



City of Canterbury
City of Cultural Diversity

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davidco@canterbury.nsw.gov.au

Rates and Services »

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Rates and Services



Council is experiencing a rise in demand for services, which are becoming increasingly costly to provide. In addition there is a growing need to spend more money on essential community assets like roads, footpaths, drains, parks and other facilities.

We're asking you to tell us what is most important to you, and to work with us to explore what we can afford and what we may not be able to.

Please contribute to this important conversation, and help us determine which services that are most important in making the City of Canterbury a better place to live and work.

Latest News

Contribute

Ask a Question

Council to decide on application to IPART

The exhibition period for the integrated plans and the proposed option has ended. Council will consider a report on the proposed rate increase at an Extraordinary Meeting this Thursday 13 February 2014, following the City Services and City Development Committee meetings. The report can be found at:

<http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings/Meetings-Business-Papers/Extraordinary-Council-Meeting-13-February-2014?agenda>

by davidco | 10 Feb 2014, 03:19 PM

Draft Integrated Planning documents now available



Draft integrated planning documents are now available including the
Community Strategic Plan
Council Delivery Program
Long Term Financial Plan
Strategic Asset Management Plan

by davidco | 10 Jan 2014, 05:42 PM

Community Working Group Stories now available



Videos are now available where community members talk about the Rates and Services review and their experiences of being part of the Community Working Group.

by davidco | 09 Jan 2014, 02:18 PM

Information Sessions

We are holding a series of information sessions on the Rates and Services Review:

- 15 January 10am – 12pm Punchbowl Community Centre
- 16 January 10am – 12pm Earlwood Senior Citizens Centre
- 21 January 2pm – 4pm Ashbury Senior Citizens Centre
- 22 January 10am – 12pm Belmore Senior Citizens Centre
- 22 January 2pm – 4pm Canterbury City Community Centre
- 29 January 10am – 12pm Riverwood Senior Citizens Centre



REGISTER

to get involved!

Contribute

If you have difficulty reading this, our community language staff can assist. Please call 9789 9300.

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9789 9300

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Key Dates

Information Stall - Belfield Town Centre
23 January 2014

Information Stall - Hurlstone Park Town Centre
24 January 2014

Information Stall - Croydon Park Town Centre
24 January 2014

Information Stall - Campsie Town Centre
28 January 2014

Information Session - Riverwood
29 January 2014

Information Session - Campsie
29 January 2014

Information Stall - Earlwood Town Centre
30 January 2014

more..

Community Working Group Stories



more..

FAQ

What is the Rates and Services Review?

How can I get involved?

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information see the [Key Dates](#).

You can [read the presentation for these sessions here](#).

by davidco | 23 Dec 2013, 05:45 PM

Further consultation and next steps

Council is now conducting a range of activities to inform our community of the preferred option, the proposed rate increase, and to obtain further feedback. This will include advertising, information sessions, letter box drops, information stalls in town centres. Check the [Key Dates](#) for more information. You can also [read a Fact Sheet with an update on the review here](#). Council cannot just introduce higher rates – it must get the approval of the State Government to do so. Council must apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to increase the rates.

Council...[Read more](#)

by davidco | 23 Dec 2013, 06:06 PM

Council adopts Community Working Group's preferred option

At the meeting on 28 November council adopted the Community Working Group's preferred option for further consultation with the community. It also decided to advise the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal that it would be applying for a Special Rate Variation to commence in the 2014-15 year. [Read the report to council and the minute of their decision](#).

by davidco | 23 Dec 2013, 06:01 PM

Community Working Group presents preferred option to councillors



Members of the Community Working Group presented their preferred option to councillors at a briefing on 13 November 2013, and were able to answer questions. [Read the presentation](#), or the [summary of the outputs](#) from all the meetings of the Community Working Group.

Council will consider the preferred option for further community engagement at the meeting on 28 November 2013.

by davidco | 25 Nov 2013, 05:21 PM

Community Working Group finds a preferred option

Assessed Evaluation Score	Option Name			
	No new	Long-term	Continued	Stop
Criteria	Plan	Strategy	Strategy	Libraries and Parks
Meets the target of \$12.5 million	2	0	2	2
Includes increased user fees	2	1	0	1
Includes reductions to services	2	1	0	2
Includes achieving efficiencies	2	2	2	2
Maintains service for desired future	0	2	2	0
Can meet legislative obligations	2	2	2	2
Includes the community voice	0	0	0	0
Does not require council to spend more	0	0	0	0
Rate increase limited to the need	2	1	0	2
Demonstrates value for money	0	1	1	0
No specific group is disadvantaged	0	2	2	0
Demonstrates efficiency	0	1	1	1
Easily understood by wider community	1	1	0	1
TOTAL SCORE	15	14	12	15

Over two meetings the Community Working Group came up with options and evaluated them. Initially this resulted in considerable discussion about the application of the criteria, and at the fifth meeting on the 23 October 2013 no clear preferred option(s) had emerged. [You can read the outputs from this meeting here](#).

At the sixth meeting, held on 7 November 2013, the group refined the criteria, generated new options, and evaluated them. Again no clear preferred option emerged. The group then discussed the features common to all options, and came up with a new option that

they all could support. [Read the outputs from the sixth meeting here](#).

The options were based on many of the ideas that the group had come up with at the third meeting. [You can read the feasibility assessment of these ideas here](#).

by davidco | 25 Nov 2013, 05:11 PM

How will we find the best solution?



On 9 October the Community Working Group met to develop criteria to help us sort through the options for council rates and services and find the best solution. [Check out the meeting outputs with their ideas here](#). View their list of [features of a good solution](#).

Options might include a combination of increases in rates or user charges, borrowing, or service reductions. At the next meeting on 23 October 2013 the group will review these and find the ones that will work best for

Canterbury.

by davidco | 18 Oct 2013, 06:02 PM

What is the preferred option?

What does the preferred option mean for rates and services?

[more..](#)

Fact Sheets and Other Information

- [Information Session Presentation - Update on Rates and Services Review \(1.16 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet - Update on Rates and Services Review \(311 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Council Report and Decision 28 November 2013 \(170 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet - Rates and Services Review \(348 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

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Quick Poll

How can we best achieve the future we want for the City of Canterbury?



- ☐ No increases in fees, reductions in services, deterioration of roads, footpaths, parks and buildings, and a rate increase of 9.2% per year for three years
- ☐ Some increases in fees, reductions in services, deterioration of roads, footpaths, parks and buildings, and a rate increase of 7.5% per year for three years
- ☐ Significant reduction in services, severe deterioration in roads, footpaths, parks and buildings, and no rate increase above the

rate cap predicted to be about 2.9%

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Community Working Group Library

- [Summary of Outputs from the Community Working Group \(1.45 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Presentation of Community Working Group's preferred option to councillors \(766 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Outputs from the fifth Community Working Group meeting \(2.3 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
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- [Basic feasibility assessment of ideas from the third meeting of the Community Working Group \(453 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
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- [Outputs from third Community Working Group Meeting \(1.4 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Features of a good solution \(139 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Community Working Group Demographic Profile \(381 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Outputs from second Community Working Group Meeting \(1.13 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Community Working Group Brainstorms Possible Strategies



On 11 September the Community Working Group met for the third time, reviewed [council service profiles](#), and brainstormed possible strategies for the challenge facing council. [Check out the meeting outputs with their ideas here.](#)

At the next meeting on 9 October 2013 the group will develop the criteria to evaluate these ideas, and find the ones that will work best for Canterbury.

by davidco | 19 Sep 2013, 01:38 PM

Second Community Working Group Meeting Held

The Community Working Group met for a second time on 20 August 2013. The group worked together to prepare their own definition of the challenge facing council:

How can council maintain the services needed to improve the high quality of life in Canterbury, keep costs down and find alternative sources of income so that rates can be kept as low as possible, and clearly demonstrate the need for any increase in rates?

[Check out the outputs from the second meeting.](#) At the third meeting on 11 September the group will brainstorm possible strategies for this challenge.

by davidco | 19 Sep 2013, 01:22 PM



- [Council Service Profiles \(1.46 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Answers to Questions from Community Working Group \(2.95 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Outputs from first Community Working Group Meeting \(1.48 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [more..](#)

Integrated Plans Library

- [Draft Community Strategic Plan 2014-2023 \(10.1 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Draft Council Delivery Program 2014-2017 \(9.86 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2014-2023 \(6.54 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Draft Strategic Asset Management Plan 2014-2023 \(2.16 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [more..](#)

Community Working Group meets for the 1st time



A central element of our Rates and Services Review is the Community Working Group, a randomly selected representative sample of the Canterbury community. We are exploring options for the range and level of services, and the means to fund these, in a series of conversations with the group. The first meeting of the Community Working Group was held on Thursday 1 August 2013. [View the outputs from the first meeting.](#)

The group developed a list of questions about council rates and services, and we prepared answers to these questions for discussion at the next meeting. [Read the questions and answers.](#) [What questions do you have about council rates and services?](#)

The next meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday 20th August 2013.

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The next meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday 20th August 2013.

by davidco | 09 Aug 2013, 02:01 PM

Rates and Services Review starts



In July 2013 we started the 2013 Rates and Services Review by sending out a Fact Sheet with rates notices. If you haven't seen this, you can [get a copy from the Fact Sheets Library.](#)

Increases in population over the past five years, and expected in the future, and more up-to-date forecasts of the cost of improving our infrastructure mean we will not have enough income in future years to continue to deliver the same range and level of services.

We are undertaking the review to explore options for the range and level of service that council provides, and the means to fund these.

by davidco | 20 Aug 2013, 04:13 PM



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We're asking you to tell us what is most important to you, and to work with us to explore what we can afford and what we may not be able to.

Please contribute to this important conversation, and help us determine which services that are most important in making the City of Canterbury a better place to live and work.

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Does the way we have developed the preferred option seem reasonable to you?



Over the past six months we have involved our community in exploring options for changes in the range and level of services, and the means to fund these. Through a range of activities we have informed and gathered feedback from as many people as possible. We invited a group of community leaders to advise us on the best ways to engage with our diverse community. This group has provided useful insight on the formation of the Community Working Group and the activities needed to ensure broader

engagement is effective.

We also asked an independent market research company....[Read more](#)

by davidco | 23 Dec 2013, 05:40 PM | 32 views



What do you think of the Community Working Group's preferred option?

At their final meeting, the Community Working Group created a preferred option that they could all support. [Read the outputs from the meeting here](#). Their aim was for this option to:

- Maintain as many services as possible, including libraries and aquatic centres, especially considering future population increases;
- Combine a bit of everything, including additional income, fee increases, service reductions, borrowing, and rate increases;
- Accept as little infrastructure deterioration as possible;
- Find as much efficiency in council operations as possible;
- Have a rate increase that was 'middle of the road';



A preferred option

Key Dates

Information Stall - Belfield Town Centre
23 January 2014

Information Stall - Hurstons Park Town Centre
24 January 2014

Information Stall - Croydon Park Town Centre
24 January 2014

Information Stall - Campsie Town Centre
28 January 2014

Information Session - Riverwood
29 January 2014

Information Session - Campsie
29 January 2014

Information Stall - Earlwood Town Centre
30 January 2014

more..

Community Working Group Stories



more..

FAQ

- Include borrowing because the cost of maintaining infrastructure should be shared with future generations.

Council will consider what option(s) they prefer for further community engagement at the meeting on 28 November 2013.

What do you think of the Community Working Group's preferred option?

by davidco | 25 Nov 2013, 05:38 PM | 100 views

12

What council services do you think are most important for the future of Canterbury?



In July 2013 we posted out the 2013 Rates and Services Review Fact Sheet with rates notices (if you haven't seen it, you can [get a copy from the Fact Sheets Library](#)). The starting point for the Rates and Services Review is the vision our community has for the future of the City of Canterbury, which is outlined in our Community Strategic Plan (you can [get a copy of this from the Integrated Plans Library](#)).

During the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan, people told us their priorities for the future of the City of Canterbury were better roads, less traffic congestion, good parks and gardens, balanced development, a cleaner Cooks River, better shopping, and a cleaner, safer, and greener City.

What council services do you think are most important in achieving these priorities?

by davidco | 20 Aug 2013, 04:11 PM | 422 views

3

How will we find the best solution?

The Community Working Group has defined the challenge facing council as:

How can council maintain the services needed to improve the high quality of life in Canterbury, keep costs down and find alternative sources of income so that rates can be kept as low as possible, and clearly demonstrate the need for any increase in rates?



[Check out the outputs from the meeting where they did this here.](#)

Options for solving this challenge might include a combination of increases in rates or user charges, borrowing, or service reductions. We need a way to determine which option will be the right one. Imagine an option that really works, how would we know? What would we measure?

At their meeting on 9 October 2013, the Community Working Group came up with a list of [key features of a good solution](#). [Read the outputs from this meeting here.](#)

What are your thoughts on the how to find the best solution?

by davidco | 18 Oct 2013, 05:39 PM | 214 views

6

What are your ideas to solve the challenge?

The Community Working Group has defined the challenge facing council as:

How can council maintain the services needed to improve the high quality of life in Canterbury, keep costs down and find alternative sources of income so that rates can be kept as low as possible, and clearly demonstrate the need for any increase in rates?



[Check out the outputs from the meeting where they did this here.](#)

The Community working Group has also brainstormed a range of ideas to solve this challenge - [read the outputs from the meeting containing these here](#). You can also read the [council service profiles](#) that they reviewed as prompts for the brainstorm.

After reading the council service profiles, and the Community Working Group's ideas -

What are your ideas to solve the challenge?

What is the Rates and Services Review?

How can I get involved?

What is the preferred option?

What does the preferred option mean for rates and services?

[more..](#)

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What questions do you have about council rates and services?



A central element of our Rates and Services Review is the Community Working Group, a randomly selected representative sample of the Canterbury community. We are exploring options for the range and level of services, and the means to fund these, in a series of conversations with the group.

At their first meeting the group developed a list of questions about council rates and services, and we prepared answers to these questions for discussion at the next meeting. [Read the questions and answers.](#)

What questions do you have about council rates and services?

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Does the way we have developed the preferred option seem reasonable to you?

by davidco | 23 Dec 2013, 05:40 PM



CITY OF CANTERBURY
RATES & SERVICES

Over the past six months we have involved our community in exploring options for changes in the range and level of services, and the means to fund these. Through a range of activities we have informed and gathered feedback from as many people as possible. We invited a group of community leaders to advise us on the best ways to engage with our diverse community. This group has provided useful insight on the formation of the Community Working Group and the activities needed to ensure broader engagement is effective.

We also asked an independent market research company to recruit a group of people to represent the range of different perspectives typical of the Canterbury community. This group was representative in terms of gender, age, location, cultural background, renters and owners, users of council services, ratepayers, residents and business owners, and people having lived a long or short time in the City. Over a period of four months this group met six times, each for several hours, working through a series of conversations to better understand what council does and how much it costs, what the challenge is and how it might be solved, and to work together to find a solution that the whole group could support. [Read a summary of the group's work here.](#)

Throughout this time we used our email newsletter, council column, social media such as Facebook and Twitter feed, Canterbury Connects App, posters and flyers distributed across the city, and emails to our community networks, to invite people to participate in the review. Advertisements were also placed in local English and community language newspapers. Language assistance has been available via our Customer Service Centre.

Contributions were able to be made via this website and feedback forms at Libraries, Childrens Centres, Senior Citizens and Community Centres.

Does the way we have developed the preferred option seem reasonable to you?

Add your comment

1 comments

[Recent first](#) | [Posted first](#) | [Collapse all replies](#)

Alfred Peterson | 28 Dec 2013, 04:31 PM

Quite so, except I would like to see much needed high-rise commercial development in Canterbury City which would not only benefit from increase in income but will provide many job opportunities for the growing population of Canterbury. New infrastructure is the key to creating higher incomes for the the council as demonstrated in many other local governments in the Greater Sydney Region.

[Reply](#) [Agree 0](#) [Disagree 0](#) [Alert moderator](#)



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What council services do you think are most important for the future of Canterbury?

by davidco | 20 Aug 2013, 04:11 PM



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During the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan, people told us their priorities for the future of the City of Canterbury were better roads, less traffic congestion, good parks and gardens, balanced development, a cleaner Cooks River, better shopping, and a cleaner, safer, and greener City.

What council services do you think are most important in achieving these priorities?

Add your comment

12 comments

Recent first | Posted first | Collapse all replies

Sim2510 | 23 Jan 2014, 04:59 PM

I was quite stunned to see the amount of money spent on the Peter Moore field and Belmore ground. Given these are largely used by the NRL and we are in a user pays society why are tax and ratepayers subsidising a professional sport using the grounds? The Commonwealth, State and council dollars added up to a few million. Given the sponsorships and endorsements these clubs get they should have to pay. The money can then be used elsewhere for the benefit of the community. This situation/rort also applies on other areas e.g Penrith.

Reply | Agree 1 | Disagree 0 | Alert moderator



Zebee | 30 Nov 2013, 09:16 AM

Given the Cook's River path there should be more bike facilities. I've just returned from a trip to Perth and Bunbury and I notice they do it by widening footpaths and declaring them shared paths.

I was able to ride from Perth Airport to the intercity train station in the middle of Perth almost without putting a wheel to road, on shared and separated paths all the way. I was able to get around Bunbury entirely on shared paths up to all the shopping areas and library and so on except for the narrow streets of the 19thC port area.

On road bike lanes are useless: they always have cars parked on them and Canterbury council historically has no idea what to do with them at junctions or roundabouts or road narrowings except to stop them at the most dangerous point. Most roads are just not wide enough. (and most footpaths never see a foot)

Instead as footpaths are repaired change them to concrete, widen them, call them shared, and set up road crossings at junctions the way they do in Perth with the crossing set back from the actual road intersection so a car turning into the road can easily see the crossers and is moving slowly. Even do it before they are repaired. No doubt the State Government has rules, join with other councils to push for change. The more local trips by bicycle the better.

Combine that with clear signage in places like Beamish St to stop cyclists on the footpath there and enforce that as much as you can. (Add stencilled bike signs on the road to remind drivers that bikes are allowed on Beamish would be good). The bridge at Loch St is a lost cause for both on and off road so a "cyclists dismount" sign is the best that can be done. Same with other shopping strips: cycle to them, walk the bike where there are a lot of pedestrians or slow the cars down a lot so cyclists are safe on the road. Encourage shopping developments to include bike parking that are not wheelbreaker racks as they are not used by cyclists (note the racks at Aldi in Jeffrey St have no bikes they are chained to the railings)

Active encouragement of cycling for short trips would help a lot with congestion. Yes, Canterbury has a lot of hills but using shared paths will give people more confidence to go up them, cycling slowly up a hill with impatient cars passing a foot away is not good.

Reply | Agree 1 | Disagree 0 | Alert moderator



Alfred Peterson | 23 Nov 2013, 06:09 PM

I agree with Stormgirl about how unattractive and unfit for purpose Canterbury Road is. Many businesses and shops along the road have been rundown, vacant locking up key areas. An example of this is the Canterbury Town Centre. Most shops are vacant. There's no sense of place, insufficient services and facilities which all bond to create a vibrant town centre. Canterbury Town Centre, having many shops being vacant, should be redeveloped into a MAJOR centre accommodating all community services, facilities and needs. It should be developed as a key area within Sydney and NSW with both commercial and retail amenities. Currently none of Canterbury City Council's towns are identified as major towns in the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy or even the South Subregional Strategy. This is appalling as surrounding councils have at least 1 centre largely identified within both strategies. Canterbury Town Centre is the best area to be heavily developed, being close to the city and transport it could play a major role in Sydney's economy. High-rise office buildings, apartments, improved public transport, improved riverfront precinct and the possibility of transforming the under-utilised Canterbury Racecourse will all contribute to what

buildings, apartments, improved public transport, improved riverfront precinct and the possibility of transforming the under-utilised Canterbury Racecourse will all contribute to what makes a city, an outstanding one.

Along with the redevelopment of Canterbury Town Centre, smaller town centres should be built along Canterbury Road to ensure expected population growth within the city. A major shopping centre or two should be built to support the future population. Canterbury Road should also be linked with Canterbury Town Centre and other centres with extensive public transport. 5+ storey apartments should be constructed while opportunities for new businesses should come along too.

Canterbury City is lacking of attractiveness and development at the moment. Canterbury city should aim to become a busy, vibrant, attractive and artistic city, a city that fulfils what our community needs and wants and how it can become a focal area in Sydney.

[Reply](#) [👍 Agree 0](#) [👎 Disagree 0](#) [Alert moderator](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Uglyadonis | 07 Nov 2013, 10:29 AM |

Better roads, less congestion, extensive affordable public transport, defend and maintain green spaces and urban bushland: Council should do everything it can to oppose the WestConnex plan! Demand that taxpayers' money goes to fund systems that will benefit Canterbury residents and the local ecology. A massive handout to big corporations to build huge new expressways is no solution to transport problems, especially in a future where hikes in oil prices are certain. Thank you!

[Reply](#) [👍 Agree 1](#) [👎 Disagree 0](#) [Alert moderator](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Stormgirl | 25 Oct 2013, 10:15 PM |

Tidying up the area. Canterbury Road is the most woeful eyesore in Sydney. It's an embarrassment. Generally, I think the entire area is untidy and sometimes downright dirty. From Cooks River to carparks, and shopping trolleys left abandoned in the streets of Earlwood. It's all very messy. The area just needs a big tidy up! Ask Coles to have a better system for abandoned trolleys (and don't accept that they have people roaming the streets collecting them as it's not good enough, they shouldn't leave the shopping precinct to begin with!) Find out what activities are happening behind those shuttered and graffitied shopfronts on Canterbury Rd, Who owns them? Someone is paying rates on these supposedly empty shops. What's really happening in there? These places bring down the entire tone of the area. It looks derelict.

[Reply](#) [👍 Agree 2](#) [👎 Disagree 0](#) [Alert moderator](#)

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Stu | 10 Oct 2013, 08:56 PM |

I'm not sure exactly what 'Community health and safety' services the Council provides, but I note it accounts for \$8 millionof the service delivery cost, or almost 10%.

Health services are provided by the NSW government. So too safety is the domain of the NSW Government, via the police.

Is there a duplication of services here? Exactly what does the Council provide that the NSW Government does not, or can not?

In my view Council needs to stick to its knitting. Health and saftey are not the domain of local government.

[Reply](#) [👍 Agree 1](#) [👎 Disagree 0](#) [Alert moderator](#) [Hide reply ▼](#)

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Stormgirl | 25 Oct 2013, 10:04 PM |

I can only guess that the community health and safety services that council provide are now no longer. My children were immunised by the free council run clinics. Fantastic service, well run and organised. I was sorry to read a while ago that council no longer offers this service to the community. Not sure what else.

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Cccresident | 11 Oct 2013, 11:17 AM |

Rubbish bins in public places are often messed up by birds and other animals. Spilled rubbish is not only dirty but also a health concern. RECOMMENDATION: Bins in public places should be made “animal proof.” Like those in some parts of Marrickville

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Cccresident | 11 Oct 2013, 11:15 AM |

Trees are a living part of every neighbourhood. If one is removed and residents have had no chance to farewell it, the latter, especially children and the elderly will suffer emotional distress. This can last a long time. RECOMMENDATION: avoid felling mature trees. Otherwise a suitable notice be posted on the tree, which is about to be removed, to enable local residents to farewell and mourn the felled tree.

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Valerie | 04 Oct 2013, 02:22 PM |

Canterbury Council needs to invest more money into our local parks. They are very outdated and filled with messy bark....kids need a shower after a play in our local parks. It is disappointing that my friends and myself as Canterbury Council ratepayers weekly venture out to parks in Marrickville council. We need parks with a variety of kids play equipment and astro turf. A park with a waterplay area would be fabulous for kids to be entertained in at summer.

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Stu | 10 Oct 2013, 09:03 PM |

A usefull suggestion Valerie. We all benefit from the amenity of local parks and I agree it is an important area for Council to focus on. But with the funding gap the council is facing, doing more of something means doing less of something else. That is, if we want more money for parks we have to give less money to something else or find new revenue.

In my view rates could increase by developing a new and more equitable way to calculate them.

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Green spaces, bike lanes, increase biodiversity- fauna and flora, community resources- outdoor gym, kids play equipment, sporting facilities; new aquatic centre in tasker park.

Reply

Agree 3

Disagree 1

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What are your ideas to solve the challenge?

by davidco | 19 Sep 2013, 01:59 PM



The Community Working Group has defined the challenge facing council as:

How can council maintain the services needed to improve the high quality of life in Canterbury, keep costs down and find alternative sources of income so that rates can be kept as low as possible, and clearly demonstrate the need for any increase in rates?

Check out the outputs from the meeting where they did this [here](#).

The Community working Group has also brainstormed a range of ideas to solve this challenge - [read the outputs from the meeting containing these here](#). You can also read the [council service profiles](#) that they reviewed as prompts for the brainstorm.

After reading the council service profiles, and the Community Working Group's ideas -

What are your ideas to solve the challenge?

Add your comment



6 comments

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Shasblew | 10 Nov 2013, 11:56 AM

I find it astounding to think that council would consider increasing the density of housing, without being able to afford increases in infrastructure to keep pace with the current standards. Yes, people living in units should pay the same rates as those in houses, as they use facilities as all other residents. If council is so concerned that it is unable to provide increased infrastructure, then they need to stop increasing the density of housing in the area!

Reply | Agree 1 | Disagree 0 | Alert moderator



Stu | 28 Oct 2013, 10:03 AM

People living in units have been subsidised for far too long. They should pay fair rates.

In fact, there is a very good argument that people in units should pay MORE and people in detached dwelling should pay LESS.

People in detached dwellings are more likely to have off-street parking and therefore less likely to park cars on the street. They are more likely to compost vegetable waste and therefore less likely to produce as much rubbish. And they are more likely to have their own back yards and therefore less likely to use communal outdoor facilities.

But I'm not arguing that some should pay more and some should pay less.

I'm arguing that there should be fair rates paid by all. House owners should not subsidise unit owners. It is people that consume services – not dwellings. The fairest way to charge rates is on the number of people in a dwelling. The simplest way to do that is to charge rates according to the number of bedrooms a property has.

Reply | Agree 0 | Disagree 0 | Alert moderator



Stormgirl | 25 Oct 2013, 10:57 PM

I'd be happy for a slight increase in rates to keep services we already have. However, the way rates are charged needs to change. I'm not sure why I pay more because I live in a detached house but a large family in a flat pay a lot less. I have never been able to fathom this. I am not happy for services to be removed or to be charged for something that has previously been free. I feel that Canterbury Council is way behind other more progressive councils and to be insulted by offering less services is quite upsetting. Imagine no street sweeping...the poor individuals living near child care centres and play centres will be forever picking up and disposing of the dirty nappies that are found in the gutters themselves. What you can do is invest in more rangers to monitor schools at drop off and pick up time, and fine the many hundreds of parents that do the wrong thing daily. Better yet, have those rangers in plain clothes and hidden behind a tree. Council would make a mega-fortune in fines! (not to mention making school zones safer.)

Reply | Agree 1 | Disagree 0 | Alert moderator



Stu | 22 Oct 2013, 04:57 PM

Good point Homer. I agree.

Reply | Agree 0 | Disagree 0 | Alert moderator



Homer | 19 Oct 2013, 08:51 AM |

I feel that all the Units should have an increase because they are the people taking up all the parking on our streets,even if they have a parking spot most have more than one car and from where I am the streets have become rubbish dumps by Tenants moving in and out from most of these Investment Units. Because our area has a lot of Units a small increase per Unit would increase Council's income.

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Stu | 10 Oct 2013, 04:22 PM |

The unfortunate reality is that the funding gap can only be closed by either reducing services or increasing revenue raised. I appreciate Council is in a difficult situation and has some hard decisions to make.

I am sure increased rates are being considered. While I appreciate a rates increase will most likely be part of the solution, in my view the increase need not be universal. Rather, it is an opportunity to correct an imbalance that exists in the way rates are calculated.

Rates are currently charged according to land area and land value. This means that unit owners pay proportionally lower rates compared to house owners. But dwelling type does not equate to service consumption. Far from it.

Regardless of dwelling type residents are just as likely to drive a car, have a bin to be collected, go to the park, go to the library, go to the pool, need childcare, require health services etc. But they will pay different rates.

In effect house rate payers currently pay too much, and in so doing, subsidise unit rate payers who don't pay enough.

In my view Council can address this by charging rates to be more closely aligned to resident numbers. For example, rates should be calculated according to the number of bedrooms a dwelling has, not simply the land area/ land value.

In so doing, most rates will increase, given there are more units than houses in Canterbury. And council can ensure these increases are sufficient to close the funding gap.

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