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## MEDIA RELEASE

Narrabri Shire Council has resolved to proceed with plans to submit a special rate variation for an extra 6% in the 2011/12 year from the mining rating category to raise additional funds to maintain the Shire's deteriorating road network.

Acting Director Corporate Services, Brett Williams says these additional funds are being sought because without it the Shire will not have the money it needs to append on its roads. The gap is getting larger between what Council can physically allocate each year to road maintenance to what is actually required.

"It is Council's intention to only inflict the variation on the mining category. A number of factors justify this rate increase with the main factor being the increase in traffic generated by the mining companies resulting in a deterioration of road infrastructure. There are also occupational health and safety risk management issues that are faced by both Council and mining operations."

Staff are seeking a single year increase for 2011/12 and it is then proposed a multi-year increase will be undertaken in conjunction with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework being completed for the 2012/13 year and beyond.

"Council will work closely with the mining companies to communicate why a special rate variation is required. The community will also have to opportunity to make comment on the proposal through Council's 2011/12 Management Plan through submissions as well as a planned community meeting."

"The funding will be focussed towards the roads directly affected by mining traffic. Roads identified for upgrade and maintenance include SR 22(Braymont Road) and SR 157 (Hoad Lane)."

Council will be required to make an application for a special rate variation to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW providing reasons and justifications for this increase over and above the rate peg limit.

ALL ENQUIRIES IN RELATION TO THIS MEDIA RELEASE ARE TO BE DIRECTED TO  
MS ALLIRRA WINGFIELD (6799 6832)

### **COUNCIL'S INFORMATION & AUTHORISATION**

<b>Subject of Media Release:</b>	<b>Mining Rate Increase</b>	
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	<b>22 March 2011</b>	
<b>Submitted to:</b>	The Courier	<b>via:</b> Email/Fax
<b>Address/Fax No:</b>		
<b>Media Release Authorised by:</b>	<b>Brett Williams</b>	
<b>Authorised Signature:</b>	_____	