

On track to build bright new future

By Holroyd mayor Nasr Kafrouni

As part of an important and growing western Sydney region, Holroyd is on track to building towards the future.

Investor interest has been sparked by the implementation of Holroyd Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP) and approval of the new Development Control Plan 2013 (DCP) and Section 94 Development Contributions Plan 2013 (S94).

Guided by these plans and a newfound confidence among our private sector, the city is ripe for fresh ventures and will work on delivering strong returns.

New proposals will accelerate the revitalisation of our town centres in Merrylands and Wentworthville, improve affordable housing, create more local jobs, and ensure we have the open space and facilities our community wants.

With an additional 30,000 people to call Holroyd home over the next 20 years, we are calling upon ratepayers and businesses to have their say on the city's future today.

Holroyd is a city with incredible potential, and we will continue to provide infrastructure and amenities that the community needs to live and work in Holroyd.

It is great knowing that our priority to attract investment and expand Holroyd's local economy is shared with business and residents.

I am looking forward to working with business owners, mums and dads, and potential investors on making Holroyd a centre of prosperity.

THE SUN - "PS BUSINESS"
page 15 - 7/11/2013

Rate rise would bridge gap

MEMBERS of the community are being asked to "have a say" on how Holroyd Council should address a \$97 million funding gap.

In a statement, the council's director of corporate and financial services, Tim Butler, says if strategies aren't found the level of services and infrastructure would be reduced.

"Council is now funding more services than ever before, at a time when we need to start replacing and

renewing ageing assets right across the LGA," Mr Butler said.

"The funds that could be used to maintain and renew our ageing assets have been stretched across delivering our additional services and infrastructure which has left us with a total funding gap of \$97.1 million over the next 10 years."

Holroyd Council, according to the statement, has started the process of engaging with the community, offering three options relating to a special rate variation, including a 45 cent a day increase to maintain current services and renew and build more infrastructure.

"Effectively, Holroyd has had no real rate raise for 36 years and our council is now the fifth lowest funded LGA in the Sydney metropolitan area," he said.

For more information, or to have a say, visit the "Your Say and Contacts - Local Solutions" section of the Holroyd Council website or find Holroyd Council on Facebook.

STATS

Did you know Holroyd is home to:

- 110 restaurants and cafes
- more than 370 retail stores
- 15 function venues and four of Sydney's major clubs
- more than 1000 community and professional services
- more than 70 different cultural groups
- two nature reserves in Holroyd, Central Gardens and Holroyd Gardens, that span more than 20 hectares of open space
- nearly 19,600 microchipped cats and dogs

Source: Holroyd City Council



THE SUN - "PS BUSINESS" - pg 15 - 7/11/2013

Public say on \$97m funding gap

The community can "have a say" on how Holroyd Council should address a \$97 million funding gap.

The council's director of corporate and financial services, Tim Butler, says if strategies aren't found the level of services and infrastructure would be reduced.

"Council is now funding more services than ever before, at a time when we need to start replacing and renewing ageing assets right across the LGA," Mr Butler said.

SUN - "COUNCIL CHATIER"

pg. 8 - 11/11/2013

Public meeting

Holroyd Council is calling on residents to speak up and share their views and ideas at a public meeting on Thursday, at 6.30pm, at the Holroyd Centre in Merrylands.

The meeting is held to gain an understanding of the views of residents on topics including infrastructure and services.

If you want to speak at the meeting, register by calling 9840 9938.

SUN - "CHATTER" - pg 8
28/11/2013

HOLROYD

Council to address the funding gap

CALLS ON RESIDENTS TO HELP

Elias Jahshan

HOLROYD residents are invited to have their say on how council should address the city's \$97 million funding gap and maintain current services and infrastructure standards, or look into reductions.

Council's corporate and financial services director Tim Butler said the local government area had grown by 19 per cent over the past 10 years and was expected to grow by another 37 per cent over the next 20, creating an increase in the demand for services and facilities.

"Our key infrastructure and services are under enormous pressure," Mr Butler said.

"Our four main types of community infrastructure are roads and bridges, parks and recreation, buildings and stormwater drains, but the range of services we deliver has grown to include services for our seniors and residents with a disability, childcare, graffiti management, libraries, planning and development, sports facilities and playgrounds, tree management and waste and illegal dumping."

He said for that reason, the funds that could be used to maintain and renew ageing assets have been stretched, leaving council with a total funding gap of \$97.1 million over the next 10 years.

"That's why we urgently need to develop and implement strategies that will sustain council's funding of local services and infrastructure now and into the future," Mr Butler said.

"Otherwise, if we don't find solutions to our funding gap, we will need to begin reducing the level of services and infrastructure program across the LGA."

Mr Butler said council is offering three options relating to a special rate variation, including a 45 cent a day increase to maintain current services and renew and build more infrastructure.

"Effectively, Holroyd has had no real rate raise for 36 years and our council is now the fifth lowest funded LGA in the Sydney metropolitan area."

For more information on the three possible solutions, visit holroyd.nsw.gov.au

ARTIKEL - "News" p. 32 - 20/11/2013

Community asked to have a say on funding gap

THE Holroyd community is being asked to have their say on whether Council should address the City's major funding gap and maintain current services and infrastructure standards, or look into reductions.

Members of the community are being asked to "have a say" on how Holroyd City Council will address a \$97 million funding gap if it can continue delivering local services and infrastructure to meet the challenges of the area's booming population.

Holroyd City Council's Director Corporate and Financial Services, Tim Butler, said the Local Government Area (LGA) had grown by 19% over the past 10 years and was expected to grow by another 37% over the next 20 years, creating an increase in the demand for services and facilities.

"Our key infrastructure and services are under enormous pressure," Mr Butler said today.

"Council is now funding more services than ever before, at a time when we need to start replacing and renewing ageing assets right across the LGA."

"Our four main types of community infrastructure are roads and bridges, parks and recreation, buildings and stormwater drains, but the range of services we deliver has grown to include services for our seniors and residents with a disability, childcare, graffiti management, libraries, planning and development, sports facilities and playgrounds, tree management and waste and illegal dumping."

"The funds that could be used to maintain and renew our ageing assets have been stretched across delivering our additional

services and infrastructure which has left us with a total funding gap of \$97.1m over the next 10 years.

"That's why we urgently need to develop and implement strategies that will sustain Council's funding of local services and infrastructure now and into the future, otherwise, if we don't find solutions to our funding gap, we will need to begin reducing the level of services and infrastructure program across the LGA."

Mr Butler said Council had started the process of engaging with the community to identify local solutions, offering three options relating to a special rate variation, including a small 45 cent a day increase to maintain current services and renew and build more infrastructure.

"Research conducted for Council has

already identified that managing the population and providing a good, sustainable level of services are key priorities for the Holroyd community," Mr Butler said.

Effectively, Holroyd has had no real rate raise for 36 years and our Council is now the fifth lowest funded LGA in the Sydney metropolitan area.

"We're listening to the community to ensure we find local solutions – it's very important that our future is in our hands."

Council has already commenced engaging the community on three possible solutions.

For more information or to have a say, community can:

Visit the Your Say and Contacts - Local Solutions section of the Holroyd City Council website - www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au

WESTERN SYDNEY BUSINESS ACCESS - pg 28 - Issue 32 - 16/12/2013

No debt, as Council moves towards the future

INTERVIEW with Tim Butler, Director Corporate and Financial Services Holroyd City Council

Q. Is Holroyd City in debt?

A. As at 2012/13, Holroyd City has \$0 debt. Our funding gap isn't a debt; it's the additional income we need to maintain our services and infrastructure for today and the future. Over the past 20 years our community has enjoyed a growing number of new services and infrastructure which we've stretched all our funds trying to maintain. So we're now at a point where we need to decide whether to reduce, maintain or enhance our services and infrastructure.

Q. Is Holroyd the only city looking at a rate increase?

A. No. 23 cities applied for a rate rise in 2013/14.

Q. What would the income from a rate increase be invested into?

A. The lower level rate increase would provide us with an additional \$97.1m over the next 10 years to maintain our services and infrastructure and renew our ageing assets. The higher level rate increase would provide us with an additional \$110.2m over the next 10 years to maintain our services and infrastructure and renew our ageing assets as well as provide new services and/or infrastructure.

Q. Why can't Council address the funding gap by increasing income and savings?

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revenues and now need to consider the rate increase option.

Q. Why can't Council address the funding gap by other income sources?

A. Around 40% of our total income is provided by non-rate income sources, such as grants. Grant funding opportunities are pursued by Council however, most available opportunities are for funding specific projects (as opposed to ongoing services and infrastructure renewals) and don't provide a guaranteed income source for the City over the long term. Without a guaranteed income source, service and infrastructure delivery also can't be guaranteed. A common non-rate income source which councils often increase to reduce their rate to non-rate income source ratio is 'User Charges', which include childcare fees, parking fees, facility hire charges, development application charges, etc. However even if there was to be a substantial increase in User Charges, this increase couldn't generate enough income to address Holroyd's funding gap.

Q. What happens if most of our community want to reduce services and infrastructure standards?

A. Council will vote on whether to reduce our services and infrastructure standards in February 2014 and if so, we'll begin discussing

ing reduction options with our business and residential community thereafter.

Q. What types of services would be reduced if we didn't have a rate increase?

A. If it's decided to leave rates and reduce our services and infrastructure standards, we'll begin discussing reduction options with our business and residential community.

Q. Why do we need a rate increase when we have funding coming in through Section 94 levies?

A. By law, Section 94 funding must be used to deliver new infrastructure, not to fund maintenance and renewal of existing infrastructure.

Q. Why did Council resolve an LEP that will lead to population growth if population growth is a problem?

A. Our community's protected growth is a positive for our City's future and so it's important that we address the challenges this growth presents now rather than allow them to become problems later.

Q. Why should business ratepayers get involved in all this?

A. What happens to our City's services and infrastructure should be a decision for our business and residential community. We are here to listen. Their future... their hands.

WESTERN SYDNEY BUSINESS ACCESS DECEMBER 2013



Tim Butler, leading Holroyd Council's growth.

A. Council's first need to maximise all other avenues to increase income and savings before qualifying for a rate increase. From increasing income from property assets to savings by using recycled materials in road construction; we've maximised all other

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All Community Regions

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Parramatta

Residents to vote on Holroyd Council special rate variation

- by: Caryn Metcalfe
- From: Parramatta Advertiser
- December 18, 2013 3:00PM

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Holroyd councillor Ross Grove wanted the council's special rate variation to be an infrastructure levy.
Source: News Limited

HOLROYD Council has voted to seek a special rate variation to target the city's infrastructure backlog over the next six years.

The rate rise is on public exhibition over the Christmas period, with the council required to submit its application for the rise with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal at the end of February.

Residents will have three rate options to choose from.

The first is to increase rates by the standard IPART rate peg of about 3 per cent over six years.

The second seeks to increase rates by 9 per cent for four years, 8 per cent for one year, and then return to the 3 per cent rate peg for the sixth year, raising \$97.4 million and allowing the council to maintain the city's infrastructure.

The third option would increase rates by 9 per cent for the full six years, which would raise more than the amount to maintain infrastructure.

For the average residential ratepayer, choosing option one would see an increase of \$38 annually up to 2019/20, where the total combined rate would be \$1431.

Option two would see the average residential ratepayer being charged an extra \$85 annually up to 2019/20, with a total combined rate of \$1711 at the end of six years.

For option three, the annual increase would be \$98, and by 2019/20 the combined rate would be \$1790.

Cr Ross Grove said he sought to make the rate variation be an infrastructure levy, restricting where the funds could be spent.

He and councillors John Brodie, Joseph Rahme, Michael Zaiter, Nadima Kafrouni and Eddy Sarkis voted for an infrastructure levy.

However they were outvoted by the other six councillors, with Mayor Nasr Kafrouni using his casting vote for a general rate.

For more information on the special rate variation and to have your say, visit [holroyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au) (<http://www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au/your-say-contacts/local-solutions/>)

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