

26 April 2022

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal | NSW
Level 16, 2-24 Rawson Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for Additional Special Variation 2022-23

Uralla Shire Council wishes to apply for an Additional Special Variation (ASV) for 2022-23 as detailed in both the Office of Local Government (OLG) Council Circular 22-07 and the IPART additional special variations 2022-23 information paper. In support of this application we provide the following additional information:

- Council wishes to apply for a permanent ASV of 2.5% which aligns with the council's assumed 2022-23 rate peg in its 2021-22 Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) documentation;
- In the Base Case Scenario contained within the Draft LTFP 2022 – 2031, Council had modelled a rate peg of 2.5% for all nine years of the plan from 2022-23 to 2030-31; see page 12 of the attached document. The Draft LTFP was placed on public exhibition in 2021. Council has, in its Draft LTFP 2022 – 2031 documentation, forecast an average Operating Performance Ratio of 2% or lower over 2022-23 to 2026-27;
- Due to the delay in Council elections, the proposed Planned Scenario, which included the introduction of cumulative and ongoing SRV's of between 10% and 25% from 2022-23, were not applied for by the due date;
- In the absence of a special variation of 2.5%, council would have less funds available to meet its obligations as identified in its 2022-2031 LTFP;
- Council has considered the impact on ratepayers and the community in 2022-23 and future years, and considers that it is reasonable;
- A copy of the Application-Form-Additional-special-variations-for-2022-23-7-April-2022 is enclosed;
- The minutes relating to the ASV from the 26 April 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting follow:

That Council apply for a permanent special variation for 2022-23 under section 508(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) of 2.5% representing \$74,012 additional income (otherwise \$28,761 under the IPART approved 0.7% increase) on the basis that Council considers it has a demonstrable financial need:

- I. such that, in the absence of a special variation, council would have less funds available to meet its obligations as identified in its 2021-22 LTFP; and
- II. for the special variation to be retained in its rate base on an ongoing basis as identified in its 2021-22 LTFP; and
- III. have considered the impact on ratepayers and the community in 2022-23 and future years, and considers that it is reasonable.

Should you wish to discuss any matter related to this application, please contact our CFO, Simon Paul, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Kate Jessep
General Manager

Attachments:

UINT/21/7605 Long Term Financial Plan – 2031

Application-Form-Additional-special-variations-for-2022-23-7-April-2022