

## **SPECIAL RATE VARIATION APPLICATION RECEIVED FROM MID-COAST COUNCIL**

**1 June 2017**

Mid-Coast Council has formally applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special variation to increase its general income above the rate peg over the four year period 2017-18 to 2020-2021.

Mid-Coast Council has proposed a cumulative increase of 28.5% over the four years, including the rate peg, to provide additional funding for asset maintenance, to address its infrastructure backlog and to support an environmental program. It is proposing annual increases of 11.0% in 2017-18, 5.0% in 2018-19, 5.0% in 2019-20 and 5.0% in 2020-21. The rate peg for 2017-18 is set at 1.5%.

The application follows legislative changes made by the NSW Parliament in March 2017 that allows Mid-Coast Council to apply for, and IPART to assess, a special variation application for 2017-18.

IPART Chair Dr Peter Boxall said the application will be assessed against the criteria established by the Office of Local Government guidelines.

“Mid-Coast Council is required to demonstrate the need for and the purpose of the additional revenue, evidence of community consultation, and an assessment of the impact on affected ratepayers,” he said.

“As the council must engage with the community when assessing options for a special variation, we expect it will have sought and considered the community’s views on the special variation.

“Community members wishing to make submissions directly to IPART can do so until 30 June 2017, and these submissions will be considered as part of our determination.”

Details about Mid-Coast Council’s proposal should also be available on its website, in local media or from the council directly.

Full details about the proposal submitted by Mid-Coast Council, the assessment criteria for special variations, and how to lodge a submission can be found at [www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au).

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