



BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL

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All communications to be addressed to the General Manager

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13 December 2013

The Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION 2014/15

Bellingen Shire Council considered a report in relation to the option of applying for a permanent special rate variation under section 508(2) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 for 2014/15 on 11 November 2013. Revenue from the variation above the peg rate, if approved, will be used to fund road and bridge infrastructure works in Bellingen Shire.

Specifically, following a review of the Division of Local Government's guidelines for the preparation of special variation applications, and discussions with your office, planning for community engagement on a proposal for a special rate variation led to Council resolving the following at its Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 11 November 2013:

07.016/13

RESOLVED (Cr Scott/Cr Klipin)

1. That Council resolves to notify IPART of its intention to lodge an application for a special rate variation
2. That Council resolves to commence community engagement and IPR processes (Delivery Program, Long Term Financial Plan, Revenue Policy revision) to support the special rate variation application through provision of four scenarios these being 1) a rate peg of estimated 2.4%, 2) 8.4%, 3) 11.90% and 4) 17.4%.
3. That Council resolve to apply for Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) funding, with this application subject to special rate variation approval
4. That Council write to the Division of Local Government highlighting issues with timing of determinations relating to SRV and LIRS applications (June and May 2014 respectively).

UNANIMOUS

Community engagement is currently under way to inform Council's further consideration in the matter around the preferred option in January 2014, with further community engagement planned for January/February 2014.

Lastly, Council has noted advice from IPART in relation to the rate peg amount of 2.3% for 2014/15.

Should you have any further enquiries please contact Peter Clare by telephoning [REDACTED] Monday to Friday between the hours of 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Liz Jeremy
GENERAL MANAGER