

24 November 2020



WHAT

This fact sheet provides information for councils and ratepayers about the minimum rate (MR) increase application process for 2021-22.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) issues guidelines for councils seeking to increase the MR amount, which set out the criteria IPART uses to assess applications.

OLG has also released *Special guidelines for new councils applying to harmonise minimum rates on 1 July 2021* that apply to newly merged councils in specific circumstances.

IPART's Information Paper *Minimum Rates in 2021-22* provides further details on IPART's MR increase application process.



WHY

This Fact Sheet and associated Information Paper ensures councils and ratepayers are aware of:

- ▼ changes to the OLG MR Guidelines for 2021-22
- ▼ when councils should submit an MR increase application as well as a special variation (SV) application

- ▼ our approach to assessing MR applications.



WHO

This information is relevant for:

- ▼ councils considering changes to their MR in 2021-22 or in future years
- ▼ ratepayers in these councils.

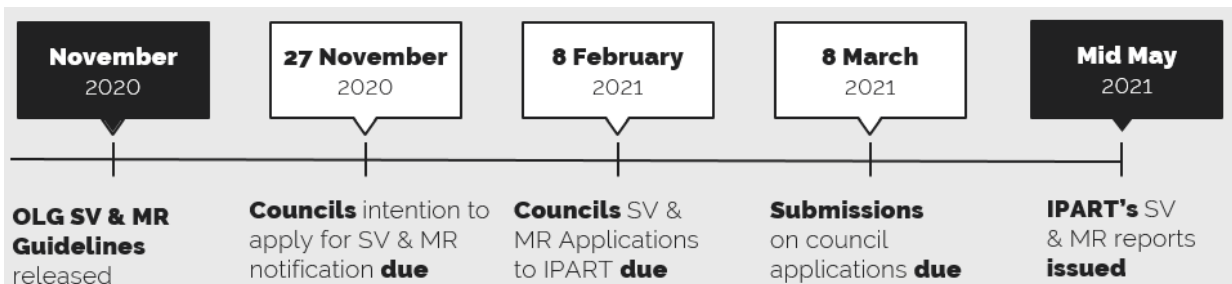
New councils created by merger in 2016 may apply for an MR increase for 2021-22 (see OLG Circular 19-27).



WHAT NEXT

Councils intending to apply to increase their MR in 2021-22 should:

- ▼ review IPART's Information Paper *Minimum Rates in 2021-22*
- ▼ contact IPART as soon as possible to discuss their MR increase proposal
- ▼ refer to the MR Application Form, MR Application Guide and Information Paper *Community engagement and awareness for SVs*, which are available on IPART's website
- ▼ notify IPART that they intend to apply for an MR increase (and SV, if applicable) by 27 November 2020
- ▼ submit an application for an MR increase by 8 February 2021.



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Ratepayers, particularly those currently paying the MR, of councils proposing to increase their MR in 2021-22 should:

- ▼ expect their councils to be consulting with them and seeking their feedback on the proposed MR increases
- ▼ note IPART will conduct a submission process after councils submit their applications in February 2021.