that can only happen if we had good people in the RCC that payed a good price for good work and don't take kick back.
	RCC should get their act together and fund programs that are essential. Rate payers pay more than enough for the Council to meet essential programs. If they can't fund these programs then stop the fireworks on Brighton Beach on NYE also the Christmas Carols, the lighting on the Xmas tree. Get your priorities right. RCC stop wasting the rate payer's money and get rid of your coloured brochures.
	Stop the covert corruption, deals with property developers and Councillors having interests in property. Sell costly and wasteful property such as the libraries, swimming pool, reduce staff who are unhelpful and unproductive especially management.
	Cut assistance to religious link program for no speaking English group.
	Less money spent on Council workers as a Walker everyday I see how productivity to the older and unfit Council workers on the beach walk.
	Do your work more efficiently. How many Council worker needs to watch a small pot hole being fixed, cut your staff numbers and stop wasting people's money. Clean street not just around Council buildings.
	By saving money through operating more efficiently. Stop wasting money. Live within your means. Stop coming back to us for more money.
	Hand over something to private enterprise i.e. swimming pools use proceeds to pay off debt.

Theme	Comment
	Try reducing overheads with better supervision/management e.g. park workers who sit in their tractors, on their mobiles, reading newspapers, for hours longer than allocated.
	No more money for non Australian programs only NY and Xmas only and Aust Day.
	Better choices in rewarding contracts would no doubt save money and enable all programs to be carried out.
	Tighter controls on expenditure and to spend only on key items rather than unnecessary outdated grandiose plans like Rockdale library. Should save money from unnecessary costs such as signs and information in foreign languages.
	Try to find savings in your daily operation and cut waste. Try to increase your own productivity and efficiency in delivery services.
	Make more efficient use of the funds already generated (the cost of the new public toilets along Cook Park is obscene!). Employ better informed investment strategies- these proposals suggest taxpayers make up for the losses incurred through poor financial management on the part of Council in the past.
	Improve efficiency.
	Cut down your wastage and red tape.
	In a climate where everybody needs to be more productive for the same cost. The Council needs to sharpen its pencil as to costs for structure programs. I think that pages 4 and 5 wish lists, the Council will just need to prioritize.
	Last foreshore remediation lasted less than 3 months. Design and employ people who know what to do. Refer to my answers to Question 1.
	The proposed Renewing program of works is unnecessary. Countless dollars have been wasted by Council, by replacing infrastructure instead of doing preventive maintenance.
	Stop wasting money. Better efficiency.
	Fund raising for regular users of specific areas for improvement. Select 5-10 works to focus on.
	Rates from increasing population from all the high rise which is growing. Developers are having a field day. Rockdale Council is so wasteful - you can fund these projects by stopping the excessive spending and you will have the money for these projects. Stop producing glossy magazines with Mayor's photo plastered all over it. It goes straight into the BIN!
	Work with present IPART do away with expensive consultants, etc. more attention to litter on beachfront, signage, bins and extra staff. Do away with consultants - everything they have done have been flops at ratepayers expense.
	Should be reviewed yearly not locked into as proposed. Reduce work load and external deadline for work. What was done previously to improve the area not much if all of a sudden we need all this improvement now!
	Maybe if you got rid of some of the lazy slackers that work for the Council. When Moate Ave Brighton was resurfaced, I counted six men just watching while the few others worked, any time I have seen Council work being done there is always some standing around doing nothing.
	We need more community committees to oversee Council activities. Be more financially astute and don't waste our money on consultants, overpriced toilet blocks to win awards, do an audit of all staff and ascertain that they work the hours they are paid.
	Stop wasting our money on fireworks etc and silly events and on councillors who don't do much.
	No matter how much money we 'let' you have you'll blow out the budget. It always

Theme	Comment
	happens to governments and everyone else. You will always want more and you will never do all you plan to do. Take less and do what you can.
	Prioritise and renew those assets which are urgent. Sell old assets.
	Look at any reserves, investments you have. Seek out waste - you'll find some.
	Increase resource efficiency across all facilities and operation and use savings to fund program. Better financial management ask residents what buildings of the one's Council have nominated are most important (rather than Council decide) and stage program based on priorities. Seek external funding e.g. Heritage grants and Environment Trust grants.
	Use vacant or under utilised areas for housing unit. This will bring in more rates. Areas such as Rockdale Tennis Centre could be sold to developers and good quality apartment blocks built there. Similarly, utilise any other vacant or Council owned land.
	Again, instead of causing such a financial problem why doesn't Council look at improving efficiencies and reducing cost so that in a phased approach they can bring to do the projects mentioned on pages 4-5.
	I would like Council to review current expenditure to make savings on items such as - office refurbishments, car and taxi use, entertainment allowances, travel expenses, catering, alcohol costs, etc.
	Plan & Prioritise: most benefit to ratepayers, safety issues, improve efficiency e.g. drainage, traffic flow, pathways.
	Better use of Council funds. Street planting-plant shrubs, etc. that last longer than a few weeks. Thousands must be spent at Ramsgate.
	Stop wasting money e.g. with Sister Cities, stupid projects e.g. 'Destinations'.
	Possible reviewing your household clean up days and reducing it to 2-3 times yearly.
	Establish external audit of Council activities and staffing provisions to eliminate the waste and duplication.
	Don't fund it if it can't be afforded. Reduce spending on libraries, town hall, etc.
	Council should implement cost saving measures within the Council itself. Such cost saving measures can then be used to fund such SRV programs outlined above.
	Stop wasting money - new toilets - Cook Pk and Ramsgate. One year old and not working.
	Be more stringent control of contracts and costs for all these engineering works.
	Improve efficiency. Look around at manpower waste. Spread the works out over a longer period.
	Hire out Council property.
	Sell some of your assets.
	Cut your wastage.
	Review efficiency of current projects. Focus on improving project maintenance.
	Why not fund these by selling the "Commercial buildings", rationalise library facilities (digital revolution)
	If your maintenance employees did a decent day's work instead of sleeping in their trucks or standing around talking and not working, we see this on a regular basis. Council promises everything and does nothing e.g. Bexley Swimming Pools, costs thousands of dollars for enquiries and nothing happens.
	If Council were to stop wasting money, get competitive not 'government' quotations for work and do the work on a reasonable budget (stop all the so-called consultants being paid a fortune, designer' toilet blocks, etc) there would be more than enough money raised by current rates to complete all works.
	Achieve greater efficiencies in Council operations by reducing wasteful and unnecessary expenditure. Increase user funded revenue percentage as compared to

Theme	Comment
	rates revenue percentage.
	Waste less money on 'glossy' productions e.g. this magazine - what happened to 'Destinations'? - A huge waste of money.
	No fireworks at NYE. No 3 monthly flags. No designer toilets, just toilets, no designer library just upgrade library. Just maintain roads and amenities.
	Don't spend millions on fireworks every year at rate payers costs.
	If Council didn't let things get so run down upkeep & repairs/development wouldn't cost as much. Address Council excessive running costs.
	The Council will never become more efficient if we keep giving them money to subsidise their inefficiency
	No confidence in Council planning process or cost control. Too much self interest with some Council members.
	Council needs competent management not self interest developers running the show
	You raise rates the last time, you should cut back spending and not increase rates. Stop the quarterly clean up days, they cost too much. Just have 6mths clean up days.
	Council wastes too much on things like fireworks. Excessive costs of projects. Existing rates are for this stuff already. No pay increase of 6% for us. Council history of corruption and "slight of hand". Council poor DA approval record.
	The program does not address wastage and duplication in Council activities and services. In any commercial business enterprises would be the normal first step
	What is started is never finished or unsatisfactory when completed or it blows out in cost. Maintaining parks for children play areas are a disgrace and your maintenance people bludge i.e. Bexley North Library area in particular and toilets are not open (only if you get key from library - not good enough).
	I am suspicious as to whether RCC can apply itself in a diligent/fully transparent way towards projects that need doing verses projects that don't. RCC residents are fed up with grandiose schemes constantly being placed before them by RCC.
	Misused of funds (not our money, get it fixed at whatever the price) if its not done right the first time do it again (only rate payer money) "No accountability and sacking". To beautify the City use AuStation Natives or cacti environmental friendly, no use for a fleet of gardeners to water, weed, seed and remove. Little savings and up to big savings. Don't do something in an area before informing the locals, they might have a better idea - it would be cheaper and last longer and be more useful. When given a contract to outside companies make sure that mistake on their part is up to them to rectify and contingency fund will only be awarded if something out of the normal happens. This Council has to streamline itself and learn to think outside the box before it comes to us with a lot of crap.
	Why don't RCC send out a list of things it does so we can have the opportunity to delete some e.g. fireworks, sausage sizzles, etc. use the rate payers money wisely and stop asking for more from the rate payers, we pay more than enough on our rates, the problems RCC does not know how to spend it efficiently.
	Council should stop the publication or propaganda material. Stop the wasteful spending. Council should be responsible for less. Sell assets which are costly and wasteful.
	Because the Fiscal Star reports & financial sustainability 2009 review of NSW local Government financial sustainability show that rate increases just put off the day of reckoning. Cost cutting is the only real way out of Councils demise. Unfunded superannuation liabilities should not be funded by the next generation.
	Is this going to end the way 'Destinations' did? A big expense for nothing and a waste of our rates, more care needed when managing rate payers funds.

Theme	Comment
	Nothing is done properly. Scott Park opposite my home especially Waldron St is never maintained properly and Sandringham end of Botany Bay Beach erosion was not done properly last time as there is no beach at all.
	\$1M wasted on self-glorifying toilets \$16M to be wasted on Library that is not needed. Millions wasted on infrastructure replacement instead of doing routine maintenance.
	We believe the 'city' could utilise its work force and equipment - smarter & better. We have watched on a number of occasions outdoor staff and their trucks and equipment. Spend a minimum of 1 hour plus for a chat before starting to mow a park (with no grass).
	Consider productivity improvements with a higher target why only 0.5% should be at least 2% for a significant savings. Some of the costs of the work appear grossly overpriced.
	While every proposal in 'Renewing Rockdale' has merit-there is no guarantee that even if the SRV was successful, the program would ever be completed as proposed. Much money (ratepayers) was expended on creating the 'Destinations Rockdale Vision'-what become of that? it doesn't even get a mention in 'Renewing Rockdale'- is this just another very expensive P.R. exercise designed to waste a massive rate hike over 4 years and into the future?
	Its important to maintain infrastructure but not to go overboard - the new architecture designed toilet blocks along the Grand Pde, they may be nice to look at, but how long will the wooden structures last. They should have been built of more durable materials. Don't trust the Council to spend the money it wants wisely.
	I think you are not offering enough services for the rates we are paying at present, we live on Bay St and it is always messy and dirty all the time, look for what other Councils in the area are doing (Kogarah). By the way it's not good to always clean around your members' homes only!
	We need to maintain maintenance and do capital works.
	The Council wastes so much money it makes me so angry e.g. \$1M for a toilet block, beach patrol in a bay! Trips overseas ... just to name a few examples. Use the rates you received wisely - you have extra income from all the high rise in the area.
	Concerns re use of ratepayers money. Street cleaning truck going down streets with angle parking is a waste of money and resources as the truck can't get to the gutter therefore ineffective. Council's website becoming increasingly difficult to access information e.g. to view Council meeting papers one has to start at the home page then (2) about RCC (3)Council documents (4)type Business Papers in search (5)RCC meetings (6)click on Agendas & Meetings. Not User Friendly! Even customer service staff has difficulty.
	Surely these works are part of the duties the Council provides for the city and the rates we pay are meant to provide for such.
	Why should ratepayers pay extra rates to a Council which has such expensive taste. Countless dollars wasted on unnecessary spending instead of doing preventative maintenance work. Please stop unduly imposing extra rates in this difficult economic climate.
	Council's revenue is more than enough to meet current needs. Seeing the number of administrative staff employed and the time taken by outdoor staff to complete tasks indicates massive savings could be made by reducing permanent staff levels.
	The council should spend their money more effectively instead of asking residents to pay for things which should already be accounted for in the regular rates. Our salary doesn't increase by 6 percent, his does the council justify slugging residents who don't

Theme	Comment
	use the services. Maybe the council should start charging for some of these services as a means to raise revenue to fund the improvement. This seems like the easy way to raise revenue.
	The current situation is the result of years of mismanagement causing a lack of maintenance of community building, amenities, playground, etc. the majority of which are not even utilised by Rockdale ratepayers.
	We possibly could have more money if we didn't pay for fireworks at various avenues plus parking rangers should be about-seen to prevent breaking the law.
	Too many projects for a Council with 'so called' limited funds. Independent review required to ascertain priorities then resubmit.
	Increases should be monitored yearly not locked in as proposed.
	I am not at all happy with the 'overall' design of the amenities block at Cook Park. I feel a simpler/cheaper building would have done.
	Also cut out things like NYE fireworks etc. If you haven't got the money for essential programs then cut out all the non-essential things - use the money wisely. Also costs of toilets at Ramsgate, Sans Souci ridiculous.
	If money is short cut down on the street flowers that are all over the place like in Arncliffe station, get savvy and cut down on unnecessary expense. I am certain you will be able to sort it out.
	NYE has become a zoo-save the money and cancels the fire works.
	Improve general maintenance to limit renewal.
	Fireworks, bring outsiders to the areas. We pay to clean up the mess they leave behind and to provide facilities for their use. Ramsgate shops - Lavish attention to flower beds, yet the streets are strewn with rubbish. Building developments - profits for the developers, maintenance and mess for the residents.
	What is Council doing to cut back spending? (Refurbish interior Admin building \$1.6M!!!!) Council already has a SRV in place.
	Also things like the 'laneway' project area, waste of money. I also think sister city is a waste of money.
	Through organised public events-fundraising-concerts, etc. spend \$ re-establishing PCYC and Council receiving % of funds towards infrastructure.
Seek Partnerships	Private consortiums
Seek Business Partnerships	Council has to work with private industry/developers to increase its income. Allow more business/cafes along Lady Robinson's beach between Brighton & Ramsgate Beach.
	Perhaps a partnership with local businesses that are then allowed to advertise after assisting with upkeep.
	Force partnerships with local businesses.
	Fundraising, from the business cooperation. I am quite happy with the current infrastructure of RCC
	Get private business to fund big projects and name it after them. Offer that people/businesses can buy tile/tiles/bricks/pavers with name on it. Note: Can we have the newsletter earlier? All the events are finished by the time we get the newsletter each issue.
	Only with creased to CPI extra fee on all development work. Lic fee all shop with chairs and table on the streets and advertising ads.
	Seek Corporate sponsorship (St George & other banks).
Seek Government Partnerships	I would prefer Council use the governments money
	Seek money from State Government.
	Prepare and apply for Government grants, State & Federal.

Theme	Comment
	NSW Government grants.
	Get rid of Council. Have State Government look after, enough taxes are paid.
	Ask State Government for funds.
	Apply for a Federal Government grant. Payslips have not increased by the amount that you are proposing.
	Apply to the State Government for assistance.
	I believe bike paths should not be funded by local Council. I think Councils should lobby with State Government to impose a levy and registration for cyclists.
	Rehabilitation of roads should be done with the motor vehicles registration and parking fine not with rate money.
	Is the State Government contributing to foreshore renewal? A lot of the damage comes from dredging for new container terminal.
	Council to encourage the State Government to introduce returnable plastic bottle.
	I believe that some of the listed items should be federal or state funded (foreshore infrastructure).
Other	You have plenty of money in the ...and it is a score tactic to get more rates out of us - there are much more people in Rockdale and you cannot even fix the gutter outside my house even after 3years and being assured it would be done - Liars.
	I don't care if you don't do any of the programs of works. None benefit me directly. Over the years, I have seen too much wasted on unnecessary projects. Also, stop bowing to minority Muslim groups. Where is the Brighton Xmas tree these days??? Still cleaning up their rubbish in the parks and car parks ???
	By displaying to the public who the contracts of works building, road, and maintenance are let out to. Publish in the Leader for all to see to stop your corruption.
	Seek permission to conduct a lottery. That's how they built the Opera House. I don't know who you have to consult but you could easily determine this. Obviously, the lottery would be ongoing over 4 years. You could ask for a time limited authority to conduct a lottery.
	Win everyone's support by not increasing anything until the economy improves. Stop bringing people to the area. Send them to the bush. Stop taking money from us. We are already the most 'ripped off' population in the country.
	Do right thing. Do not waste rate payer's money.
	Take it out of the \$55 you charge me to inspect my pool every 2 years when I register with the State Government.
	Less Councils
	Don't care
	Council should make it more transparent on contract bidding for jobs and projects to be done. That way local small business doesn't have to a small fine details in newspaper on contract on offer.
	Within the 4 year period the completion of new apartment buildings will see thousands of new rate payers in the area. This will see the cash flow from rates increase to levels where funding will be guaranteed.
	Try to minimise the effects of industrial changes enacted by the previous Government.
	As far as I am concerned rates should not increase so Council can just throw good money after bad except for making more free parking wherever possible.
	Would not know.
	Stop wasting money on things not needed.
	Do what is really necessary.

Theme	Comment
	By Councillors gaining the confidence of residents so they do not circle 'B' or 'C'. One way they can do this is to need resident's objections and Council's officer's recommendations, rather than approving gross over development for the benefit of one individual.
	Do not fund works.
	Ask the ones above to pay.
	Not a toll
	The hot showers which have been installed are an absolute waste of money. Cold showers are ample during the summer months, especially backpackers and visitors are the ones having use of such a ludicrous decision.
	Shameless you just know asking for money.
	Life guards at Ramsgate Life Saving Club.
	Could you please address the problem of illegal dumping in Fraters Ave.? My property is so devalued by this, I am unable to sell my place. Please get rid of the notion of F6 that is never going to happen. I would appreciate hearing results of this survey.
	Rockdale should look to other LGAs such as Marrickville to model their spending. It will improve house, land value, and improve the feel of the community.
	My name is [REDACTED] 85years of age. Age carer for my husband with lung condition. Firstly, Re. bringing 479 Bus to Francis Ave as we always hand it, it stops at Rendine Road & hence we are stranded and cannot walk to West Botany St, Rendine Rd, Bay St because of hills. I feel 'Mayor O'Brien' will help us. Please also what are you proposing to do with the 'Fisher'.
	I wish you would stop wasting ratepayers funds or this stupid survey and get on with the job you are elected to do. 90% of ratepayers object to your approval or inappropriate developments and you pay no attention to that.
	I have been a resident in my home for 49 years and I am tired of having to pay a plumber to clean sewerage pipes because of the bottle brush trees which have never been trimmed, only the other side of the street gets done because of power lines. How about you look into it-as a pensioner its tough (Ada St.Bexley)
	I have lived at [REDACTED] for the past 35years and for the past 20years I and all villa residents have written at least 5x to Council to ask that they lop trees and generally clean up over night opposite our property, but nothing has been done. Even hand Y Bellamy down to see state of bushland, but didn't achieve anything. Apart from it being an eyesore, it is a bushfire hazard. So couldn't support a rates increase.
	There are trees in Shaw St Bexley North which means less parking which MORON came up with this brain dead idea and then surround trees with concrete to make whatever parking is left much harder.
	As far as I am concerned Rockdale Council wastes tax payers money on things that are unimportant. St George area is becoming so over populated "the old saying put to many rats in one cage they will fight"
	Because Rockdale Council is rip off
	Waste of rates residential money
	I don't think the assets need to be renewed.
	Its good as is at present we are paying enough
	No more rises
	I don't see any improvement in the St George area they are going backwards. I asked Council number of occasions for small thing nothing is done.
	Possibility of making Brighton Le Sands a tourism location? Free shuttle, light rail system (on ground) running between Rockdale Station and end of Bay St. Brighton Le

Theme	Comment
	Sands
	I live in Alfred St Ramsgate Beach, I have been trying to get the gutter in front house for a few years now. The Council have said the job is too small. I have water in the gutter all the time from rain other people hosing and the water coming from their properties. I pay my rates, the gutter has dropped. Other properties near me have hand their gutters fix and are small jobs as well. I would like to know where my rate money goes.
	Stop the \$55 rip off and I will look at it because the \$55 pool fee is just a money grab by RCC on all pool owners.
	Stop wasting rate payers money by painting some streets green and bike outlined on them and also wasting money by re-surfacing Moute Ave - it did not need it.
	Pay more police and stop vandalism instead.
	Please repaint. "No Parking" and put up signs at Georges River Sailing club boat ramp. When I was young there were multiple places to launch sailing craft/dinghy. Now this is the only place left (progress?!) and this often gets taken up by coffee drinkers - please fix.
	After Council paying over 1M for a toilet upgrade at Brighton I do not support the spending of the Council.
	I think RCC has gone overhead with high rise development in the Ramsgate area creating future parking and other problems in this area.
	I would prefer a better public transport to work.
	I feel your plan is rather unnecessary
	I do not support this.
	I don't think it would matter how much work/money is used on public amenities/parks whatever, whenever I have gone to use any, if I can ever access them they are disgusting and filthy and that won't change. A lot of people who use the public facilities in Rockdale Council area are pigs.
	I am half-hearted about Council plans to improve. Peter Depena Park and the water front of Dolls Point and Ramsgate has been 'taken over' by one particular group who have made this area a 'no go zone' on the weekends. Disposal of heat beats a problem.
	I am elderly and housebound. I have lived in Rockdale for 60 years-none of the 'Renewing Rockdale Program' is of any benefit to me.
	Please address the issue of cooking in the park at Dolls Point. Charcoal is cluttering up around taps. Locals are being pushed out.
	Do not trust Council to deliver
	I do not believe that Council can deliver what they propose.
	Do not ever again build amenities blocks like the ones recently built in Cook Park - the (award winning?) ones with slatted timber, separated individual amenities and ill - finished floors which do not drain into floor waste.
	No comment
	I am strongly opposed to monies being spent along waterways i.e. Brighton, Ramsgate, Sans Souci, Dolls Point, signs advising danger swimming. The recent death (drowning) of a young boy is tragic. It was the parent's responsibility that he hadn't learned swimming.
	The average increase should not go above 3% of the cost of living. But I have noticed that my rates gone up by 6% this year, even though my pension rebate stayed the same. On top of that the rates now have extra levies of \$174.64. And, those levies went up this year by 8.5% to \$189.98. Remember I said I do not have a Money Printer, and I have to go without things to stay within my means, I think it is fair for

Theme	Comment
	RC to do the same.
	My comments are listed below.
Developer Contributions	Make the developers pay for all of it. They make a fortune every time they build new developments. Where does the 10% disappear? Make developers pay 20% or more.
	There are so many new unit blocks being built in the Rockdale Municipality and therefore a lot more rates being collected by the Council. I think there is a lot of more money there for Council to use for its programs.
	Increase high rise development fees.
	Developer contributions.
	Get property developers to contribute more to amenities.
	Too much for beautifying our parks. Ask new developments to fund. You seem to be working hand in hand with everything else.
	If Council can't afford all projects just do what you can there is a completed new suburb under Council's area Wolli Creek has topped up Council's budgets if not why not.
Amalgamation	Amalgamate or simply dissolve Council and pass all special responsibility to NSW Government.
	Rethink of the whole program. Amalgamate with nearby Councils-use some economy of scale.
	Restructure or amalgamate. The three Councils and get a more efficient workforce and scrutinise all contract work at a fair contract price.
	Take active steps towards amalgamation. Achieve economies of scale. Adopt consumer (rate payer) focus.
	Amalgamate with other Councils to reduce costs and thus free up funds for things that otherwise can't be afforded.
	Join with Kogarah Council and save money on administration.
	Consider amalgamation with Kogarah, Hurstville which will cut back on costs.
	Reduce costs by cutting costs and overheads. Combine Councils and save on excessive overheads and salaries learn to manage properly.
	Perhaps amalgamation with another Council.
	Amalgamate with Botany Bay Council. They know how to run a Council.
	Investigate amalgamations with Kogarah and Hurstville Councils for economic administration costs.

Appendix C Community Forum Presentation



Who are we?

- Population: 97,340
- Age: Median age is 36 years
- Number of children: 19,938
- Number of people over 55: 24,873



Source: 2011 ABS Census Data

Who will we be in 2026?

- Population: 127,077  29,737
- Number of children: 24,923  4,985
- Number of people over 55: 30,628  5,755



Source: 2011 ABS Census Data

What are we working towards?

Four community outcomes:

1. Rockdale is a welcoming and creative City with active healthy and safe communities
2. Rockdale is a City with a high quality natural and built environment and valued heritage in liveable neighbourhoods. A City that is easy to get around and has good links and connections to other parts of Sydney and beyond
3. Rockdale is a City with a thriving economy that provides jobs for local people and opportunities for life long learning
4. Rockdale is a City with engaged communities, effective leadership and access to decision making



Rockdale City Plan – Cascade of Plans



What progress have we made?

July 2013 – December 2013

- Improved street sweeping program
- Over 1400 students educated about waste and environment
- Playground renewals at Aqua Flora Reserve and Dowsett Park underway
- 4 raised pedestrian crossings completed
- Draft Masterplan for the Ramsgate Town Centre endorsed
- Living Laneways project launched



How are our major projects going?

Town Hall



How are our major projects going?

Cook Park Amenities



How are our major projects going?

Central Library



How are our major projects going?

Bexley pool upgrade



What is our financial position?

- Only 41% of income from rates
- Tcorp rated our financial sustainability as "moderate" in the short term "with a neutral outlook"
- unable to improve standard of community services and facilities without seeking additional funds



What are our financial challenges?



Apart from rate pegging, unplanned costs that Council has to absorb include:

- Decreased income from investments
- Increased utilities costs

How are we responding?

Energy and Water Savings Action Plans 2012

Audits identify Council's energy, water, greenhouse data so we can measure consumption, costs and emissions – save up to \$2,000 per site

Property Sales

Council continues to pursue the disposal of under-utilised properties and development of under-capitalised properties

Bus Shelter Advertising Contract

Council has established a 5 year contract with a 333% increase in revenue to Council from \$109,200 to \$364,000 per annum (= \$1.3 million increase in revenue over 5 years);

How are we responding?

Footway Trading

A 57% increase in revenue to Council to \$125,200 (YTD) for the 2013/14 financial year.

Reduction in graffiti removal costs

Our anti-graffiti program has resulted in the significant reduction of graffiti removal costs from a budgeted \$180,000 in 2012/13 to \$100,000 in 2013/14.

Council has reduced its spending on:

- \$259,976 - software licenses
- \$88,000 - community newsletter
- \$41,651 - advertising
- \$27,776 - staff recruitment advertising
- \$14,403 - animal pound charges
- \$264,750 - external consultancies



What has the community told us?

2012 - 2013

Sports and Recreation	Not enough sports fields	Well-designed parks and sports fields
Playground and Park	Better playgrounds/upgrade playgrounds	Increased bins at parks
Community Buildings	Multi-purpose – bigger, better, more functional hub for the community.	Safe access between transport hub and community hall.
Public Amenities	Safer public toilets around parks and sporting fields	Provision and maintenance of Public Toilets more needed
Thriving Town Centres	Each village/centre to have a public meeting place/square to encourage walking and connecting with people in your local community	
Foreshore	Litter control on the beach	Plan for beach/water pollution
Other	Facilities are old, dated and need to be brought into the 21st Century.	

Source: Community Engagement Feedback Report

What has the community told us?

2010 to 2013

Survey data shows the community values the following assets (high importance rating):

- Quality and maintenance of parking facilities
- Quality and maintenance of footpaths
- Condition and maintenance of local roads
- Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens
- Provision and maintenance of public toilets
- Provision and maintenance of playgrounds
- Quality of town centres and surrounding areas
- Condition of Council-owned facilities including libraries, Town Hall and community halls

Survey recommendations are that Council needs to improve or maintain community satisfaction with the following assets/services:

- Provision and maintenance of public toilets
- Condition and maintenance of local roads
- Quality and maintenance of footpaths
- Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens
- Provision and maintenance of playground

What assets do we look after?

44 Community Facility Buildings

67 Parks Buildings

1 Swimming Pool Complex

11 Depot Buildings

16 Commercial Buildings

17 Residential Buildings

6 Library Buildings

Rockdale Administration Buildings and Town Hall Buildings

227 Parks and Reserves

23 Reserves with Sport Facilities

82 Playgrounds

6 Swimming Enclosures

2 18 Hole Golf Courses

1 Boat Ramp and Pontoon

8km of Lady Robinsons Beach on Historic Botany Bay

254km Sealed Roads

44 Bridges and Culverts

386km Paved Footpaths

522km Kerb and Gutter

10km Creeks and Channels

5973 Drainage Pits

What is the condition of our assets?

Photograph Examples – Playground Conditions



Botany Bay Seawall – Vanstone Parade



Kingsgrove Avenue Reserve



Peter Dipens Reserve West Toilets



Baxley Park



How will we respond to the community?

- Acknowledge that factors such as age, harsh coastal conditions and the regular use means assets need renewing
- Find balance between community's aspirations for facilities and continuing to deliver services at a high standard.
- Improve long term financial sustainability
- Apply for a Special Variation to pay for the 'Renewing Rockdale' projects program.

What have we achieved with previous SRV funding?



What is a Special Rate Variation?

NSW Government sets a limit on the amount that a council can raise its rates by – this is the rate peg.

A standing committee advises the Minister each year on the maximum 'rate pegging' increase for the following year.

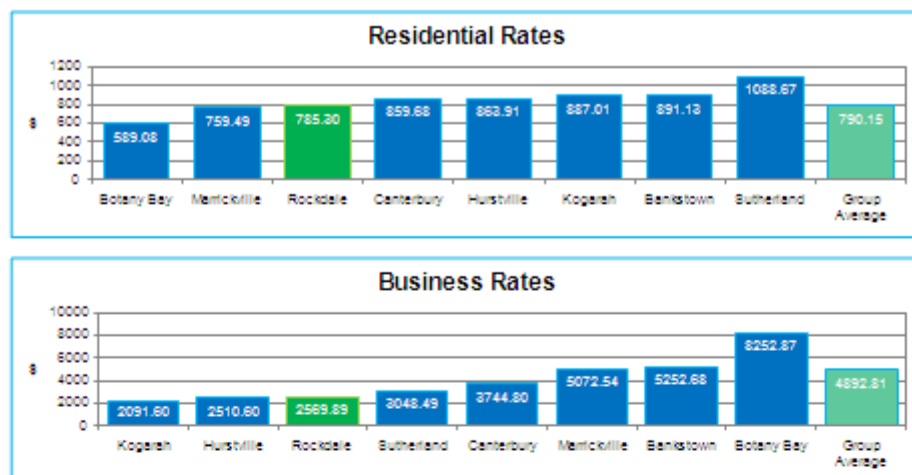
An application by council to IPART to increase its rates by more than the rate-peg limit is called a special rate variation application.

Council is proposing a 6% per annum rate increase each year for 4 years. This means each year starting from 1 July 2014 for 4 years residential and business rates would increase by 6% above the previous year's rates.

The 6% includes whatever rate peg IPART sets that year

How do our rates compare?

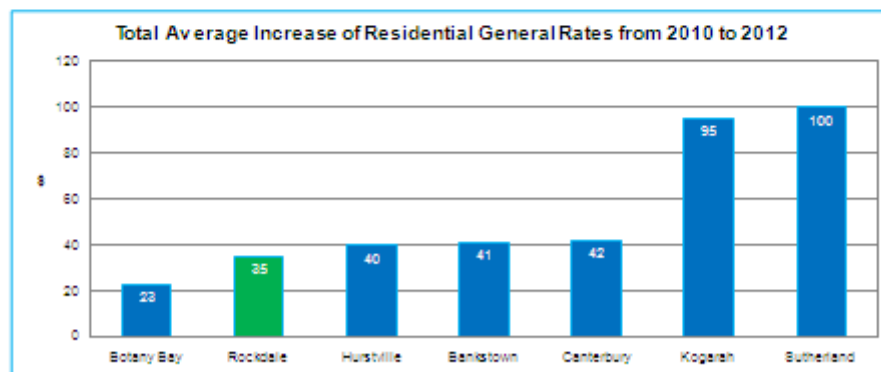
Neighbouring Council Average Rates 2011/12



Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.

How do our rates compare?

Total Average Increase of Residential General Rates From 2010 to 2012



Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.

Renewing Rockdale

What does the 6% rate increase consist of?

The 6% rate increase includes the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determined "rate peg" increase of around 3%.

The actual SRV component of the increase is 6% minus the rate peg amount. IE the rate peg for 2014/15 is set by IPART at 2.3% , the SRV component of the total rate rise would be 3.7% giving a total increase of 6%.

What does 6% per annum mean?

Year 1 $\$100.00 + \$6.00 = \$106.00$

Year 2 $\$106.00 + \$6.36 = \$112.36$

Year 3 $\$126.36 + \$6.74 = \$119.10$

Year 4 $\$119.10 + \$7.15 = \$126.52$

Year 5 $\$126.25$

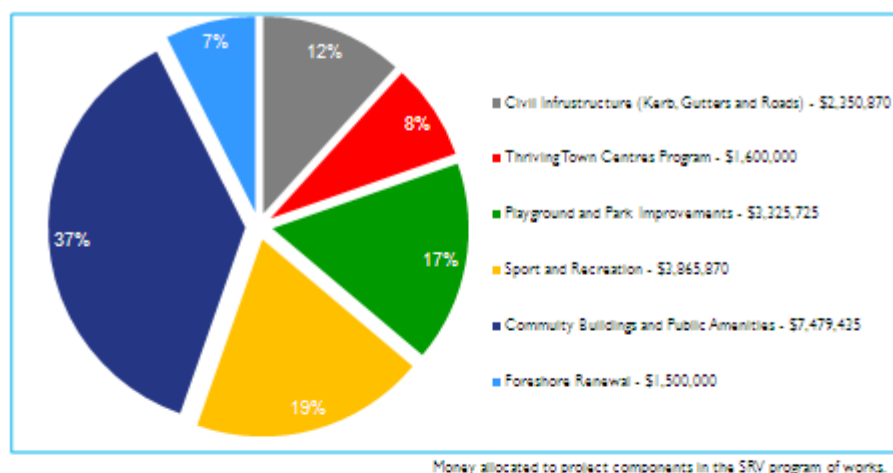
Please note: Figures are not representative of actual rates it is a simple calculation to show per annum compounding increases.

How will it affect you?

Peter's Story - an example

Year	Estimated Annual Rate Payment	Increase Per Annum	6% Increase Per Annum
2013-2014	1,156.43	-	-
2014-2015	1,233.40	\$76.97	6%
2015-2016	1,313.58	\$80.18	6%
2016-2017	1,398.79	\$85.21	6%
2017-2018	1,489.31	\$90.52	6%
2018-2019	1,489.31 + IPART rate peg		

How will Council use the special variation income?



What will we do without the money?

Key <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded through Infrastructure Levy Project implementation will be delayed Project will not be funded Project funding sourced from the overlap of SRV funding 		
Civil Infrastructure		
Kerb and gutter rehabilitation		
Rasheed and rehabilitation of road pavements		
Thriving Town Centres Program		
Ramazzotti Beach Thriving Town Centre		
Wollanzone Road		
Sport and Recreation		
Beecher Oval and outer Field refurbishment		
Scarborough Park - Irrigation, surface and drainage		
Arncliffe Park		
Primrose Gardens		
AS Tanner Reserve		
Playground and Park Improvements		
Kingsland Road Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Arncliffe Park - Playground upgrade		
Robertson St Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Beecher Park - Playground upgrade		
Leo Smith Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Moorefield Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Peter Decena Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Scotts Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Silver Jubilee Park - Playground upgrade		
Domineer Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Cairn Park (East 94 To Supplement) - Playground upgrade		
Stade Road Reserve - Playground upgrade		
Cook Park (Emmaline St - President Ave)		
Cook Park (Ramazzotti St - Emmaline St)		
Hillside St Reserve		
Yamba Woods Reserve		
Kingsgrove Avenue Reserve		
Scott Park		
Community Building and Public Amenities		
Guild disaster roof replacement		
Peter Decena Reserve - South amenities		
Jackson Hill Kindergarten		
Arncliffe Pre School Kindergarten		
Beecher North public toilet		
Centennial Park Central amenities		
Brinsford Early Childhood Centre		
Gilchrist Park Amenities		
Wilson's Cottage heritage item		
Beecher Oval toilets and lockers		
Scott Park toilet block		
Peter Decena Reserve toilet West		
Old St David's Church		
Rosedale Park amenities		
3rd Frost Hall - Internal refurbishment		
Rosedale Community Aid		
Tenbride Street Reserve amenities and lockers		
Administration Building		
Kingsgrove Boat Ramp Reserve		

The proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works has been informed by community engagement, risk and lifecycle assessments. Costs shown indicate only the SRV financial contribution to the works.

How have we recently engaged with you?

- Newsletter and Survey to all households and businesses
- Council Website
- Speak up Hub (Council's page for young people)
- 7 Information Booths held across the City of Rockdale
- Community Forum
- Renewing Rockdale Information Line
- Information Boards
- Target community groups
- Media releases and advertisements
- Facebook Advertisement



What's next?

- Conclusion of Renewing Rockdale community engagement on Wednesday 19 February
- Analyse feedback and prepare application for IPART
- Apply to IPART for SRV by Monday 24 February
- IPART makes determination on SRV by June 2013
- Any SRV granted + rate peg (of 2.3% for 2014/15) will come into effect 1 July 2014
- Council will notify the community of IPART's determination through the Rockdale Review, website and St George & Sutherland Leader



Appendix D Focus Group Presentation



Your role...

- We are interested in your feedback on how we can improve our communication with the community.
- Tell us your ideas on how we can inform the community on an upcoming initiative.
- Assist us to encourage a greater rate of participation from our community.
- This is an interactive workshop, so please share your thoughts, ask questions and collaborate ideas.
- Thoughts you may wish to consider during the 'Renewing Rockdale' presentation...
 - Is the information and language easy to understand?
 - Should more information be included?
 - Should the amount of information be decreased?



Background

- Rockdale City Council is working on finding a balance between our community's aspirations and delivering services and facilities at a high standard.
- Council is determined to achieve your aspirations, to do so we need to invest in our City's long term financial sustainability.
- Improving our long term financial sustainability means council will be able to increase the standards of our playgrounds, foreshore, recreation facilities, parks and buildings through renewal and replacement initiatives.
- Due to factors such as age, harsh coastal conditions and the regular use of our existing buildings, recreational facilities and foreshore means we need to invest in renewal initiatives to maintain our assets for the years to come.
- Council has notified the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of the intent to apply for a Special Variation to pay for the 'Renewing Rockdale' projects program.



Rockdale City Council Assets

177 Buildings

46 Community Facility Buildings	67 Parks Buildings
3 Swimming Pools/Similar Structures	11 Depot Buildings
8 Swimming Pool Buildings	16 Commercial Buildings
17 Residential Buildings	6 Library Buildings
3 Rockdale Administration Buildings and Town Hall Buildings	

215 Parks, Recreation and Natural Environment

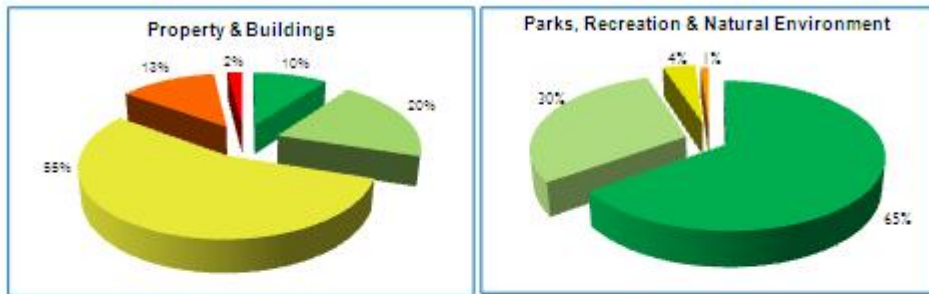
23 Reserves with Sport Components	
70 Playgrounds	Two 18 Hole Golf Courses
69 Sports Amenities Buildings and Public Toilets	

254km Sealed Roads	44 Bridges and Culverts
485km Footpaths	522km Kerb and Gutter
143km Pipe	5973 Pits
3km Open Channel	4km Box Culverts
7km Earth-lined Creek	0.28km Brick Arches

**8km of Lady Robinsons
Beach on Historic
Botany Bay**



Conditions of Assets



Code	Condition	Guide
Condition 1	Excellent	Normal maintenance required
Condition 2	Good	Minor maintenance required (5%)
Condition 3	Satisfactory	Significant maintenance required (10-20%)
Condition 4	Fair	Significant renewal / upgrade required (20-40%)
Condition 5	Poor	Over 50% of the asset requires replacement



Source: Rockdale City Council Annual Report 2012/2013

Conditions of Assets

Photograph Examples – Playground Conditions



Photograph Examples – Coastal Infrastructure Conditions



Achievements so far...



Rates Information

What is rate pegging?

Each year the NSW Government sets a limit on the total amount of income that a council can raise from rates. This is called the rate-pegging percentage and it is specified by the Minister for Local Government each year. If a council would like to increase their general income by more than the rate-peg limit they need to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a Special Rate Variation.

How is the rate peg determined?

A standing committee with representatives of the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Treasury advises the Minister each year on the maximum 'rate pegging' increase that should apply in the following year. The Committee calculates the rate peg by looking closely at the projected annual increase in costs that would be sustained by a typical council delivering services at levels similar to the previous year. The rate peg is usually around 3%.

Can Council increase its income by more than the rate-peg limit?

Council can apply to the Minister for Local Government to increase its general income by more than the rate-peg limit. This is called a special variation application. If approved, the Minister will specify the percentage by which Council may increase its general income.

What does council take into account when it applies for a special variation?

When council assess for a special variation application, several factors are taken into account. These include asset conditions, the financial position of the council, the impact on ratepayers and evidence of community need and support.

What special variation is Rockdale Council proposing and what will be the impact on my rate payments?

Council is proposing a 6% per annum rate increase each year for 4 years. After the last year of the special variation (2017/2018) the increases will remain permanently in council's rate base and it will continue to fund the 'Renewing Rockdale' project program.

Proposed Rates Increase

What is Rockdale City Council proposing?

Council is proposing a 6% per annum rate increase each year for 4 years. After the last year of the special variation (2017/2018) the increases will remain permanently in council's rate base and it will continue to fund the 'Renewing Rockdale' project program.

What does the 6% rate increase consist of?

The 6% rate increase includes the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determined "rate peg" increase of around 3%.

Council undertakes to increase the rates by 6% IN TOTAL each year, meaning the actual SRV component of the increase is 6% minus the rate peg amount. IE if the rate peg in 2014/15 is set by IPART at 3.2% the SRV component of the total rate rise would be 2.8% giving a total increase of 6%.

What does 6% per annum mean?

In the following year, the 6% rate increase (made up of the rate peg and SRV) is calculated on last years rates:

Year 1	$\$100.00 + \$6.00 = \$106.00$
Year 2	$\$106.00 + \$6.36 = \$112.36$
Year 3	$\$112.36 + \$6.74 = \$119.10$
Year 4	$\$119.10 + \$7.15 = \$126.25$
Year 5	$\$126.25$

Please note: Figures are not representative of actual rates it is a simple calculation to show per annum compounding increases.



Impact of the Special Variation

Case Study

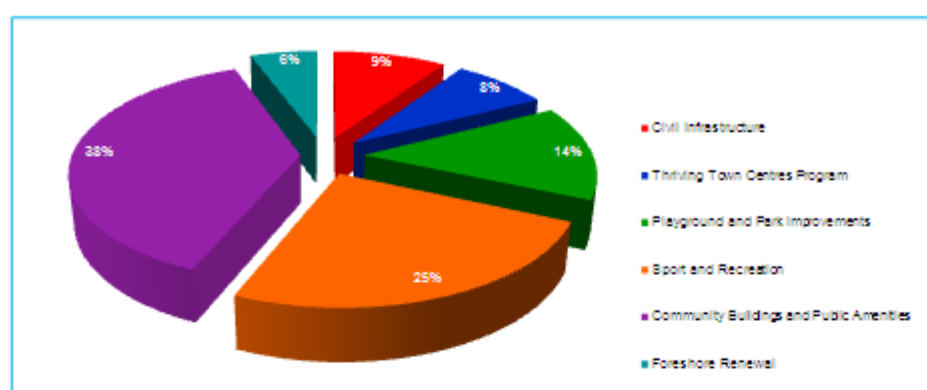
The land value of Peter's property is \$300,000 and his rates in 2013/14 were \$1,149.62. The effect on Peter's rates in 2014/15 of the 'Renewing Rockdale' levy will be an extra \$1.38 per week and a total estimated increase of \$72.01 in the year. At the end of the four year period in 2017/18 Peter's rates are estimated to be \$1,465.43. As the special variation remains in council's rates base Peter's rates in 2018/19 will remain at the estimated \$1,465.43.

Year	Estimated Annual Rate increase	\$ Per Annum Increase	6% Per Annum Increase
2013-2014	1,149.62	-	-
2014-2015	1,221.63	72.01	6%
2015-2016	1,298.08	76.45	6%
2016-2017	1,379.24	81.16	6%
2017-2018	1,465.43	86.19	6%
2018-2019	1,465.43	-	-

At the end of the four year period Peter will have paid a total of \$315.81 toward renewing the City of Rockdale.

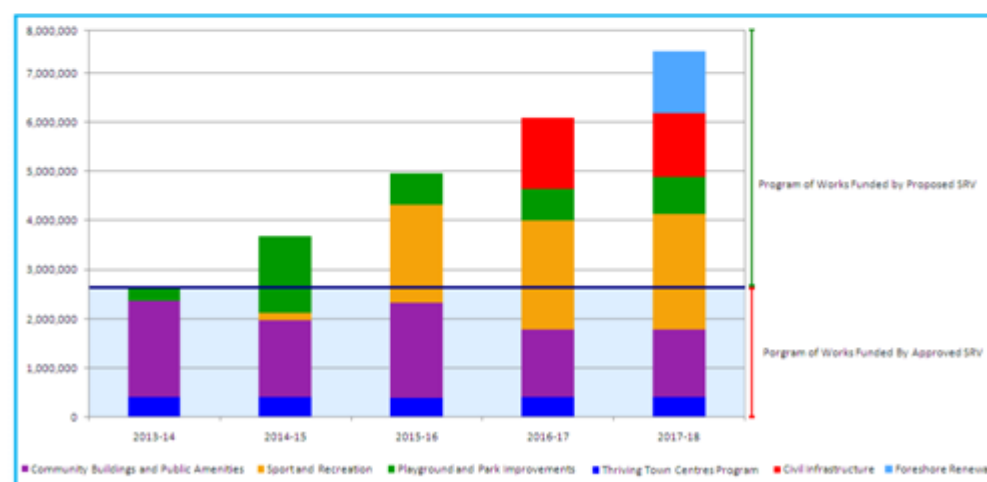


How will council use the special variation income?



Money allocated to project components in the SRV program of works.

How much money will the proposed special variation raise?



Proposed SRV Funded Projects

Key

- Funded through Infrastructure Levy
- Project Implementation will be delayed
- Project will not be funded
- ^{XX} Project funding sourced from the overlap of SRV funding

Civil Infrastructure

- Kerbs and sub-base rehabilitation
- Resheet and rehabilitation of road pavements

Thriving Town Centers Program

- Ramazote Beach Thriving Town Centre^{XX}
- Wallingford Road

Sport and Recreation

- Basilar Oval and outer – Field refurbishment
- Scarborough Park – Irrigation, surface and drainage
- Anncliffe Park
- Rimstone Gardens
- AS Tanner Reserve

Playground and Park Improvements

- Kinzland Road Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Anncliffe Park – Playground upgrade
- Robertson St Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Basilar Park – Playground upgrade
- Leo Smith Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Moonfield Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Peter Decena Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Scott Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Silver Jubilee Park – Playground upgrade
- Dominar Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Cahill Park (Sect 94 To Supplement) – Playground upgrade
- Blake Road Reserve – Playground upgrade
- Cook Park (Emmaline St – President Ave)^{XX}
- Cook Park (Ramazote St – Emmaline St)
- Hixhaze St Reserve
- Yamba Woods Reserve
- Kinzland Avenue Reserve
- Scott Park

Community Building and Public Amenities

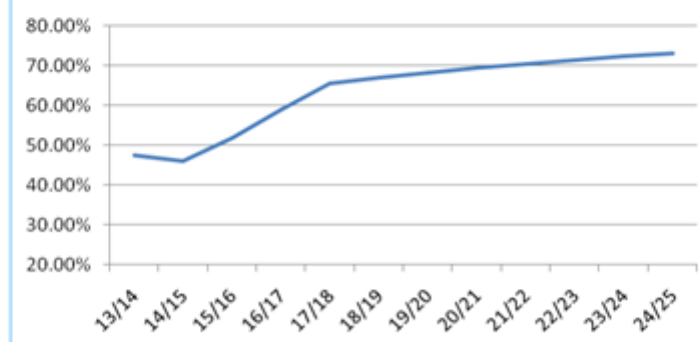
- Guild House roof replacement
- Peter Decena Reserve – South amenities
- Jackson Hill Kindergarten^{XX}
- Anncliffe Pre School Kindergarten
- Basilar North public toilet
- Bicentennial Park Central amenities
- Brighton Early Childhood Centre
- Gilchrist Park Amenities
- Wilson's Cottage heritage item
- Basilar Oval toilets and kiosk
- Scott Park toilet block
- Peter Decena Reserve toilet West
- Old St David's Church
- Rockdale Park amenities
- Bird Frost Hall – Internal refurbishment
- Rockdale Community Aid
- Tonbridge Street Reserve amenities and kiosk
- Administration Building
- Kresmah Boat Ramp Reserve



Source: Rockdale City Council Community Strategic Plan 2013-2025

How will the SRV improve council's services and finances?

Asset Renewals Ratio



Source: Rockdale City Council Long Term Financial Plan 2013-2025

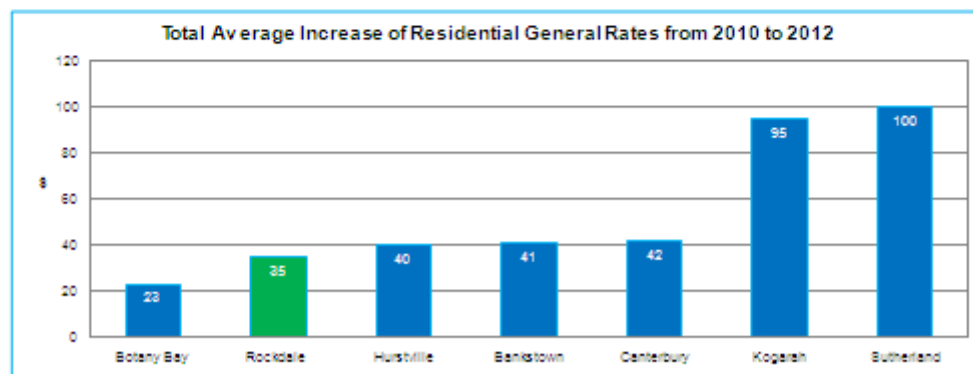
Neighbouring Council Average Rates 2011/12



Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.



Total Average Increase of Residential General Rates From 2010 to 2012




Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.



Promotional material

- SRV Newsletter (Information for rates payers)
- SRV Information Sheet
- SRV Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Mayor's Column and Article in the latest edition of the Rockdale Review
- Posters
- "Rockdale Council – helping you through your day"
- Advertisement
- Media Release
- Media Briefing



Renewing Rockdale

Neighbourhood News

www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

YOUR CITY YOUR PLAN

[illegible]

“Rockdale Council – helping you through your day”

Renewing Rockdale **ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL**

An ordinary day for you, is an extraordinary day for council...

Your day starts with a morning run along Lady Robinson Beach.

You continue your run along the sharepath.

You stop to fill up your water bottle at the Cook Park amenities.

You drop your mother off at the Rockdale Senior Centre.

You grab a coffee in Bangor with a friend you decide the Kooragang Beach Thruway Town Centre as you register online to attend a community forum together using your smartphone.

On your way home, you see a tree cutting a tree.

Running on your local road you see the street cleaning truck and wave using the footpath.

You get home and prepare the children for a morning at the park.

You take the children to the Rockdale Community Nursery to help you pick out places for the garden.

You remember you have overdue library books and head to Rockdale Library.

The online Baby Rhyme class has started so you join it with your 1 year old son.

You pick up your neighbour from Cook Park.

You see the fire truck for tomorrow's water collection and prepare the children for bed.

Imagine how ordinary your day would be if council could no longer provide or maintain these services and facilities!

Please note words in bold are services and facilities provided by Council.

YOUR CITY YOUR PLAN

- Amenities
- Sharepath
- Email
- Street Cleaning
- Local Parks
- Rockdale Community Nursery
- Rockdale Library
- Library Services such as Baby Rhyme Time
- Rockdale Seniors Centre
- Community Engagement
- Online Information and Engagement
- Sports fields
- Waste Collection
- Footpath
- Local roads

Online Engagement

How will the special variation affect me financially?

What is council proposing to renew or renovate?

FAQ

What has council achieved with previous special variation funds?

Where can I find out more information?

- Clicking on each box opens a separate PDF document of information
- The PDF documents can be saved or printed



Have Your Say
on Various Projects, Plans and Policies

YOUR CITY YOUR PLAN

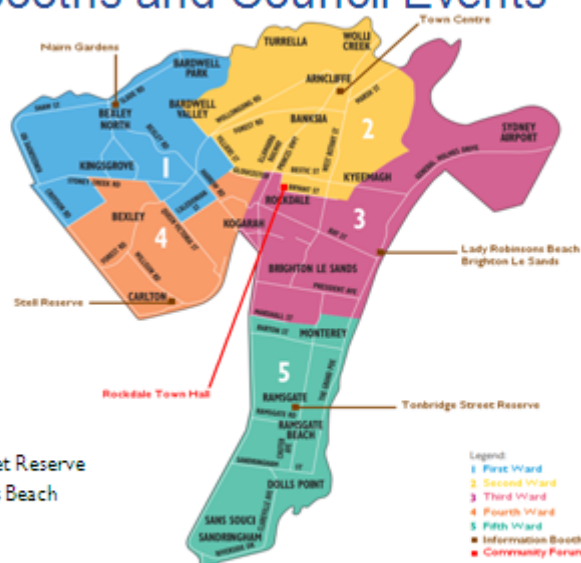
Face-to-face Information Booths and Council Events

One Community Forum:

- Rockdale Town Hall

Five Information Booths:

- Bexley North - Naim Gardens
- Arncliffe - Town Centre
- Carlton - Stell Reserve
- Ramsgate - Tonbridge Street Reserve
- Brighton Le Sands - Lady Robinsons Beach
(Carols by the Sea event)



Discussion

- What information or language would the community find confusing or hard to understand?
- What information would you include that would assist the community's understanding of the project?
- What information do you believe the community would benefit from in the FAQ section?
- What information/engagement tool do you believe the community would find most useful?
- Would you reduce the amount of information? If so what information would you remove from the promotional material?



Is there anything else you would like to say or ask before we wind up?



Where to from here...

1. Consider your feedback and adjust the promotional material according to the groups suggestions
2. Commence the 'Renewing Rockdale' community engagement
3. Distribute all promotional material to the community
4. Information Booths
5. Community Forum
6. The 'Renewing Rockdale' community engagement will conclude Friday 14 February 2014
7. Special rate variation applications are due Monday 24 February 2014
8. Application will be determined in June 2014



Appendix E Information Booth Feedback

Theme	Feedback
Renewing Rockdale Program of Works (34% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks need to be upgraded and there is a need for open space with growing population - I support the playground upgrades, recently moved to the area and have young children. - It's not like you're raising the rates and we can't see the progress. Council has been doing a good job on making improvements in the area. - When will the Sans Souci upgrades happen, nothing has changed. - Woman at work saw the finished image of the Ramsgate Beach Town Centre on my desk and asked 'where's that? I'd love to live there' - Sand erosion – Council need to increase community awareness and education on sand erosion. - Wolli Creek needs more infrastructures such as schools and roads. - Lift at Arncliffe Station - No showers - I don't want Ramsgate to be a high rise area - Sans Souci Library – what's happening?
SRV Funding Proposal (6% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I'd rather have my 6% in my pocket - 2 community members had received the Renewing Rockdale Newsletter and had already voted for an SRV.
Other Funding Ideas (13% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rangers to patrol the beach more regularly - Ranger – beach/rubbish - Rangers at Beach Street Rockdale - Fines – Visitors leave BBQ litter and coal ash
Non Renewing Rockdale Related (47% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bonar Street, Arncliffe – major problem with cars, accident almost every day. Can't get out of Bonar. - Scott Street, Scarborough Park – cut back of shrubs - More affordable café restaurant along the coast line, why doesn't the Ramsgate Life Saving Club have a café? - You guys do a good job. I use to live in Rockdale, good Council. - Truck depot is ruining local roads - Waste tip – 'Council whipped its hands' - Waste falling out onto the street during waste collection - Dogs off-leash area – Colson Crescent, Monterey - 5 months to receive approval for carport - Bestic/Jacobs Street – weekend parking permit or a disabled parking spot. - Unregistered vehicles – Subway Road - Rockdale Station train track noise – clunky noise on tracks, noise is getting worse. - New development where the old cinema was, Station Street – how did a 7 storey building get approved? - Dolls Point – parking issues at Unit dwellings - Gannon Avenue, Dolls Point – Parking

Appendix F Renewing Rockdale Brochure



Renewing Rockdale is a Program of works that Council proposes to continue supporting community life today and in the future. The Program of works will deliver improvements to the standard of community buildings, amenities, playgrounds, roads, parks, sports fields and the foreshore along Lady Robinsons Beach (see pages 4-5 for a complete list of the program). To pay for the Renewing Rockdale Program of works, Council is proposing through a Special Rate Variation (SRV), to increase residential and business rates with a total rate rise of 6% every year for 4 years.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- ◆ Arndcliffe Branch Library
- ◆ Arndcliffe Early Childhood Centre
- ◆ Arndcliffe Park – Field refurbishment
- ◆ Bexley Community Centre
- ◆ Bexley Oval – New sight screens
- ◆ Bicentennial Park
- ◆ Brighton Le Sands public toilets
- ◆ Broadford Reserve
- ◆ Cook Park – Bollards to prevent illegal parking
- ◆ Cook Park amenities opposite Bruce Street
- ◆ Cook Park amenities opposite Solander Street
- ◆ Cook Park amenities Pine Park
- ◆ Kingsgrove/Bexley North Community Centre
- ◆ McCarthy Reserve – New spectator bench seating
- ◆ Peter Depena Reserve – Bollards to prevent illegal parking
- ◆ Ramsgate Beach public amenities
- ◆ Ramsgate Life Saving Club
- ◆ Rockdale Netball Courts – Drainage improvements
- ◆ Tindale Reserve – Picnic shelter
- ◆ Tonbridge Oval – Reconstruction of cricket wicket



PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- ◆ Arndcliffe Park – Sport field amenities and changerooms
- ◆ Cook Park amenities opposite Emmaline Street
- ◆ Cook Park amenities opposite Scarborough Street
- ◆ Cook Park amenities Vanston Parade
- ◆ Gardiner Park – Sport field amenities and changerooms
- ◆ Ramsgate Beach Thriving Town Centre upgrade
- ◆ Sans Souci Branch Library
- ◆ Scarborough Park – Sport field amenities and changerooms



PENDING COMMENCEMENT

- ◆ Jack & Jill Kindergarten – Retaining wall and stairs

Projects listed have been achieved with previous SRV funding.

Please read this brochure and take the time to 'Have Your Say' on Council's plan to continue Renewing Rockdale

Did you know Council looks after...



522km Kerb and Gutter
386km Paved Footpaths
254km Sealed Roads
10km Creeks and Channels
5973 Drainage Pits
44 Bridges and Culverts



227 Parks and Reserves
82 Playgrounds
23 Reserves with Sport Facilities
6 Swimming Enclosures
2 Eighteen Hole Golf Courses
1 Boat Ramp and Pontoon



8km of Lady Robinsons Beach on Historic Botany Bay



46 Community Buildings
67 Parks Buildings
1 Swimming Pool Complex
11 Depot Buildings
16 Commercial Buildings
17 Residential Buildings
6 Library Buildings
Administration Building and Town Hall

The Challenge

Delivering for the present and future

The City of Rockdale is a growing city, with forecasts estimating the population to reach 127,076 in 2026. It is important that we make appropriate plans to ensure residents are able to continue to access services and facilities which meet their needs. The current median age in the Rockdale Local Government Area is 36 years and 62.2% of the population are either couples with children or single parent families.

What the community has told us they want

Over the past few years Council has engaged extensively with the community and received feedback from people about their expectations of asset provision in the City.

We have done this through surveys, meetings, community and online forums, information booths and meetings with community groups. Collectively, people have asked us to spend more money on infrastructure and improve the:

- ◆ Provision and maintenance of public toilets;
- ◆ Condition and maintenance of local roads;
- ◆ Quality and maintenance of footpaths;
- ◆ Maintenance of natural waterways;
- ◆ Condition, maintenance and design of sporting fields and parks;
- ◆ Design, safety and maintenance of playgrounds;
- ◆ Condition of community halls;
- ◆ Our branch libraries.

We have also been asked to consider the provision of community hubs through larger facilities which allow co-location of services for residents, as well as improved support for young people, older people and people with a disability.

Council's current asset position

The age, harsh coastal conditions and regular use of our existing assets means that we need to invest in renewal programs to ensure community assets continue to meet community needs. If Council does not spend money on asset renewal now we will need to invest more money in the future as asset conditions continue to decline. The money spent today on renewing assets will greatly reduce the cost to completely replace our assets in years to come.

How does Council decide which assets are renewed?

When making choices about which assets are renewed and when, Council makes an assessment by considering:

- ◆ Community feedback;
- ◆ Community need for the asset;
- ◆ Risk of harm to the community and asset users;
- ◆ Asset lifecycle that includes the ongoing costs of operation, maintenance and improvement.

Council's capacity to meet the Challenge

Where Council's money comes from?

Each year the NSW Government through the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets a limit on the total amount of income that NSW councils can generate from rates. This is called the rate-pegging percentage and it is specified by the Minister for Local Government each year. If a council would like to increase their general income by more than the rate-peg limit they need to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a special rate variation (SRV). Revenue from rates makes up 41% of our total annual revenue. The balance includes fees and charges, government grants, developer contributions, loans and interest earned on investments.

What is our current financial position?

The NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) completed a financial assessment of all NSW councils in 2011/12. The Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2013 determined Rockdale City Council's financial sustainability as "moderate" in the short-term "with a neutral outlook". This was a rating similar to 75% of all NSW councils. What this means is we are unable to improve the standard of community services and facilities without seeking extra funds.

Our current financial position does not allow us to spend the amount needed to properly look after all our assets.



What is our response to meeting the Challenge?

Council has implemented the following approach in order to balance our limited resources and the demand on the City's assets and services:

1. Productivity improvements and efficiencies in service delivery with an expected saving target of 0.5%, which means a saving of \$250,000 every year;
2. Review Council's property portfolio to optimise returns and value for money;
3. An SRV specifically for the renewal of our community's assets;
4. Increase our level of borrowing through the State Government Interest Subsidy Scheme.

Council's approved SRV applications

With the support of the community, consecutive SRV's have been in place since 2007. SRV funding has contributed to the renewal of community centres, libraries, public toilets, sports fields and parks. Projects funded by previous SRVs are listed on the cover of this brochure. The proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV will continue to supplement the 'Infrastructure Levy' allowing Council to keep addressing the City's asset renewal challenge.

SRV Application	Length of Levy		% Rate Rise First Year of SRV		
	Start	End	Rate Peg	SRV	Total
Infrastructure Levy	2007/2008	Remains in rate base	3.0%	4.1%	5.1%*
Community Building Levy	2010/2011	2012/2013	2.6%	3.0%	5.6%
Infrastructure Levy Supplement	2013/2014	Remains in rate base	3.4%	3.0%	3.4%**

* Community Safety Levy of 3% expired and new application for 1% approved. ** Community Building Levy 3% expired.

Renewing Rockdale | 3



Proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV Program of works

The proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works has been informed by community engagement, risk and lifecycle assessments. If Council is successful with our application for a rate rise we will complete the following works. Costs shown indicate only the SRV financial contribution to the works.

Key: ■ Projects will not be funded without the full rate rise
 ■ Projects will be funded by the already approved Infrastructure Levy
 ■ Project implementation will be delayed without the full rate rise
 ** Project funding sourced from the overlap of the approved and proposed SRV funding

Sport and Recreation – \$3,865,870

■	Arncliffe Park	Install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$300,000
■	AS Tanner Reserve	Install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$280,000
■	Bexley Oval and Outer	Install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$100,000
■	Firmstone Gardens	Re-level ground surface, install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$675,000
■	Scarborough Park	Re-level ground surface, install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$2,510,870

Playground and Park Improvements – \$3,325,725

The following playgrounds will be upgraded, which includes the removal of old equipment and installation of new play equipment with soft fall surface:

■	Arncliffe Park	\$175,000	■	Leo Smith Reserve	\$125,000
■	Bexley Park	\$315,435	■	Moorefield Reserve	\$125,000
■	Cahill Park** (Section 94 to supplement)	\$100,000	■	Peter Depena Reserve	\$315,000
■	Cook Park** (Emmaline St / President Ave)	\$175,000	■	Robertson St Reserve	\$125,000
■	Cook Park – Park Upgrade (Ramsgate St / Emmaline St)	\$135,000	■	Scott Park – Park Upgrade	\$125,000
■	Dominey Reserve	\$160,145	■	Silver Jubilee Park	\$250,000
■	Highgate St Reserve	\$125,000	■	Slade Road Reserve	\$125,145
■	Kingsgrove Avenue Reserve	\$125,000	■	Stotts Reserve	\$175,000
■	Kingsland Road Reserve	\$125,000	■	Yamba Woorra Reserve	\$125,000
			■	Safety renewals program to meet compliance requirements	\$400,000

Thriving Town Centres Program – \$1,600,000

■	Ramsgate Beach Thriving Town Centre**	Replace / upgrade aging public infrastructure, improve integrated public transport and cycling and promote private investment in Town Centres	\$800,000
■	Wollongong Road	Renew aging public infrastructure	\$800,000

Community Building and Public Amenities – \$7,479,435

■	Administration Building	Refurbish interior of existing building	\$1,600,000
■	Arndcliffe Pre School Kindergarten	Upgrade existing kindergarten with an accessible ramp, entry and toilet	\$160,000
■	Bexley North Public Toilet	Demolish existing and provide new public toilet	\$250,000
■	Bexley Oval Toilets and Kiosk	Refurbish the existing public amenities	\$500,000
■	Bicentennial Park Central Amenities	Demolish existing and construct new amenities	\$530,000
■	Brighton Early Childhood Centre	Upgrade existing kindergarten to current standards, including accessible ramp, entry and toilet	\$115,000
■	Gilchrist Park Amenities	Refurbish the existing public amenities	\$530,000
■	Guild Theatre Roof Replacement	Replace existing asbestos roof with new roof sheeting and new gutters	\$452,000
■	Kyeemagh Boat Ramp Reserve	Refurbish the existing public amenities	\$275,000
■	Jack and Jill Kindergarten**	Upgrade existing kindergarten with an accessible ramp, entry and toilet	\$150,000
■	Old St David's Church	Refurbish interior of existing building	\$200,000
■	Peter Depena Reserve South Amenities	Demolish existing and construct new accessible amenities	\$330,000
■	Peter Depena Reserve Toilets West	Demolish existing and construct new amenities	\$330,000
■	Rockdale Community Aid	Refurbish interior of existing building	\$150,000
■	Rockdale Park Amenities	Demolish existing and construct new amenities	\$250,000
■	Scott Park Toilet Block	Demolish existing and construct new accessible amenities	\$285,000
■	Syd Frost Hall Internal Refurbishment	Refurbish existing hall and amenities	\$200,000
■	Tonbridge Street Reserve Amenities and Kiosk	Demolish existing and construct new accessible amenities	\$742,435
■	Wilson's Cottage Heritage Item	Identify and implement opportunities for community uses	\$430,000

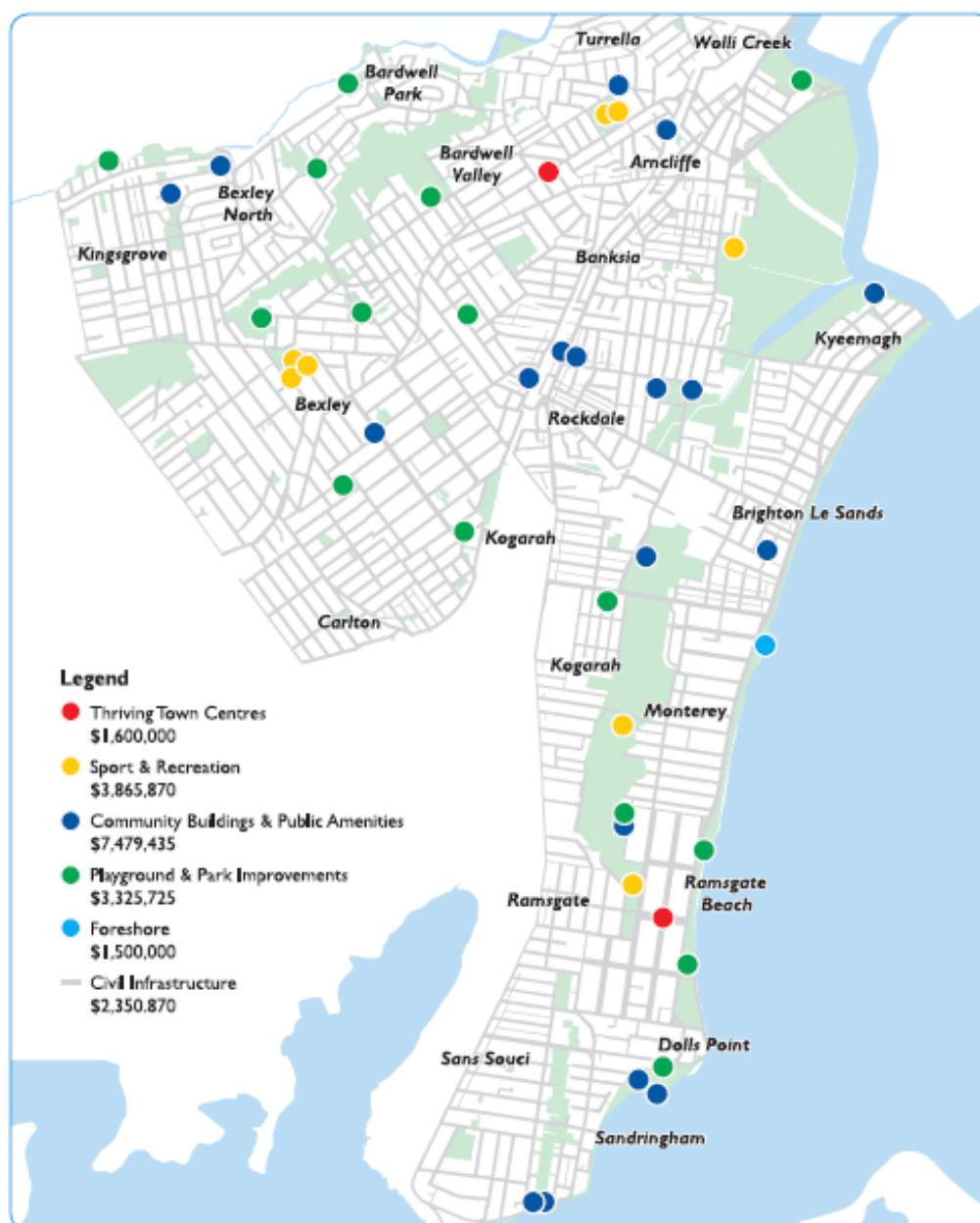
Civil Infrastructure (Kerb, Gutters and Roads) – \$2,350,870

■	Kerb and Guttering Rehabilitation	Remove and replace of concrete kerb and gutter at various locations	\$40,000
■	Resheet and Rehabilitation of Road Pavements	Replace of worn asphalt and rehabilitation of road pavements at various locations	\$2,310,870

Foreshore Renewal – \$1,500,000

■	Various locations along Lady Robinsons Beach	Replace, renew and/or rehabilitate of coastal infrastructure including seawalls, boardwalks, retaining walls, stairs, railings, fences, and jetties at various locations	\$1,500,000
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What's
happening
near you...



Proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV

Council is planning to apply for an SRV of 6% per annum for 4 years. This means each year starting from 1 July 2014 for 4 years residential and business rates will increase by 6% above the previous year's rates. After the last year of the SRV (30 June 2018) the increases will remain permanently in Council's rate base and will continue to fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works. The proposed Renewing Rockdale Levy will supplement the current Infrastructure Levy.

SRV Application	Length of Levy		% Rate Rise First Year of SRV		
Proposed	Start	End	Rate Peg	SRV	Total
Renewing Rockdale	2014/2015	Remains in rate base	2.3%	3.7%	6.0%
Renewing Rockdale	2015/2016	Remains in rate base	3%*	3%*	6.0%
Renewing Rockdale	2016/2017	Remains in rate base	3%*	3%*	6.0%
Renewing Rockdale	2017/2018	Remains in rate base	3%*	3%*	6.0%

* Projected rate peg and SRV value.

The proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV and program of works would only occur if Council is successful in its SRV application to IPART.

What does the 6% rate increase consist of?

The 6% rate increase includes the IPART determined 'rate peg' annual increase. This is an increase given to all councils in NSW each year. Council proposes to increase residential and business rates by 6% IN TOTAL each year for four years. The actual SRV component of the increase is 6% minus the rate peg amount. For 2014/15 the rate peg has been set by IPART at 2.3%, so the proposed SRV component of the total rate rise would be 3.7%, giving the total rate increase of 6%. During the four year period City of Rockdale rates will not increase by more than 6% each year.

Peter's story – An example of how the proposed SRV could affect ratepayers

The land value of Peter's property is \$347,362 and his rates in 2013/14 were \$1,156.43. The affect of the 'Renewing Rockdale' levy on Peter's rates in 2014/15 will be an estimated \$1.48 per week and a total estimated increase of \$76.97. At the end of the four year period in 2017/18 Peter's rates are estimated to be \$1,489.31. As the special variation remains in Council's rates base Peter's rates in 2018/19 will remain at the estimated \$1,489.31 plus the ongoing IPART rate peg.

Year	Estimated Annual Rate Payment	Increase Per Annum	6% Increase Per Annum
2013 – 2014	\$1,156.43	–	–
2014 – 2015	\$1,233.40	\$76.97	6%
2015 – 2016	\$1,313.58	\$80.18	6%
2016 – 2017	\$1,398.79	\$85.21	6%
2017 – 2018	\$1,489.31	\$90.52	6%
2018 – 2019	\$1,489.31 + increased subjected to IPART rate peg		



To get an estimate of your rates over the next four years, scan the QR Code with your smartphone or visit Council's website at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

How could the proposed 6% rate rise affect you?

It is important to know how rates could change if Council's SRV application was successful. The following tables provide an indication of what both residential and business rates will be over the 2014/15 to 2017/18 period. Special arrangements can be made for residents who are facing financial hardship and residents who are on a pension. Council has a Hardship Policy and also offers pensioner rate rebates.

RESIDENTIAL IPART + SRV			Current Base	Proposed				
			2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Increase on Previous Year			–	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	
Rateable Value	Properties	Land Value						
Minimum rate*	18,692	347,362	1,168.93	1,245.90	1,326.08	1,411.29	1,501.81	
\$347,363 to \$449,999	4,088	400,000	1,281.05	1,362.90	1,451.76	1,544.38	1,642.73	
\$450,000 to \$599,999	9,889	525,000	1,547.32	1,644.23	1,750.21	1,860.42	1,977.39	
\$600,000 to \$749,999	3,482	675,000	1,866.83	1,981.82	2,108.36	2,239.67	2,378.99	
\$750,000 to \$899,999	1,126	825,000	2,186.35	2,319.41	2,466.49	2,618.91	2,780.58	
\$900,000 to \$1,999,999	260	975,000	2,505.86	2,657.00	2,824.64	2,998.16	3,182.18	
\$2,000,000 and greater	36	2,000,000	4,689.21	4,963.86	5,271.92	5,589.66	5,926.41	
37,573								

* Assumed to be strata – Note: 347,362 is the maximum rateable value allowed for minimum rates to apply for the 2013/2014 year.

BUSINESS IPART + SRV			Current Base	Proposed				
			2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Increase on Previous Year			–	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	
Rateable Value	Properties	Land Value						
Minimum rate*	443	171,971	777.65	826.53	877.60	932.12	989.92	
\$171,972 to \$399,999	424	300,000	1,321.59	1,397.54	1,480.68	1,567.92	1,660.20	
\$400,000 to \$599,999	351	500,000	2,171.31	2,290.74	2,422.80	2,561.14	2,707.30	
\$600,000 to \$799,999	171	700,000	3,021.03	3,183.94	3,364.92	3,554.36	3,754.40	
\$800,000 to \$999,999	65	900,000	3,870.75	4,077.14	4,307.04	4,547.58	4,801.50	
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999	183	1,500,000	6,419.91	6,756.74	7,133.40	7,527.24	7,942.80	
\$2,000,000 and greater	97	2,000,001	8,544.21	8,989.74	9,488.70	10,010.29	10,560.55	
1,734								

* Assumed to be strata – Note: 171,971 is the maximum rateable value allowed for minimum rates to apply for the 2013/2014 year.

What do you think about Renewing Rockdale?

Please let us know what you think about the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works and Council's intention to apply for an SRV to fund the Program.

- ◆ You can find out more information by talking with staff at a Renewing Rockdale **Information Booth**:
 - Ramsgate Organic Foodies Market (Ramsgate Public School) Saturday 25 January 2014 – 8am to 1pm
 - Dolls Point, Peter Depena Reserve Australia Day Event Sunday 26 January 2014 – 10am to 1pm
 - Rockdale Plaza (in front Big W) Thursday 30 January 2014 – 3pm to 7pm
- ◆ Visit www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au
- ◆ Have Your Say at <http://haveyoursayrockdale.com.au/renewing-rockdale> or fill in the attached paper survey and return it to Council reply paid or hand it at Council's Customer Service Centre or at your local branch library by Wednesday 19 February 2014
- ◆ Visit an **Information Board** at Council's Customer Service Centre or your local branch library
- ◆ Call the Renewing Rockdale Information Line on **9562 1761** (Mon-Fri, 9am to 4:30pm)
- ◆ Register and attend the **Community Forum** at Rockdale Town Hall, 448 Princes Highway Tuesday 11 February 2014 – 6pm to 8pm
You can come and talk with the Mayor and Council staff at the Community Forum
To assist us in organising light refreshments call the Renewing Rockdale Information Line on 9562 1761 by Tuesday 4 February 2014

Previous Information Booths

Brighton Le Sands: Carols by the Sea event on Lady Robinsons Beach, Saturday 7 December 2013

Bexley North: Naim Gardens, Tuesday 10 December 2013

Arncliffe: Town Centre, Tuesday 14 January 2014

Carlton: Stell Reserve, Tuesday 21 January 2014



2 Bryant Street Rockdale NSW 2216
PO Box 21 Rockdale NSW 2216
Phone 02 9562 1666
Fax 02 9562 1777
Email rcc@rockdale.nsw.gov.au
www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

This document contains important information about Rockdale City Council. If you do not understand, please visit Council's Customer Service Centre at 2 Bryant Street Rockdale on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Council Staff will be happy to arrange interpreter services for you. You may also contact Telephone Interpreter Services on 131 450 and ask them to ring Rockdale City Council on 9562 1666 on your behalf.

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تحتوي هذه الوثيقة على معلومات هامة عن بلدية روكدايل. إذا لم تكن قادراً على فهمها، يرجى زيارة مركز خدمة الزائرين البلدية على العنوان التالي: 2 Bryant Street في روكدايل من الإثنين إلى الجمعة بين الساعة 8:30 صباحاً و 4:30 مساءً. وسنكون سعداء بالخدمة بين الساعة 9:00 صباحاً و 1:00 مساءً. بعد الظهر حيث سيقوم موظفو البلدية بتأمين مترجم لك بكل سريّة. كما يمكنك الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية على الرقم 131 450 والطلب منهم الاتصال ببلدية روكدايل على الرقم 9562 1666 نهاية منكم.

重要消息

本文件載有關於 Rockdale 市政府的重要資訊。如果您有不明之處，請於星期一至星期五，上午8時30分至下午4時30分，及星期六上午9時至下午1時，前來位於2 Bryant Street, Rockdale，市政府的顧客服務中心。市政府的職員會很樂意為您安排傳譯員的服務。您也可以聯絡電話傳譯服務處，電話 131 450，並請他們代您致電 9562 1666 給 Rockdale 市政府。

Σημαντικό:

Αυτό το έγγραφο περιέχει σημαντικές πληροφορίες για τη Δημαρχία Rockdale City Council. Αν δεν τις καταλαβαίνετε, παρακαλείσθε να επισκεφτείτε το Κέντρο Εξυπηρέτησης Πελατών (Customer Service Centre) του Δήμου στο 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, Δευτέρα - Παρασκευή από 8.30πμ - 4.30μμ και Σάββατο από 9.00πμ - 1.00μμ. Το Προσωπικό του Δήμου θα χαρεί να κανονίσει υπηρεσίες διερμηνέων για σας. Μπορείτε επίσης να επικοινωνήσετε με τις Τηλεφωνικές Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων (Telephone Interpreter Services) στο 131 450 και να τους ζητήσετε να τηλεφωνήσουν στο Rockdale City Council στο 9562 1666 για λογαριασμό σας.

Importante:

Questo documento contiene importanti informazioni sul Comune di Rockdale City. Se avete difficoltà a comprenderne il contenuto, recatevi presso il Customer Service Centre del Comune a 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale dal lunedì al venerdì dalle ore 8.30 alle 16.30 e al sabato dalle 9.00 alle 13.00. Il personale del Comune sarà ben lieto di procurarvi un servizio interpreti. Potete anche chiamare il Servizio telefonico interpreti (TIS) al numero 131 450 chiedendo che telefonino per vostro conto al Comune di Rockdale City al numero 9562 1666.

Важно:

Овој документ содржи важни информации за Rockdale City Council (Градската општина на Rockdale). Ако не го разбирате, ве молиме, посетете го општинскиот Customer Service Centre (Центар за услуги на клиенти), кој се наоѓа на 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, од понеделник до петок, од 8.30 наутро до 4.30 попладне и во сабота од 9.00 наутро до 1.00 попладне. Вработените во општината со задоволство ќе ви организираат да користите преведувач. Исто така, можете да телефонирате во Telephone Interpreter Services (Служба за преведување по телефон) на 131 450, и да ги замолите во ваше име да се јават во Градската општина на Rockdale на 9562 1666.

Importante:

Este documento contiene información importante sobre el Rockdale City Council (Municipio de Rockdale). Si no la entiende, le rogamos concurrir al Centro de Servicio al Cliente del Municipio, ubicado en 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, atención de lunes a viernes, de 8:30 am a 4:30 pm y el sábado de 9:00 am a 1:00 pm. El personal del municipio se complacerá en obtener los servicios de un intérprete para usted. Puede asimismo llamar al Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes al 131 450 y pedirles que llamen de su parte al Rockdale City Council, teléfono 9562 1666.

Appendix G Council's Website



Have Your Say

on Various Projects, Plans and Policies

[Home](#) [Help](#) [Search](#) [Sign In](#) [Register To Get Involved](#)

Have Your Say Hub > Renewing Rockdale

Renewing Rockdale

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Renewing Rockdale is a Program of works that Council proposes undertake to continue supporting community life today and in the future. The Program of works will deliver improvements to the standard of community buildings, amenities, playgrounds, roads, parks, sports fields and the foreshore along Lady Robinsons Beach ([complete list of the program](#)). To pay for the Renewing Rockdale Program of works, Council is proposing through a Special Rate Variation (SRV), to increase residential and business rates with a total rate rise of 6% per annum for 4 years.

How does council propose to pay for the Renewing Rockdale program of works?

Council is planning to apply for an SRV of 6% per annum for 4 years. This means each year starting from 1 July 2014 for 4 years residential and business rates will increase by 6% above the previous year's rates. After the last year of the SRV (30 June 2018) the increases will remain permanently in Council's rate base and will continue to fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works. The proposed Renewing Rockdale Levy will supplement the current Infrastructure Levy.

I am wondering...

- [The Challenge](#)
- [How the special variation will affect me financially?](#)
- [What Council is proposing to renew?](#)
- [What has Council achieved with the approved SRV funds?](#)
- [Frequently asked questions information](#)

Do you have any questions or want to find out more?

Talk to us at an information Booth

- Brighton Le Sands** Lady Robinsons Beach (Carols by the Sea Event) – Saturday 7 December 2013, 6.00pm to 9.00pm
- Bexley North** Nairn Gardens – Tuesday 10 December 2013, 3.00pm to 6.00pm
- Arncliffe** Town Centre – Tuesday 14 January 2014, 3.00pm to 6.00pm
- Carlton** Stell Reserve – Tuesday 21 January 2014, 3.00pm to 6.00pm
- Ramsgate** Organic Foodies Market (Ramsgate Public School) – Saturday 25 January 2014, 8.00am to 1.00pm
- Dolls Point** Peter Depina Reserve (Australia Day Event) – Sunday 26 January 2014, 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Rockdale Plaza** (in front of Big W) – Thursday 30 January 2014 – 3.00pm to 7.00pm

Register to attend the Community Forum

- Rockdale Town Hall** – Tuesday 11 February 2014, 6.00pm to 8.00pm 448 Princes Highway Rockdale

To assist us in arranging light refreshments please register to attend the Community Forum by Tuesday 4 February 2014.

Renewing Rockdale Survey

- Please read the [Renewing Rockdale Brochure](#) before completing the survey
- Survey closes on Wednesday 19 February 2014

Call Us

- Renewing Rockdale Information Line on 9562 1761 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 4.30pm)

[Like](#) Sign Up to see what your friends like.

[News](#) [Renewing Rockdale Survey](#) [Register to attend the Community Forum](#)

News

6% Rate Increase Information

What does the 6% rate increase consist of?

The 6% rate increase includes the IPART determined 'rate peg' annual increase. This is an increase given to all councils in NSW each year. Council proposes to increase residential and business rates by 6% IN TOTAL each year for four years. The actual SRV component of the increase is 6% minus the rate peg amount. For 2014/15 the rate peg has been set by IPART at 2.3%, so the proposed SRV component of the total rate rise would be 3.7%, giving the total rate increase of 6%. During the four year period City of Rockdale rates will not increase by more than 6% each year.

What does 6% per annum mean?

In the following year, the 6% rate increase (made up of the rate peg and SRV) is calculated on last year's rates:

Year 1 (2014/15) \$100.00 + \$6.00 = \$106.00

Year 2 (2015/16) \$106.00 + \$6.36 = \$112.36

Year 3 (2016/17) \$126.36 + \$6.74 = \$133.10

Year 4 (2017/18) \$133.10 + \$7.15 = \$140.25

Year 5 (2018/19) \$140.25

Please note: Figures are not representative of actual rates it is a simple calculation to show per annum compounding increases.

by City of Rockdale 5 Dec 2013, 2:54pm

Peter's Story – An example of how the proposed SRV could affect ratepayers

The land value of Peter's property is \$347,362 and his rates in 2013/14 were \$1,156.49. The effect of the 'Renewing Rockdale' levy on Peter's rates in 2014/15 will be an estimated \$1.48 per week and a total estimated increase of \$76.97. At the end of the four year period in 2017/18 Peter's rates are estimated to be \$1,489.31. As the special variation remains in Council's rates base Peter's rate payment in 2018/19 will remain at the estimated \$1,489.31 plus the ongoing IPART rate peg.

Year	Estimated Annual Rate Payment	Increase Per Annum	6% Increase Per Annum
2013-2014	\$1,156.49	-	-
2014-2015	\$1,233.46	\$76.97	6%
2015-2016	\$1,313.58	\$80.12	6%
2016-2017	\$1,398.79	\$85.21	6%
2017-2018	\$1,489.31	\$90.52	6%
2018-2019	\$1,489.31 + increase subject to IPART rate peg		

[Get an estimate of your annual rate payments here!](#)

by City of Rockdale 6 Dec 2013, 10:41am

REGISTER to get involved!

KEY LINKS

[IPART – Applications & Determinations](#)

[Rates Calculator](#)

KEY DATES

[Ramsgate Information Booth: Ramsgate Organic Foodies Market \(Ramsgate Public School\) from 8.00am to 1.00pm 25 January 2014](#)

[Dolls Point Information Booth: Peter Depina Reserve \(Australia Day Event\) from 10.00am to 1.00pm 26 January 2014](#)

[Rockdale Information Booth: Rockdale Plaza \(in front of Big W\) from 3.00pm to 7.00pm 30 January 2014](#)

[Community Forum: Rockdale Town Hall from 6.00pm to 8.00pm 11 February 2014](#)

[more...](#)



REFERENCE MATERIALS

[Renewing Rockdale Brochure \(1 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[The Challenge \(241 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[How will the special variation affect me ... \(249 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[What has Council achieved with the approv... \(428 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[more...](#)

RELATED PROJECTS

[Wolli Creek Traffic and Transport Study Update](#)

[Off-Leash Dog Exercise Review](#)

[Draft Rockdale City Plan 2013 – 2025](#)

[Primary Health Care Plan](#)

[Council Events Survey](#)

[Your City: Your Plan – Young People Speak Up](#)

[Welcome to Speak Up Hub](#)

[Keeping You Informed Hub](#)

[Bexley Swimming and Leisure Centre](#)

[Advocacy Hub](#)

[more...](#)

The Challenge Information



This slide features the Rockdale City Council logo in the top right. The title 'Did you know Council looks after...' is in blue. Below the title are four colored boxes containing a list of council responsibilities:

- Orange Box:**
 - 46 Community Facility Buildings
 - 1 Swimming Pool Complex
 - 16 Commercial Buildings
 - 6 Library Buildings
 - Rockdale Administration Buildings and Town Hall Buildings
- Light Orange Box:**
 - 67 Parks Buildings
 - 11 Depot Buildings
 - 17 Residential Buildings
- Teal Box:**
 - 227 Parks and Reserves
 - 23 Reserves with Sport Components
 - 82 Playgrounds
 - Two 18 Hole Golf Courses
 - 69 Sports Amenities Buildings and Public Toilets
 - 6 Swimming Enclosures
 - 1 Boat Ramp and Pontoon
- Blue Box:**
 - 254km Sealed Roads
 - 386km Paved Footpaths
 - 5973 Drainage Pits
 - 44 Bridges and Culverts
 - 522km Kerb and Gutter
 - 10km Creeks and Channels

A pink box on the right contains the text: '8km of Lady Robinsons Beach on Historic Botany Bay'. The 'YOUR CITY YOUR PLAN' logo with a stylized 'R' is in the bottom left. A yellow wavy line is at the bottom.

The Challenge



Delivering for the present and future

The City of Rockdale is a growing city, with forecasts estimating the population to reach 127,076 in 2026. It is important that we make appropriate plans to ensure residents are able to continue to access services and facilities which meet their needs. The current median age in the Rockdale Local Government Area is 36 years and 62.2% of the population are either couples with children or single parent families.

What the community has told us they want

Over the past few years, Council has engaged extensively with the community and received feedback from people about their expectations of asset provision in the City. We have done this through surveys, meetings, community and online forums, information booths and meetings with community groups. Collectively, people have asked us to spend more money on infrastructure and improve the:

- Provision and maintenance of public toilets;
- Condition, maintenance and design of sporting fields and parks;
- Design, safety and maintenance of playgrounds;
- Condition and maintenance of local roads;
- Condition of community halls;
- Quality and maintenance of footpaths;
- Maintenance of natural waterways;
- Our branch libraries.

We have also been asked to consider the provision of community hubs through larger facilities which allow collocation of services for residents, as well as improved support for young people, older people and people with a disability.

Council's current asset position

The age, harsh coastal conditions and regular use of our existing assets means that we need to invest in renewal programs to ensure community assets continue to meet community needs. If Council does not spend money on asset renewal now we will need to invest more money in the future as asset conditions continue to decline. The money spent today on renewing assets will greatly reduce the cost to completely replace our assets in years to come.

How does Council decide which assets are renewed?

When making choices about which assets are renewed and when, Council makes an assessment by considering:

- Community feedback;
- Community need for the asset;
- Risk of harm to the community and asset users;
- Asset lifecycle that includes the ongoing costs of operation, maintenance and improvement.



Council's capacity to meet the Challenge



Where Council's money comes from?

Each year the NSW Government through the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets a limit on the total amount of income that NSW councils can generate from rates. This is called the rate-setting percentage and it is specified by the Minister for Local Government each year. If a council would like to increase their general income by more than the rate-set limit they need to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a special rate variation (SRV). Revenue from rates makes up 41% of our total annual revenue. The balance includes fees and charges, government grants, developer contributions, loans and interest earned on investments.

What is our current financial position?

The NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) completed a financial assessment of all NSW councils in 2011/12. The Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2013 determined Rockdale City Council's financial sustainability as "moderate" in the short-term "with a neutral outlook". This was a rating similar to 75% of all NSW councils. What this means is we are unable to improve the standard of community services and facilities without seeking extra funds. Our current financial position does not allow us to spend the amount needed to properly look after all our assets.



What is our response to meet the Challenge?

Council has implemented the following approach in order to balance our limited resources and the demand on the City's assets and services:

1. Productivity improvements and efficiencies in service delivery with an expected saving target of 0.5%, which means a saving of \$250,000 every year;
2. Review Council's property portfolio to optimise returns and value for money;
3. An SRV specifically for the renewal of our community assets;
4. Increase our level of borrowing through the State Government Interest Subsidy Scheme.




How will the SRV affected me financially?



Renewing Rockdale

How will the special variation affect me financially?



Rates Information

What is rate pegging?

Each year the NSW Government sets a limit on the total amount of income that a Council can raise from rates. This is called the rate-pegging percentage and it is specified by the Minister for Local Government each year. If a Council would like to increase their general income by more than the rate-peg limit they need to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a Special Rate Variation.

How is the rate peg determined?


A standing committee with representatives of the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Treasury advises the Minister each year on the maximum 'rate-pegging' increase that should apply in the following year. The Committee calculates the rate peg by looking closely at the projected annual increase in costs that would be sustained by a typical Council delivering services at levels similar to the previous year. For 2014/15 the rate peg has been set by IPART at 2.3%.

Can Council increase its income by more than the rate-peg limit?

Council can apply to the Minister for Local Government to increase its general income by more than the rate-peg limit. This is called a special variation application. If approved, the Minister will specify the percentage by which Council may increase its general income.

What does Council take into account when it applies for a special variation?

When Council assess for a special variation application, several factors are taken into account. These include asset conditions, the financial position of the Council, the impact on ratepayers and evidence of community need/support.



Proposed Rate Increase

What is Rockdale City Council proposing?

Council is planning to apply for an SRV of 6% per annum for 4 years. This means each year starting from 1 July 2014 for 4 years residential and business rates will increase by 6% above the previous year's rates. After the last year of the SRV (30 June 2018) the increases will remain permanently in Council's rate base and will continue to fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works. The proposed Renewing Rockdale Levy will supplement the current Infrastructure Levy.

What does the 6% rate increase consist of?

The 6% rate increase includes the IPART determined 'rate cap' annual increase. This is an increase given to all councils in NSW each year. Council proposes to increase residential and business rates by 6% IN TOTAL each year for four years. The actual SRV component of the increase is 6% minus the rate cap amount. For 2014/15 the rate cap has been set by IPART at 2.3%, so the proposed SRV component of the total rate rise would be 3.7%, giving the total rate increase of 6%. During the four year period City of Rockdale rates will not increase by more than 6% each year.

What does 6% per annum mean?

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Please note: Figures are not representative of actual rates it is a simple calculation to show per annum compounding increases.

Special Variation Financial

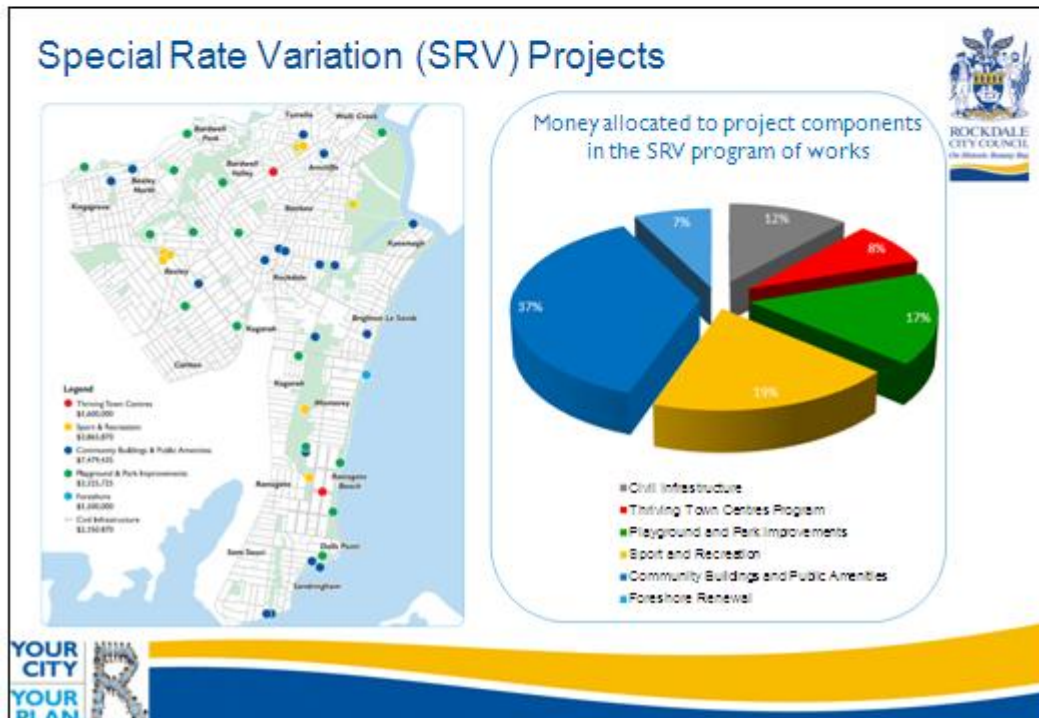
Peter's Story – An example of how the proposed SRV could affect ratepayers

The land value of Peter's property is \$347,362 and his rates in 2013/14 were \$1,156.43. The effect of the 'Renewing Rockdale' levy on Peter's rates in 2014/15 will be an estimated \$1.48 per week and a total estimated increase of \$76.97. At the end of the four year period in 2017/18 Peter's rates are estimated to be \$1,489.31. As the special variation remains in Council's rates base Peter's rate payment in 2018/19 will remain at the estimated \$1,489.31 plus the ongoing IPART rate cap.

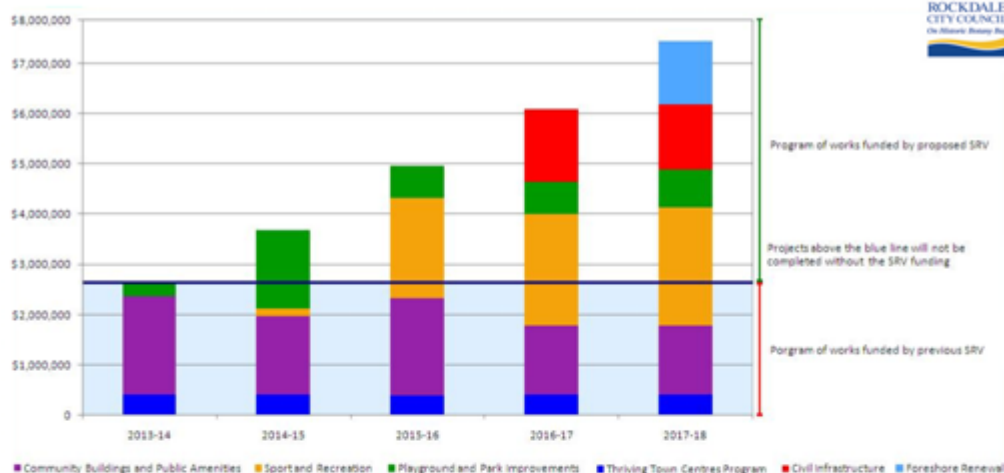
Year	Estimated Annual Rate Payment	Increase Per Annum	6% Increase Per Annum
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2014-2015	\$1,233.40	\$76.97	6%
2015-2016	\$1,313.58	\$80.18	6%
2016-2017	\$1,398.79	\$85.21	6%
2017-2018	\$1,489.31	\$90.52	6%
2018-2019	\$1,489.31 + Increase subjected to IPART rate cap		

Get an estimate of your annual rate payments here!

What is Council proposing to renew?



How will the funds be spent?



Proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV Program of Works

The proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works has been informed by community engagement, risk and lifecycle assessments. If Council is successful with our application for a rate rise we will complete the following works. Costs shown indicate only the SRV financial contribution to the works.

Key

- Funded through Infrastructure Levy
- Project Implementation will be delayed
- Project will not be funded
- Project funding sourced from the overlap of SRV funding

Sport and Recreation - \$3,865,870

Project	Upgrade	Cost
Anncliffe Park	Install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$300,000
AS Tanner Reserve	Install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$280,000
Barker Oval and Outer	Install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$100,000
Rimstone Gardens	Re-level ground surface, install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$675,000
Scarborough Park	Re-level ground surface, install drainage, automatic irrigation, new turf, training lighting upgrade	\$2,510,870

Thriving Town Centres - \$1,600,000

Project	Upgrade	Cost
Ramsgate Beach Thriving Town Centre**	Replace/upgrade existing public infrastructure, improve integrated public transport and cycling and promote private investment in Town Centres	\$800,000
Wallasey Road	Renew existing public infrastructure	\$800,000



Proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV Program of Works



Playground and Park Improvements - \$3,325,725

Project	Cost	Project	Cost
Amcliffe Park	\$175,000	Leo Smith Reserve	\$125,000
Becker Park	\$315,435	Moonfield Reserve	\$125,000
Cahill Park** (Section 94 to supplement)	\$100,000	Pearl Decena Reserve	\$315,000
Cook Park** (Emmaline St / Presidents Ave)	\$175,000	Robertson St Reserve	\$125,000
Cook Park - Park Upgrade (Ramazote St/Emmaline St)	\$135,000	Scott Park	\$125,000
Dominar Reserve	\$160,145	Silver Jubilee Park	\$250,000
Hibbard St Reserve	\$125,000	Slade Road Reserve	\$125,145
Kingsgrove Avenue Reserve	\$125,000	Stotts Reserve	\$175,000
Kingsland Road Reserve	\$125,000	Yamba Woods Reserve	\$125,000
Safety materials program to meet compliance requirements	\$400,000		

Civil Infrastructure (Kerb, Gutters and Roads)- \$2,350,870

Project	Upgrade	Cost
Kerb and Gutter Rehabilitation	Remove and replace of concrete kerb and gutter at various locations	\$40,000
Restore and Rehabilitation of Road Pavements	Replace of worn asphalt and rehabilitation of road pavements at various locations	\$2,310,870

Foreshore Renewal- \$1,500,000

Project	Upgrade	Cost
Various locations along Lady Robinsons Beach	Replace, renew and/or rehabilitate coastal infrastructure including seawalls, boardwalks, retaining walls, stairs, railings, fences and fences at various locations	\$1,500,000



Proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV Program of Works





Community Building and Public Amenities - \$7,479,435

Project	Upgrade	Cost
Administration Building	Refurbish interior of existing building	\$1,600,000
Amcliffe Pre School Kindergarten	Upgrade existing kindergarten with an accessible ramp, entry and toilet	\$160,000
Becker North Public Toilet	Demolish existing and provide new toilet	\$250,000
Becker Oval Toilets and Kiosk	Refurbish the existing public amenities	\$500,000
Bicentennial Park Central Amenities	Demolish existing and construct new amenities	\$530,000
Brighton Early Childhood Centre	Upgrade existing kindergarten to current standards, including accessible ramp, entry and toilet	\$115,000
Gilchrist Park Amenities	Refurbish the existing public amenities	\$530,000
Guild Theatre Roof Replacement	Replace existing asbestos roof with new roof sheeting and new gutters	\$452,000
Koreemah Boat Ramp Reserve	Refurbish the existing public amenities	\$275,000
Jack and Jill Kindergarten**	Upgrade existing kindergarten with an accessible ramp, entry and toilet	\$150,000
Old St David's Church	Refurbish interior of existing building	\$200,000
Pearl Decena Reserve South Amenities	Demolish existing and construct new accessible amenities	\$330,000
Pearl Decena Reserve Toilets West	Demolish existing and construct new amenities	\$330,000
Rockdale Community Aid	Refurbish interior of existing building	\$150,000
Rockdale Park Amenities	Demolish existing and construct new amenities	\$250,000
Scott Park Toilets Block	Demolish existing and construct new accessible amenities	\$255,000
3rd Frost Hall Internal Refurbishment	Refurbish existing hall and amenities	\$200,000
Tenbydes Street Reserve Amenities and Kiosk	Demolish existing and construct new accessible amenities	\$742,435
Wilson's Cottage Heritage Inn	Identify and implement opportunities for community uses	\$430,000



What has Council Achieved with approved SRV applications?

Renewing Rockdale

What has Council achieved with approved special rate variation funds?

Council's approved SRV applications...



Approved SRV applications

With the support of the community, consecutive SRV's have been in place since 2007. SRV funding has contributed to the renewal of community centres, libraries, public toilets, sports fields and parks. Projects funded by previous SRV's are listed on the cover of this brochure. The proposed Renewing Rockdale SRV will continue to supplement the 'Infrastructure Levy' allowing Council to keep addressing the City's asset renewal challenge.

SRV Application	Length of Levy		% Rate Rise First Year of SRV		
	Start	End	Rate Pkg	SRV	Total
Infrastructure Levy	2007/2008	Remains in rate base	3.0%	4.1%	5.1%*
Community Building Levy	2010/2011	2012/2013	2.6%	3.0%	5.6%
Infrastructure Levy Supplement	2013/2014	Remains in rate base	3.4%	3.0%	3.4%**

*Community Safety Levy of 3% expired and new application for 1% approved.

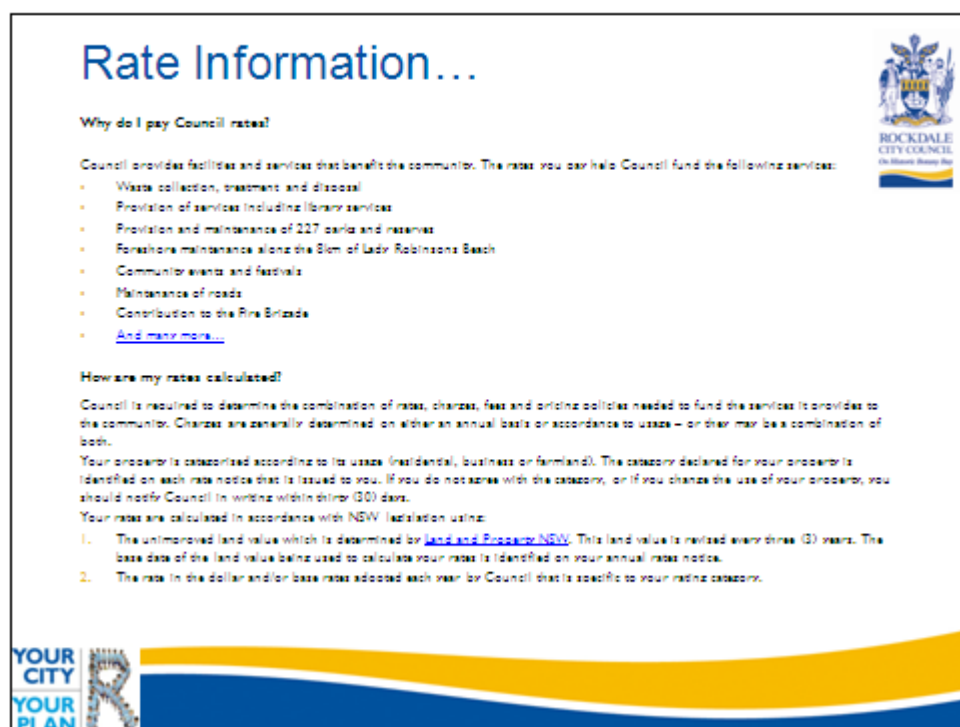
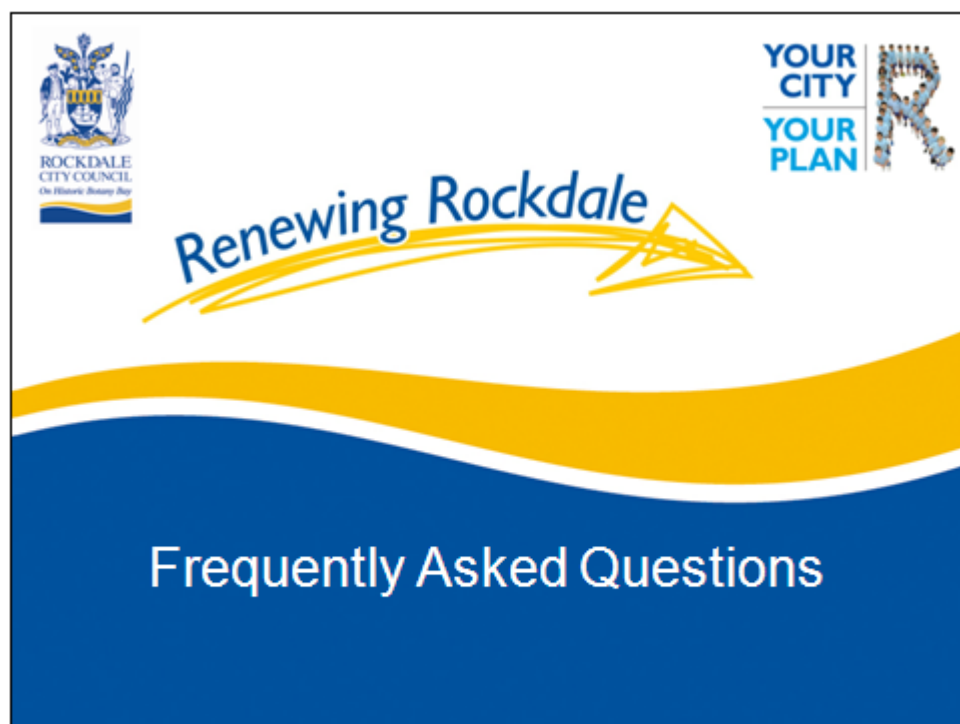
**Community Building Levy 3% expired.



Previous SRV funded projects



Frequently asked questions information



Rate Peg Information...



What is rate pegging?

Each year the NSW Government sets a limit on the total amount of income that a Council can raise from rates. This is called the rate-pegging percentage and it is specified by the Minister for Local Government each year. If a Council would like to increase their general income by more than the rate-peg limit they need to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a Special Rate Variation.

How is the rate peg determined?

A standing committee with representatives of the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Treasury advises the Minister each year on the maximum 'rate-pegging' increase that should apply in the following year. The Committee calculates the rate peg by looking closely at the projected annual increase in costs that would be sustained by a typical Council delivering services at levels similar to the previous year. The rate peg is usually around 3%. For 2014/15 the rate peg has been set by IPART at 2.3%.

Can Council increase its income by more than the rate-peg limit?

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Rate Increase Information



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Council is planning to apply for an SRV of 6% per annum for 4 years. This means each year starting from 1 July 2014 for 4 years residential and business rates will increase by 6% above the previous year's rates. After the last year of the SRV (30 June 2018) the increases will remain permanently in Council's rate base and will continue to fund the Renewing Rockdale program of works. The proposed Renewing Rockdale Levy will supplement the current Infrastructure Levy.

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What does 6% per annum mean?

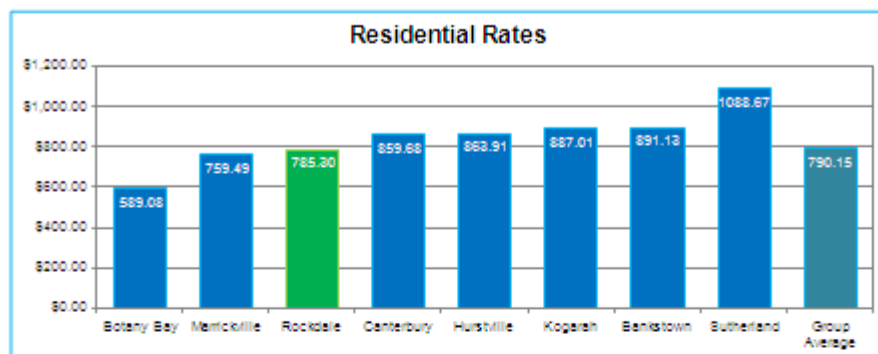
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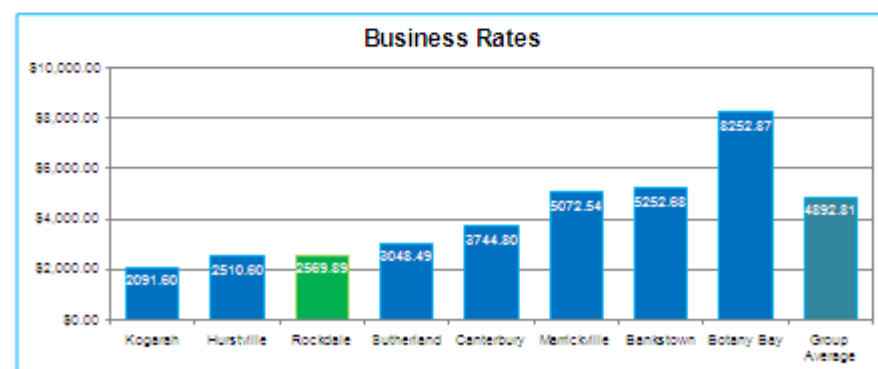
Comparing Residential Rates...



Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.



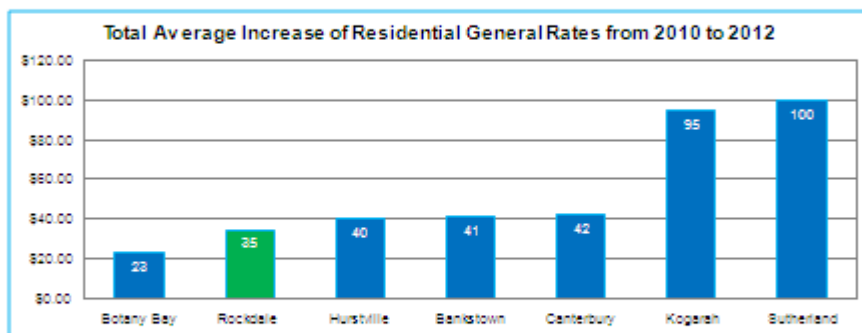
Comparing Business Rates...



Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.



Comparing Rate Increases...



Source: The Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) published 'Comparative Information on NSW Local Government: Measuring Local Government Performance 2011/12'.



Trouble Paying Rates...



What if I am having trouble paying my rates?

Council usually gives a 7 day grace period after the due date for you to make your payment before adding an interest penalty. After 7 days, Council can extend the due date, however interest will be charged.



If you fall behind on your instalments, you must advise Council in writing (within seven days) of how and when you intend to bring your account up to date.

Special arrangements can be made for residents facing financial hardship.

- [Hardship Policy](#)
- [Pensioner rate rebates](#)



Appendix H Online Rate Calculator

The **Rates Calculator** will provide you with an estimate of your Council Rates and Charges for 2014 to 2018 under the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV).


You will need either your 2013/2014 Council Rates Notice issued by Council in July 2013 or your Notice of Valuation issued by the NSW Valuer General in January 2013.

The Notice of Valuation contains the land value, which you need to enter into the light blue rectangle below. This same land value also appears on your Council Rates Notice.


Please note: The Rates Calculator only provides an estimate for a simple assessment (including no more than one waste service & stormwater levy) and doesn't include pension rebates, mixed development or local area rates that may be applicable to your property.

IPART - Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Notice of Valuation



Council Rates Notice



Enter your land value:

Select your type of property: Residential Strata

How many red lid bins do you have:

Levies	2013/2014	2014/2015	Estimated Increase
Residential Rates	\$690.00	\$705.85	\$15.85
Waste fee	\$382.00	\$404.92	\$22.92
Stormwater Levy	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$0.00
Infrastructure Levy - Base	\$17.63	\$28.26	\$10.63
Infrastructure Levy - Residential	\$34.64	\$55.52	\$20.88
Community Safety Levy - Base	\$4.38	\$4.48	\$0.10
Community Safety Levy - Residential	\$3.45	\$3.52	\$0.08

Annual	2013/2014	2014/2015	Estimated Increase	%
Estimated total annual rates (including waste service)	\$1,144.59	\$1,215.05	\$70.46	6%
Estimated total annual rates (excluding waste service)	\$762.59	\$810.13	\$47.54	6%

Weekly	2013/2014	2014/2015	Estimated Increase	%
Estimated total weekly rates (including waste service)	\$21.93	\$23.28	\$1.35	6%
Estimated total weekly rates (excluding waste service)	\$14.61	\$15.52	\$0.91	6%

In future years your annual rates are estimated to be:	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
IPART rate peg increase only - (* see below)	\$1,184.74	\$1,232.06	\$1,281.52	\$1,333.24
IPART rate peg + Special Rate Variation - (6.0%)	\$1,215.05	\$1,289.31	\$1,368.11	\$1,451.68
Difference	\$30.31	\$57.25	\$86.59	\$118.44

* For 2014/15 the rate peg has been set by IPART at 2.3%, and then estimated at 3% for the remaining years.

Please note: The proposed 6% rate peg and special rate variation will compound over the 4 year period (2014 to 2018). Starting as of 1 July 2014 rates will rise by 6% each year for 4 years.

Update
Reset
Print

Appendix I St George & Sutherland Leader Article Published 12.12.2013

Neighbourhood News www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

Development Proposal

A Development Application has been received seeking consent for the following:

Property	93, 95 and 97 Bay Street, Rockdale
Application No.	DA-2014/190
Applicant	J & M Faddoul Pty Ltd
Proposal	Demolition of existing structures and construction of four (4) storey residential flat building containing 19 residential apartments with basement car parking and subdivision of the same into 19 strata lots

You can view the application online at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/DATracking

Alternatively, you can use one of the computers at Council's Customer Service Centre or at any of our branch libraries to inspect the application online. Written submissions are invited and should be received at Council by 4:30pm on Thursday 2 January 2014.

This notice does not imply that Council will grant consent to this development proposal.

* If you have made a reportable political donation or gift within the last two years, a Disclosure Statement must accompany any submission.

Public Notice in Regards to New Year's Eve 2013

Council will be holding a free family fireworks showcase on the bay off Brighton Le Sands at 9pm on Monday 31 December 2013. As a result there will be changed traffic conditions on Tuesday 31 December 2013 and Wednesday 1 January 2014.

Special Event Clearways on The Grand Parade between President Avenue and Bruce Street; and General Holmes Drive between Bruce Street and Bestic Street will apply from 4am Tue 31 Dec 2013 to 2am Wed 1 Jan 2014. Also on Bay Street between The Grand Parade and Moate Avenue from 1pm Tue 31 Dec 2013 to 1am Wed 1 Jan 2014. Also part of Crawford Road between Bay Street and Kurnell Street (eastern and western sides) from 4pm Tue 31 Dec 2013 to 2am Wed 1 Jan 2014.

Full Road Closures will occur on The Grand Parade between President Avenue and Bruce Street; and on General Holmes Drive between Bruce Street and Bestic Street from 7:30pm to 10pm Tue 31 Dec 2013. Also closed will be Bay Street between Moate Avenue and The Grand Parade from 6pm Tue 31 Dec 2013 to 2am Wed 1 Jan 2014.

Local Traffic Only will be permitted to enter parts of the following streets: The (Little) Grand Parade, Bestic Street, Princess Street, Rowley Street, The Boulevard, Henson Street, Duke Street, Selwood Street, Teralba Road, Bruce Street, Sybil Lane, Gordon Street and O'Neil Street.

Detours Northbound/Southbound are via Princes Highway or West Botany Street

Limited disabled parking will be available on The Little Grand Parade

Council encourages the use of public transport. Affected Bus Services: 478, 479 and 303

Transport Info: www.transportnsw.info or call 131 500

Live Traffic NSW: www.livetraffic.com or call 132 701

9pm Fireworks only. No Midnight Fireworks. No alcohol permitted, this is an alcohol free event

Renewing Rockdale

Council is working on finding the balance between our community's aspirations and delivering services and facilities at a high standard. Factors such as age, harsh coastal conditions and the regular use of our buildings, recreational facilities and foreshore means that council needs to invest in renewal initiatives to maintain community assets for future years.

As we indicated last year, Council is applying for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 6% per annum for 4 years. This means rates would increase by 6% each year for 4 years. The 6% rate increase includes the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) rate peg of around 3%.

Do you have any questions or want to find out more?

Talk to us at an Information Booth

Brighton Le Sands Lady Robinsons Beach, 6pm-9pm, Saturday 7 December 2013

Bexley North Naim Gardens, 3pm-6pm, Tuesday 10 December 2013

Arncliffe Town Centre, 3pm-6pm, Tuesday 14 January 2014

Carlton Stell Reserve, 3pm-6pm, Tuesday 21 January 2014

Ramsgate Organic Foodies Market (Public School), 8am-1pm, Saturday 25 January 2014

Register to attend the Community Forum

Rockdale Town Hall, 6pm-8pm, Tuesday 11 February 2014

Online discussion at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au under Have Your Say – Renewing Rockdale
Scan the QR code with your smartphone, register and share your thoughts!

COMMUNITY FORUM REGISTRATION FORM

Register by Tuesday 4 February 2014. Return/post: Rockdale City Council,
2 Bryant St, Rockdale NSW 2216 or email rcc@rockdale.nsw.gov.au

Name: _____

Surname: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Customer Service Centre

Office Hours Mon to Fri – 8:30am to 4:30pm; Sat – 9:00am to 1:00pm

Phone Hours Mon to Fri – 8:30am to 5:00pm; Sat – 9:00am to 1:00pm

2 Bryant Street / PO Box 21 Rockdale NSW 2216

Tel 02 9562 1666 Fax 02 9562 1777 Email rcc@rockdale.nsw.gov.au

www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au



Appendix J Renewing Rockdale Information Line Feedback

Date	Notes
22.01.14	Before starting to Renew Rockdale do something about traffic noise in Brighton
23.01.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enquired about Have Your Say, where he could have his say, why there is no community forum when the site intro says there is, community has a right to view and comment on all projects even if they have been archived. - Asked why the community is unable to comment/discuss/engage on every Have Your Say page even pages that have been archived (meaning engagement period has concluded) - Stated he will be attending the Renewing Rockdale Community Forum with questions as to why his emails have not been answered by Council staff. - Also said he'd follow up the conversation with a phone call to the Mayor. <p>Email Response</p>
24.01.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What upgrades are happening in Wollongong Road? - Why isn't Arncliffe Town Centre part of the Renewing Rockdale Program? - The only renewals that happen in Arncliffe is new turf in Arncliffe Park and the cricket pitch which are mainly used by people and if anyone else uses the park they are told to go away because it is their park. - Caller stated Arncliffe Park is used for drug dealings, stated that both the police and Council are aware of this and do nothing about it. <p>(Answered questions)</p>
24.01.14	Community Forum Registration
29.01.14	Enquired about waste pick up in George St, Rockdale.
31.01.14	Requested a Renewing Rockdale Brochure (Mailed RR brochure)
31.01.14	Community Forum Registration
31.01.14	Issue with not receiving Council flyers and brochures, particularly the rubbish collection magnet and calendar. (Mailed a RR brochure)
3.02.14	Arncliffe Park Toilets an is an SRV project but is not in the Renewing Rockdale Brochure Arncliffe Park Toilets is part of the approved SRV funding and the project has been delayed temporarily.
3.02.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Forum registration - Enquired about seniors week activities (Mailed a Seniors Week brochure)
4.02.14	Registered wife to attend the Forum
4.02.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enquired about when the Town Ramsgate Town Centre project would commence <p>Council officer contacted the community member</p>
4.02.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enquired if Council provides support to assets owned by community organisations. She particularly referenced the Guild Theatre. <p>Rockdale Council owns the assets that are part of the Renewing Rockdale program of works.</p>
5.02.14	Registered to attend the community forum
6.02.14	Could no longer attend the Community Forum
6.02.14	Registered his wife to attend the Community Forum
10.02.14	Registered 3 community members to attend the Community Forum
10.02.14	Requested flyer for community members in 5 th Ward that did not receive the Renewing Rockdale Brochure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flyers left at Customer Service
11.02.14	Discussed the "have your say " item on the website , stating there is no online discussion feature , saying that there is only specific headings that people can comment on and this is not satisfactory.
11.02.14	Confirm that flyers were available at Customer Service

12.02.14	<p>Stated that no one in O'Neil Street Brighton Le Sands received the Renewing Rockdale Brochure and survey.</p> <p>Delivered flyers to every post box in O'Neil Street.</p>
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Appendix K Email Invitation and Information



Invitation to attend the Rockdale City Mayoral Community Forum

03/02/2014 11:02 AM

[Show Details](#)

Dear Resident

You are invited to join us for our first Mayoral Community Forum for 2014.

The **Rockdale City Mayoral Community Forum** kick starts the year by providing participants with an update of Council's activities and the proposed [Renewing Rockdale Program](#). It is an opportunity for you to talk to the Mayor and Council staff about our activities.

Community members will be updated on:

- progress Council has made over the last 6 months towards achieving the objectives outlined in the Rockdale City Plan 2013-2025
- the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works and
- Council's application a special rate variation (SRV) to fund the proposed Renewing Rockdale Program of works.

Date Tuesday 11 February 2014

Time 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue Rockdale Town Hall, 448 Princes Highway Rockdale

To assist us in organising light refreshments please register to attend the Community Forum by Friday 7 February 2014. To register complete the [online registration form](#) or call the Renewing Rockdale Information Line on 9562 1761 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 4.30pm). Numbers are limited so register your interest in attending now.

This Forum is part of a wider community engagement program to inform the Rockdale City community about Council's application for an SRV.

If you are unable to attend the forum please visit the [Renewing Rockdale Have Your Say web page](#) or call the Renewing Rockdale Information Line on 9562 1761 for more information and the opportunity to tell us what you think about Renewing Rockdale.

We hope to see you there!

You have been contacted because you have previously provided your email address to Council and indicated that you would like to be kept informed about the delivery of the Rockdale City Plan and future plans. If you no longer wish to be contacted by email please respond to this email with that response.

Kind Regards,

Community Planning & Engagement
Rockdale City Council
2 Bryant Street / PO Box 21
Rockdale NSW 2216

W www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

One Community, Many Cultures, Endless Opportunity

Appendix L Renewing Rockdale Facebook Post



Rockdale City Council

shared a link.


February 10

City of Rockdale residents - we want you to Have Your Say!

Renewing Rockdale is a program of works that Council proposes to undertake to continue supporting community life. The works will improve the City's community buildings, public amenities, playgrounds, roads, parks, sports fields and the foreshore. Age, harsh coastal conditions and the regular use of existing facilities means that Council needs to invest in their renewal so that the community can keep using and enjoying them.

To fund the works Council is applying for a special rate variation (SRV). This means each year for 4 years starting from 1 July 2014 residential and business rates would increase by 6% including the annual rate peg.

Please click the link for more information or to tell us what you think about Renewing Rockdale by Wednesday 19 February 2014.



Renewing Rockdale | Have Your Say Rockdale

haveyoursayrockdale.com.au

Renewing Rockdale is a Program of works that Council proposes undertake to continue supporting community life today and in the future.

Like · Comment · Share

1



and 19 others like this.

Top Comments ▾

does this include the hot showers for backpackers at ramsgate beach?

February 14 at 10:22pm

omg ...how much is this going to cost .

February 14 at 10:21pm

DRAFT

125

Appendix M Forum Feedback Notes

Theme	Feedback
Renewing Rockdale Program of Works (6% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bexley North Library Toilets need to be upgraded - Carlton – don't leave out in the cold 'out of sight out of mind'
SRV Funding Proposal (15% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the 3 higher costs other than infrastructure? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Largest → staff costs - Plant/equipment - Income – loans and assets - Sales and cost savings - How likely is it that IPART will approve SRV application? - Review of local government show most Council's need a rate increase - Fully funding depreciation will mean it won't be future generations - How are SRV's dealt with by IPART and why does the increase remain in the rate base?"
Other Funding Ideas (15% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where does revenue from developers go, particularly in Wolli Creek? - Overtime for Saturday and Sunday, workers at Scarborough Park Playground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>(Contractor engaged through competitive process where a total figure for the project is quoted. The contractor pays the worker, workers' wages are not paid by the ratepayers at the Scarborough Park Playground)</i> - Paid parking along Lady Robinsons Beach/Cook Park - Amalgamate with other Councils - Suggestion – Carlton has 3 flags - If you want to have flags which are a complete waste of rate payer's money, which would be beneficial to help maintain Tindale Reserve much needed gardens. Maybe our Mayor Shane O'Brien might like to come out and have a look here at Tindale Reserve. (Image)This is more practical – street lighting, straight flying much smaller flags
Non Renewing Rockdale related comments (64% of all comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs off leash – why was the dog park changed no transparency, lack of transparency. - Community engagement opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement panel - Representative of community groups/demographics - Rubbish removal due to happen the week of the 20th January 2014 finally removed today 30th January 2014 - Saturday 25th January 2014 – Tindale Reserve – due to RCC gardeners not maintaining our reserve regularly, moth vine killing shrubs and trees, 2nd time I have removed this vine. I pull down Moth Vine on 25th January 2014 and they still lay there as 30th January 2014. - Weeds – Tindale Reserve due to regular maintenance of our reserve

	<p>(25/1/14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible Liability Issue – no removal of base of plants which council workers with lack of knowledge for maintaining our garden. Very sharp sticks poking up which could badly injure a child or adult if they fell heavenly on them. - I asked RCC to remove vine which was smothering 3 beautiful shrubs which were in good condition. They also removed to obviously not under supervision of a horticulturist. Very DUM - 21st November 2013 – only come in to mow lawn NOT to maintain the gardens, appalling! - Dogs off leash – why was the dog park changes no transparency, lack of transparency. Lack of feedback, emails and calls haven't been returned - Beach access wards 3 and 5 - Dog owners not represented - Area selected for dog park 'don't bother' area floods and I will not take my dog there - Community engagement opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement panel - Representative of community groups/demographics - When will community panel commence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'watch this space' - It needs to happen - Beach litter - Will residents have a say on how Rubbish Taskforce acts/makes decisions community input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community input welcome – register interest - Genuine interface between CCRS and community. Why can't we have genuine community Panel? - Councilor involvement (or lack of) - Why is GM not answering questions? - How much time for community to ask questions? - "Community held ransom by politics" - Replying to emails
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Appendix N Poster

Renewing Rockdale



Your day starts with a morning run along **Lady Robinsons Beach**



You continue your run along the **sharepath** and stop to fill up your water bottle at the Cook Park amenities



You notice a gap in the **pavement** and report the issue to Council via **email**



You take the children to the **Rockdale Community Nursery** to help you pick out plants for the garden



You get home and prepare the children for a morning at the **playground**



Running along your **local road** you see the **street cleaning** truck and move onto the **footpath**

An ordinary day for you, is an extraordinary day for Council...

Imagine how ordinary your day would be if Council could no longer provide or maintain these services and facilities...



You need to renew your books to **Rockdale City Library**. **Baby Rhyme Time** has started so you join in with your 1 year old son



You drop your mother off at the **Rockdale Seniors Centre**



You meet a friend and discuss the **Thriving Town Centre** project and register with your Smartphone to attend a **community forum**



On your way to Wolli Creek you notice Council workers **trimming** a **tree**



You pick up your daughter from training at **Cahill Park**



You put the bins out for tomorrow's **waste collection** and prepare the children for bed



Words in **bold** are services and facilities provided by Council
Email rcc@rockdale.nsw.gov.au
Web www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au

Appendix O Renewing Rockdale Newspaper Feedback Articles - Removed due to copyright concerns

Removed due to copyright concerns

Removed due to copyright concerns

Removed due to copyright concerns

Removed due to copyright concerns

Appendix P City Plan Engagement and Feedback

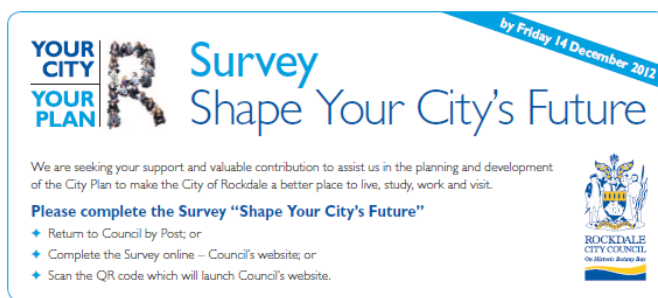
1) 'Have Your Say' - Online Engagement:



In association with 'Bang the Table' Council has created an online moderated engagement hub 'Your City: Your Plan 2013 – 2025' which encourages stakeholders to take initiative in staying informed on current as

well as upcoming projects. Your City: Your Plan 2013 – 2025 online hub is part of Council's initiative to create the opportunity for stakeholders to share ideas, thoughts and participate in planning, developing and implementing Council projects including the City Plan 2013 – 2025.

2) Survey 'Shape Your City's Future' - Online and Hard Copy:



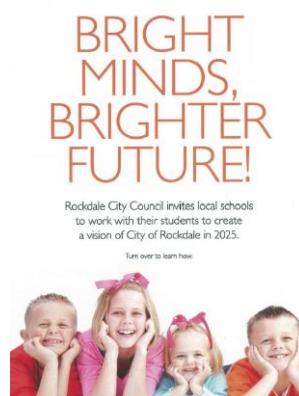
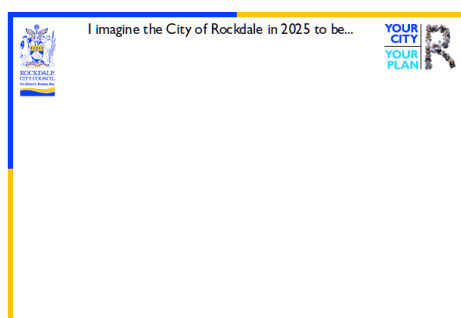
The 'Shape Your City's Future Survey' was uploaded on the Have Your Say – Your City Your Plan 2013 – 2025 online hub and hard copy versions were available in all Council Libraries, Customer Service Centre, special meeting groups,

Information Booths and Community Forums.

3) Competitions

Each competition encouraged the specified age group to envision and creatively depict the City of Rockdale in 2025. The competitions commenced on Thursday, 8 November 2012 and concluded on Friday, 14 December 2012. Listed below are the names and specified age groups of each competition:

- Bright Minds, Brighter Future Competition - Local Schools
- Children's Postcard Art Competition - Children aged 5 to 11 years
- Snap, Explore and Express Competition - Young People 12 – 24 years



4) Working in Partnership with the State Government

Council is committed to working in partnership to increase the health and well being of the local community. This includes promoting active living as well as encouraging behaviour change to prevent ill health. A Health Partnership meeting was held in Rockdale on Tuesday 5 February 2013 between Council officers and high level representatives from the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, the South Eastern Medicare Local and the Office of Communities.



5) Forum

Three community forums were an opportunity for the detailed conversation on what the community would like the City of Rockdale to be in 2025 and the proposed rate increase. The forums were structured to facilitate discussion on aspirations, needs, improvements, Council's roles and the financial implications to the community in small groups.

Council held three community forums in Stage 1 - Community Strategic Plan and proposal for a rate increase:



- Thursday 29 November 2012, 10am to 12pm at Bexley RSL, 24 Stoney Creek Road, Bexley
- Friday 30 November 2012, 6pm to 8pm at Brighton-Le Sands RSL, 351 Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands
- Sunday 2 December 2012, 1pm to 3pm at Coronation Hall, Arncliffe.

6) Information Booths



out questionnaires.

An Information Booth was scheduled in each of the five wards. Councillors were invited to attend every Information Booth and several Council officers and partners from community organisations were present at each location. The Information Booths created the opportunity for people to ask questions, share ideas and find out more information on the City Plan and Engagement Strategy in an informal manner. People were invited to the Community Forums, and filled

- Brighton-Le-Sands at Trafalgar Street on Tuesday 20 November 2012, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Bexley North at Nairn Gardens on Wednesday 21 November, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.
- Arncliffe at the Town Centre on Thursday 22 November, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Carlton at Tindale Reserve on Friday 23 November, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.
- Ramsgate at Tonbridge Street Reserve on Sunday 24 November, 10:00am to 1:00 pm.

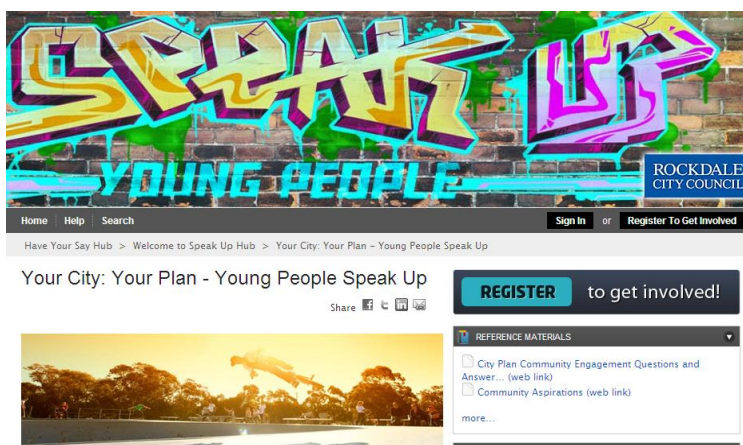
7) Community Events

Council officers attended a number of community events and festivals to talk to the community about their vision for the City of Rockdale in 2025, to inform on the City Plan and to answer questions. The events that were covered include:

- Food 'n' Groove , Saturday 27 October 2012
- St George Migrant Information Day , Wednesday 31 October 2012
- Spring into Summer – Bexley North, Saturday 24 November 2012

8) Interagency Meetings

Council liaised with community organisations to assist in addressing the needs representative in the diverse community members residing in the City of Rockdale. The aim of the interagency meetings was to unite local community services through partnerships to assist in the planning, development and implementation of the City Plan.



According to the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics survey the City of Rockdale has 29.3% of the population under the age of 24 years, Council recognises the importance of liaising with local community service providers that deliver services to young people. Council collaborated with Arncliffe Community Centre, MTC

Work Solutions, PCYC St George, Rockdale Community Services, Rockdale City Youth Council, Shopfront and St George Youth Services to develop a young people specific online hub and assist in promoting the ideas of the community's young people. As a result of two meetings held on Wednesday 10 October 2012 and Thursday 25 October 2012 a moderated online hub for young people was created called 'Speak Up'. Young people are able to directly communicate their ideas to Council and generate discussions of ideas for the future of the City of Rockdale with other young members of the community.

9) Rockdale City Youth Council

Council met with Rockdale City Youth Council on Tuesday 2 October 2012 to discuss how Council can engage young people in the City of Rockdale. Rockdale City Youth Council members were invited and encouraged to attend the meetings on developing the 'Speak Up' young people online hub with community services providers. Youth Council presented ideas of how Council can effectively engage young people through online page design, regular page updates and prizes such as vouchers for completion of questionnaires to be considered.

10) Senior Citizen Groups

Rockdale City Council values the contributions of older community members, Council officers visited four senior citizens groups for an estimated period of one hour to capture the ideas of our community's senior members. Listed below are the group meetings that Council attended:

- Australian Macedonian Pensioners Association on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at Rockdale Senior Citizens Centre.
- Greek Seniors on Tuesday 20 November 2012 at Brighton-Le-Sands Meeting Room.
- Italian Seniors on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at Brighton-Le-Sands Meeting Room.
- Macedonian Women 'Dubra Outra' on Tuesday 20 November 2012 at Rockdale Senior Citizens Centre.

Your City Your Plan – Community Engagement Feedback Summary

Engagement period

8 November 2012 to Friday 14 December 2012

Engagement activities

- Online and paper copy 'Shape Your City's Future survey
- Information booths
- Meeting with Rockdale City Youth Council
- Online Have Your Say forum discussion
- Interagency meetings
- Community events
- Community forums
- Meeting with senior citizen

Project Theme	Asset	Service
Civil Infrastructure (kerb, gutters, footpath, local roads)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Footpaths need to be maintained /repaired to encourage walking and prams etc. - Bad roads and footpaths. - Footpath - trees on the footpath dangerous. Needs improvement between Bryant and Gibbs Street - A few people have fallen on footpath outside Coles Sans Souci 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bay Street has many nice new footpaths which are filthy.
Thriving Town Centres Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each village/centre to have a public meeting place/square to encourage walking and connecting with people in your local community 	
Sport and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough sports fields. - 'Well-designed parks and sports fields'. Extend to include recreational facilities (including pool) - More sporting fields - Outdoor Gyms in western parks - Outdoor gyms in parks - Basketball court in Brighton Le Sands - suggested site is in the park between the Endeavour Bridge (Cooks River) and the carpark near C Cide Restaurant - Gilchrist Park for flying fox suggested as lots of kids in area, another location suggested 'Oswald Scholed Reserve' on Coveney Street Bexley North. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a lack of sports programs for women in the area - The importance of sport and recreation to women. Providing facilities and activities to cater for the lack of women participating in sport and seek to work closely with sporting clubs and state sporting organisations to help achieve and deliver this. - Upgrade of Bexley Pool urgently needed for health, well-being and recreation of all age groups.

Project Theme	Asset	Service
Playground and Park Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bexley North Park playground outdated and broken example playgrounds Mascot (Corner King and Sutherland Street “L’Estrange Park”). - Rockdale has good parks and open spaces but the children’s playgrounds are in desperate need of an upgrade. They are rundown, the equipment is broken and is old. - The area needs new modern playgrounds. - Budgets should be reallocated from other less important initiatives (like the New Year’s Eve fireworks) to upgrade our parks. - Upgrade of local parks, particularly Gilchrist Park – should be fenced and the area flattened. <p>Gilchrist Park needs work. Play equipment has been broken since at least 2005 and the toilets there are a disgrace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More lights needed across Gilchrist Park too dark Bexley North amongst the trees - Parks - play areas run down in Bexley North Bexley area <p>Soil Erosion at Yamba Woorra Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better playgrounds/upgrade playgrounds - Playgrounds – invest and uplift - Seating in parks optimizing summer and winter positions - Seating in parks - Water bubblers in parks - Upgrade local parks, particularly Benches resident went to take children to the park and bench had been removed but no replacement - Variety in playground equipment to suit children 8+ - More shade covered playgrounds - Natural materials at playgrounds - Seating / benches for grandparents - Nice parks and playgrounds - Provision of Playgrounds (too many, need more bush) - Please provide more playground equipment and less grassy bushes within the playground - Variety of playing areas required - Kids play area in Bexley North run down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rubbish bins at Tindale Reserve - Protection of green space, minimize high rise - Improving environment of wetlands - Increased bins at parks

Project Theme	Asset	Service
Community Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is going on with Sid Frost Hall? - Built heritage needs to be protected no demolition of pre 1940's houses - Update community halls to be used with parking, lighting, and technology access - Unequal distribution of community halls. - Safe access between transport hub and community hall. - Multi-purpose – bigger, better, more functional hub for the community. - Rationalisation of assets, New development and services in the City Centre at Rockdale and replacement of old community buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on the hire of community halls/issues of access. - Rent free / less charge Childcare is fine but Council should have childcare centres - Rockdale Library and Civic Centre – develop to all improvement to community literacy, interaction and education. - Aged care facilities built/renewed. - Open to community functions/activities at local halls. - Lack of advertisement for community activities, more information. - Libraries must have current software programs e.g. docx & .xlsx
Public Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to fix up toilets and sports amenities to provide safety. - Safer public toilets around parks and sporting fields - More public toilets, especially in shopping strips. Similar to auto toilet in Ramsgate - Amenities at Tindale Reserve - Better public toilets across the city - Provision and maintenance at Public Toilets more needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public toilets along the seaside to be open earlier than 6:00 - 6:30am to accommodate the people that use the seaside between 4:00 – 5:30am.

Project Theme	Asset	Service
Foreshore Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seaside railing across Lady Robinson Beach. New railing installation is incomplete and old railing is rotting and is a safety concern - Replace old wharf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan for beach/water pollution. - Important to plan especially to protect the impact on beaches. - It is very important for the Council to plan for climate change especially to protect our beaches. - Lady Robinsons Beach, sand loss, litter in THE DUNES (never cleaned) - Litter control on the beach

Project Theme	Asset	Service
<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities are old, dated and need to be brought into the 21st Century. - Rockdale Council Needs to get into the 21st Century. - Ensure facilities are well distributed across the area to ensure equal access for all residents - Looking at the map there are many facilities in the area. They need to be rationalised. Choose the best sites and build modern, larger facilities that co-locate activities to replace the smaller scattered arrangement. Facilities should be hubs for community activity. - Co-locate facilities near stations (within safe walking distance) - Descent signage in front of actual buildings/facilities - More money to be spent on infrastructure by Council - Have high quality for less assets not average quality for more assets - We need public space in each area – to encourage knowing each other - Equitable use of Council grounds - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved community leadership and consideration of facilitation based on what is good for the whole community - Community would like detail open and transparent information on asset and finance relationship. - Adequate services provided that meet diverse cultural needs and age groups - Planning for new and future for the benefit of the community at large. - Needs vary based on context it is important for community facilities and services to keep up with the changes. - More festivals and community projects. - Better partnerships between rail ways and community facilities. - More community events - Programs specific for women. - Availability of aged care facilities - Support to our aged and elderly residents - Disabilities and opportunities - access for disabled persons

Appendix Q Community Telephone Survey Results Summary

Report	Asset Importance	Recommendations
Community Telephone Survey 2010	<p>Extremely High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condition and maintenance of local roads - Quality and maintenance of footpaths <p>Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality and maintenance of parking facilities - Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens - Provision and maintenance of public toilets <p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision and maintenance of playgrounds - Conditions of Council-owned facilities including libraries, Town Hall and Community Halls 	<p>RCC needs to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision and maintenance of public toilets - Condition and maintenance of local roads - Quality and maintenance of footpaths <p>Foster and maintain resident satisfaction with the condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens. (p26)</p>
Community Telephone Survey 2012	<p>Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condition of local roads - Quality and maintenance of footpaths <p>High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens - Provision and maintenance of playgrounds - Provision and maintenance of public toilets - Quality of town centres and surrounding areas <p>Moderately High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condition of Council-owned facilities including libraries, Town Hall and community halls 	<p>Improve satisfaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision and maintenance of public toilets - Condition of local roads - Quality and maintenance of footpaths <p>RCC consider the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look for ways to improve the area's image and identity, as well as the sense of community in the city of Rockdale. <p>RCC needs to improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision and maintenance of public toilets - Condition of local roads - Quality and maintenance of parking facilities - Quality and maintenance of footpaths <p>RCC needs to maintain resident satisfaction with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens -

Community Telephone Survey 2013

Extremely High

- Condition of local roads

Very High

- Quality and maintenance of footpaths
- Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks and gardens
- Quality and maintenance of parking facilities
- Provision and maintenance of public toilets

High

- Provision and maintenance of playgrounds
- Quality of town centres and surrounding areas
- Condition of Council-owned facilities including libraries, town hall and community halls

Decline in residents level of satisfaction

- Maintaining healthy natural waterways
- Reporting to the community on Council activities, services and facilities

Improve satisfaction

- Provision and maintenance of public toilets
- Condition of local roads
- Quality and maintenance of footpaths

Maintain satisfaction

- Condition and maintenance of sporting fields, parks
- Provision and maintenance of playground