



Council Ref: 22/222764

14 November 2022

Carmel Donnelly
Chair
The Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop, NSW 1240

Dear Ms Donnelly

NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

In accordance with a resolution of Council made 17 October 2022 (copied below), I hereby notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), of Woollahra Council's intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV). The SRV is to be implemented in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years under Section 508(A) of the Local Government Act 1993 and will be retained permanently in the rate base.

The successive annual percentage increases to general rate income considered are:

2023/24	13.7% (including rate peg)
2024/25	7.5% (including rate peg)

The proposed SRV is to allow Council to:

- Maintain existing service levels,
- Secure Council's long term financial sustainability and
- Fund priority projects totalling \$48.9million over the next ten years.

Council looks forward to working with the IPART in relation to this SRV application.

This notice has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the Preparation of an Application for a Special Variation.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss the matter, please contact the undersigned on [REDACTED] or the Director Corporate Performance Sue Meekin on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C. McNair
General Manager

Council Resolution 134/22 – 17 October 2022

THAT Council:

- A. Receive and note the outcomes of the recent community engagement undertaken on Council's proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) Application.
- B. Resolve to proceed with a permanent Special Rate Variation application (under Section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993), to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under Option 2, for the purpose of:
 - (i) maintaining existing services provision levels;
 - (ii) securing Council's long term financial sustainability; and
 - (iii) funding priority projects totalling \$48.9 million over the next 10 years
- C. Notes
 - (i) that this SRV application would increase the ordinary rate income by 13.7% in 2023-24 (including the rate peg of 3.7%) and 7.5% in 2024-25 (including the rate peg), representing a total cumulative increase of 25.28% over the initial three-year period;
 - (ii) that the increases be retained in the rate base permanently; and
 - (iii) that if approved by IPART the SRV will take effect from 1 July 2023.
- D. Authorise the General Manager to advise the IPART by 25 November 2022 of Council's intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation as outlined in Part B of this recommendation.
- E. Authorise the General Manager to prepare and submit to the IPART an application form *Part A Special Variation 2023-34* and IPART application form *Part B Special Variation 2023/24* by the due date of 3 February 2023 for a Special Rate Variation as outlined in Part B of this recommendation.
- F. Receive and note the revised Delivery Program 2022-2026 and revised Long Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32, as included in this report.
- G. Place on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days, the revised Delivery Program 2022 to 2026, and revised Long Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32, if Council resolves in line with Recommendation B) above.
- H. Note that whilst a determination on any SRV application to the IPART may not be known until May 2023, during development of the 2023-24 Delivery Program, Operational Plan and budget, consideration on the implementation of the Special Rate Variation will need to be taken into account.
- I. Note that Council's Financial Hardship Policy is to be updated and reported back to Council before the end of the 2022 calendar year.