

# Roads & Rates



You have let Cessnock City Council know that your highest priority for Council services is maintaining our road network.

In Council's two most recent community surveys (June 2009 & June 2012) and during the development of the Cessnock 2020 Community Plan, it was very clear that you are not satisfied with the current development and maintenance of the road network.

Council is seeking your opinion about whether it should apply to extend its existing special rate variation for another year in 2013-14. The special rate variation that was approved in 2011-12 for a two year period ends in June this year.

If Council no longer receives the additional rate income it will have to reduce the extent of its planned road renewal works (by approximately \$1.5 million in 2013-14) or consider decreasing service levels for other Council operations.

The money raised from the existing special rate has been spent on resealing, heavy patching and rehabilitation of regional roads, urban collector roads, and rural collector roads in the local government area.

The special rate variation approval that Council is seeking would last for one year.

Council would like to know your views about the potential rates variation so please cut out and fill out the survey below and return it to Council.

## The special rate options are:

**Option 1** Discontinue the existing special rate and increase rates by the legislated rate cap - reducing rates by 2.65%, or \$21 per year for the average ratepayer, with additional expenditure on roads being discontinued or a reduction in service levels for a number of Council services; or

**Option 2** Continue the existing special rate and increase rates by the legislated rate cap limit of 3.4%, or \$33 per year for the average ratepayer, with existing service levels being maintained and continuation of approximately \$1.5 million expenditure on roads.

For more information about the special rate variation options, please see the fact sheets on Council's website and you may also complete the survey online at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

## Special Rate Variation 2013-14 Community Feedback Form

Do you believe the roads in the Cessnock Local Government Area need substantial improvement?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you support a continuation of the increased spending on roads in the Cessnock Local Government Area?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you prepared to pay additional rates to continue to improve the roads?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Which special rate variation option for 2013-14 would you support?

- ☐ Discontinue the existing special rate and increase rates by the legislated rate cap - reducing rates by 2.65%, or \$21 per year for the average ratepayer, with additional expenditure on roads being discontinued or a reduction in service levels for a number of Council services.
- ☐ Continue the existing special rate and increase rates by the legislated rate cap limit of 3.4%, or \$33 per year for the average ratepayer, with existing service levels being maintained and continuation of approximately \$1.5 million expenditure on roads.

**Notes:** The dollar figures used above are estimates based on the rates payable on a residential property currently paying an average residential rate of \$972. The impact on individual ratepayers will vary depending on the land value and rating classification of their property.

A Rates Calculator is available on Council's website that ratepayers can use to calculate the indicative variation in rates for their own property under each option.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has set the cap for the general rate increase to be applied to be applied by all NSW councils for 2013-4 at 3.4%.

Please complete the feedback form by **Wednesday 27 February 2013** and return to Council's Administration Centre, Council Libraries or by posting it to:  
Cessnock City Council PO Box 152 Cessnock NSW 2325.

## Community Information Sessions

Community information sessions will be held to provide information about the special rate variation process and the impact of continuing or discontinuing with the proposed special rate variation.

The sessions will be followed by a discussion on the Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2020, and a confirmation that the vision, desired outcomes, objectives and strategic directions still reflect the aspirations of the community.

Information sessions are scheduled as follows

### Cessnock

6 to 8pm

Tuesday 19 February 2013  
Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

### Branxton

1 to 3pm

Thursday 21 February 2013  
Branxton RSL Sub-Branch  
Community Hall

### Kurri Kurri

5.30 to 7.30pm

Thursday 21 February 2013  
Kurri Kurri Community Centre

### Wollombi

6 to 8pm

Tuesday 26 February 2013  
Wollombi Community Hall