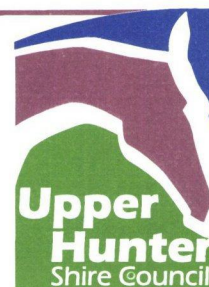


Contact Name: Steve Pryor
Contact No: (02) 6540 1123
Our Reference: OUT-12845/12



27 November, 2012

Local Government Team
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
Level 17, 1 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Special Rate Variation 2013/14

Reference is made to the requirement to notify IPART by 14 December 2012 that Upper Hunter Shire Council is considering to apply for a Special Rate Variation for 2013/14.

Council at its meeting on 26 November 2012 resolved to:

- 1) Advise IPART that Council may lodge an application for a Special Rate Variation of 2.5% annually over three (3) years above the rate pegging, under S508(A) to fund improved road infrastructure;
- 2) Undertake Community meetings in regard to increasing Council's rate income progressively from 2013/14 up to 2015/16; and
- 3) Engage an independent organisation to undertake a phone survey in regard to applying for a Special Rate Variation.

It is proposed that the increase to be applied for will be 2.5% above the rate pegging for each year for three (3) years which will be added to Council's permanent rate base. This would generate the following approximate additional income above the 2012/13 base details:

2013/14	-	\$210,000
2014/15	-	\$415,000
2015/16	-	\$635,000

A detailed application will be submitted following further Community Consultation by the due date of 11 March 2013.

If you require any further information at this stage please contact one of the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Daryl Dutton	General Manager	(02) 6540 1143
Steve Pryor	Director Corporate Services	(02) 6540 1123
Damien Jenkins	Finance Manager	(02) 6540 1160
Ruth Neave	Communication & Community Engagement Officer	(02) 6540 1119

Yours sincerely

Daryl Dutton
GENERAL MANAGER

A Quality Rural Lifestyle - in a vibrant, caring and sustainable community

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