



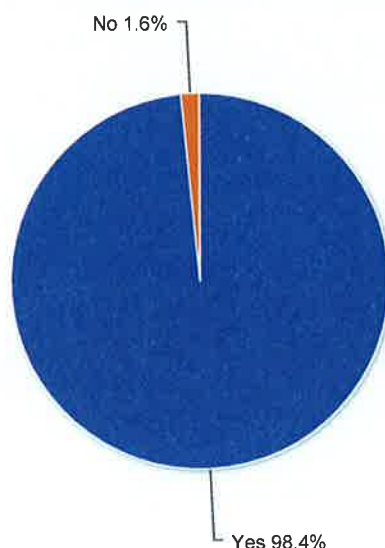
Summary Report - Auto Run

Survey: Singleton Council Special Rate Variation 2014/15 for roads maintenance

1. What is the name of the town/locality where you live?

Count	Response
2	2330
1	Belford
1	Branxton
1	Bridgman road
3	Broke
3	Bulga
1	Darlington
1	Dunolly
1	Glenriding
1	Gowrie
8	Hunterview
1	Hunterview singleton
1	Jerrys Plains
1	Leconfield
1	Mitchell's Flat
1	Mt olive
2	Putty
1	Redbournberry
1	SINGLETON HEIGHTS
1	Sedgefield
51	Singleton
11	Singleton Heights
1	Singleton NSW
1	South Wambo
3	Wattle Ponds
1	Wattle Ponds Singleton
1	Wattle ponds
1	Whittingham
1	broke
1	heights
1	hunterview
1	mount olive
1	sin
14	singleton
2	singleton heights
1	singleton hts nsw

2. Do you or your family pay Council rates in the Singleton Local Government Area?



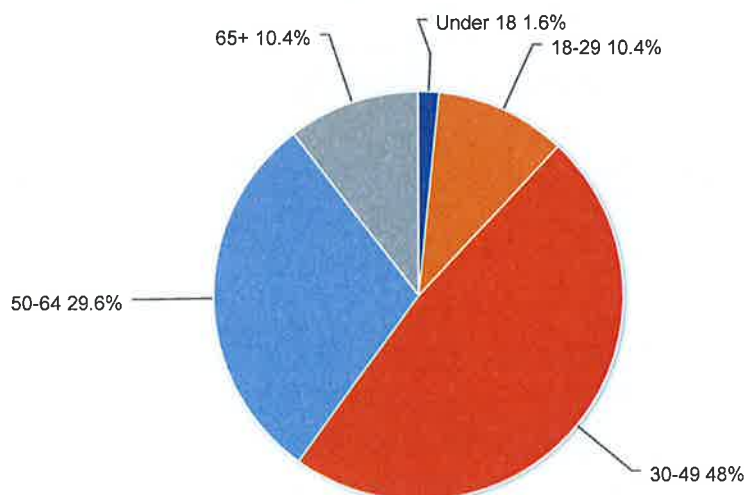
2. Do you or your family pay Council rates in the Singleton Local Government Area?

Value	Count	Percent %
Yes	123	98.4%
No	2	1.6%

Statistics

Total Responses	125
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3. What age group are you in?



3. What age group are you in?

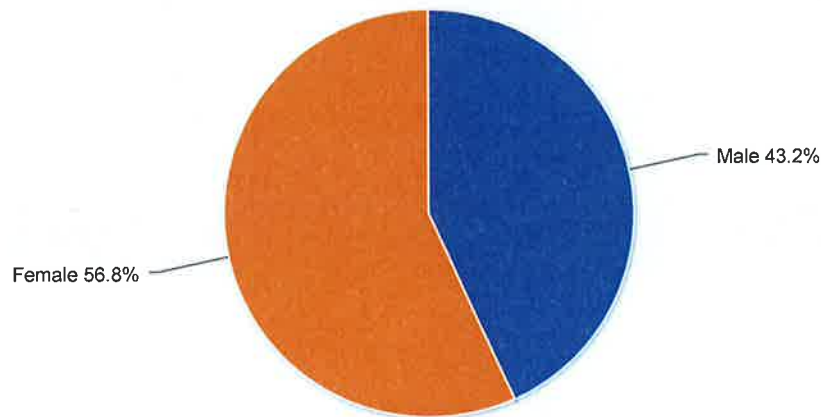
Value	Count	Percent %
Under 18	2	1.6%
18-29	13	10.4%
30-49	60	48.0%
50-64	37	29.6%

Statistics

Total Responses	125
Sum	4,729.0
Avg.	38.4

Value	Count	Percent %	Toggle Fullscreen • Export:	
65+	13	10.4%	Statistics	
			StdDev	13.9
			Max	65.0

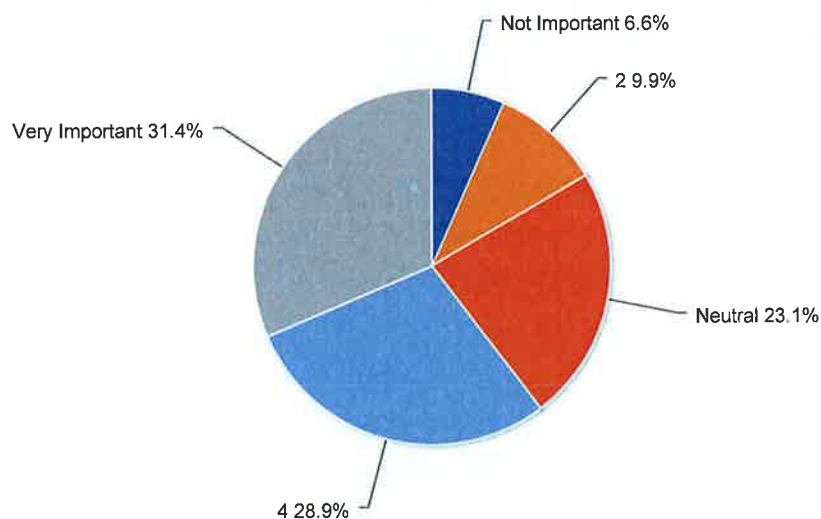
4. Are you a



4. Are you a

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics	
Male	54	43.2%	Total	125
Female	71	56.8%	Responses	

5. We want to know how important specific types of infrastructure are to you on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means the infrastructure is not at all important, and a score of 5 means that the infrastructure is very important to you. Rural sealed roads

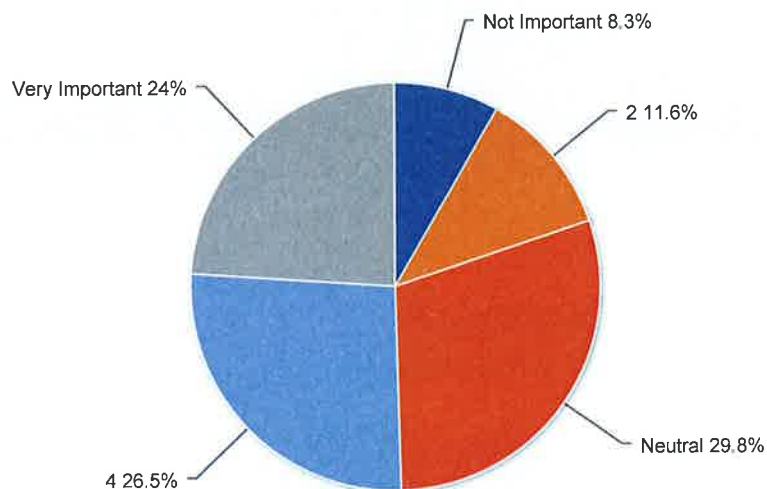


5. We want to know how important specific types of infrastructure are to you on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means the infrastructure is not at all important, and a score of 5 means that the infrastructure is very important to you. Rural sealed roads

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics
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Value	Count	Percent %	Toggle Fullscreen • Export: Statistics	
Not Important	8	6.6%	Total Responses	121
2	12	9.9%	Sum	446.0
Neutral	28	23.1%	Avg.	3.7
4	35	28.9%	StdDev	1.2
Very Important	38	31.4%	Max	5.0

6. Rural unsealed roads



6. Rural unsealed roads

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics	
Not Important	10	8.3%	Total Responses	121
2	14	11.6%	Sum	419.0
Neutral	36	29.8%	Avg.	3.5
4	32	26.5%	StdDev	1.2
Very Important	29	24.0%	Max	5.0

7. Town roads

[Toggle Fullscreen](#) • [Export:](#)

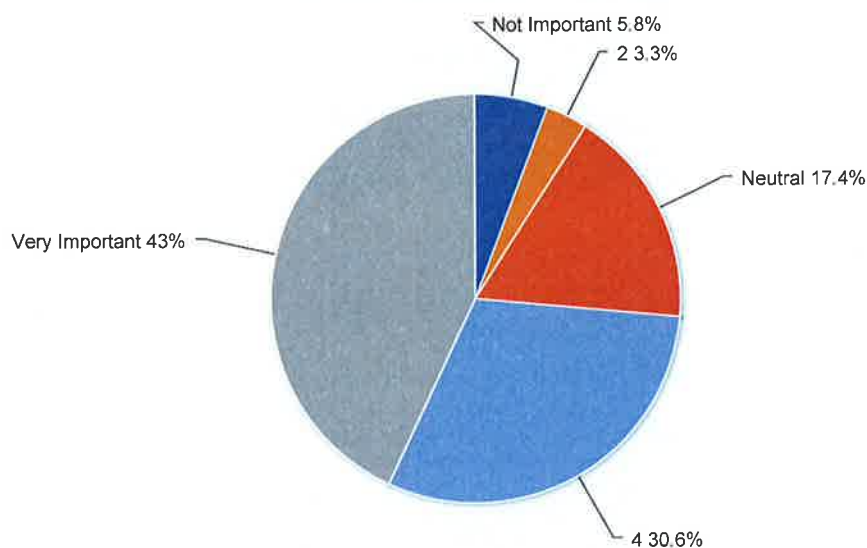
Not Important 2.5%
2 2.5%

7. Town roads

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	3	2.5%
2	3	2.5%
Neutral	15	12.4%
4	41	33.9%
Very Important	59	48.8%

Statistics	
Total Responses	121
Sum	513.0
Avg.	4.2
StdDev	0.9
Max	5.0

8. Parks, playgrounds and reserves



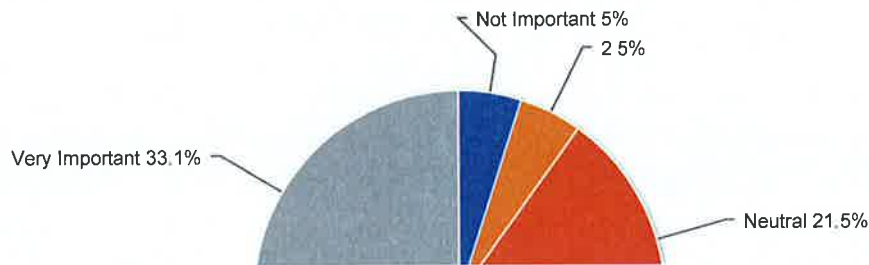
8. Parks, playgrounds and reserves

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	7	5.8%
2	4	3.3%
Neutral	21	17.4%
4	37	30.6%
Very Important	52	43.0%

Statistics	
Total Responses	121
Sum	486.0
Avg.	4.0
StdDev	1.1
Max	5.0

9. Sports fields and buildings

[Toggle Fullscreen](#) • [Export](#)

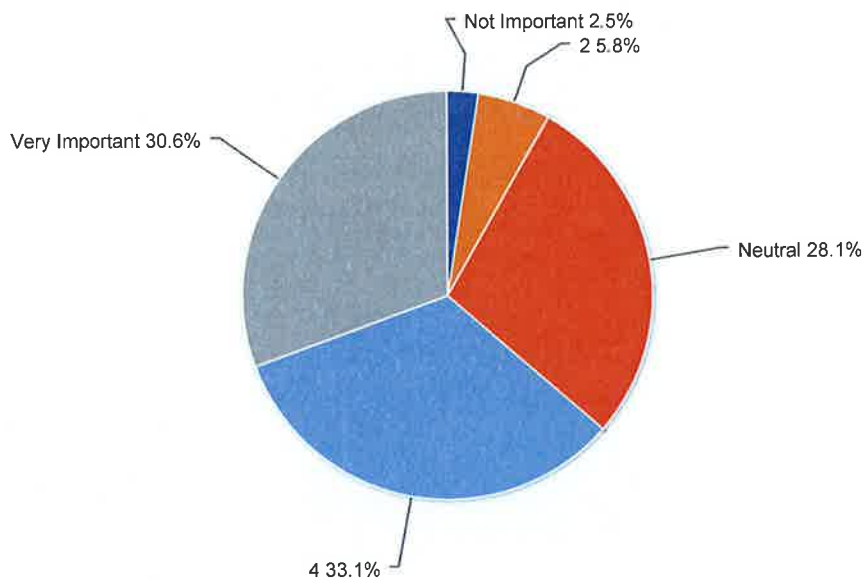


9. Sports fields and buildings

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	6	5.0%
2	6	5.0%
Neutral	26	21.5%
4	43	35.5%
Very Important	40	33.1%

Statistics	
Total Responses	121
Sum	468.0
Avg.	3.9
StdDev	1.1
Max	5.0

10. Community facilities and halls

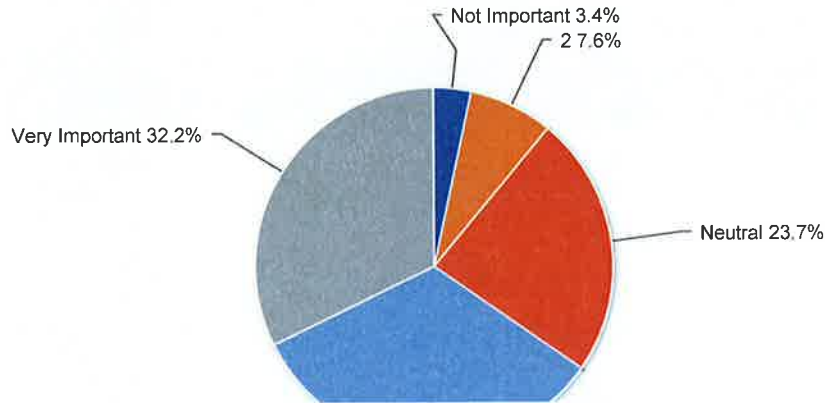


10. Community facilities and halls

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	3	2.5%
2	7	5.8%
Neutral	34	28.1%
4	40	33.1%
Very Important	37	30.6%

Statistics	
Total Responses	121
Sum	464.0
Avg.	3.8
StdDev	1.0
Max	5.0

11. We want to know how important it is to you for Council to renew and maintain each type of infrastructure at an acceptable level on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means it is not at all important, and a score of 5 means that it is very important. Rural sealed roads

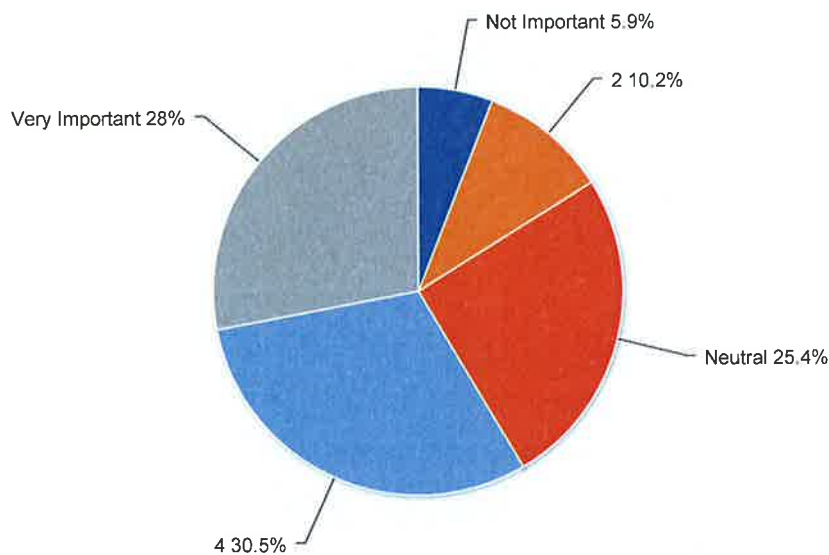


11. We want to know how important it is to you for Council to renew and maintain each type of infrastructure at an acceptable level on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means it is not at all important, and a score of 5 means that it is very important. Rural sealed roads

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	4	3.4%
2	9	7.6%
Neutral	28	23.7%
4	39	33.1%
Very Important	38	32.2%

Statistics	
Total Responses	118
Sum	452.0
Avg.	3.8
StdDev	1.1
Max	5.0

12. Rural unsealed roads



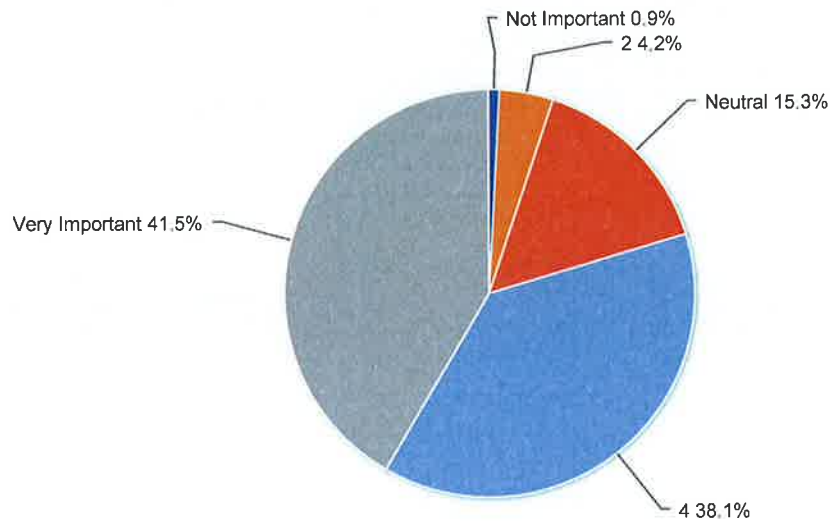
12. Rural unsealed roads

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	7	5.9%
2	12	10.2%
Neutral	30	25.4%
4	36	30.5%

Statistics	
Total Responses	118
Sum	430.0
Avg.	3.6

Value	Count	Percent %	Toggle Fullscreen • Export: Statistics	
Very Important	33	28.0%	StdDev	1.2
			Max	5.0

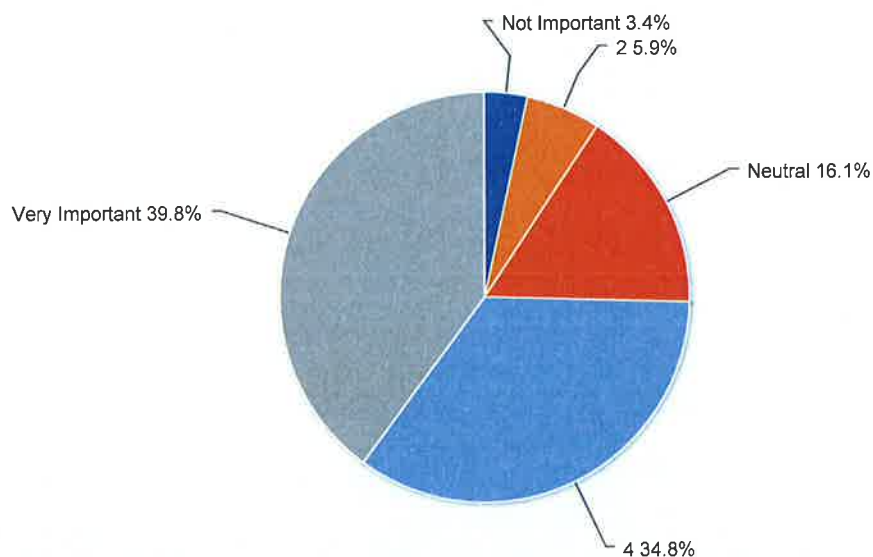
13. Town roads



13. Town roads

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics	
Not Important	1	0.9%	Total Responses	118
2	5	4.2%	Sum	490.0
Neutral	18	15.3%	Avg.	4.2
4	45	38.1%	StdDev	0.9
Very Important	49	41.5%	Max	5.0

14. Parks, playgrounds and reserves



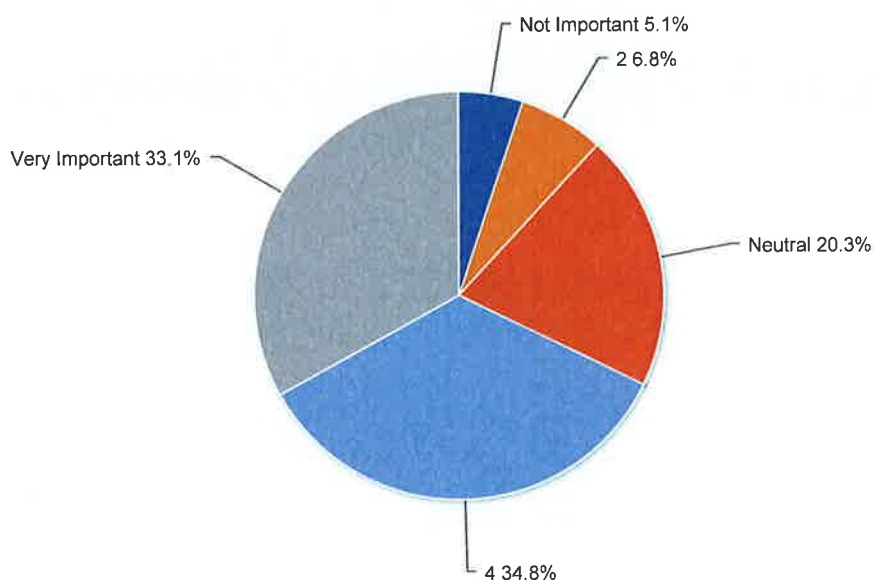
14. Parks, playgrounds and reserves

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Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	4	3.4%
2	7	5.9%
Neutral	19	16.1%
4	41	34.8%
Very Important	47	39.8%

Statistics	
Total Responses	118
Sum	474.0
Avg.	4.0
StdDev	1.0
Max	5.0

15. Sports fields and buildings



15. Sports fields and buildings

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	6	5.1%
2	8	6.8%
Neutral	24	20.3%
4	41	34.8%
Very Important	39	33.1%

Statistics	
Total Responses	118
Sum	453.0
Avg.	3.8
StdDev	1.1
Max	5.0

16. Community buildings and halls

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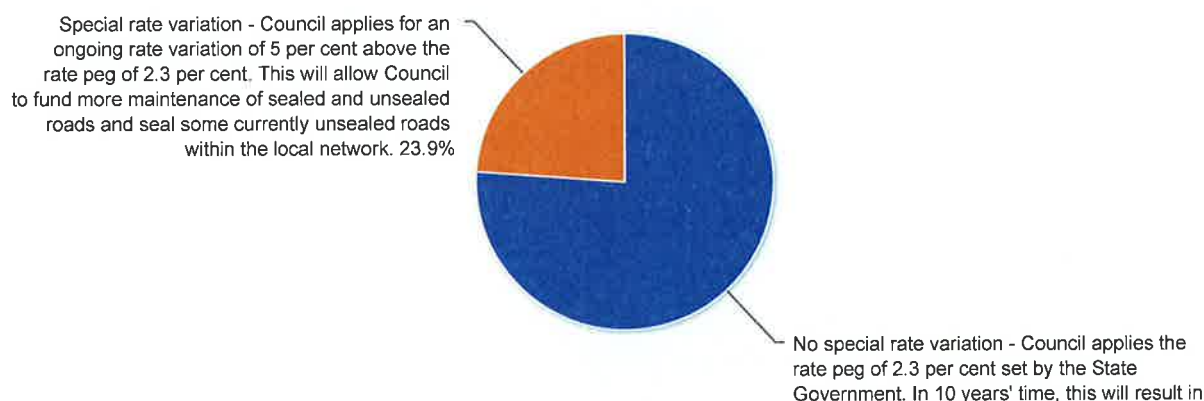


16. Community buildings and halls

Value	Count	Percent %
Not Important	3	2.5%
2	6	5.1%
Neutral	31	26.3%
4	48	40.7%
Very Important	30	25.4%

Statistics	
Total Responses	118
Sum	450.0
Avg.	3.8
StdDev	1.0
Max	5.0

17. Singleton Council like many councils across NSW has a road renewal backlog of \$6.58 million and an annual shortfall in road maintenance of \$4.43 million. If this is not addressed, roads will continue to deteriorate and will cost significantly more to renew and replace in the future. To bridge this funding gap, Council is proposing a permanent 5 per cent increase in rates above the allowable 2.3 per cent increase set by the NSW Government. This means, an average increase of \$37.07 per year or 71 cents per week for residents and an average increase of \$86.36 per or \$1.66 per week for businesses. Which of the two scenarios proposed below do you most support?



17. Singleton Council like many councils across NSW has a road renewal backlog of \$6.58 million and an annual shortfall in road maintenance of \$4.43 million. If this is not addressed, roads will continue to deteriorate and will cost significantly more to renew and replace in the future. To bridge this funding gap, Council is proposing a permanent 5 per cent increase in rates above the allowable 2.3 per cent increase set by the NSW Government. This means, an average increase of \$37.07 per year or 71 cents per week for residents and an average increase of \$86.36 per or \$1.66 per week for businesses. Which of the two scenarios proposed below do you most support?

Value	Count	Percent %
No special rate variation - Council applies the rate peg of 2.3 per cent set by the State Government. In 10 years' time, this will result in 5 per cent of sealed roads and 30 per cent of unsealed roads being in poor condition.	83	76.2%
Special rate variation - Council applies for an ongoing rate variation of 5 per cent above the rate peg of 2.3 per cent. This will allow Council to fund more	26	23.9%

Statistics	
Total Responses	109

Value

Count

Percent %

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maintenance of sealed and unsealed roads and seal some currently unsealed roads within the local network.

18. You selected the No Special Rate Variation option. If Council has to review its services and infrastructure, can you identify any services and infrastructure that you would like to see reduced?

Count

Response

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | All services should be reviewed before applying for an increase. |
| 1 | As per previous answer |
| 1 | Can't reduce what we don't gets only rates... |
| 1 | Contractors, consultants and overtime. Exactly what big business has done. |
| 1 | Council members wages!!!! Don't have big flashy cars that you just give to council members!!!! |
| 1 | Council staff reduced. Singleton has 3 building inspectors, Muswellbrook 1 and Upper Hunter 2 |
| 1 | Library. Child care. Gym and swim. Visitors information. Reduce the subsidy to these and others |
| 1 | Money spent on council trips, meetings,cars |
| 1 | NO. |
| 1 | No |
| 1 | No. |
| 1 | Not wasting money on so called town centre revitalisation. More cycleways that are hardly used. |
| 1 | Reduce administration. |
| 1 | See previous comment |
| 1 | See previously mentioned. |
| 1 | Spending in town centre |
| 1 | Sports |
| 1 | Stop resealing roads that are fine |
| 1 | Streetscaping and plans to develop niche planning. |
| 1 | The resurfacing of roads when not needed (such as the roads in Dalwood acres) |
| 1 | Yes, see previous - town revitalisation |
| 1 | get back to basics |
| 2 | no |
| 1 | perhaps state government pay for some of our roads |
| 1 | sports fields, restructuring town centre , |
| 1 | unnecessary resealing of roads that are in good condition |
| 1 | Gym and swim - all rate payers are funding a facility that not all rate payers choose to or need to use. It would be interesting to see what percentage of local residents use this facility, and what the percentage of people using this facility actually reside outside of Singleton (eg mine workers staying throughout the week who are contributing very little to the facility). |
| 1 | I see bits of roads which seem to be very well maintained, while others aren't maintained at all, a bit of consistency might help instead of spending the money on the same roads all the time. |
| 1 | Obviously no one wants to see services and infrastructure reduced or depleted. Council is continually reminding us that its staff are highly qualified professionals with extensive local knowledge, perhaps there could be less reliance on consultants to tell us what our town needs or organisation should run? |

Count	Response
1	Funds spent on consultants Funds spent on practises that don't work Community & Cultural Services Cycleways Parks, Recreational & Sporting Facilities Mt Royal, Cassels, Long Gully, Putty Valley, Commission and Bimbadeen Roads
1	Perhaps council needs to review its costs including internal expenditure, I mean really we ratepayers paid for that idiotic court case and now there's no money left so we pay again!
1	I would suggest before resealing roads they should first look at the drainage in town. I have seen roads resealed and within a very short period of time they are dug up to fix drainage issues. And then resealing afterwards,
1	staff ,, NO council cars it looks like you want us to pay more where the council sits back like fat cats you cant expect us to pay more when you don't try and save on your end
1	council should be about providing the basic services a shire requires any projects or services beyond this should not be funded until the basics are met so there fore I would like to see any of these special projects such as flashy signs, big poles and even things like the tourist information centre should be or should have been put on hold until the shires basic requirements have been met.
1	Money being spent on designers for a new streetscapes, far more important things than making john street prettier!
1	I say No Special Variation.. I do not hold any opinion for those areas . So I do do not wish to discourage or encourage rates to those area.
1	just review your task cost and planning, do you really need to do that task now? do you really need that many people and machines to do that task? council needs to me more cost focused, i am told the swim and gym runs at a loss, if that the case you need to change the management structur, not sure how true that is but i know people that are traveling out of town because of how it is managed and lack of swim coaches, we need to keep the money in our town not send it away. the \$1 mil dollars spend in courts cost for no reason does not help councils reputation
1	Council should be able to maintain its infrastructure at it's current level with the rates as they are. Since Singleton is a major money maker for the federal government due to the coal mines in the district, council should be able to get more money for roads from the government.
1	Look at the labour within the council - often see workers not working or multiple workers on the same job where they are not required.
1	No.....The council should make the mining company's do more road repairs due to the fact that the mines are the reason for the increased traffic flow on the road within the council district.
1	Council should review the amount of open space that it maintains. Council should provide more detailed information if more funds are required to maintain its assets. Perhaps user pay for sportsground use and sell off Unutilised assets.
1	Take the lead of every other business large or small in the valley, cut staff and wages/ overtime etc Every household / business in Singleton is struggling and we are all tightening our belts in every area. I would recommend council does the same
1	Funds spent on consultants Legal expenditure Code of Conduct disputes Community and Cultural infrastructure and services CBD Streetscape Parks, sporting and recreational facilities Putty Valley, Long Gully, Mount Royal, Cassels, Bimbadeen and Commission Roads Funds spent on practices that are uneconomical, such as asphalt wearing surfaces on residential streets Any new structures or facilities e.g. Combo Lane Cycleway Bridge - it may be paid for by the developers but Council will have to maintain this "far from essential" structure. Whole of life costs and replacement cost MUST be taken into account
1	Outlying areas where residents want work done on roads and causeways. People buy property in these areas knowing road conditions eg. Putty, Mt Royal
1	Bridgeman road at the retreat intersection did not need resealing. There are other roads that need attention. The garbage tip is also disgraceful. If tips fees were lowered, less money would need to be spent on illegal waste clean up, as people could actually afford to take rubbish to the tip. Go look at muswellbrook council tip. You will see where singleton gets it so so wrong.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Resealing of town roads and streets when sometimes it is not always necessary! I have seen this done many times over the years and wonder who makes the list of priorities when you know other street needing resealing than the ones done! |
| 1 | The council charges \$ for a sneeze plus 30% mining tax. [REDACTED] This city should be an oasis not a hole. Keep up the good work |

19. Can you identify any circumstances where you would support the proposed special rate variation?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | A 5% increase in my take home pay. |
| 1 | Following a review of all the services and their appropriateness by an external resource. |
| 1 | If more was done downtown then yes! We need sidewalks, more parks with equipment!! |
| 1 | If the community had a say in which roads were maintained |
| 1 | If the unsealed road I lived on at Big Ridge Lane Sedgefield was sealed. |
| 1 | If there was no other available money, but the town is fine the way it is. |
| 1 | Lake st Clair. Need I say more. It's an embarrassment |
| 1 | NO!! |
| 1 | NO. |
| 6 | No |
| 1 | No! Start thinking outside the square and stop targeting the obvious. |
| 1 | No. |
| 1 | None |
| 1 | None whatsoever |
| 1 | See above |
| 1 | U would support a one off increase in rates to fix black spots such a Kelso st |
| 1 | Use totally on unsealed roads. |
| 5 | no |
| 1 | none |
| 1 | not really |
| 1 | with the grants we receive NO |
| 1 | After staff salary reductions, we would see a drop in costs that could negate the need to seek rate hike |
| 1 | No. This council need to get there act together and do the job they where elected to do. What about all the mining money that this town receives where does all this go? |
| 1 | If the proposal for a variation was a "once only" it may have been regarded in a more favourable light. A permanent variation is out of the question. |
| 1 | Upper hunter councils should lobby state and federal governments for our mining dollars to come back to the local area |
| 1 | NO. Let's face it, it wouldn't matter how much money we had, we would never be able to satisfy all of the Councillors or ratepayers wish list. In fact the more money Council has the more likely it is to waste it. What Council has to realize is that the cake is only so big and has to be divided according to "need". And "need" must be understood as being different to "want". In simple terms there are a lot of things that people want that they don't need. This is where prioritising becomes important. Since the 1970's ratepayers have paid rates to buy and pay interest rates on Council's land bank. I believe it is time more of the profits from land sales was put back into roads. From the |

Count	Response
	point of view of a Rural Rate Payer, cattle prices are no where like keeping up with the CPI. Even before the drought that has gripped most of the eastern states and caused cattle prices to collapse, prices paid for cattle at their peak were equivalent to 1980 prices. Grazier's costs have gone up with CPI pricing but income has gone down. One cost of a grazier is Council Land Rates and they have gone up every year at the CPI rate. Another cost that continues to go up is Saleyard fees. In conclusion, the 2.3% increase set by the State Government is sufficient. I consider Council to be very lucky to have this option and only wish the State Government would regulate the cattle market in order to increase cattle prices at the same rate that Council has increased rates.
1	if it was for a period and project and then reverted back to normal i think that would be fair enough, given the mines etc in the area i would have thought Singleton council should be cash positive.
1	Yes. If Putty road was either graded every 4 months or sealed only, not start the project 6 months later.
1	NO this town has sat on their hand for years now that its run down they want to do something about it what I and others would like to know is where is the money
1	NO! There would never be enough money to meet the demands of all rate payers. Large amounts of money is not the only answer to preservation of Council's important assets.
1	No circumstances our rates are set at the correct level if not even to say on the high side considering you have used Muswellbrook as an example are their rates are lower then ours.
1	No.....The council should make the mining company's do more road repairs due to the fact that the mines are the reason for the increased traffic flow on the road within the council district.
1	No, not really. I know there are examples that cost council money, range road dis not made for wide or heavy loads yet truck companies see fit to use it as a short cut.
1	I would support the levy if I could see that Singleton Council was actively working with the mining companies for the better of our community.
1	Probably not!! The road close to where I live was to be sealed progressively over forty years ago. There are still 2km of gravel in poor condition. We get very little for the rates we pay. Rural rate payers are going to have to pay more than town rate payers. This is hardly fair, considering they generally use council facilities less. The current conditions make it difficult for rural families to make an living and to expect them to pay more than others is just unfair.
1	Yes, if there was a fixed period and therefore a review/ evaluation process to see if it has addressed the issue.
1	If my rates were brought more into line with the purported average. The 7.3% total increase will not be the average of \$0.47 to \$1.00 per week on my rates.
1	Yes, start maintaining Swain St Belford. I do not know why the shire is not responsible for it when there are a lot of ratepayers living down there.
1	Lowering tip fees and cheaper access (\$2 for a day visit would be fair. There are plenty of lakes that charge that or less) to Lake St.Clair
1	Show responsibility for your own behavior, Do not waste rate payers money bringing in lawyers etc. I do not pay my rates to be spent because someone insulted some one else. Be honest.

20. If you would like to be kept up to date on Council's proposed Special Rate Variation and the results of this survey, please provide your email address. If not, just click submit.

Count	Response
1	[REDACTED]
1	[REDACTED]

Singleton Council Special Rate Variation 2014/15 for roads maintenance

Page One

1. What is the name of the town/locality where you live? *

2. Do you or your family pay Council rates in the Singleton Local Government Area? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. What age group are you in? *

☐ Under 18

☐ 18-29

☐ 30-49

☐ 50-64

☐ 65+

4. Are you a *

☐ Male

☐ Female

New Page

5. We want to know how important specific types of infrastructure are to you on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means the infrastructure is not at all important, and a score of 5 means that the infrastructure is very important to you.

Rural sealed roads *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

6. Rural unsealed roads *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

7. Town roads *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

8. Parks, playgrounds and reserves *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

9. Sports fields and buildings *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

10. Community facilities and halls *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

New Page

11. We want to know how important it is to you for Council to renew and maintain each type of infrastructure at an acceptable level on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means it is not at all important, and a score of 5 means that it is very important.

Rural sealed roads *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

12. Rural unsealed roads *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

13. Town roads *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

14. Parks, playgrounds and reserves *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

15. Sports fields and buildings *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

16. Community buildings and halls *

Not Important

☐☐

Neutral

☐☐

Very Important

☐

New Page

17. Singleton Council like many councils across NSW has a road renewal backlog of \$6.58 million and an annual shortfall in road maintenance of \$4.43 million. If this is not addressed, roads will continue to deteriorate and will cost significantly more to renew and replace in the future.

To bridge this funding gap, Council is proposing a permanent 5 per cent increase in rates above the allowable 2.3 per cent increase set by the NSW Government. This means, an average increase of \$37.07 per year or 71 cents per week for residents and an average increase of \$86.36 per or \$1.66 per week for businesses.

Which of the two scenarios proposed below do you most support? *

- ☐ No special rate variation - Council applies the rate peg of 2.3 per cent set by the State Government. In 10 years' time, this will result in 5 per cent of sealed roads and 30 per cent of unsealed roads being in poor condition.
- ☐ Special rate variation - Council applies for an ongoing rate variation of 5 per cent above the rate peg of 2.3 per cent. This will allow Council to fund more maintenance of sealed and unsealed roads and seal some currently unsealed roads within the local network.

Comments

New Page

LOGIC Hidden unless: Question #17 contains any ("No special rate variation - Council applies the rate peg of 2.3 per cent set by the State Government. In 10 years' time, this will result in 5 per cent of sealed roads and 30 per cent of unsealed roads being in poor condition.")

18. You selected the No Special Rate Variation option. If Council has to review its services and infrastructure, can you identify any services and infrastructure that you would like to see reduced?

LOGIC Hidden unless: Question #17 contains any ("No special rate variation - Council applies the rate peg of 2.3 per cent set by the State Government. In 10 years' time, this will result in 5 per cent of sealed roads and 30 per cent of unsealed roads being in poor condition.")

19. Can you identify any circumstances where you would support the proposed special rate variation?

New Page

20. If you would like to be kept up to date on Council's proposed Special Rate Variation and the results of this survey, please provide your email address. If not, just click submit.

Thank You!

Email Responder

To: Singleton Communications Team (communications@singleton.nsw.gov.au)

From: SurveyGizmo (notifications@sgizmo.com)

Subject: New Response Notification