

## Consultation and Engagement Strategies

# Integrated Planning and Reporting and Proposed Special Rate Variation

Report on Integrated Planning and Reporting and proposed Special Rate Variation consultation and engagement strategies

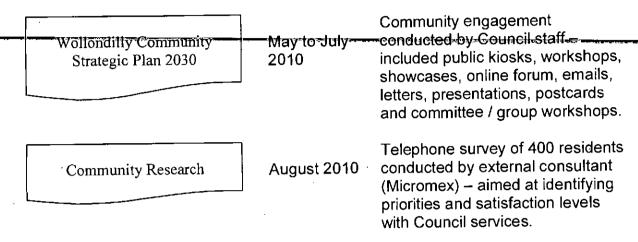
## December 2010 to February 2011 Wollondilly Shire Council

**TRIM 1862-2** 

#### Consultation and Engagement Strategies

#### What processes led to the identification of community needs/priorities?

Several processes were undertaken during 2010 which were aimed at identifying community needs and priorities.



Full details of the Community Strategic Plan 2030 engagement strategies and the Community Research project are available from Council.

#### What needs/priorities were identified?

The following community outcomes were identified as a result of community engagement and consultation on the Community Strategic Plan 2030:

- 1. A community that is surrounded by a built and natural environment that is valued and preserved.
- 2. A community that has opportunities to engage with and actively care about their natural environment.
- 3. A community that has access to employment and is supported through strong and diverse economic activity.
- 4. A community that is supported through appropriate, sustainable land use.
- 5. A community that has access to a range of viable transport options.
- 6. Communities that are supported by safe, maintained and effective infrastructure.
- 7. A resilient community that has access to a range of activities, services and facilities.
- 8. An engaged, connected and supported community that values and celebrates diversity.
- 9. A community that is supported through engagement, collaboration and partnerships across government agencies and private business.
- 10.A transparent, effective and sustainable Council.

The top six priorities identified through the telephone survey conducted by Micromex were:

Priority Ranking	Service / Facility (top 6 items)	Priority Score
1	Maintenance of local roads	9.72
2	Attracting new business to the area	5.52
3	Managing development	4.72
4	Encouraging local economic activity	4.24
5	Council provision of information to residents	3.42
6	Management of traffic flow	3.33

## What Integrated Planning and Reporting documents have been developed to address the needs/priorities identified by the community and by Council?

- Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2030
- Road Infrastructure Asset Management Plan
- Summary Asset Management Plan
- Community Buildings Asset Management Plan
- Funding Options and Works Program
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Plan
- Delivery program and Operational Plan

These documents were placed on public exhibition from 23 December 2010.

In response to the identification of community needs and the assessment of the condition of assets, Council put forward four rate scenarios for community consideration.

## What methods were used to consult with the community in relation to the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and the proposed Special Rate Variation?

The methods used to inform and consult with the community in relation to the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents and proposed Special Rate Variation during January and February 2011 included:

- IPR documents on public exhibition feedback invited
- Staff information sessions / structured workshops
- Reply paid survey (sent to all ratepayers) see attachment A
- Community Forums (3 public forums were held across the Shire) see attachment B
- Information provided via Council website see attachment C
- On-line Forum developed and promoted (forum comments plus online survey) – see attachment D
- Frequently Asked Questions / Fact Sheets see attachment E
- Questions and Answers (in response to online forum comments) see attachment F
- Councillor workshops
- Paid newspaper advertisements and media releases see attachment
   G
- Presentations to local community groups such as Rotary
- Information cards see attachment H
- Facebook and Twitter notifications
- Powerpoint displays in Council Foyer, Library and Tourist Information Centre – see attachment I
- Emails sent to Engagement Database members see attachment J
- Letters sent to Sporting Groups see attachment K
- Posters/flyers sent to neighbourhood centres and placed in noticeboards and shop windows – see attachment L
- Information distributed to specific target groups through Youth Advisory Committee, Cultural Advisory Group, Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Disability Access Advisory Committee, Seniors Advisory Group, Safety Committee

Submissions were received via phone, mail and email, as well as via the online Forum.

The methods of engagement employed in relation to the proposed Special Rate Variation were in accordance with feedback obtained from the community as part of the 2006 Assets to Opportunities project. Through this process, members of the community were asked to identify how they communicate with Council.

The table on the following page identifies the communication methods nominated by members of the community who participated in the Assets to Opportunities project. This information provided the basis for the SRV engagement process.

According to the 2006 Assets Maps, members of the community communicate with Council through the following methods:

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The shaded boxes represent those methods used to consult and engage with members of the community in relation to the proposed Special Rate Variation.

#### Who were the key stakeholders in the consultation process?

Key stakeholders considered in the consultation process included:

Community members / ratepayers Local business owners Land developers Real Estate Agents Council staff

IPART representatives
Other Councils
Media
Community groups
Pensioners / Seniors

#### What was the timing of consultations?

- i. May to July 2010 community consultation in relation to the Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2030 and the identification of local area priorities and community outcomes.
- ii. August 2010 Community Survey undertaken by Micromex (400 residents). The aim of this survey was to identify local area needs and satisfaction levels with Council services. This survey identified that maintenance of local roads was the highest priority for residents, with the lowest satisfaction levels.
- iii. July to December 2010 development of Integrated Planning and Reporting documentation. These documents include Community Strategic Plan 2030; Summary Asset Management Plan; Road Infrastructure Asset Management Plan; Community Buildings Asset Management Plan; Funding Options and Works Program; Long Term Financial Plan; Workforce Management Plan; Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
- iv. 12 December 2010 media campaign commenced. Interviews organised with local papers and information provided regarding the IPR documents and the proposed Special Rate Variation.
- v. 23 December 2010 Integrated Planning and Reporting documents placed on public exhibition (Council foyer and website).
- vi. 10 January 2011 information about the proposed SRV, ways that people can provide submissions, dates / locations for the Community Forums and Frequently Asked Questions (Fact Sheets) placed on Council website.
- vii. 10 January 2011 paid advertisements placed in Wollondilly Advertiser, The District Reporter and Macarthur Chronicle for five weeks running. Advertisement included information about the IPR documents, the proposed SRV, Community Forum dates and where to go for more information.

- viii. 11 January 2011 IPR and SRV presentation made to all Council staff (two workshops held).
- ix. 18 January 2011 SRV powerpoint uploaded and displayed in Council Foyer, Library and Tourist Information Centre.
- x. 18 January 2011 on-line Forum launched (wollondillyhaveyoursay Bang the Table Forum). The Forum included background information, IPR documents, Frequently Asked Questions, Questions and Answers, four rate scenarios, future impacts on services and assets, opportunities to make comment on-line, on-line rate survey and information about the dates / locations for the Community Forums.
- xi. 18 January to 21 February 2011 questions and answers regularly updated on Bang the Table online forum in response to community comments and questions. A link to these Q&A's was provided on Council's main website.
- xii. 18 January 2011 Facebook and Twitter notifications sent promoting SRV engagement.
- 21 January 2011 15,059 reply paid surveys sent to ratepayers. Council's xiii. rateable properties total 15,999 (this figure includes multiple properties owned by one ratepayer/entity, as well as Council owned properties) only one rate survey was sent to people who own multiple properties. 13,009 were mailed out with rates instalment notices, and an additional 2,050 were mailed out separately to those people who do not receive instalment notices (those who pay by direct debit or pay rates in full). The survey provided background information, details of the four rate scenarios with a tear off post-paid survey for people to return, closing date for advice and dates of Community Forums submissions, further/additional details will be advertised in local newspapers, placed on Council's website and will be available from Council (phone details provided).
- xiv. 24 January 2011 email sent to 108 registered users of Bang the Table informing them of the community engagement and referring people to the website for information.
- xv. 24 January 2011 information cards distributed through Council staff, Library, Customer Service desk and Dilly Wanderer (mobile information service).
- xvi. 27 January 2011 media releases issued to Macarthur Chronicle, Wollondilly Advertiser and The District Reporter advising of the dates, times and locations for all three Community Forum presentations.

- xvii. 28 January 2011 media releases uploaded to Warragamba/Silverdale and Surrounds Forum by Administrator (privately run website) advising of Forum details including dates, times and locations.
- xviii. 28 January 2011 emails and letters sent to people registered on Council's engagement database to promote the SRV engagement.
- xix. 28 January 2011 45 letters sent to Sporting Groups highlighting the SRV proposal and referring people to the website or to Council for further information.
- xx. 30 January 2011 website and wollondillyhaveyoursay (Bang the Table Forum) updated to confirm dates, times and locations of Community Forums.
- xxi. 31 January 2011 Facebook and Twitter notifications sent confirming Community Forum details. Note: there are 67 people registered with Facebook and 52 with Twitter.
- xxii. 1 February 2011 Media release issued regarding proposed SRV and reminding people of Community Forums.
- xxiii. 2 February 2011 Community Forum flyer emailed to all Community Services staff for distribution to community groups flyer included information about dates, times and locations of Community Forums.
- xxiv. 2 February 2011 Community Forum flyer distributed via Dilly Wanderer– flyer included information about dates, times and locations of Community Forums.
- xxv. 5 February 2011 Community Forum flyer sent to Warragamba Neighbourhood Centre, Tahmoor Community Centre and local residents for placement on Community Noticeboards.
- xxvi. 7 February 2011 Community Forum flyers put up in various locations around the Shire (see list).
- xxvii. 7 February 2011 Facebook and Twitter notifications sent reminding of Warragamba Forum. Note: there are 67 people registered with Facebook and 52 with Twitter.
- xxviii. 7 February 2011 Warragamba forum reminder emailed to all registered users of Bang the Table.
- xxix. 7 February 2011 Warragamba Community Forum held 18 attendees.
- xxx. 9 February 2011 Facebook and Twitter notifications sent reminding of Appin Forum.

- xxxi. 9 February 2011 Appin forum reminder emailed to all registered users of Bang the Table.
- xxxii. 9 February 2011 Appin Community Forum held 7 attendees.
- xxxiii. 14 February 2011 Facebook and Twitter notifications sent reminding of Picton Forum.
- xxxiv. 14 February 2011 Picton forum reminder emailed to all registered users of Bang the Table.
- xxxv. 14 February 2011 Picton Community Forum held 75 attendees.

#### Details of paid media advertisements.

Wollondilly Advertiser: 12 January 2011, 19 January 2011, 26 January 2011, 2 February 2011 and 9 February 2011

District Reporter: 10 January 2011, 17 January 2011, 24 January 2011, 31 January 2011 and 7 February 2011

Macarthur Chronicle: 11 January 2011, 18 January 2011, 25 January 2011, 1 February 2011 and 8 February 2011

#### Newspaper distribution details.

Wollondilly Advertiser distributes to the following towns (approximate number of copies distributed shown in brackets) – approx 11,500 households:

Appin (570), Menangle (200), Douglas Park (420), Mount Hunter (200), The Oaks (770), Oakdale (550), Belimba Park (200), Camden Park (185), Wilton (360), Picton (1,921), Buxton (590), Thirlmere (971), Tahmoor (1,908), Bargo (1,260), Silverdale (990) and Warragamba (400)

The District Reporter distributes to the following towns (approximate number of copies distributed shown in brackets) – approx 7,100 households:

Appin (625), Bargo (150), Belimba (195), Bridge Water Estate/Camden Park (305), Brownlow/Mayfarm (50), Buxton (25), Cawdor (120), Douglas Park (210), Glenmore (20), Lakesland (150), Maldon (20), Menangle (160), Mowbray Park (100), Mt Hunter (200), Oakdale (400), Orangeville (225), Pheasants Nest (320), Picton (1,475), Razorback (280), Tahmoor (125), The Oaks (810), Theresa Park (225), Thirlmere (350), Werombi (225), Wilton (295)

The Macarthur Chronicle distributes to the following towns within Wollondilly:

Appin, Buxton, Camden South, Coundjah, Douglas Park, Menangle, Menangle Park, Picton, Tahmoor, The Oaks and Wilton.

#### Media release distribution list.

In4mer
Cumberland Newspapers
Prime TV
Warragamba Neighbourhood Centre
Silverdale Newsletter
Sydney Moming Herald
The District Reporter
Win News
Warragamba/Silverdale website
Fairfax Media
ABC ·

#### Details of media coverage.

Media stories / articles in: Wollondilly Advertiser; The District Reporter; Macarthur Chronicle; and The Bush Telegraph (Wollondilly Advertiser and The District Reporter). See attachment G for copies of media articles.

#### Details of specific local area promotion

<u>Appin</u>: SRV poster and information cards placed in Real Estates, Bakery, IGA, Accountant, Takeaways x 2, Chemist noticeboard and Tourist Information <u>Bargo</u>: SRV poster / information cards placed in Service Station, Post Office, Main Shops, Newsagency, Supermarket

Buxton: SRV poster placed in Buxton School and Buxton Shops

<u>Douglas Park</u>: SRV and information cards placed on notice board at local shops and information cards given to post office worker in shops

<u>Picton</u>: SRV poster and information cards placed in Real Estates, Newsagent, IMB, Medical Centre, Coles noticeboard, Tourist Information, Post Office, Library

<u>Tahmoor</u>: SRV poster and information cards placed in Real Estates, Post Office, Woolworths, Community Centre

Thirlmere: SRV Poster placed in post office

<u>Warragamba</u>: SRV poster sent to neighbourhood centre, information posted by Neighbourhood Centre in one of the local shops, information posted at Warragamba Town Hall (Noticeboard) by local resident

<u>Wilton</u>: SRV poster and information cards placed at takeaway and on noticeboard at Shell service station.

#### Outcomes of SRV Engagement Process - Summary Data

#### Survey Responses - Posted Surveys

Council received 1,026 responses to its reply paid ratepayer survey.

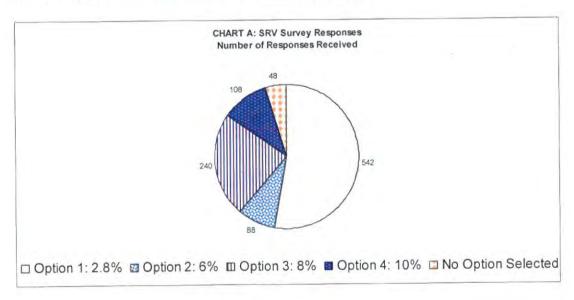
Council's rateable properties total 15,999 (this figure includes multiple properties owned by one ratepayer / entity, as well as Council owned properties) – 15,059 surveys were posted to ratepayers mid January (only one rate survey was sent to people who own multiple properties). 1,026 reply paid surveys were returned. This represents a response rate of 6.8%.

Of the surveys returned, 95% of respondents chose one of the four rate options that were presented, while the remaining 5% did not tick any of the four options that were presented.

#### Breakdown of Responses:

Chart A identifies the number of respondents who chose each of the rate options:

Option One: 2.8% rate peg...... 53% of respondents
Option Two: 6% SRV...... 9% of respondents
Option Three: 8% SRV...... 23% of respondents
Option Four: 10% SRV...... 10% of respondents
No rate option selected...... 5% of respondents



#### Rate Peg or SRV:

Chart B indicates the number of residents who nominated Option 1: 2.8% rate peg (53% of respondents), the number of residents who chose a Special Rate Variation of either 6%, 8% or 10% (42% of respondents), and the number of residents who did not chose any of the four rate options (5% of respondents).

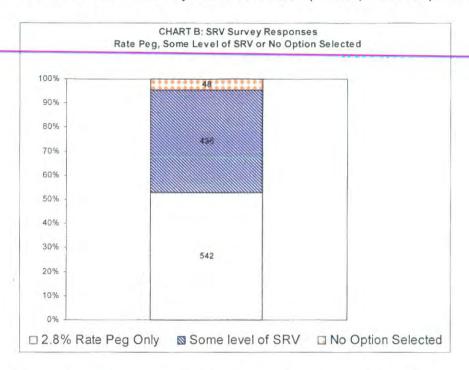
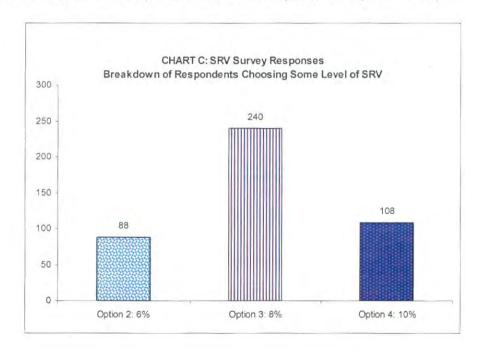


Chart C identifies the specific rate options chosen by the 436 respondents who nominated a Special Rate Variation. 55% of respondents who support a Special Rate Variation chose Option Three (an 8% SRV), while 25% chose Option Four (a 10% SRV) and 20% Chose Option Two (a 6% SRV).

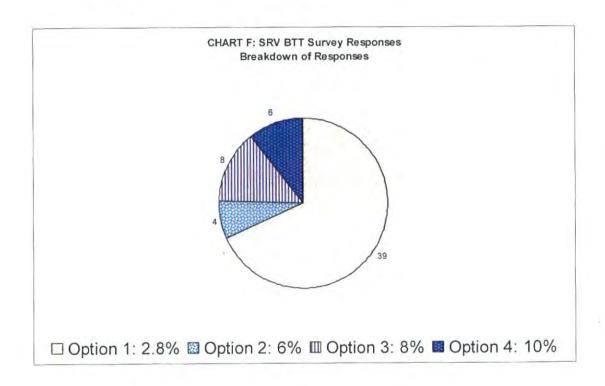


#### Survey Responses - Bang the Table on-line Surveys

In addition to the posted surveys, 57 surveys were submitted via Council's online engagement forum (wollondillyhaveyoursay.com).

#### Breakdown of Responses:

Chart F identifies the percentage of respondents who chose each of the rate options:



#### Importance of Asset Maintenance:

Chart D shows the responses made to the question 'how important it is to you that Council maintains assets (roads, footpaths, buildings, play equipment, sporting and community facilities) to a satisfactory level?'

78% respondents identified that asset maintenance was 'very important' (48%), or 'somewhat important' (30%), 12% felt that this was 'not important' and 10% of respondents did not select any of the options provided.

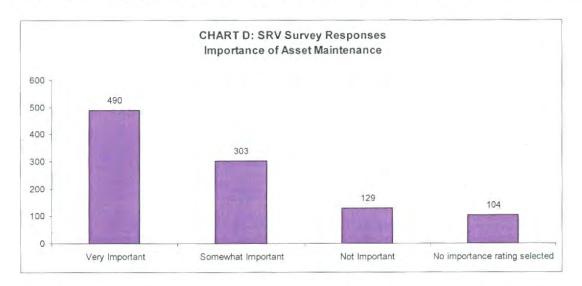
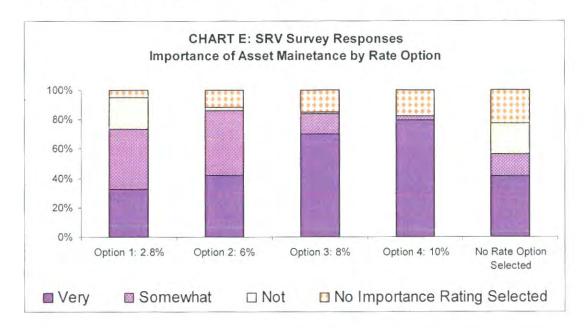


Chart E breaks down the response to this question into each Rate Option.



#### Rate Peg or SRV:

Chart G indicates the number of respondents who chose Option 1: 2.8% rate peg (68% of respondents), and the number who chose a Special Rate Variation of either 6%, 8% or 10% (32% of respondents).

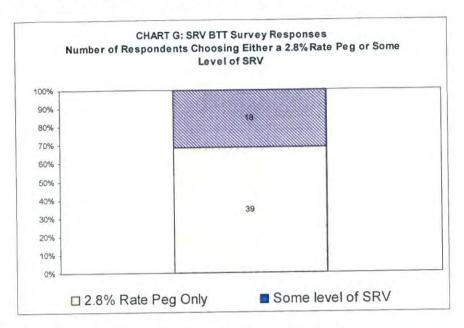
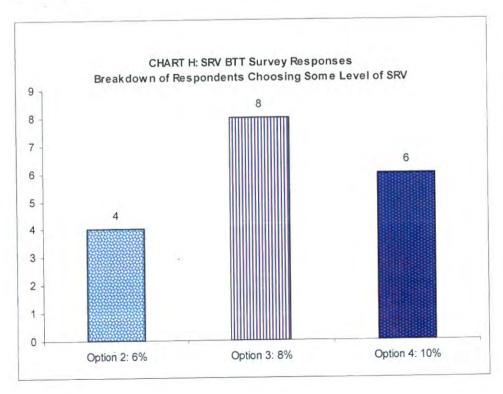


Chart H identifies the specific rate options chosen by the 18 respondents who nominated a special rate variation via the on-line forum. 44.5% of respondents who support a Special Rate Variation chose Option Three (an 8% SRV), while 33.5% chose Option Four (a 10% SRV) and 22% Chose Option Two (a 6% SRV).



#### Importance of Asset Maintenance:

Chart I shows the responses made to the question 'how important it is to you that Council maintains assets (roads, footpaths, buildings, play equipment, sporting and community facilities) to a satisfactory level?'

97% of respondents identified that asset maintenance was 'very important' (65%), or 'somewhat important' (32%), and 3% felt that this was 'not important'.

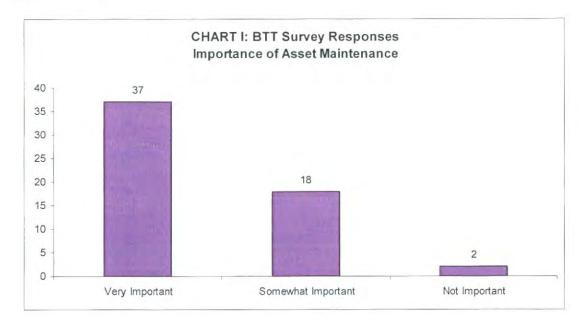
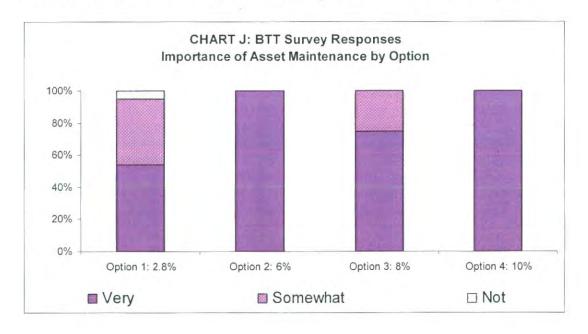


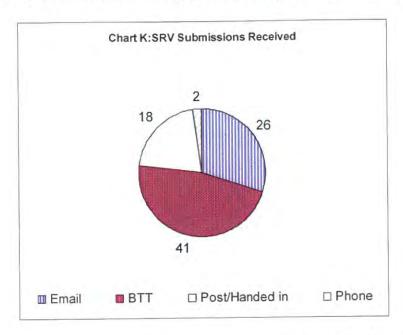
Chart J breaks down the response to this question into each Rate Option.



#### Outcomes of Consultation Process - Submissions / Comments

A total of 87 individuals submitted comments through email, post, phone and via the on-line forum. Chart K shows the number of submissions received through each of the submission options.

The majority of submissions (47%) were received through the on-line forum Bang the Table (BTT), 30% were received via email, 21% were either posted or handed in to Council, and 2 % of submissions were taken over the phone.



Comments fell under 14 main categories, as identified in Chart L. Some submissions contained comments under a number of categories.

The main themes were in relation to:

- Local roads and infrastructure comments were around specific locations, issues with potholes, questions around work quality, focus on Tahmoor/Picton/Thirlmere, the need for or the lack of cycleways and kerb/gutters, and the damage to roads caused by heavy vehicles.
- Financial Management questions around Council's management of existing resources, different income options (borrowing), allocation of resources towards staff costs, and presumed investment losses.
- Affordability concerns around ability to pay and comments around Pensioner rebates.
- Efficiencies comments around the need for Council to become more efficient.
- Council Services and Staff questions around issuing of Council vehicles, suggested staff reductions, questions around whether Council

#### Attachments:

- A. Reply paid survey
- B. Community Forums
- C. Information provided via Council website
- D. On-line Forum
- E. Frequently Asked Questions / Fact Sheets
- F. Questions and Answers
- G. Paid newspaper advertisements and media releases
- H. Information cards
- I. Powerpoint presentation
- J. Emails sent to Engagement Database members
- K. Posters/flyers
- L. Table of comments / comments and submissions

## Attachment A Reply Paid Surveys

Council received 1,026 responses to its reply paid ratepayer survey.

Council's rateable properties total 15,999 (this figure includes multiple properties owned by one ratepayer / entity, as well as Council owned properties) – 15,059 surveys were posted to ratepayers mid January (only one rate survey was sent to people who own multiple properties). 1,026 reply paid surveys were returned. This represents a response rate of 6.8%.

### across the State are your future or progressively introducing together new Integrated Planning wollondlily community strategic Plan 2030 and Reporting arrangements that have a strong focus on ensuring long-term sustainability. Troad infrastructure. This review has revealed that an additional average amount of \$\epsilon \text{continuous} = \text{continuous} \text{ Wollondilly Council has conducted an extensive review of the condition of our buildings and per year is required over the next ten years to maintain assets to an acceptable standard and Funding Your Futur o a turning point. Councils Growing Local Government is at

to ensure that they remain safe to use. ouncil

> information on the Special Rate Variation proposal. These documents are available on Council's website at

www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a Power Point Presentation have been developed to provide additional

closing some sporting and community facilities proposing four rate options which we would and there are no available revenue streams (other than increasing rates) to address this need. Council must now either increase rates to provide funds to maintain infrastructure over the next 10 yrs; or consider options such and reducing Council services. Council is like you to consider and provide your views on Cost savings over recent years have not been able to generate sufficient funds for maintenance, as reducing the amount of infrastructure by

how we manage our infrastructure.

Michael Banasik

Some examples of the poor

condition of our assets

Mayor

General Manager

Les McMahon



Warragamba 7 February, Appin 9 February, and Picton 14 February. Further details will be advertised in the Several Community Workshops are also proposed: ocal papers and on Council's website. To make a submission, please forward your comments to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21 Picton 2571, via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au, or ring Council on 4677 1100 prior to 21 February 2011

No stamp required if posted in Australia

**Delivery Address:** PO Box 21 PICTON NSW 2571



Over the next 10 yrs, a further \$6 million per year is

required to maintain assets in a safe and satisfactory

condition.

A rate increase of 8% per year (including rate cap of 2.8% then approx 3% average) for seven years is The chart below identifies how these funds would be

proposed to meet this maintenance need

If the proposed rate increase is not approved, asset

spent over the next 10 years.

maintenance and services will need to be reduced.

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Wollondilly Shire Council Reply Paid 21 PICTON NSW 2571

in the following years. Scenario One ~ Rate increases at the rate pegging limit of 2.8% in 2011/12, then an assumed 3% rate peg

anticipated significant failures and / or closures of key assets occurring. the Asset Management Plan, however the overall condition of our assets will continue to deteriorate with Council will need to reduce services in order to divert funds to essential maintenance activities identified in The 2.8% rate peg has been set by the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal. Under this Scenario,

to seek to identify funds through service reductions for reallocation to asset maintenance. Under this scenario there would also be a need to substantially review our Workforce Management Strategy

2012/13 onwards) Scenario Two ~ A total rate increase of 6% each year for seven years (ie: 2.8% Rate Pegging limit plus a Special Rate Variation of 3.2% in 2011/12, and then an assumed 3% rate peg + 3% Special Variation from

years; and significant deterioration of some key assets would still occur. The impact of this would still be insufficient funds available for maintenance of assets over the next ten

identify funds through some service reductions for reallocation to essential asset maintenance Under this scenario there would also be a need to review our Workforce Management Strategy to seek to

a Special Variation of 5.2% in 2011/12, and then an assumed 3% rate peg + 5% Special Variation from 2012/13 onwards) Scenario Three ~ A total rate increase of 8% each year for seven years (ie: 2.8% Rate Pegging limit plus

sufficient funds to overcome the current backlog of works, however it does provide a sustainable level of to a satisfactory level. Some short term deterioration is anticipated as it will take several years to raise funds at the end of the 7 year SRV period. This is Council's recommended option. Under this Scenario Council will be able to build sufficient funds to ultimately maintain the core asset areas

Scenario Four ~ A total rate increase of 10% each year for seven years (ie: 2.8% Rate Pegging limit plus a Special Variation 7.2% in 2011/12, and then an assumed 3% rate peg + 7% Special Variation from 2012/13 onwards).

contributions are insufficient to complete the whole project). (including potentially the early delivery of developer funded infrastructure projects, where the developer frame shorter than 10 years or allocate the additional funds to deliver major infrastructure improvements Under this Scenario Council will be able to either accelerate the improvement of its assets to a time

# Please complete the following SURVEY, tear off and return to Council (no postage required).

- 1. How important is it to you that Council maintains assets (roads, footpaths, buildings, play equipment, sporting and community facilities) to a satisfactory and safe standard? Tick one box only.
- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not Important
- 2. Bearing in mind your response to the above question, which of the following scenarios do you support: Tick one box only.

Scenario 1 (no special rate increase, just maintain rate pegging increases - currently 2.8%, resulting in some asset closures, less than satisfactory standard of asset maintenance and a reduction in some Council services).

Scenario 2 (special rate increase of 6% pa for seven years resulting in a less than satisfactory standard of asset maintenance and a reduction in some Council services).

Scenario 3 (special rate increase of 8% pa for seven years resulting in sufficient funds to maintain assets to a satisfactory standard, with no reduction in existing Council services).

Scenario 4 (special rate increase of 10% pa for seven years resulting in sufficient funds to maintain assets to a better than satisfactory standard and/or fast-track infrastructure improvements).

If you would like to provide more detail than this quick survey allows, please visit www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au or come to one of our Special Community Workshops.

#### Attachment B

Community Forums

Three Community Forums were held across the Shire

February 7, 2011 – Warragamba Community Forum held – 18 attendees February 9, 2011 – Appin Community Forum held – 7 attendees February 14, 2011 – Picton Community Forum held – 75 attendees





#### **Special Rate Variation Community Forum**

7 February, 2011 6.30pm – 8.30pm Warragamba Town Hall

6.30pm – 6.35pm	Welcome & Introduction					
	Mayor – Cr Michael Banasik					
6.35pm – 7.15pm	Overview of asset maintenance issues and proposed rate variation					
	General Manager – Les McMahon					
	Assistant General Manager – Luke Johnson					
	Manager Infrastructure Planning – Dick Webb					
7.15pm - 7.55pm	Further Questions					
	Q&A Panel - All speakers					
7.55pm – 8pm	Closing Remarks					
	Mayor – Cr Michael Banasik					
8pm	Coffee					

Your opportunity to "Have Your Say" about the future of Your community's assets and services

our Questions:	
Comments:	
Name:	
Name:	

#### Privacy Statement

The personal information being voluntarily supplied on this form is collected by Wollondilly Shire Council for the purpose of **community consultation** and matters of concern at **Community Forums**. The information collected on this form may or may not be recorded in the **Community Forum** "Record of Proceedings" document subject to whether the information is addressed at the **Community Forum**.

Regardless of whether it is recorded in the "Record of Proceedings" document the information shall be stored on Council's electronic data management system. At any time you have the right to access, view or correct the personal information that you have provided and as such this information could be subject to a request for access to information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA].





#### **Special Rate Variation Community Forum**

9 February, 2011 6.30pm – 8.30pm Appin Community Hall

6.30pm – 6.35pm	Welcome & Introduction				
	Mayor – Cr Michael Banasik				
6.35pm – 7.15pm	Overview of asset maintenance issues and proposed rate variation				
	General Manager – Les McMahon				
	Assistant General Manager – Luke Johnson				
	Manager Infrastructure Planning – Dick Webb				
7.15pm - 7.55pm	Further Questions				
	Q&A Panel - All speakers				
7.55pm – 8pm	Closing Remarks				
	Mayor – Cr Michael Banasik				
8pm	Coffee				

Your opportunity to "Have Your Say" about the future of Your community's assets and services

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Name:	
Address:	

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#### **Special Rate Variation Community Forum**

7 February, 2011 7.30pm – 9.30pm Picton, Council Chambers

6.30pm – 6.35pm	Welcome & Introduction					
	Mayor – Cr Michael Banasik					
6.35pm – 7.15pm	Overview of asset maintenance issues and proposed rate variation					
	General Manager – Les McMahon Assistant General Manager – Luke Johnson					
	Manager Infrastructure Planning – Dick Webb					
7.15pm - 7.55pm	Further Questions					
	Q&A Panel - All speakers					
7.55pm – 8pm	Closing Remarks					
	Mayor – Cr Michael Banasik					
8pm	Coffee					

Your opportunity to "Have Your Say" about the future of Your community's assets and services

Your Questions?		
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Comments:		
Vame:		
Address:		

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#### Attachment C

#### Information Provided via Council Website

#### Website information included:

- Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents
- Background Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information relating to Community Forums
- · Link to on-line forum
- Link to Questions and Answers
- Where to go for more information
- · Details for submissions



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- · Funding Your Future -Special Rate Variation
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- Centrelink
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- Committees & Forums
- Core Business Documents
- Council Meetings
- Council Policies
- · Council Staff
- Customer Service
- Doing Business
- Events
- Fees & Charges
- Management Plan
- · Positions Vacant
- Publications
- Rates
- · Sister Region
- Quotations / Expression Of Interest

Community services

Library services

Visiting Wollondilly

Environmental services Planning & development

Roads & traffic

About the shire

Tenders

Home > Your council

#### Funding Your Future - Special Rate Variation

Last modified: February 8, 2011 - 8:43 AM

Council is required under new





guidelines from the State Government to prepare its corporate planning documents in a new format. Formerly, Council prepared an annual Management Plan, which was exhibited for community comment, and ultimately adopted by Council after consideration of any submissions.

The overall process is similar, however the range of documents and information required to be prepared is much more substantial, and includes linking a number of documents and strategies into a comprehensive review of community priorities, financial sustainability, and what we propose to deliver to the community in terms of services and infrastructure improvements.

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your comments:

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy, Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation to address a growing shortfall in funding for maintaining a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising risks to the community.

Council is responsible for an extensive range of physical assets (for example: road assets totalling \$334 million and building assets of \$57 million) and over the past year an extensive review of our main assets has been undertaken.

This review has identified a significant maintenance funding short-fall of approximately \$6 million each year. The review has also identified that without additional funding for maintenance, the condition of these assets will deteriorate substantially over the next ten years.



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- pay my rates
- apply for a permit









If additional funding is not available, the following describes some of the likely impacts to the community:

Further closure of tennis courts
Further removal of play equipment as it becomes unsafe for use
Consideration of partial closures of sporting fields with inadequate lighting
Reduced Council services as funds are reallocated for urgent maintenance.
Much rougher road surfaces impacting on vehicles with increasing road
safety implications

Risk of closure of some roads as bridges become unsafe Further closure of community buildings such as local halls, as they deteriorate to the point where they are unsafe to use. To address this maintenance funding short-fall Council is considering seeking a special rate variation of 8% per year for seven years.

Listed below are a number of links to the suite of documents and analysis, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Special Rate Variation proposal.

To assist Council in considering this matter, we are seeking your comments and suggestions on Council's organisational documents, and on the proposed Special Rate Variation.

Click here for information on how to make a submission. Submissions on the suite of draft documents and the proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation are invited up to 21 February 2011.

#### Several Community Forums are also proposed;

Warragamba 7 February Appin 9 February

Picton 14 February



Frequently Asked Questions - Funding Your Future

IPR - SRV Presentation - Funcing Your Future

Integrated Planning and Reporting

other ouncils

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2008 Wollondilly Shire Council is page: http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/council/200734.html







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- Funding Your Future -Special Rate Variation
- Access To Government Information
- Centrelink
- · About Council
- Advertisements, Exhibitions & Consultations
- Committees & Forums
- Core Business Documents
- Council Meetings
- · Council Policies
- Council Staff
- Customer Service
- Doing Business
- · Events
- Fees & Charges
- Management Plan
- Positions Vacant
- Publications
- . Rates
- · Sister Region
- Quotations / Expression Of Interest

Community services

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#### Frequently Asked Questions - Funding Your Future

Last modified: February 3, 2011 - 2:32 PM

Please find below a list of frequently asked questions about the Special Rate Variation Proposal.

#### Public Exhibition

These IPR Documents will be on public exhibition from 10 January to 21 February 2011 and can be viewed during the exhibition period at:

- (i) Council's Administration Centre, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday; and
- (ii) Wollondilly Shire Council's website: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

#### Submissions

Any person may make a written submission or comment on these documents during the public exhibition period. Submission should quote Council's reference "TRIM 5473-3" and must be received no later than 4pm on Monday 21 February 2011, using one of the following: By posting directly to:

The General Manager Wollandilly Shire Council PO Box 21 PICTON NSW 2571

Or by email as follows: council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or call Council on (02) 4677 1100.

#### Privacy

Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is required to release written comments or submissions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on Council to place submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to this planning proposal.

Contact details Wollondilly Shire Council 02 4677 1100 (ph) 02 4677 2339 (fax) council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

#### Download files @

FAQ 1 - Why is Council Seeking a Special Rate Variation? (pdf 151 kb)

FAQ 2 - What has happened to the money raised by the Road Ahead Special Rate Variation (SRV)? (pdf 42 kb)

FAQ 3 - What funding options has Council considered? (pdf 136 kb)

FAQ 4 - How much will my rates go up? (pdf 126 kb )

FAQ 5 - Has Council done anything to reduce costs instead of raising rates? (pdf 131 kb)

FAQ 6 - How do we compare to other councils? (pdf 142 kb.)

FAQ 7 - What happens if Council does not get a Special Rate Increase? (pdf 512 kb)

FAQ 8 - What services does Council provide? (pdf 134 kb )

FAQ 9 - Ten point summary of Special Rate Variation (pdf 29 kb)

FAQ 10 - Why not amalgamate with other councils? (pdf 37 kb.)

FAQ 11 - Why have there been problems with recent road works? (pdf 32 kb.)









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- Management Plan
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- Quotations / Expression Of Interest

Community services

Library services

Visiting Wollandilly

Environmental services

Planning & development

Roads & traffic

About the shire

Tenders

Home > Your council > Funding Your Future - Special Rate Variation





#### Integrated Planning and Reporting

Last modified: January 13, 2011 - 8:59 AM

Please find below links to all of the documents contained in the Integrated Planning and Reporting.

Contact details Wollandilly Shire Council 02 4677 1100 (ph) council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Download files @

Community Strategic Plan 2010 - 2030 (pdf 5 Mb )

Resourcing Strategy Introduction (pdf 269 kb)

Summary Asset Management Plan 2010 (pdf 1 Mb )

Road Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (pdf 873 kb)

Community Buildings Asset Management Plan (pdf 187 kb)

Asset Management Plan Funding Options and Works Programs Spreadsheets (pdf 444

Long Term Financial Plan 2011-12 to 2020 -21 (pdf 2 Mb )

Workforce Management Plan (pdf 732 kb)

Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2011 -12 to 2014-15 (pdf 23 Mb )

Fees and Charges Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2011 -12 to 2014-15 (pdf 10 Mb )

Apendiices Scenarios for your future - Rating and Financial Information (pdf 756 kb }

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- pay my rates
- apply for a permit

Community Directory

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Council Meetings

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#### Attachment D

#### On-line Forum

Wollondillyhaveyoursay.com (Bang the Table Forum) provided opportunities for people to make comment and take on line survey. In addition, the following information was provided on the forum:

- Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents
- · Background Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information relating to Community Forums
- Link to on-line forum
- Link to Questions and Answers
- Where to go for more information
- Short video explaining importance of asset maintenance
- Photos of assets needing attention
- Details for submissions

Generating sufficient revenue to provide services to our community and maintain community assets.

Subscribe Mi Share E C T





This online discussion forum has concluded. You can still browse the site but the discussion area will no longer accept new comments or votes.

Please note that the date for the closure of Wollandilly Shire Council's Funding Your Future online forum is this coming Monday, 21st February 2011 at 5.00pm

Please ensure you complete the survey and add your thoughts to the online discussion forum prior to 5.00pm. Monday 21 February 2011

Did you know that Council is responsible for an extensive range of services and infrastructure that support, and are used by, you and the wider community every day of the vear?

Council is responsible for providing multiple services aimed at: looking after the community; building a strong local economy; caring for the environment; managing and providing infrastructure; and ensuring accountable and transparent governance.

#### Your rates generate revenue to provide these services!

Council has recently undertaken an extensive review of the condition of our buildings and road infrastructure. This review has revealed that an additional average of 56 million per year is needed over the next ten years to maintain assets to a satisfactory level. Council is considering a Special Rate Variation of 8% per year over the next 7 years to generate this needed income. However, before Council decides whether to put forward a request for a Special Rate Variation to the relevant body (the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal -IPART), we are asking for the community's input.

Council is seeking your views on how we manage services and infrastructure now and into the future, and is proposing four rate scenarios that we would like you to consider.

Council's preferred option is an 8% increase (includes the rate pegging) per year for the next 7 years (Scenario Three). If the rate cap determined by IPART changes, the maximum total rate increase for the 7 years will still be 8%.

This proposed increase will provide sufficient revenue to maintain current service levels and will enable Council to undertake much needed and urgent identified repairs and maintenance to assets including roads, sporting fields and community facilities.

An 896 rate increase on the minimum rate (which is paid by 40% of all rate payers) equates to an average increase each year of \$79 (or \$1.52 per week) which accumulates over the life of the Special Rate Variation.

Additional information on the impact of the Special Rate Variation on rate amounts above the minimum can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions on the SRV on Council's website.

In addition to the 8% rate increase Council is considering, there are three further scenarios that Council is seeking comment on:

 No Special Rate Variation above the set rate cap (Scenario One). A capped 2.8% increase in rates has been determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This increase in income would not provide any additional funds for asset maintenance, in fact for 2011:12 it will not cover extra costs associated with mandatory State Award salary increases, electricity and insurance increases and CPI that have been projected. In view of the identified outstanding lists of maintenance works, and the associated risk to community safety, under this scenario Council would have to review its existing services in order to allocate additional funds to meet the most immediate maintenance needs.

SIGN UP

to have your say in the forums It's free, quick and anonymous...

Q & AS

When was the last time Council paid for an overseas trip for staff or Councillors?

more ...



**Funding Your Future** Play Video

LIBRARY

Community Strategic Plan (2.3 MB)

Summary Asset Management Plan (1.2 MB)

Road Infrastructure Asset Management Plan... (873.9 KB)

Community Buildings Asset Management Plan... (187.1 KB)

KEY LINKS

Wollandilly Shire Council - FAO

Wollandilly Shire Council - SRV documents

Wollondilly Shire Council - SRV Presentation

Wollandilly Shire Council website

KEY DATES

Council Meeting - Councillors to decide on application for SRV

21 March 2011

IPART Decision - if SRV was applied for 10 June 2011



- A rate increase of 6% including the rate cap (Scenario Two). This would result in
  insufficient funds being made available to deal with all of the asset maintenance
  requirements, and a significant deterioration of some key assets would still occur.
  There would need to be a review of Council's workforce management strategy to seek to
  identify funds for essential maintenance, resulting in some Council service reductions.
- A rate increase of 10% including the rate cap (Scenario Four). This would enable
  Council to either accelerate the improvements of assets to a shorter timeframe or would
  provide additional funds to deliver major infrastructure improvements.

We want to know your views on which option you would support.

To assist and guide Council, we ask you to do the following:

- . Take at a look at the video
- View each of the Q and A's to the right of the screen (NB the Q and A section of this site will be regularly updated in response to community comments and questions)
- · Consider and comment on the questions posed below in the Forum
- complete our survey to indicate your preferred option (NB surveys will also be mailed to ratepayers during January and early February)







more...



# Attachment E

# Frequently Asked Questions / Fact Sheets

A total of eleven (11) Frequently Asked Questions / Fact Sheets were developed to provide information relating to:

- · Reasons for a SRV
- · Previous roads ahead SRV
- Other funding options considered by Council
- Table of rate increases
- · Efficiencies / cost reductions
- · Comparison to other Councils
- What happens if Council doesn't get SRV
- Services provided by Council
- Summary of the SRV
- Amalgamation
- · Problems with recent road works

# Frequently Asked Questions – List

- 1 Why is Council seeking a Special Rate Variation?
- 2 What has happened to the money raised by the Road Ahead Special Rate Variation (SRV)?
- 3 What funding options has Council considered?
- 4 How much will my rates go up?
- 5 Has Council done anything to reduce costs instead of raising rates?
- 6 How do we compare to other councils?
- 7 What happens if Council does not get a Special Rate Increase?
- 8 What services does Council provide?
- 9 10 Point Summary of the Special Rate Variation.
- 10 Why not amalgamate with other councils?
- 11 Why have there been problems with recent road works?

# Proposed Special Rate Variation – FAQ # 1

# Why is Council seeking a Special Rate Variation?

#### **Background**

Council is the custodian of many community assets, including roads, buildings, parks and reserves, cemeteries and waste facilities. As part of that custodial role, Council is required to review its management of all assets, including keeping inventories of the assets, their condition, the community's use of facilities, and ensuring that sufficient funds are available to keep those assets available to the community in a satisfactory condition.

Council's custodial role has been reinforced with recent changes to the Local Government Act, which requires Council to specifically review its assets, its long term finances and its workforce arrangements, under the umbrella of the Community Strategic Plan, which articulates what the community sees as being important:

## **Asset Management**

Council has undertaken a substantial review of the assets it is responsible for, with a particular focus on roads, major community buildings, playgrounds and sports fields risk management, as well recognising the need for enhanced bushfire management resources.

In summary, the review has found a substantial ongoing shortfall in the funding required to maintain its assets to a satisfactory condition.

Examples of this shortfall include:

- The overall condition of the road pavement network is 7.2 (measured out of 10), which compares to an average condition of 7.8 for many local government areas. With the currently available funds, the condition of the road network will get worse, with consequent rougher surfaces and higher vehicle operating costs. The estimated annual shortfall in funding is over \$3m.
- Council has also undertaken a substantial review of its other road assets, such as
  footpaths, bridges, signs and linemarking, guardrail and fencing, and other road
  structures. This has identified a substantial increase in the total number of assets to
  be maintained, such as a further 28 bridges and major culverts. The ongoing
  average annual shortfall in funding is over \$500,000, with bridges alone having an
  identified backlog of works of \$620,000.
- Many buildings require substantial repairs, including the replacement of the roof structures at Antill Park (\$200,000), Shire Hall roof replacement (\$75,000), floor replacements at Bargo Community Hall (\$48,000), together with numerous ongoing maintenance issues, totalling some \$1.9m in value. This is just for the main 46 buildings, with further costs yet to be confirmed for the other 121 buildings that Council manages.
- There are 11 playgrounds that require immediate rehabilitation due to unsafe / aged equipment, lack of soft fall, or equipment that no longer has parts available for them, at a cost of \$238,000. Further ongoing funding is also required to manage the remaining playgrounds in a safe condition.
- There are a number of sportsgrounds that do not have lighting that meets the Australian Standards, or there is none at all, which creates unsafe training conditions for residents. The estimated cost for these works is \$650,000.

As hotter summers and changes in rainfall patterns continue to occur, there is an
increased risk from bushfires. Combined with guidelines coming out of the Victorian
Bushfire Review, it is considered prudent to allocate additional resources to manage
bushfire mitigation activities on Council's properties and reserves.

The overall gap in funding identified in the analysis of the condition and number of Council's assets is approximately \$6m per year.

# **Funding Limitations**

The approved Rate Capping amount announced by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is 2.8%. This provides an increase of \$511,000 in rate income in 2011/2012.

Key cost drivers for Council in the 2011/12 budget include:

	Total	\$853,000
•	CPI increases for all other operating expenses	\$375,000
•	Increase in insurance premiums	\$60,000
•	Increase in electricity charges:	\$56,000
•	Increase in employee costs due to the award increases	\$362,000

The identified shortfall in operating expenses is therefore \$342,000.

As can be seen, the Rate Capping amount is insufficient to cover Council's growth in basic costs, and there are no funds available to address the growing shortfall in funding for asset maintenance.

# **Funding for Assets**

Council is recommending that a Special Rate Variation be considered, to be used solely for improved asset management, including reducing risks to the community. The Special Rate Variation proposed is 5.2% in addition to the rate capping amount of 2.8%, giving a total increase of 8% in 2011/12. The 8% total rate increase is proposed to apply for 7 years.

The total additional maintenance related funding over the next 10 years, generated by the recommended rate increase of 8% over 7 years, is approximately \$60m, which is intended to be allocated as follows:

•	Road pavements	\$41.0m
•	Other road assets such as bridges and footpaths	\$6.2m
•	6 B 0 F	\$7.5m
•		\$0.7m
•	B t t B c t t P t t P t t P t t P t t P t T P t	\$0.7m
•	Parks and Reserves – tennis courts	\$0.5m
•	Parks and Reserves – bushfire management	\$0.8m
•	Project Management costs (to manage the new works program)	\$3.3m

#### Consultation

Council will be arranging a formal and extensive community engagement process commencing in mid January, and concluding 21 February 2011. This will give the opportunity to the community to assess the options being presented by Council, and the implications for the condition of the community's assets.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation - FAQ # 2

# What has happened to the money raised by the *Road Ahead* Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

The funding-raised-by-the-Special Rate Variation (SRV), which finished in June 2010, raised approximately \$12m, and was also supported with loans to accelerate the program of works, with a total of \$16.4m allocated to road maintenance, involving some 29 major pavement reconstruction projects (using a variety of SRV, loans and grant funds), over \$1m on reseals, and a number of timber bridge replacements.

It is noted that Council has not been able to maintain the same level of funding in 2010/2011 as at the completion of the SRV program, with funds required to meet the ongoing loan repayment costs of the program (\$576,000), as well as meet continuing external funding pressures, including the ongoing cap on general rating income through rate pegging, increased public utility and superannuation charges, and other state government charges that are rising at a higher rate than the rate cap amount. Additionally, there have been reductions in development services income through changes to Planning legislation, and through the ongoing loss of investment income following the global financial crisis.

Some of the actual budget impacts of the above budget changes are as follows:

<ul> <li>Ongoing loan repayments</li> </ul>	\$576,000
Superannuation changes	\$400,000
Reduction in Planning income	\$400,000
Decrease in investment income	\$600,000

Annual funds of \$2m of the original SRV are however being retained for road works.

The Road Ahead Program has greatly assisted in improving the overall condition of the road network, however, substantial additional resources are still required to maintain the road network and other assets in a satisfactory condition. This is in part due to the following changes to when the original Road Ahead Program commenced:

- Growth in the road network over time, as well as increased traffic volumes accelerating the damage to Council's roads.
- Substantial increase in the road inventory from "discovered" assets not previously included in Council's inventory. A table of key road asset inventory changes are shown below.
- Increase in the regional road length, following the declassification of Barkers Lodge Road and Burragorang Road, which were roads that Council did not maintain previously.
- Increased focus on other road assets, such as bridges, guardrail, signs and linemarking and footpaths, which did not receive any additional funding during the Road Ahead SRV (apart from several bridges which failed and required urgent replacement).
- Changes in design standards, that require wider rural road pavements to improve road safety, which would be delivered as roads are reconstructed.

KeyRoad Inventory Changes			
Asset Item	Previous Inventory	Current Inventory	% Increase
Regional Road Length (km)	74.1	129.5	75%
Total Sealed Road Length (km)	680.7	742.8	9%
Footpaths / cycleways (km)	33	45.7	39%
Kerb and gutter (km)	169.1	286	69%
Bridges / major culverts (each)	50	78	56%

Of particular concern were the increases in bridges and major culverts, and the detailed condition assessment, which identified a substantial program of works required to address a range of deficiencies in these critical assets.

The other critical issue with the Road Ahead Program was that it mostly focussed on road pavements. While the program had generated considerable funds for this purpose, in the meantime the asset backlog was developing further in the maintenance of buildings, playgrounds and other asset areas.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation - FAQ # 3

# What funding options has Council considered?

Council has tested 4 options for funding, including 3 options involving a rate increase over and above the rate capping amount.

Scenario One ~ Rate increases at the rate pegging limit of 2.8% in 2011/12, then an assumed 3% rate peg in the following years.

Under this Scenario, Council will need to reduce services in order to divert funds to essential maintenance activities identified in the Asset Management Plan, however the overall condition of our assets will continue to deteriorate with anticipated significant failures and / or closures of key assets occurring.

Under this scenario there would also be a need to substantially review our Workforce Management Strategy to seek to identify funds through service reductions for reallocation to asset maintenance.

Scenario Two ~ A total rate increase of 6% each year for seven years (ie: 2.8% Rate Pegging limit plus a Special Rate Variation of 3.2% in 2011/12, and then an assumed 3% rate peg + 3% Special Variation from 2012/13 onwards).

The impact of this would still be insufficient funds available for maintenance of infrastructure over the next ten years; and significant deterioration of some key assets would still occur.

Under this scenario there would also be a need to review our Workforce Management Strategy to seek to identify funds through some service reductions for reallocation to essential asset maintenance.

Scenario Three  $\sim$  A total rate increase of 8% each year for seven years (ie: 2.8% Rate Pegging limit plus a Special Variation of 5.2% in 2011/12, and then an assumed 3% rate peg + 5% Special Variation from 2012/13 onwards).

Under this Scenario Council will be able to build sufficient funds to ultimately maintain the core asset areas to a satisfactory level. Some short term deterioration is anticipated as it will take several years to raise sufficient funds to overcome the current backlog of works, however it does provide a sustainable level of funds at the end of the 7 year SRV period.

Scenario Four ~ A total rate increase of 10% each year for seven years (ie: 2.8% Rate Pegging limit plus a Special Variation 7.2% in 2011/12, and then an assumed 3% rate peg + 7% Special Variation from 2012/13 onwards).

Under this Scenario Council will be able to either accelerate the improvement of its assets to a time-frame shorter than 10 years or allocate the additional funds to deliver major infrastructure improvements (including potentially the early delivery of developer funded infrastructure projects, where the developer contributions are insufficient to complete the whole project).

Scenario Three is recommended to provide a sustainable future.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation - FAQ # 4

# How much will my rates go up?

The following information shows the impact of the recommended Scenario 3 option, which seeks an overall rate increase per year of 8%, over the next 7 years.

This Scenario will generate approximately \$60m over the life of the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan for a range of asset maintenance works and renewals, and addressing outstanding asset risk issues.

Examples of the impact of the proposed rate increase are as follows:

Change in the Minimum Residential Rate (\$773) (40% of all properties)	Average Weekly Increase	Average Annual Increase	Total Increase
	Years 1 to 7	Years 1 to 7 Years 1 to 7	over 7 Years
Capped Component (2.8% in 2011/12)	\$ 0.47	\$ 24	\$176
Special Rate Increase (5.2% in 2011/12))	\$ 1.05	\$ 55	\$376
Total	\$ 1.52	\$ 79	\$552

Range	No. Properties	Percentage of Total	Average Increase per week	Average Increase per year
Minimum (\$773)	6,426	40	\$1.52	\$79
\$773 - \$1,000	3,295	21	\$1.96	\$102
\$1,001 - \$1,200	1,310	8	\$2.35	\$122
\$1,201 - \$1,400	871	5	\$2.75	\$143
\$1,401 - \$1,600	943	6	\$3.14	\$163
\$1601 - \$1,800	850	. 5	\$3.53	\$184
\$1,801 - \$2,000	603	4	\$3.92	\$204
\$2,001 - \$2,200	396	2	\$4.31	\$224
\$2,201 - \$2,400	302	2	\$4.71	\$245
\$2,401 - \$2,600	284	2	\$5.10	\$265
\$2,601 - \$2,800	172	1	\$5.49	\$286
\$2,801 - \$3,000	124	1	\$5.88	\$306
\$3,001 - \$3,200	101	1	\$6.28	\$326
>\$3,201	322	2		
Total	15,999	100		

Note: Total increase over the 7 year period is 71%, compared to 23 % for an assumed inflation rate of 3% per year.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation – FAQ # 5

# Has Council done anything to reduce costs instead of raising rates?

The following information outlines Council's ongoing efforts to reduce costs and to improve efficiencies and productivity in the organisation.

#### **Cost Reduction Activities:**

Description	Budget Savings
Executive restructure in 2008, to reduce the number of Directors from 3 to 2, and the number of Managers from 12 to 11.	\$328,000 pa
Solar power installation at Council's Nursery / Pound complex in 2010 – projected energy cost savings.	\$1,100 pa
Reduction in Information Technology computer servers from 11 to 4 through virtualisation of the computer environment in 2010 – projected energy cost savings.	\$5,000 pa
Temporary staff freezes as required to reduce short term operational costs, at various times. For example, deferred replacement of 3 Manager positions in 2009/10.	\$150,000 in 2009/10
Motor Vehicle Fleet now dominated by 4cylinder cars that use between 5.5 and 9 litres per 100 km. Fleet used to be dominated by large inefficient 6 cylinder cars. Savings based on 40 vehicles at an average 15,000 km per year.	\$36,000 pa
All new streetlights are now specified with either T5 or Compact fluorescent technology, which reduces annual electricity costs by more than 50% for new subdivisions. Gradual replacement of existing inefficient lamps over time as maintenance works are undertaken by Integral Energy.	\$2,000 per 100 lamps
Engagement of a specialist organisation to operate the Leisure Centre (compared to direct operation by Council). This has resulted in usage doubling in 3 years and operational costs to Council reducing through the contract from \$270,000 to nil over 4 years.	\$270,000 pa from 2010
Bonus payments from Statewide Mutual with for improved risk management documentation and systems. Funding retained in a Risk Reserve.	\$38,5000 in 2010

# **General Efficiency and Productivity Gains**

Description	Identified Benefit
Introduction of "thin client" PC operation, with majority of processing undertaken on servers. To be undertaken in 2011.	Decreases need for additional IT staff in the future due to better efficiencies in managing this environment as the total number of PC's increase.
Plant items replaced/added with improved safety and efficiency technology (mowing, excavation, graders, trucks). Largest mower has comparable capacity of up to 20 acres per hour vs. 4-6 acres of previous machines, graders have significantly improved vision and reduced operator fatigue, excavator has latest lifting technology that reduces the need to hire cranes.	Generally more efficient maintenance and construction activities.
New Plant items either Euro 4 or Tier 3 fuel compliant.	Significant improvements in fuel efficiency in maintenance and construction activities .
Lowest use tipper truck currently being converted into a water cart.	Eliminates the need for long-term (5 years) hiring of a water cart.
Ownership model of Motor Vehicle Fleet (combination of direct ownership and operating leases) spreads risk and is being constantly reviewed with many leases being extended to lower overall running.	Extension of leases has resulted in up to \$200 per month savings over replacing the car, and reduces cost impacts on plant and vehicle reserve.
Purchasing processes reviewed and updated to include:  Use of panel contracts  Use of an on-line tender management system (Tenderlink)  Use of BNG Online Contractor Management System	<ul> <li>Improved tender responses</li> <li>Reduction in time for preparing tenders and quotations</li> <li>Better management of contractors</li> </ul>
Audit Committee established with external membership	To enable ongoing independent review of Council's operations and processes.
Risk Committee established to review Council's exposure to risk and to address identified risk issues.	Reduction in future claims against Council, improved safety for staff and the community, and reduced Workers Compensation Claims and loss of productivity.
Improved Asset Management Systems to track inventory and condition assessments and risks. Pavement Management System to allow for improved focus on preventative maintenance strategies, rather than a "worst first" approach.	Improved effectiveness of Councils maintenance funding.
Ongoing review of vacancies every time they occur to ensure the duties and focus of the replacement matches the current and expected needs of Council.	Ensuring appropriate staff skills to match community and organisational needs.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation – FAQ # 6

# How do we compare to other councils?

Wollondilly has a comparatively small population of 42,397 and covers a comparatively large area of 2,557 sq kilometres. Having a relatively large geographic area and a relatively small population places significant pressure on Council in terms of the financial resources available to maintain infrastructure and services. For example, Council has some 30% more assets by value per resident compared to Campbelltown City Council. A further example is that Wollondilly Council provides 14 community halls for hire, compared to Campbelltown which has 16, again indicating a far higher hall provision per resident, due to the isolated and distributed nature of the Shire's population.

Having our residents spread across so many towns and villages also means that the community is heavily reliant on the road network, with 743 km of sealed roads needing to be maintained. Further, as local development occurs across the Shire, our population is increasing by about 1.9% per year, leading to increased demand for services, increased roads and footpaths to maintain, and heavier traffic on our roads.

Although we face significant local issues it is also noted that other councils face their own local cost pressures, with a number of councils having sought rate increases above the minimum capped rate increase, as follows:

## 2010/2011 Approvals

- Ballina: 6.2 % / 5 years / infrastructure maintenance and improvements
- Bega: 6.35 % / 1 year / sports facilities and economic development
- Blue Mountains: 7 % / 5 years / facilities upgrade and bushfire
- Camden: 7.1 % / 3 years / infrastructure maintenance – further SRV to be further considered
- Coffs Harbour: 7 % / 1 year / flood mitigation
- Greater Taree. 10 % / 4 years / infrastructure maintenance
- Kiama: 6.5 %Kogarah: 5.9 %
- Ku-ring-gai: 5.75 %
- Lake Macquarie: 5.3 % / 1 year / environmental works
- Tweed: 7.5% / 7 years (in progress from 2004/05)

- Lismore: 3.05 %
- Moree Plains: 9.25 %
- Nambucca: 7.64 %
- North Sydney: 10.54 %
- Parramatta: 7.5 %
- Port Macquarie: 9.96 % / 1 year / infrastructure maintenance (note further SRV being considered)
- Queanbeyan: 8.63 % / 4 years / infrastructure maintenance
- Randwick: 5.29 %
- Rockdale: 5.6 %
- Sutherland: 6.58 % / 4 years / infrastructure maintenance

#### Proposed 2011/2012 Applications:

- Waverly Council: 11.9% / 7 years / infrastructure and service improvements
- Cootamundra Council: 5% / 5 years

The average rate increase was 7.1 per cent across the councils that received approval in 2010.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation – FAQ # 7

# What happens if Council does not get a Special Rate Increase?

In view of the identified outstanding lists of maintenance works, and the associated risk to the community, if a sufficient special rate variation is not granted, Council will have to review its existing services to the community, so that it can allocate additional funds to meeting the most immediate maintenance needs. This process would have to commence immediately, and would need to be implemented over the next several years.

## Options for review include:

- Reduction in service levels to the community across a range of services
- Freeze on replacing staff, with consequent decreases in customer services and processing times
- Allocating funds from the roads maintenance budget to other high priority asset areas, with a consequent increase in the rate of deterioration of the road network
- Closing facilities that cannot be maintained to a safe and serviceable level

If insufficient funds are made available, the following facilities would be most at risk of being closed or restricted in use, over the next several years:

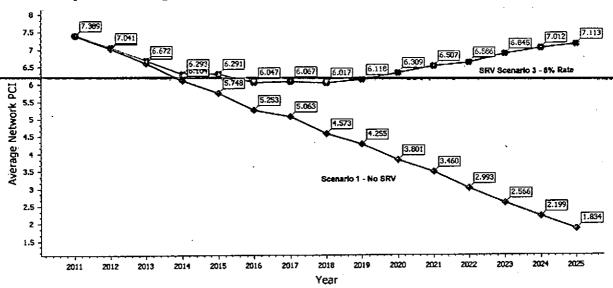
- Oakdale Tennis Courts
- Thirlmere Community Hall
- Mt Hunter Community Hall
- Bargo Community Hall
- Picton School of Arts
- Antill Park Golf Course Main Building
- Warragamba Sports Ground Amenities
- Oakdale Community Hall External Amenities
- Emmett Park Amenities
- Night time use of Appin Park and Willis Park
- Multiple playgrounds, such as at Tahmoor and Appin

With regard to the road network, which is identified as the most critical asset by the community, the road network will deteriorate further, as shown on the graph on the next page.

The graph shows the impact of different funding options on the PCI (Pavement Condition Index), which provides an assessment of the average condition of the road pavement network.

A general rule of thumb is that a PCI between 9 and 10 indicates that the pavement network is excellent, 8 to 9 is very good, 6 to 8 is good, 4 to 6 is fair, 2 to 4 is poor, 0 to 2 is very poor, and less than 0 is failed.

# Projected Changes To Average Network PCI (By Scenario and By Year)



The graph shows two options – funding kept at the same level as 2010/2011 at a total of \$2.4m (Scenario 1 – no additional funding), which shows the network deteriorating continually over time.

The second option shows the impact of the funding available under Scenario 3 (proposed 8% rate increase, generating an extra \$40m for road pavement maintenance over 10 years), which shows that the condition will worsen in the short to medium term, but does rise again to bring it up to close to current conditions. The condition does not drop below a PCI of 6, which just manages to keep the average condition in the "good" range.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation - FAQ # 8

# What services does Council provide?

Council is a multipurpose Council, that like many councils now provides a broad range of services, and no longer just provides the 3 "R"s – roads, rates and rubbish.

Listed below are the range of direct services that Council provides to the community:

#### **Cemetery and Burial Services**

Manage and maintain cemeteries and ashes placement sites

Provide a burial and ashes placement booking / record keeping service

Provide interment service

#### **Child Care**

Provide Family Day Care
Before and After School Care
Provide Vacation Care
Manage and maintain Council buildings used for child care and occasional care

#### Community Development

Advocate for special needs groups

Advocate for needed community services and facilities

Support / facilitate community development funding programs

Support community events and celebrations
Coordinate access and equity, cultural diversity
and social justice initiatives

Support young people

Manage and maintain public halls and community Buildings

Manage and maintain community access bus

#### **Community Safety**

Advocate for community safety
Support community Safety Committee
Implement Safety by design
Advocate for emergency management services
Mitigate bushfire risk on Council owned land
Support local Emergency Management Committee
Manage and maintain RFS /SES buildings
Maintain RFS Vehicle Fleet
Maintain Group Captain vehicles

#### **Cultural Development**

Advocate for cultural services
Coordinate cultural development funding programs
Support cultural events and festivals
Provide booking service for cultural and community
events and celebrations on Council land
Manage and maintain cultural facilities and physical
assets

Promote the protection of cultural heritage -Raise awareness of local culture and heritage Promote art in public places

#### **Economic Development**

Support sustainable local economic development Support local business and industry

#### **Environmental Health & Regulatory Compliance**

Monitor domestic animal management compliance Monitor domestic swimming pools compliance Monitor dumped rubbish / abandoned vehicle control compliance

Building fire safety compliance

Monitor development and building construction compliance

Deliver environmental health approvals, inspections and enforcement

Implement the NSW Food Safety Agreement Monitor and inspect on-site effluent systems Monitor water quality testing – commercial pools Monitor parking compliance

#### **Environmental Management**

Regenerate Council owned bush land Restore degraded land

Raise awareness through environmental education Restore stream banks

Manage Threatened Species

Coordinate and support volunteer programs -

Bushcare / Landcare / Streamwatch

Monitor water quality - ecological and recreational Control weeds - urban and natural areas

Control vegetation cleaning / tree removal

Manage Community Nursery

Propagate native plants for revegetation projects Manage and maintain gross pollutant control devices

#### Governance

Support the provision of local democracy Support the engagement of the community to provide input into the management of the Shire Provide information to the community

#### Land Use Management

Inspect and certify building construction Assess and approve development

Assess landscaping, environmental and hentage impacts

Advise on land use

Prepare strategic planning guidance for the future development of the Shire

#### Libraries and Information

Deliver library programs and lending services
Provide community information directory
Provide reference and research information
Provide Abonginal Knowledge (web based)
Provide computers / Internet public access
Provide local studies and family history service
Manage and maintain buildings used for library
services

Provide and manage the mobile library

#### Sport and Recreation

Manage and maintain the aquatic centre and pool, clubhouses, sportsgrounds, parks and playgrounds, public toilets in parks, reserves and picnic areas, skate parks, sporting amenity buildings, sports courts and dog off-leash areas Provide sportsground booking service Manage the Picton Aquatic and Leisure Centre and Warragamba Pool

#### Sport and Recreation

Manage and maintain aquatic centre and pool, clubhouses, sportsgrounds, parks and playgrounds, public toilets in parks, reserves and picnic areas, skate parks, sporting amenity buildings, sports courts and dog off-leash areas

#### **Tourism**

Provide promotion, marketing, public relations support

Support local tourism initiatives

Provide tourist information and retail opportunities Manage and maintain Visitor Information Centre

#### Traffic Management

Implement road safety programs
Support the Local Traffic Committee
Manage and maintain traffic facilities, signs and line

marking
Manage and maintain roads, bus shelters / bus

Manage and maintain roads, bus shelters / bus stops, car parks, cycle ways, footpaths, street lighting

Assess and approve new roads (Roads Act approvals)

Lobby for improvements on the State Road network Advocate for alternative transport

#### Waste Resource Management

Implement waste education initiatives
Mulch kerbside green waste
Collect recycling (commercial, kerbside domestic &
non-rateable properties)
Collect waste (kerbside, parks, booked bulky waste)
Collect bulky waste annually and reuse
Manage Waste Facilities

#### Water Resource Management

Prepare floodplain risk management plans and studies

Manage and maintain stormwater drainage / infrastructure

# Proposed Special Rate Variation - FAQ # 9

# 10 Point Summary of the Special Rate Variation

Council is asking that the community consider a Special Rate Variation because:

# 1. We are required to maintain numerous assets but there is not enough money

Council has undertaken a substantial review of the assets it is responsible for, with a particular focus on roads, major community buildings, playgrounds and sports fields risk management, as well recognising the need for enhanced bushfire management resources. In summary, the review has found a substantial ongoing shortfall in the funding required to maintain its assets to a satisfactory condition.

# 2. Councils have had their income limited by rate pegging for 30 years

Council's in NSW have been exposed to over 30 years of rate pegging, which has continued to reduce the funds available for asset maintenance, despite occasional increases through some special rate variations. This has been confirmed as an ongoing issue across NSW and Australia, with the overall asset backlog standing at more than \$6 billion dollars. Many councils are now seeking (or have already been approved) Special Rate Variations for asset repairs, including Camden (7.1% for 3 years), Queanbeyan (8.63% for 4 years), Ballina (6.2% for 5 years), Tweed (7.5% for 7 years), and Waverly (11.9% for 7 years).

## 3. Without the Special Rate Variation, we will have to reduce services

The Rate Capping amount announced for 2011/12 is 2.8%. This will generate additional rate revenue of \$511,000 for Wollondilly Council, when our costs will actually increase by \$853,000. The shortfall in funding reduces funds available for existing services and asset maintenance.

# 4. We need to repair roads so that they are safe to drive on

The overall condition of the road pavement network is 7.2 (measured out of 10, with 10 being in new condition), which compares to an average condition of 7.8 for many local government areas. With the currently available funds, the condition of the road network will get worse every year, with consequent rougher surfaces, higher vehicle operating costs for residents, and increased risk of crashes. The estimated annual shortfall in funding is over \$3m, which includes funding for Burragorang Road and Barkers Lodge Road which have been "declassified", and are no longer maintained by the Roads and Traffic Authority.

#### 5. We have identified more bridges and major culverts that need fixing

Council has undertaken a substantial review of its other road assets, such as footpaths, bridges, signs and linemarking, guardrail and fencing, and other road structures. This has identified a substantial increase in the total number of assets to be maintained, such as a further 28 bridges and major culverts. The ongoing average annual shortfall in funding is over \$500,000, with bridges alone having an identified immediate backlog of works of \$620,000.

# 6. There is an expectation that community buildings are maintained and made available for community use

Many buildings require substantial repairs, including the replacement of the roof structures at Antill Park (\$200,000), Shire Hall roof replacement (\$75,000), floor replacements at Bargo Community Hall (\$48,000), together with numerous ongoing maintenance issues, totalling some \$1.9m in value. This is just for the main 46 buildings, with further costs yet to be confirmed for the other 121 buildings that Council manages.

# 7. The community expects to be able to use safe play equipment in playgrounds

There are 11 playgrounds that require immediate rehabilitation due to unsafe / aged equipment, lack of soft fall, or equipment that no longer has parts available for them, at a cost of \$238,000. Further ongoing funding is also required to manage the remaining playgrounds in a safe condition. Council has already begun removal of the most unsafe equipment to prevent injuries to children.

# 8. Our sporting community wants to be able to safely use sportsgrounds after dusk

There are a number of sportsgrounds that do not have lighting that meets the Australian Standards, or there is none at all, which creates unsafe training conditions for residents. The estimated cost for these works is \$650,000.

# 9. We need to ensure that we manage bushfire risks

As hotter summers and changes in rainfall patterns continue to occur, there is an increased risk from bushfires. Combined with guidelines coming out of the Victorian Bushfire Review, it is considered prudent to allocate additional resources to manage bushfire mitigation activities on Council's properties and reserves. Relatively minor funds of \$75,000 are proposed to provide additional resources to reduce bushfire risks.

10. We want to ensure that future generations have access to: a safe and reliable road network; appropriate and well maintained community and recreation facilities; and a sustainable Council, without leaving behind an unfunded asset debt and deteriorating facilities

If the additional funds are not achieved through the SRV, then Council will need to cut services and/or close facilities to reduce the asset funding gap. This is already commencing with a staff replacement freeze in place, the removal of unsafe playgrounds, and the closure of facilities such as Cawdor tennis courts. Further reductions in services to the community will need to be considered, along with the closure of underutilised and/or high maintenance facilities such as Oakdale Tennis Courts, Thirlmere Community Hall, Mt Hunter Community Hall, Bargo Community Hall, Picton School of Arts, Antill Park Golf Course Main Building, Warragamba Sports Ground Amenities, Oakdale Community Hall External Amenities, and Emmett Park Amenities. Further deterioration of all assets would still be expected to occur.

# Proposed Special Rate Variation – FAQ # 10

# Why not amalgamate with other councils?

The issue of local government amalgamations has been ongoing from when the first local councils were created in the late 1800s. Over that time there have been periods of both voluntary and involuntary amalgamations, with a number being undertaken in the last 10 years, such as at Goulburn – Mulwarree, a so-called doughnut council, which had both administrative centres located in Goulburn, while servicing the two separate entities of Goulburn City and the surrounding Mulwarree Shire.

However, despite the ongoing pressures for amalgamations, primarily on the assumption of economic efficiencies, there remains very little real evidence that the amalgamations have actually reduced costs to the community.

Recent local Government reform has also focussed on improved corporate management, with primary goals to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.

## The Percy Allan Report

In 2005, the LGSA commissioned the *Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of Local Government in New South*. The Inquiry headed by Professor Allan assessed the financial position and performance of the NSW local government sector, determined the adequacy of existing NSW local government infrastructure and service delivery, evaluated the financial capacity of local government, and identified potential reform options to address problems.

The Allan Report stressed the major challenges that NSW local government faced including a major infrastructure funding crisis; an inadequate revenue base; skills shortages; and increasing demands placed on local government by the community and other spheres of government. The major finding was a backlog of over six billion dollars in infrastructure renewal needs, expected to increase to \$21 billion within 15 years if the annual renewals gap remained at \$500 million per annum. The Report suggested that one quarter of NSW councils were unsustainable and another 50 per cent would continue to struggle to maintain financial sustainability.

The Report contained 49 recommendations which were adopted by the LGSA and most NSW councils. Recommendations highlighted many challenges facing local government including:

- the need to define the local government sector role relative to other spheres of government;
- renew infrastructure to overcome a growing backlog;
- implement Total Asset Management;
- prioritise services to better reflect public preferences;
- reform development controls at both state and council levels;
- improve strategic planning and operational efficiency;
- remove rate-pegging;
- boost revenue from rates, fees and grants;
- strengthen governance structures and procedures;
- · and achieve long-term financial sustainability.

The Allan Report rejected council amalgamations and indicated:

The Local Government Inquiry examined the considerable research into whether council mergers would result in greater cost efficiencies. It found that the evidence was inconclusive, except perhaps for the smallest councils (i.e. under 8,000 in rural areas). Yet in those cases other factors better explained higher costs per resident, especially low population density in remote areas. For those activities that might be more economical to operate on a larger scale, service sharing, joint processing and external resourcing might be a more targeted way to realise savings than amalgamating the entire operations of councils within a region.

#### The South Australian Experience

In 2005, the Financial Sustainability Review Board of South Australia reported as follows:

"Amalgamation brings with it significant costs and exaggerated benefits" and that "there are many intermediate forms of cooperation/integration among councils, with amalgamation being the most extreme (and confronting) form of integration".

In a report jointly prepared by the University of New England and La Trobe University in 2007, titled "Is Bigger Better? Local Government amalgamation and the South Australian Rising to the Challenge Inquiry", it was concluded as follows:

"With the sole exception of small, sparse and slow growing rural shires, it demonstrated that there is no systematic relationship between council size and council sustainability, at least in the South Australian local government milieu."

# Proposed Special Rate Variation – FAQ # 11

# Why have there been problems with recent roadworks?

As many residents will have noticed, the recent extremes of hot weather have impacted on the condition of a number of roads, with the bitumen melting (known as 'bleeding').

Some of these roads are a re-occurrence of previously known problems (Thirlmere Way, Farnsworth Avenue and Finns Road/Remembrance Driveway), while others are roads that were sealed a number of years ago and are now showing the same problem, such as Burragorang Road (which was transferred to Council's responsibility in mid 2009).

Council is continuing to address these issues, including:

- Placing sand over the worst sections this week as they become active with the heat
- · Placing warning signs at sections where required, to assist with road safety
- Placing a 5mm dusty stone overlay on Thirlmere Way as it is activated in the heat (being carried out by the original contractor at their cost),
- Replacing the seal from several sections of Farnsworth Avenue on or before the 14th Feb. The issue on Farnsworth Avenue relates to an underlying problem with the strength of the pavement, not a sealing contractor issue
- Focusing our surveillance on known problem spots to ensure road safety is maintained, and undertaking repairs as required
- Reviewing its contract processes to increase the defects liability period for sealing contractors, and clarifying the role and responsibility of the contractor to ensure responsibility for the design, laying and maintenance of the sealing work is clear.

It is noted that these problems can impact across the whole road network, including other Councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority.

# Attachment F

Questions and Answers

A series of short questions and answers were developed in response to comments / concerns raised by residents via the on-line forum. These Q&As were posted on wollondillyhaveyoursay.com, and a link was placed on Council's website.

Back to: Generating sufficient revenue to provide services to our community and maintain community assets.

# Q & As

The rate peg limit set by IPART is not designed to address asset maintenance backlogs or funding shortfalls.  Councils are required to apply for a Special Rate Variation to address these costs separately to the rate peg.	
Q. Why have Councils across NSW failed to convince the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to peg rates above 3%?	top of pa
There have been no Council funded overseas trips for staff or Councillors since 2001.	
Q. When was the last time Council paid for an overseas trip for staff or Councillors?	top of pa
How much of Council's total overseas investment portfolio has been lost as a result of the Global Financial Crisis, and how have at risk.	much overseas investment do we
What is the % of total expenditure used for staff wages and admin costs?	t - to the second design
How many vehicles does Council own?	
Will farmers be exempt from the Special Rate Variation?	
Why have asset maintenance costs increased?	
What does Council currently do to help Pensioners?	
What happened to the Roads Ahead Special Rate Variation?	
Does the Special Rate Variation only apply to rates?	
Why has Council chosen to engage with the community at this time of year?	
What do the terms rate peg or rate cap mean, and who sets them?	
What does it mean by 'accumulates over the life of the Special Rate Variation?	,
How much will an 8% increase in rates affect the cost of average household rates?	
How will an 8% increase in rates be used?	
Why is Council considering an 8% Special Rate Variation?	
Why doesn't Council charge higher user fees for community facilities?	
Why doesn't Council just sell some assets?	
Do new housing estates already provide Council with an increase in rate income?	
What about other government funding?	
Has Council considered borrowing money?	
Why have Councils across NSW failed to convince the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to peg rates above 350	
When was the last time Council paid for an overseas trip for staff or Councillors?	

D. Has Council considered borrowing money?	top of page
It is inappropriate to borrow money on a long term basis for maintenance activities, as these costs occur annually and this type of debt would continue to grow and would be unsustainable in the long term. As borrowed funds need	
to be repaid plus interest, this would leave a large debt for future generations.	
Some limited short term loan arrangements have been used previously, and may be appropriate in a small number of	
circumstances.	
	top of page
Q. What about other government funding?	top of page
Council continually reviews and takes advantage of available funding opportunities. However, many funding	
programs require a dollar for dollar commitment from Council, and many of these funding programs do not cover	
the true and ongoing costs of maintaining assets. Very limited funding is available from State and Federal  Covernment for asset maintenance purposes.	
	111200000000000000000000000000000000000
Q. Do new housing estates already provide Council with an increase in rate income?	top of page
C. Do new housing escales an easy provide country with an inclusion	
Housing growth does provide new rates income. However, this growth in income does not address the significant backlog of maintenance required for existing infrastructure, particularly when you take into account the additional	
costs associated with population growth (such as maintaining new roads and facilities).	
	top of page
Q. Why doesn't Council just sell some assets?	top or page
Council continually reviews existing assets to determine their relevance and effectiveness in delivering services to	
the broader community, and a number of asset sales have already been undertaken over time.	
Selling assets may eliminate the need to maintain that particular asset and also provide a one-off injection of	
income, but it does not result in long term sustainable outcome. It is not appropriate to fund maintenance by selling	
assets because, at some stage, Council will run out of assets to sell.	
Also, the ability to sell assets depends on a range of considerations, including:	
- is the assets important to the community?	,
- 13 the assets important to the community:	
- Is there is a market in which to sell the asset?	
- Is Council permitted to sell the asset?	
Q. Why doesn't Council charge higher user fees for community facilities?	top of page
Council charges user fees for the use of community halls and sporting facilities in accordance with it's Fees and Charges Policy, which is placed on public exhibition each year.	
Allowances are made to ensure that not-for-profit groups are able to utilise these facilities at a subsidised rate, and charging higher rates would mean that many of these groups would be unable to use these facilities.	
and charging higher rates would mean that many of these groups would be shall be a seen as a see	
	top of page
Q. Why is Council considering an 8% Special Rate Variation?	
Council needs to generate average additional income of 56million per year for the next ten years in order to	
address asset maintenance requirements identified through an extensive review of the condition of our buildings and road infrastructure. Council's analysis indicates that an 8% increase will generate sufficient funds to ultimately	
maintain the core asset areas to a satisfactory level. Some short term deterioration is still anticipated as it will take	
several years to raise sufficient funds to overcome the current backlog of works, however the 8% would provide a sustainable level of funds at the end of the 7 year SRV period.	
The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal recently announced a rate capping of 2.8% for all Councils for 2011/2012. For Wollondilly Shire Council, this will equate to a \$511,000 increase in income for the 11/12 financial	
year. Although Council has maintained almost static staffing levels over the past five years, mandatory changes in	
award conditions mean that in 2011/12 our employee costs will increase by \$362,000. As a result of price increases, electricity and insurance charges will cost an additional \$116,000, and CPI increases will inflate costs by a further	
\$375,000. This adds up to an additional \$853,000, and means that Council will have to find \$342,000 in addition to	
the 2.8% rate increase just to cover operational costs in 2011/2012.	

O How will an 8% increase in rates be used?

Council would like to maintain current levels of service provision, and additional income generated through the 2.8% rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) will be used to ensure that Council services continue to operate at their current levels.

Council is also committed to maintaining the Shire's assets to a satisfactory condition. This will involve carrying out many urgent repairs to infrastructure and reducing risks to the community. In order to achieve this and to maintain current service levels, Council has identified current and future expenditure expectations, and an increase in rates by 8% (including rate peg) will provide the revenue required to meet these expectations.

Council proposes to use the additional income generated through the Special Rate Variation on:

Road pavements \$41.0m
Other road assets such as bridges and footpaths \$6.2m
Community Buildings \$7.5m
Parks and Reserves - playgrounds \$0.7m
Parks and Reserves - sports lighting \$0.7m
Parks and Reserves - tennis courts \$0.5m
Parks and Reserves - bushfire management \$0.8m
Project Management costs (to manage the new works program) \$3.3m

top of page

top of page

Q. How much will an 8% increase in rates affect the cost of average household rates?

An 8% rate increase on the minimum rate (which is paid by 40% of all rate payers) equates to an average increase each year of \$79 (or \$1.52 per week) which accumulates over the life of the Special Rate Variation.

Additional information on the impact of the Special Rate Variation on rate amounts above the minimum can be found in the Frequently Asked Question 4 on the SRV on Council's website.

Q. What does it mean by 'accumulates over the life of the Special Rate Variation'?

This statement means that the rate increase will be cumulative - much the same as CPI increases and salary increases are cumulative.

FOR EXAMPLE: Should rates be increased by 8% for 7 years, this would mean that for people paying the minimum residential rate of \$773 per annum (applicable to 40% of all properties); they will pay the following annual amounts.

- · Currently playing \$773
- · Year 1 \$835
- · Year 2 5902
- · Year 3 \$974
- Year 4 \$1,052
- Year 5 \$1,136
   Year 6 \$1,227
- · Year 7 \$1,325

This means that the overall increase will be 71% compared to an increase of 23% if there was no Special Rate Variation (rate peg/cap only).

Please consider that many employee wages will also increase cumulatively in line with inflation.

Q. What do the terms rate peg or rate cap mean, and who sets them?

top of page

The terms rate peg and rate cap are used to describe the maximum allowable percentage increase in Local Government general income. The term 'revenue cap' is also sometimes used. These terms all mean the same thing - the maximum % increase in Council rates that can be charged by Local Government for general income.

The Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) sets the rate peg or cap for Local Government through the establishment of a Local Government Cost Index.

Local Government can apply to IPART for approval to vary the rate peg - this is called a Special Rate Variation.

The rate cap and Special Rate Variation only apply to general rates which are based on land value and zoning - not to all rates applied by Council. Council also applies a waste charge, which is based on the actual recovery cost to collect and dispose of general and recycled waste, as well as other charges such as the Stormwater Management Charge (applicable to urban residential and business premises only).

O. Why has Council chosen to engage with the community at this time of year?

Council acknowledges that the timing of the community consultation regarding a Special Rate Variation is challenging, especially given that it is the beginning of the year and it is school holidays.

The new guidelines for council applications to vary rates were issued by the Division of Local Government on December 2, 2010. The guidelines stipulate that councils must notify the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of their intention to apply for a variation by January 28 and councils must lodge the application by March 25.

As Council wants to provide adequate time for community engagement, this means that we have to consult with the community during January and February in order to have all of the required materials prepared prior to lodgement on March 25.

Although most of the consultation will occur during January February 2011, it is noted that, in order to provide as much time as possible for the community to become aware of the proposal, the local media began reporting on the proposal in mid December 2010, and the Council's documents were available on our website from 23 December 2010.

Q. Does the Special Rate Variation only apply to rates?

top of page

Yes. The rate cap and proposed Special Rate Variation only apply to general rates which are based on land value.

Council also applies a waste charge, which is based on the actual recovery cost to collect and dispose of your general and recycled waste, as well as other charges such as the Stormwater Management Charge, which applies to urban residential and business premises only. The proposed Special Rate Variation does not apply to these charges.

Q. What happened to the Roads Ahead Special Rate Variation?

top of page

The Roads Ahead SRV raised some \$12m for major works on Councils road network, as well sealing works and several bridge replacements. Additionally a further \$4.5m in loans was raised to accelerate the program of works.

Although from 30 June 2010 (the end of the SRV period), the Roads Ahead SRV ceased to be identified as a separate rate charge specifically for road maintenance. Council will continue to allocate 52million towards ongoing road maintenance works. The balance of the funds has had to be allocated for the repayment of the Roads Ahead loan.

top of page

Q. What does Council currently do to help Pensioners?

Eligible pensioners in the Shire are currently receiving the following rebates:

- a discount of 50% of their combined rates and charges up to a maximum of 5250. This is a mandatory rebate funded by the State Government (55%) and Council (45%).
- a discount of 50% on Domestic Waste bins this is a voluntary rebate fully funded by Council (Section 582 rebate), and
- waiving of the Stormwater Levy charges (applicable to ratepayers located in urban areas) of 525 this is a voluntary rebate fully funded by Council (Section 582 rebate).

These rebates can potentially equate to a saving for Pensioners of up to \$476 per annum depending on their bin service and location.

The total cost to Council for pensioner rebates is just over \$630,000 per annum

In comparison to other Councils, Wollondilly's Section 582 rebate could be considered 'very generous'. The majority of Councils do not offer any additional voluntary rebate under Section 582, including Wollondilly's neighbouring Councils Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee. Other examples of Councils that do offer rebates under Section 582 are Ryde City Council, which offers a voluntary rebate of 580 to those eligible pensioners who have lived in Ryde for 10 years, and North Sydney Council which provides a rebate on rates and domestic waste charges up to a maximum of \$100 per assessment per annum.

Q. Why have asset maintenance costs increased?

top of page

There are a number of reasons Council is now faced with higher asset maintenance costs, including longer lengths of roads, footpaths and cycleways to maintain, as well as an ongoing lack of funding to maintain community buildings and playgrounds. These reasons are explained in more detail in FAQ (Fact Sheet) #1 on Council's website.

Q. Will farmers be exempt from the Special Rate Variation?

Farmland<sup>h</sup> is already rated at a lower rate (76%) than the Residential land rate category. At this stage, Council's intention is to maintain the Farmland rate at the Rate-Pegging Limit. However, this is subject to further consideration by Council when it considers submissions at its March meeting.

" land that is > 8,000 square metres that is wholly or mainly used for primary production, subject to application

O. How many vehicles does Council own?

top of page

Council currently has a fleet consisting of 21 Utilities and 59 Passenger cars. There is personal use associated with these vehicles ranging from commuter use (to and from work) to full private use.

Those with full private use make a contribution towards vehicle costs.

All Council cars are available, and used for, operational purposes such as inspections following resident requests, meetings with other organisations and residents, and supervision of works during the working day. Not just by the lease holder but by all staff. This includes the General Managers car.

O. What is the % of total expenditure used for staff wages and admin costs?

top of page

As Council is a service organisation, most of our activities are provided directly by staff - for example Library. Children's Services, parks maintenance, compliance 'health inspections, animal control etc.

During the 2010/2011 financial year, Council anticipates that 44% of total operational expenditure will be spent on employee costs. Staff wages and salaries are the major part of employee costs (about 85%) which also include superannuation, workers comp. Fringe Benefits Tax and training.

This figure includes all employee costs associated with Works, Infrastructure Planning, Facilities and Recreation.

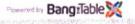
Community Services, Environmental Services, Strategic Planning, Development Services, Information Services,
Financial Services and Administrative Services, as well as the Executive (including General Manager and Assistant
General Managers).

top of page

Q. How much of Council's total overseas investment portfolio has been lost as a result of the Global Financial Crisis, and how much overseas investment do we have at risk.

To date Council has not lost any capital on investments as a result of the GFC. There is 2% or \$500,000 of Council's investment portfolio considered to be at a high risk of at least partial capital loss pending the liquidation of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

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# Attachment G

Paid Newspaper Advertisements and Media Releases

Paid newspaper advertisements were placed in local newspapers for five weeks running, and regular media releases were distributed.

# MEDIA RELEASES - SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

# Released on 10 December 2010

# Proposal to seek Special Rate Variation

An extensive review of the physical assets that Wollondilly Shire Council is responsible for has identified a significant funding short-fall for maintenance. The review has identified that without additional funding for maintenance, the condition of these assets will deteriorate substantially over the next ten years. Accordingly, Council is considering a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation to address this funding short-fall.

If additional funding is not available, the following describes some of the likely impacts to the community:

- Further closure of tennis courts
- Removal of play equipment as it becomes unsafe for use
- Consideration of partial closures of sporting fields with inadequate lighting
- Reduced Council services as funds are reallocated for urgent maintenance
- Much rougher road surfaces impacting on vehicles with increasing road safety implications
- Risk of closure of some bridges due to structural failure
- Further closure of community buildings eg. halls, as they deteriorate to the point where they
  are unsafe to use.

It is important to note that Council is responsible for an extensive range of physical assets (for example: road assets totalling \$334 million and building assets of \$57 million).

If, at the December meeting, Council decides to progress to the next stage of this process, extensive community consultation will be undertaken from mid January, to seek the Community's views on the proposed Special Rate Variation prior to considering a further report on the matter in March.

# Media Analysis for this Media Release

It was picked up in 4 articles, two for Wollondilly Chronicle; one for Wollondilly Advertiser and one for District Reporter.





SEARCH







# Macarthur Chronicle



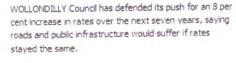


# Rates could increase for Wollondilly residents

COUNCIL 14 050 10 9 10:0551 8: 15: 15: 15: 15:

Recommend 

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Under the plan, the average ratepayer would go from paying \$868 per year to \$937 in 2011-12 and then \$1417.90 by 2017-18.

Wollondilly Mayor Michael Banasik said the shire had about 800km of roads, the maintenance of which swallows up about 76 per cent of the council's budget.

"Every one of Wollondilly's 16 towns villages has a hall and other public buildings, and a large amount of roads in



"Everyone wants good quality roads, It's certainly the main cost to the council."

The increase could come in as early as mid-next year if the council is successful in having the rate hike approved by the Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal.

As of Friday, all councils in NSW were permitted to increase their rates by a maximum 2.8 per cent, in line with inflation and other factors.

But Wollondilly Council hopes to add an extra 5.2 per cent on top. For this reason, the council has had to apply to the tribunal.

At Monday night's meeting (December 13) the council unanimously voted for consultation to be undertaken from mid-January, before considering a further report in March.

The council said if it was unable to increase rates play equipment could be removed, sporting fields and community buildings closed, roads resurfaced less often.

There would also be a risk of closure of some bridges due to structural failure.

Wollondilly Council assistant general manager Luke Johnson told the Chronicle the council had invited the community to voice its views on the issue.

"We are aware this will cause debate but we want to hear that debate."

# COMMENTS DISPLAYING (1) COMMENTS

Mark McKinnon writes:

Posted on 24 Dec 10 at 03:27am I think it stinks that residents living on smaller blocks are subsidising those on large acreages contributing the same value in rates. For instance, my block is 1250sq against those that have 44 acres and pay only \$300 a quarter. That's wrong.

# TODAY'S WEATHER

no Q

TE .

0

A A

SHARE

> Tweet

Printer Friendly

ext size

Current temp:

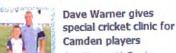
28.5°C



y more protes

Cloudy. Patchy rain in the early afternoon, clearing during the afternoon, then patchy rain late this evening...

PHOTO GALLERIES



Dave Warner with Camden player Isaac White at a special cricket clining... more



#### Womens Twenty20 Cricket

Sydney Women's Cricket Association Twenty20 competition at Raby Oval.... More

#### COMPETITIONS

> ware competitions



#### Movie giveaway: Rango

DESPITE being a pet chameleon who lives in a glass bowl, Rango (voiced by Johnny Depp) has long... more



You could win a dirt bike thanks to "Rango"

We have one major prize and 20 prize packs to giveaway... more

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Andre Rieu is back - Competitions -Macarthur Chronicle Wollondilly Edition 1,661 people shared this.

Dave Warner gives special cricket clinic for...

13 people shared this.



UPDATE: Bum-pinching allegations from candidates forum attract world

headlines 6 people shared this.



5 people shared this.



# resident exodus rise may force

A GROUP of 25 pensioners living on about \$620 a fortnight have vowed to move to the south coast if Wollondilly Council goes ahead with a rates hike in the coming Picton man Terry Brown, 62, said the council was not considerincrease rates by 8 per cent over ing the little guys by proposing to the next seven years to maintain local infrastructure.

"With power prices being so high and now the

I'm going to surrates going up I don't know how vive," he said.

"T am lucky if I have \$10 left over

becoming too expensive to live in Wollondilly." at the end of the fortnight. It is just

letters from residents calling for Wollondilly Council to amalga-mate with surrounding councils The Chronicle has also received to reduce costs.

eral manager, Luke Johnson (pic-"Even if we were to amalgamate But the council's assistant gentured), said amalgamation could end up increasing costs.

"And if people are struggling to pay rates they can look at our structure," he said.

with another council we would still have to repair all the infra-

mation sessions at Warragamba, Appin and Picton to discuss rates The council is planning inforon February 7, 9 and 14 respecthardship policy online." Ively. Details: 4677 1100.

M.C Tues Jan 11 2011 P3 10

#### Released on 18 January 2011

# Bang the Table - Special Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council is asking for the community's views on a proposed Special Rate Variation. One of the ways in which the community can have a say is through Council's on-line Forum, launched today.

This anonymous, safe and monitored on line forum allows the community to view and consider four rate options and provide Council with their views via comments and a Rates Survey.

The forum is located at <a href="www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture">www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture</a>, or it can be accessed via Council's main web page (<a href="www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au">www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au</a>).

"We are very interested in community feedback about our proposal for a Special Rate Variation and we will be opening as many avenues as possible for residents to provide that feedback to us. We will also be undertaking other forms of community engagement including a mail out and community workshops. This is your opportunity to have a say," says Mayor, Cr Michael Banasik.

This is a very important issue for residents and Council appreciates that many people lead very busy lives and find it difficult to attend meetings and community consultations or simply do not have the time or inclination for letter writing. The on-line forum allows for community input, in your own time.

#### Why does Council need to consider the Proposed Special Rate Variation?

- Over the next 10 years, a further \$6 million per year is required to maintain assets in a safe and satisfactory condition.
- A rate Increase of 8% per year (including the annual rate capping amount) for seven years is proposed to meet this maintenance need.
- If the proposed rate increase is not approved, asset maintenance and services will need to be reduced

A series of frequently asked questions and a powerpoint presentation have been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation Proposal. These documents can be viewed on the websites provided.

For further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation go to <a href="https://www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture">www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture</a>; or <a href="https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au">www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au</a> or call Council on 02 4677 1100.

#### Media Analysis for this Media Release

It was picked up in 2 articles, one for Wollondilly Advertiser and one for District Reporter. It also appeared in our Bush Telegraph (community newsletter) that appears in the Wollondilly Advertiser and the District Reporter.

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and

seeks your comments:

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL

DRAFT DOCUMENTS

REPORTING

OLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNC

NTEGRATED PLANNING ANI

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term

Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan),

Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan

These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation of 8%

pa for seven years to address a growing shortfall in funding the maintenance

community.

of a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising risks to the These draft documents are on Public Exhibition from Monday 10 January Copies of the documents are also available for viewing at the following A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a PowerPoint Presentation have also been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Several Community Workshops are also proposed for Warragamba 7 February 2011, Appin - 9 February 2011 and Picton - 14 February 201 Council's Administration Building, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton Variation proposal, and are available on the Council website. 2011 and submissions are invited up to 21 February 2011. Further details will be advertised in the local papers and

On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Wollondilly Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton

locations

The Wollondilly Mobile Library, and





Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Wollandilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or

WOLLONDILL WSHIRE COUNCIL

via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Please quote Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3.

on Council's website.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL (DRAFT DOCUMENTS)

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan) Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

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These draft documents are on Public Exhibition from Monday 10 January 2011 and submissions are invited up to 21 February 2011

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  - Wollondilly Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton
    - The Wollondilly Mobile Library, and
- On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a PowerPoint Presentation have also been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation proposal, and are available on the Council website.

Several Community Workshops are also proposed for Warragamba -7 February 2011, Appin - 9 February 2011 and Picton -14 February 2011. Further details will be advertised in the local papers and on Council's website.

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Please quote to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3.



WOLLONDILLY



Manual Determina

# WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING (DRAFT DOCUMENTS) SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan), Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation of 8% pa for seven years to address a growing shortfall in funding the maintenance of a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising risks to the community.

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Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au. Please quote Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3.

# PROPOSED NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

A Development Application has been received by Wollondilly Shire Council to use the following land:

Lots 170, 171 & 172 DP 10669 & Lot 198 DP 1110105

11-25 River Road, Tahmoor

Demolition of Buildings & Twenty One (21) Lot Subdivision For the purposes of:

in Two (2) Stages and a second second

Rein Warry & Co Applicant:

Wollondilly Shire Council Consent Authority

The Development Application is a Nominated Integrated Development under Clause 5(1)(b) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the NSW Office of Water under the nvironmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 in respect of a licence under Section 89 of the Water Management Act, 2000.

The application and plans relating to the proposal may be inspected at Council's Offices, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton, between 8.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday (public holidays excepted) for thirty one (31) days commencing 19 January 2011.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application. Written submissions received may become a public document. Submissions will be received until 4pm on 21 February 2011. Please quote Council's file number 10.2010.937.1 on any submission. Enquiries may be directed to Daniel Lukic, Development Assessment Planner on 4677 8257 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

(Under S147 of the EP& A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on Council's website at http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/files/21608/File/DisclosureofPol titicalDonations.pdf

Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is required to release written comments or submissions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on us to place submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to the proposed development.

Wollondilly Shire Council PO Box 21, Picton NSIV 257 ph 63 4577 1100 web www.well-millynsw.gov.au

'rural living

## Good to be Australian

With the summer holidays winding up for many people and youngsters - it's back to school for a many students this week, but before that - Australia Day is the final event in this busy month of gatherings to relax and celebrate the good things about this country. But, it always turns out to the hottest day.

day without too much stress. The theme of this year's event is all about being Australian - it's hard not to mention the floods in Queensland and the their best side; they roll up their sleeves, donate generously and exhibit their humanity. It's these qualities that make Australians stand-out. situation developing in Victoria. In times of adversity Australians show With temperatures expected to hit the high 30s, it's going to be sizzling - so keep the water flowing and put on the sunscreen and try to enjoy the

young people - it goes against what the majority of people are trying to achieve. Australia is made up of many nations that call this land home -and getting together celebrating in a responsible way and remembering we are the lucky country which loves sport, the beach, the uncompromising land-With news in recent days that police will have a strong presence in the Cronulla area this Australia Day - amid concerns of tensions arising among at the end of the day everyone is an Australian. The day should be about scape and the many freedoms. Have a good day on Wednesday, stay cool and slap on the sunscreen and try and get to one of the many Australia Day celebrations around the region or in Sydney.

**Council's rate rise** Wollondilly residents are being asked to have their say about a special rates variation that will see rates increase by eight per cent in the next seven years. While people are always being asked to pay more for many services ranging from electricity to insurance premiums, there's a hope that their money is being well spent.

In regard to the council rates, Wollondilly is now in a dilemma - without the rise, services and facilities will have to be cut or closed. A series of community meetings are being held and the council is urging residents to have their say. This a good opportunity for people to air their concerns and ask questions - when does any company, state or federal



Lee Abrahams, Editor

### WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL INTEGRATED PLANNING AND DRAFT DOCUMENTS) REPORTING

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your comments: Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan) Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

pa for seven years to address a growing shortfall in funding the maintenance of a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising risks to the These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation of 8% community.

These draft documents are on Public Exhibition from Monday 10 January

Copies of the documents are also available for viewing at the following 2011 and submissions are invited up to 21 February 2011.

Council's Administration Building, 62-64 Menangle Street,

locations:

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  - The Wollondilly Mobile Library, and
- On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a PowerPoint Presentation have also been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate 7 February 2011, Appin - 9 February 2011 and Picton - 14 February 2011 Several Community Workshops are also proposed for Warragamba Variation proposal, and are available on the Council website.

Further details will be advertised in the local papers and

via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Please quote Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3. on Council's website.





macarthur Chroniele

Meteorology informed us that the only year in which the drought concerned them for this area was 1982/83. This government is beneath contempt.

Ken Hall Macarthur Bushwalkers president Bradbury

### Councils should amalgamate

IS there a more convincing case for Wollondilly Council to be amalgamated with adjoining councils than this pathetic attempt to hijack rates (Rates Vote, Macarthur Chronicle, Wollondilly edition, December

14)? We've been here before.
A number of years back, we were surveyed about our views regarding increasing rates to pay for greater road funding. The survey commissioned by the council overwhelmingly rejected this rate rise. Undeterred, the council dismissed the findings claiming the results had been distorted by lobbying.

The council then proceeded to do a phone poll of 70 'tresidents' to support their view. Will those 70 "residents" stand up and be accountable to the community at large? Enough is enough! Bring on the vote for amalgamation!

Leigh Thomson Douglas Park



Howzat: Mayor Michael Banasik (left) with junior cricketer Sam Chapman and deputy mayor Robert Khan, promoting what they hope will be a big charity day for the flood victims.

## money for flood victims Cricket match will raise

Banasik will host a 20/20 cricket match to raise money for the Queensland flood victims.

charity challenge and support your You are invited to Hume Oval this Sunday, January 30, to watch the

mayor's team and deputy mayor Ro-The challenge will be between the bert Khan's team.

Banasik, Cr Simon Landow, council's general manager Les McMahon, Wol ondilly MP Phil Costa, Liberal can-Macarthur MP Russell Matheson, didate for Wollondilly Jai Rowell, Players will include Cr Benn

The cost will be \$5 for lunch with all Cr Khan will donate meat and barbecue supplies and the Tahmoor Lions Club will cook lunch.

proceeds going to the Mayoral Relief

Fund for the flood victims.

to have a bit of community fun and to "I thought this would be a great way Cr Michael Banasik said he wanted affected by flooding in Queensland. "It should be a good competition to do something to help those get people involved," he said.

with some friendly rivalry.

flood victims in Queensland. Mrs Derks, who owns the Picton store, has been inund-■ DONATIONS are still being collected for the Derks Pet Store charity drive for the ated with items from all over Wollondilly and Macarthur.

need anymore second-hand clothes. "They need long life milk, tin food mops, brooms, lent," she said. "I just want to thank everyone who has donated items and helped out." pillows, blankets, disinfectant, cleaning products, kettles, toasters and insect repel-She said she has been in touch with her contacts in Queensland and they don't

# Let the mayor know what you think on rates rise

What do you think of Wollondilly Council's plan to up the ates? Your opinions are being sought, says the mayor.

comment on a proposed rate increase of 8 per cent a year for LOCALS have been encouraged to

That's an average weekly increase of \$1.52 per household.

proposed by the council to help The special rate increase has been meet its maintenance needs.

assets in a safe and satisfactory conlion a year for the next 10 years is required to maintain the shire's The council says an extra \$6 mil-

> Ratepayers have until February 21 The bulk will be spent on roads

to have their say.

would have to be a reduction in asset maintenanace and services if the rate increase were not approved. Mayor Michael Banasik said there

munity feedback about our pro-"We are very interested in com-

includes the 2.8 per cent rate peg-ging increase set by the Independ-

paths, bridge maintenance and essential works on buildings. The proposed rate increase

with the balance allocated to foot-

we will be opening as many avenues as possible for residents to provide that feedback to us," he said.

including a mail-out and community workshops for people to "We will also be undertaking other forms of community engagement, have their say."

An online forum was launched last week on the council's website.

The anonymous and monitored online forum enables the com-

ent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal posal for a special rate variation and munity to view and consider four rate options and provide the council with their views by providing comments and taking part in a rates sur-

tion have also been developed to tions and a powerpoint presentaprovide additional information on A series of frequently-asked ques-

Details: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or



### WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING (DRAFT DOCUMENTS) Special Rate Variation Proposal

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your comments: Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan), Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation of 8% pa for seven years to address a growing shortfall in funding the maintenance of a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising risks to the community.

These draft documents are on Public Exhibition from Monday 10 January 2011 and submissions are invited up to 21 February 2011.

Copies of the documents are also available for viewing at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton
- Wollondilly Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton
- · The Wollondilly Mobile Library, and
- On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a PowerPoint Presentation have also been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation proposal, and are available on the Council website.

Several Community Workshops are also proposed for Warragamba - 7 February 2011, Appin - 9 February 2011 and Picton -14 February 2011. Further details will be advertised in the local papers and on Council's website.

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au. Please guote Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3.

### DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

A Development Application has been received by Wollondilly Shire Council for development of the following land: Lot 1 DP 608195. Lots 1 & 3 DP 748675, Lots 1 & 2 DP 231892

& Lot 2 DP 216580 (40 Maldon Bridge Road, Maldon) Aggregate Rail Terminal Facility & Road Works

For the purposes of: Applicant: Boral Resources (NSW) Pty Ltd

**Consent Authority:** Sydney West Joint Regional Planning Panel

The Development Application is a Designated Nominated Integrated Development under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the Mine Subsidence Board under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 for a licence under Section 15 of the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act, 1961.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the Department of Environment Climate Change & Water under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 for a licence under Section 43 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 for a licence under Section 138 of the

The application, plans relating to the proposal and the Environmental Impact Statement may be inspected at the following locations during business hours for thirty-three (33) days commencing 26 January 2011:

- Wollondilly Shire Council's Administration Centre, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton; and
- NSW Department of Planning Offices, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application. If a submission is made by way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission. Written submissions received may become a public document.

Unless the proposed development is development about which the Planning Assessment Commission has conducted a review, any person who makes a submission by way of objection and is dissatisfied with a determination of the consent authority to grant development consent, may appeal to the Land and Environment Court. If the Planning Assessment Commission conducts a review and the Minister for Planning determines the application that determination is final and not subject to appeal.

Submissions will be received until 4 pm on 28 February 2011. Please quote Council's file number 10.2010.921.1 on any submission. Enquiries may be directed to Grant Rokobauer on phone 4677 1172 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

(Under S147 of the EP& A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on Council's website at http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/files/21608/Pile/DisclosureofPoliticalDonations.pdf

Privacy.

Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is equired to release written comments or submissions under the Government information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on us to place submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to the proposed development.

rural living

26/01/11



### **WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL**

### Integrated Planning and Reporting (draft documents) Special Rate Variation Proposal

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your comments:

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan), Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

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### Community Forum And Ordinary Meeting Of Council Dates

Community Forums will be held in the Council Foyer 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton on the following dates and times:

- Monday 14 February 2011 6.30pm
- Monday 14 March 2011 6.30pm
- Monday 11 April 2011 6.30pm
- Monday 9 May 2011 6.30pm

The Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton on the following dates and times:

- Monday 21 February 2011 6.30pm
- Monday 21 March 2011 6.30pm
- Monday 18 April 2011 6.30pm
- Monday 16 May 2011 6.30pm

Business papers for the Community Forum and the Ordinary Meeting are available from the Customer Service counter from 8am on the Friday 10 days prior to the Community Forum.

The Record of Proceedings and Minutes documents are also available from the Customer Service counter from 8am on the Friday following the Community Forum or Ordinary Meeting and on Council's website at www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

(Under S147 of the EP& A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on Council's website at http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/files/21608/File/DisclosureofPoliticalDonations.pdf

Les McMahon Wolfondilly Shire Council PD Box 21. Picton NSW 2571, ah 02 4577 1100 web wax 2008 ond y new storau 'rural living'

Monday Jan 2/ 20

### Released 1 February 2011

### **Proposed Special Rate Variation - Community Forums**

All residents are invited to attend community forums about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Wollondilly Shire Council is seeking community feedback and this is a good opportunity for interested residents to have a say in our future direction.

We will be holding three community forums at different locations in the Shire, so that community members don't have to travel too far to attend. They will be held at:

Warragamba Town Hall on Monday 7 February at 6.30pm;

 Appin Community Hall, Sportsground Parade, Appin on Wednesday 9 February at 6.30pm and:

 Wollondilly Shire Council Foyer, Picton on Monday 14 February at 7.30pm, after the usual monthly Community Forum.

We also have an online forum to allow residents to put forward their views in their own time. This can be found at <a href="https://www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture">www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture</a>.

We also have a series of frequently asked questions and a powerpoint presentation that have been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation Proposal. These documents can be viewed on the websites provided.

For further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation go to www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture; or www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or call Council on 02 4677 1100.

### Media Analysis for this Media Release

It was picked up in 6 articles, two for Wollondilly Advertiser, three for Wollondilly Chronicle and one for District Reporter. It also appeared in our Bush Telegraph (community newsletter) that appears in the Wollondilly Advertiser and the District Reporter.

### How do you rate proposed hikes?

WOLLONDILLY Council will hold three community forums to discuss the proposed rates increase and is urging residents to attend and give their feedback.

Four options are being considered, with the council favouring an 8 per cent increase each year for the next seven years.

The council says the increase will provide sufficient revenue to maintain service levels and also fund identified repairs to assets such as roads, sporting fields and community facilities.

An 8 per cent increase on the minimum rate, which is paid by 40 per cent of all ratepayers, would mean an average increase each year of \$79.

The forums will be held at Warragamba Town Hall at 6.30pm on Monday, at Appin Community Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday, February 9, and in the foyer of the council building in Menangle St. Picton, at 6.30pm on Monday, February 14. Details: 4677 1100 or visit wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au

The minister added that he wanted "to facilitate the urgent resolution of this matter".

The move by Mr Kelly's department means Wollondilly Council would not make the final decision potentially sidelining community concerns about compromising Menangle's rural heritage. There has been no date set for the panel meeting.

The development would bring an estimated 4000 jobs in to the area with a business park featuring light to general industrial use land.

Cr Banasik said the council would fight the plans "tooth and nail."

y has bowed to "The council does not want a stor the Joint Port Botany in Wollondilly," he Panel to be the said "Menangle is our only heris authority for tage protected town in the osal".

tion Group member Kate Terry said there was no supporting infrastructure for the development. She said the group wanted to

preserve the historic town's rural pedigree for future generations.
"We believe this area has a vital role in agriculture, environment, education, tourism and recreation," Ms Terry said.

Developer Ernest Dupere said yesterday the proposal he submitted to the State Government was the same as what was rejected by the council. "In Wollondilly there's is a growing gap between available jobs and the population." he said.

"Wollondilly needs to provide more employment because, out of any shire in the state, it has one of the highest numbers of people who travel out of the area for work."

a lack of supporting infrastructure

## BACK ON THE MAP

SECOND THE LIGHT

■ WHAT: Planning Minister Tony Kelly has told Wollondilly Council the government-controlled Joint Regional Planning Panel will decide on a 240ha business park development at Moreton Park Rd in Menancile

■ ANGER: Wollondilly Council and the Menangle Action Group will continue to oppose the development ■ POSITIVES: The development

would create 4000 jobs in the shire.

More than 70 per cent of residents work outside the shire.

■ NEGATIVES: Heritage listed Menangle could lose its rural character. There are concerns about

### **BEN PIKE**

WOLLONDILLY Mayor Michael Banasik has joined the Menangle Action Group in condemning the State Government's move to review plans for a 240ha industrial park in Menangle.

Wollondilly Council rejected the proposal in Moreton Park Rd last August.

It cited a lack of both traffic management and State Government information on future plans for the surrounding area when rejecting the plans.

But in a letter received by the vocuncil on Thursday, Planning radinister Tony Kelly has bowed to developer demands for the Joint Regional Planning Panel to be the surelevant planning authority for this planning proposal".

### Macarthur Chronicle



Business

⊕ Type

SPORT

Elections Emergency Services Environment Finance

PROPERTY

LOCAL INFO

COMPETITIONS

PHOTOS

BLOGS

CIASSIFIEDS

LIFESTYLE

Government Local News Health People

0

A A

Real Estate Transport & Traffic

- NEWS

In

60 Q

TODAY'S WEATHER

Current temp:

the afternoon, then patchy rain late this evening...

Cloudy. Patchy rain in the early afternoon, clearing during

28.5°C

1910

### 10 reasons why Wollondilly Council wants to put up rates

Recommend I Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

> Tweet

SHARE

Printer Friendly

Text size

y more photos

s . m. 7 de, forecast



PHOTO GALLERIES

Dave Warner gives special cricket clinic for Camden players

Dave Warner with Camden player Isaac'White at a special cricket clining.... more



### Womens Twenty20 Cricket

Sydney Warrier's Cricket Association Twenty20 competition at Raby Oval... more



COMPETITIONS

y more competitions



Movie giveaway: Rango

DESPITE being a pet chameleon who lives in a glass bowl. Rango (voiced by Johnny Depp) has long... more



You could win a dirt bike thanks to "Rango"

We have one major prize and 20 prize packs to giveaway... more



RECOMMENDATIONS

Andre Rieu is back - Competitions Macarthur Chronicle Wollondilly Edition 1.661 people shared this.



Dave Warner gives special cricket clinic 13 people shared this.



3 people shared this.



UPDATE: Bum-pinching allegations from candidates forum attract world headlines

6 people shared this.



Dog memorial at Tahmoor needs more funding

5 people shared this.

Facebook social diugh



1. We are required to maintain numerous assets but there is not enough money

Council has undertaken a substantial review of the assets it is responsible for, with a particular focus on roads. major community buildings, playgrounds and sports fields risk management, as well recognising the need for enhanced bushfire management resources. In summary, the review has found a substantial ongoing shortfall in the funding required to maintain its assets to a satisfactory condition.

2. Councils have had their income limited by rate pegging for 30 years

Council's in NSW have been exposed to over 30 years of

rate pegging, which has continued to reduce the funds available for asset maintenance, despite occasional increases through some special rate variations. This has been confirmed as an ongoing issue across NSW and Australia, with the overall asset backlog standing at more than \$6 billion dollars. Many councils are now seeking (or have already been approved) Special Rate Variations for asset repairs, including Camden (7.1% for 3 years), Queanbeyan (8.63% for 4 years), Ballina (6.2% for 5 years), Tweed (7.5% for 7 years), and Waverly (11.9% for 7 years).

3. Without the Special Rate Variation, we will have to reduce services

The Rate Capping amount announced for 2011/12 is 2.8%. This will generate additional rate revenue of \$511,000 for Wollondilly Council, when our costs will actually increase by \$853,000. The shortfall in funding reduces funds available for existing services and asset maintenance.

4. We need to repair roads so that they are safe to drive on

The overall condition of the road pavement network is 7.2 (measured out of 10, with 10 being in new condition), which compares to an average condition of 7.8 for many local government areas. With the currently available funds, the condition of the road network will get worse every year, with consequent rougher surfaces, higher vehicle operating costs for residents, and increased risk of crashes. The estimated annual shortfall in funding is over S3m, which includes funding for Burragorang Road and Barkers Lodge Road which have been "declassified", and are no longer maintained by the Roads and Traffic Authority.

5. We have identified more bridges and major culverts that need fixing

Council has undertaken a substantial review of its other road assets, such as footpaths, bridges, signs and linemarking, guardrail and fencing, and other road structures. This has identified a substantial increase in the total number of assets to be maintained, such as a further 28 bridges and major culverts. The ongoing average annual shortfall in funding is over \$500,000, with bridges alone having an identified immediate backlog of works of \$620,000.

6. There is an expectation that community buildings are maintained and made available for community use Many buildings require substantial repairs, including the replacement of the roof structures at Antill Park (\$200,000), Shire Hall roof replacement (\$75,000), floor replacements at Bargo Community Hall (\$48,000), together with numerous ongoing maintenance issues, totalling some \$1.9m in value. This is just for the main 46 buildings, with further costs yet to be confirmed for the other 121 buildings that Council manages.

7. The community expects to be able to use safe play equipment in playgrounds

There are 11 playgrounds that require immediate rehabilitation due to unsafe / aged equipment, lack of soft fall, or equipment that no longer has parts available for them, at a cost of \$238,000. Further ongoing funding is also required to manage the remaining playgrounds in a safe condition. Council has already begun removal of the most unsafe equipment to prevent injuries to children.

8. Our sporting community wants to be able to safely use sportsgrounds after dusk

There are a number of sportsgrounds that do not have lighting that meets the Australian Standards, or there is none at all, which creates unsafe training conditions for residents. The estimated cost for these works is \$650,000.

9. We need to ensure that we manage bushfire risks

As hotter summers and changes in rainfall patterns continue to occur, there is an increased risk from bushfires. Combined with guidelines coming out of the Victorian Bushfire Review, it is considered prudent to allocate additional resources to manage bushfire mitigation activities on Council's properties and reserves. Relatively minor funds of \$75,000 are proposed to provide additional resources to reduce bushfire risks.

10. We want to ensure that future generations have access to: a safe and reliable road network; appropriate and well maintained community and recreation facilities; and a sustainable Council, without leaving behind an unfunded asset debt and deteriorating facilities

If the additional funds are not achieved through the SRV, then Council will need to cut services and/or close facilities to reduce the asset funding gap. This is already commencing with a staff replacement freeze in place, the removal of unsafe playgrounds, and the closure of facilities such as Cawdor tennis courts. Further reductions in services to the community will need to be considered, along with the closure of underutilised and/or high maintenance facilities such as Oakdale Tennis Courts, Thirlmere Community Hall, Mt Hunter Community Hall, Bargo Community Hall, Picton School of Arts, Antill Park Golf Course Main Building, Warragamba Sports Ground Amenities, Oakdale Community Hall External Amenities, and Emmett Park Amenities. Further deterioration of all assets would still be expected to occur.

CAREER ONE CARSGUIDE

SUBURB:

STATE:

Please Select

PRICE RANGE:

Min Wax W

PROPERTY:

All property types

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LOCAL LINKS

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### COMMENTS

DISPLAYING (1) COMMENTS

john marshall

Posted on 8 Feb 11 at 07:05pm IN 2005 A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION WAS PUT IN PLACE TO UPGRADE SOME OF THE LOCAL RDS (THAT IS NOT 30 YRS AGO) SINCE 05 WEROMBI, S/DALE/REMBERANCE DRV HAVE DETERIATED 10 FOLD, NOT A LOAN THE WASTE OF MONEY WITH BAND AID MEASURES (WHITE ELEPHANT TRUCK) AND RESPRAYING SHOVES /CORUGATIONS ETC. IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME FOR COUNCIL TO LOOK FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT FROM THE TOP DOWN.

### Ade by Google

Asset & Facility Software
Award winning Coordinax Software Asset, Facilities & Property
Minglint

www.coordimax.com/

NSW. Greens.org. su

New South Wales Greens

Yote 1: NSW State Election 28/03 Real Change For a Change

ADD YOUR COMMENT

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mail address:	Tarring and the second		
Postcode:			
Comment: - max 1200 haracters)		001	
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### Macarthur Chronicle

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Kaitlyn and Chelsea, are opposed to the proposed rates increase because of the

macarthurchronicle.com.au

PHONE (02) 4620 1500

80c incl. GST

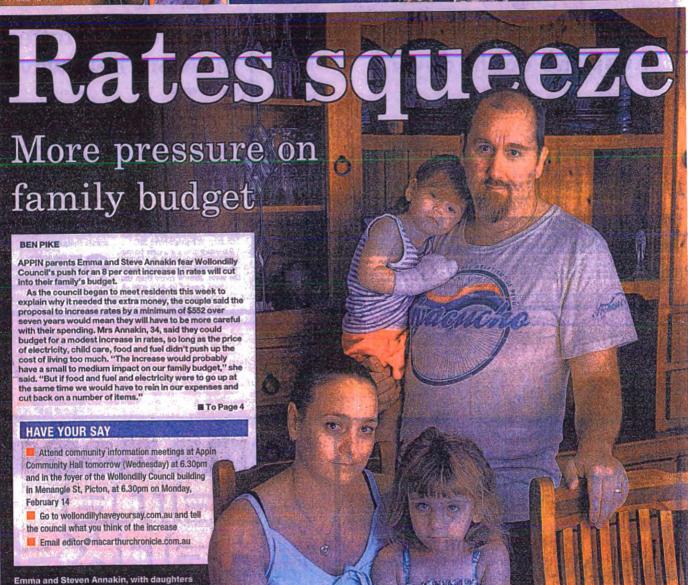
Laughter and tears
KINDY KIDS'
FIRST STEPS
TO SCHOOL



WE SALUTE OUR LEADERS OF TOMORROW







Macainthur Chronele

8th Feb 2011 (ues

### IF RATES GO UP...

Proposed 8% SRV (Special Rate Variation) increase (includes an assumed 3% per year CPI)         Rate amount in properties         Rate amount in properties         Rate amount in properties         Percentage of total properties         Year 2 (year 3 (year 4 (year 5 (year 7 (year 5 (year 5 (year 5 (year 7 (year 5 (year 5 (year 5 (year 5 (year 5 (year 7 (year 5 (year	Percentage of total properties 40%
1310 8% \$1.296 \$1.400 \$1.512 \$1.633 \$1.763 \$1.904 \$2.057	1,310 8%

## IF RATES STAY THE SAME

Total percer increase over	7 Years at 3% per yea	23%	23%	23%
Total	payments over 7 years	\$176	\$227	\$273
rear	Year 7	\$949	\$1,227	\$1,473
f 3% per )	Year 6	\$921	\$1,192	\$1,430
increase o	Year 5	\$894	\$1,157	\$1,388
after CPI	Year 4	\$868	\$1,123	\$1,348
Rate amount in each year after CPI increase of 3% per year	Year 3	\$843	\$1,091	\$1,309
	Year 2	\$818	\$1,059	\$1,271
Rate	Year 1	\$795	\$1,028	\$1,234
	Percentage of total properties	40%	21%	8%
ıcrease	No. properties	6,426	3,295	1,310
Assumed 3% CPI increase	Rate amount in 2010/11	\$773	\$1,000	\$1,200
	Band	Minimum Rate	\$773 to \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$1.200

7. The community expects to be able unsafe/aged equipment, lack of soft immediate rehabilitation due to fall, or equipment that no longer to use safe play equipment in playgrounds. There are 11 playgrounds that require

are a number of sportsgrounds that 8. Our sporting community wants sportsgrounds after dusk. There to be able to safely use

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achieved through the rate variation then the council will need to cut services and/or close facilities. the additional funds are not



**DECIDE FOR YOURSELF:** Read the council's responses in more detail at macarthurchronicle.com.au

## Ouncil





Council to give its top 10 reasons why a rates

increase is needed. Here is the council's

response.

The Macarthur Chronicle asked Wollondilly

Wollondilly Council needs \$200,000 to replace the roof structures at Antill Park Golf Club (left) and play equipment at locations including Appin AIS Sportsground.

## Rates new burden to struggling families

From Page 1

ters to raise. Mrs Annakin added that if there was an increase in rates she would like to see im-provements to Appin's roads and The married couple both commute to the city for work, have a mortgage to pay and two daugh-CBD parking.

replaced. "Apart from our own backyards where are the kids supposed to play? It is the case of having to drive either back into Campbelltown or head to Wollongong for a decent children's park," Mrs Annakin said. She also expressed her disappointment that play equipment at the Appin AIS Sportsground was going to be removed and not

RATES PROPOSALS

rates variation will provide additional funds to address the condition of these roads over time,"

> Scenario one: Rates increases at the pegging limit of 2.8 per cent. Scenario two: 6 per cent

increase a year for seven years. increase a year for seven years Scenario three 8 per cent

ncrease a year for seven years. Scenario four 10 per cent (council pushing for this).

increase in rates would bring a lot of improvements to Appin and the "Many of the roads in Appin are A council spokeswoman said the wider Wollondilly community.

in poor condition, and the special

"The rates variation funds improvements to three playgrounds at Appin – Appin Sportsground, Appin Park and at William Woods Reserve. It is also providing funds to improve the sportsfield lighting at Appin Park, Further funds are also proposed for maintenance of the various changerooms and "Council has very limited funds for roads maintenance, with most of the available funds being used Details: 4677 1100 or visit kiosks at the local sportsgrounds. on major connecting roads. wollondilly.nsw.gov.au she said.

substantial increase in the total Average annual shortfall: over bridges and major culverts. A review has identified a maintained by the RTA. number of assets to be \$500,000. exposed to more than % years of rate pegging, which has continued

limited by rate pegging for 30 years. Councils in NSW have been

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to maintain council assets.

has found a substantial ongoing shortfall in the funding required

numerous assets but there is not enough money. An asset review

1. We are required to maintain

3. Without the special rate variation ervices. announced for 2011-12 is 2.8 per occasional increases through asset maintenance, despite some special rate variat we will have to reduce s The rate capping amou

numerous ongoing maintenance Community Hall (\$48,000), and issues. Cost: \$1.9 million. cent. This will generate additional pavement network is 72 (10 is new rate revenue of \$511,000 when our 4. We need to repair roads so that condition), which commares with estimated annual shortfall in funding is more than \$3 million, funding is more than \$\* millic which includes funding for Burragorang Rd and Barkers costs will actually increase by they are safe to drive on. The overall condition of the road an average condition of 853,000

and major culverts that need fixing. 5. We have identified more bridges maintained, such as a further 28 "declassified" and are no longer

roof replacement (\$75,000), floor community use. Many buildings (\$200,000), Shire Hall (pictured) including replacing the roof require substantial repairs, structures at Antill Park replacements at Bargo community buildings are maintained 6. There is an expectation available for and made

Tues gh Tues 74

### Rates news was a nasty shock

Macarthur Chronicle, January 18 WE were totally shocked by the (regarding the proposed rates Wollondilly Council in the advertisement placed by increase)

were also quite distressed by the added burden this will place on their already stretched income. Many residents I spoke with

council is proposing and be able to respond and attend any upcoming Could you please do an in-depth find it is true, please run it on the story on this proposal and, if you front page, so all residents of the area will learn about what the meetings?

\$1000 one can easily see just how quick and how high one's rates are Mick and Chris Jupe Assuming a yearly rate notice of going to be in eight years' time.

This week's Macarthur Chronicle Thirlmere this week's community meetings. planned rates increase ahead of comprehensive coverage of the Read them on the Wollondilly Wollondilly edition features section of macarthur chronicle.com.au

### Rates hike simply irresponsible

Don't you council people know

that if you raise the threshold of rates, the annual rates increases plane? Exorbitant rates rises for

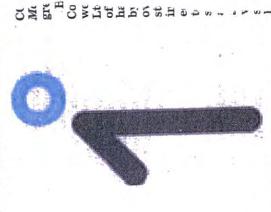
thereafter are also on a higher

annual rates increase of 8 per cent per annum? Or even 10 per cent? Stupid. Totally irresponsible! A GREEDY council wants an

what, so councils can waste more

money?

## Well done for



ij

■ This week's One Degree feature is on Page 35.

(Planned rates rise may force

unnecessary level of spending is inflationary

Learn moderation. Spend only what you have at normal and reasonable levels of income.

generally - including workers of

council level instead? People on

Why don't you cut costs at resident exodus, Macarthur

Chronicle, January 11).

fixed incomes, and employees

the council – are lucky if they get increase in salaries and wages.

a 2 per cent or 3 per cent annual

infrastructure at safe levels of course, but don't try to have the money before you start spending it. Maintain everything today.

above the normal level of increase This high-handed and

Tues 8th Feb

Macarthur

Wait for the time when you have

Wait, and improve things when you get the money.

**Gerald Griffin** 

## Developments on residents' agenda

A GROUP of angry Bargo residents met at Bargo Sports Club last night to talk about three major developments proposed for the area.

ments proposed for the area.

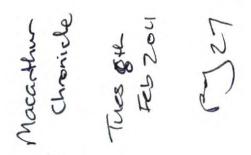
Community members came together to discuss a possible Telstra tower at Tahmoor Lions Reserve (near Radnor Rd) and the proposed construction of a 2289sq m IGA supermarket on the corner of Noongah-St and Remembrance Drive.

There is also discontent over a development application for a waste transfer station on Government Rd, Bargo.

The applicant is seeking approval for the erection and operation of a waste transfer station and ancillary uses including a depot and workshop facility.

Bargo Action Group spokesman Russell Findlay added the proposed 8 per cent rate increase by Wollondilly Council was also on the agenda.

Maeanthar Chrowiele Tues 8th Feb 206



### WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING (DRAFT DOCUMENTS)

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your comments:

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan), Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation of 8% pa for seven years to address a growing shortfall in funding the maintenance of a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising risks to the community.

These draft documents are on Public Exhibition from Monday 10 January 2011 and submissions are invited up to 21 February 2011.

Copies of the documents are also available for viewing at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton
- Wollondilly Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton
- The Wollondilly Mobile Library, and
- On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a PowerPoint Presentation have also been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation proposal, and are available on the Council website.

Several Community Workshops are also proposed for Warragamba - 7 February 2011, Appin - 9 February 2011 and Picton - 14 February 2011. Further details will be advertised in the local papers and on Council's website.

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or via email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Please quote Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3.

WOLLONDILLY

wolloadi

# Rate-rise bid angers residen

By Kerrie Armstrong

WOLLONDILLY residents have reacted strongly to a council request for an annual 8 per cent Wollondilly Shire Council asked rate rise per year for seven years.

Assistant general manager Luke Johnson previously said without the rate rise services would have an acceptable level.

rise, which they said is essential

Many readers who contacted the website: "We cannot afford a the Advertiser felt the council had done little with the money it received from the last rate rise in

One reader, Jacqui Clark, wrote:

the next seven years! What the heck are they doing with the gust at the Wollondilly Shire Council's decision to increase the "I cannot express enough my disrates by 8 per cent per year for money we've already given them? Nothing!" residents for submissions on the for maintaining existing assets to

streets of Silverdale swept on this Helen agreed, commenting on

day? Couldn't it have been done the day before or the day after?" The council is continuing to accept submissions on the rate rise until February 21, at which rate rise. Please tell the Liberal mayor we will struggle if they do this." However, Lisa Osborn said she

rise in Warragamba on Monday night and will hold one in Appin Wollondilly Council held a community forum on the rate point the community's response tonight and one in Picton next Monday, February 14. will be evaluated. "I was woken up on Australia Day at 7.10am by the streetsweeping truck," she said. "My ing this employee public-holiday rates - usually double time! Did was not opposed to a rate rise if concern with this is: are we pay-

the money was spent wisely.

Details: wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

we so desperately need the

Menangle Ray Smith.

lacqui Clark,

Nothing!!!

## Rezone land decision

estate plan back on radar" (Wollondilly In response to the article "Industrial Advertiser, February 2).

last year not to rezone land in Moreton Park Road for industrial development and wrote to nearby residents inviting Wollondilly Shire Council decided them to make submissions.

development such as the creation of up to apply to the Planning Minister under I wrote to the council outlining some structure such as the F5 and Menangle opment that the proponents were likely the part 3A amendment to the environcouncil did not proceed with the develmental planning and assessment act, to 4000 jobs, and the existing infrastation, and I also stated that if the potential benefits of the proposed which they have done.

tain complete control over it. It's about I totally concur with Wollondilly MP minister. The council should have proceeded with the development to mainproponents were likely to apply to the Mayor Michael Banasik now states time some of our councillors stopped aged development within the shire to that he is just horrified by the move, but he and his council knew that the playing politics and actively encourprovide employment for the young.

that brings jobs to our region has to be Phil Costa when he said that anything

a good thing.

Wo Hondilly Advertises

## The amusing council

enclosed survey regarding a small rise in day before or day after? Wollondilly Coun received my rates notice in the mail on rates from Wollondilly Council. I do not next morning, which was Australia Day, streets of Silverdale desperately swept on dispute the need for a rise as long as the money is spent wisely. What did amuse by the street sweeping truck. Are we pay ing this employee public holiday rates? me was that I was woken at 7.10am the this day? Couldn't it have been done the Usually double time? Did we need the fuesday and read with interest the cil, you continue to amuse me.

Lisa Osborn, Silverdale

### Rate rise anger

ncrease the rates by 8 per cent per year for cannot express enough my disgust at the Does the council act on complaints? No. Wollondilly Shire Council's decision to What the heck are they doing with the Does the council repair the roads? No. money we have already given them? Do we have outdated signs? Yes. Do we have public transport? No. I asked myself these questions: Does the council care? NO! Do we have sewerage? No Do we have a school? No. Do we have graffiti? Yes. Do we all have kerb and Do we have a pool? No. the next seven years! guttering? No.

Maconther Chroniele Tues 15th Feb 2011

### **BEN PIKE**

WOLLONDILLY shire residents have expressed their anger online at the proposed 8 per cent rates increase by Wollondilly Council, with most people failing to turn up at community information even-

The meeting at Appin on Wednesday last week managed 6-10 people, while the council said only about 25 people showed up to the Warragamba/Silverdale meeting February 7.

The Picton meeting held last night was expected to have more participants.

The council is considering four rates options but favours an 8 per cent increase a year for the next seven years.

It declined to pass on the details of residents who attended the Appin meeting, but comments on

your hands out of my pockets. If

my roof starts to leak and let in

water I have to fix it from the

clear message last week: "Keep

'Ifonly' sent the council a very

### HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT RATES

**Jacarthur Chronic** 

■ WHAT: Wollondilly Council is asking for the community's views on a proposed special rates variation. People can post on the forum anonymously

Rates squeeze

■ HOW: Visit the website wollondillyhaveyoursay. com.au/fundingyourfuture, or it dan be accessed via the council's main web page wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

finite funds I have," they said.

the Wollondilly Have Your Say

website were overwhelmingly

against the rates rise.

"I can't just go to my boss and say 'my roof needs fixing, give me an extra 8 per cent in my pay on top of inflation'. I'm not going to borrow the money so I then have to make do by cutting back on my other expenses. I expect the coun-

cil to do the same (and) make do with the funds available."

The council is still compiling responses from its 700-person survey, with the results due to come before the March 21 council meeting. If it is approved by councillors, the special rate variation will go to the Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal for a decision on June 10.

Asked to comment on the community response so far, Wollondilly Council assistant general manager Luke Johnson said he did not want to pre-empt the March 21 penort

March 21 report.

"The community meetings went well but we would have liked more people to come along," he said.

"If we are unable to get the rates rise we will have to cut back on a number of things."

■ Opinion: Page 34

## lerging councils the only way to relieve pressure on ratepayers

angered residents. Council's planned rates increase has Wollondilly

option to them seems to be to hit that every time the council gets Wollondilly edition, February the poor old ratepayers in the IT never ceases to amaze me back pocket (Rates Squeeze, itself into trouble, the only Macarthur Chronicle,

that we are struggling ourselves It is like they live in their own to keep our heads above water? little world. Don't they realise They talk about keeping up

Now if they stopped spending resident of The Oaks - some 30 infrastructure. As a long-term so much money in the Picton services we seem to get is our area maybe they would save years or more - the only garbage picked up.

pieces of play equipment if they don't get the rate hike. What is Where is all the rates money saying they are removing five going? The council is now this, blackmail? more money.

I think it's about time council won't lose much. We don't get started to merge with other councils. We are ratepayers

Macarthur Chronicle



report on the plan the toll it will take Our front page to lift rates and on families.



Council's planned rates views about Wollondill increase at macarthur reaction and add your **ONLINE: Read the** chronicle.com.au

development in the shire, so as

local government areas into one This attitude cannot continue the roof. One option would be to otherwise rates will go through Camden, and Campbelltown Macarthur regional council. The savings to ratepayers' amalgamate Wollondilly, to share the rate burden. would be immense.

Macarthur Chronicle, February

seven years (Rates squeeze,

8). This an absolute disgrace

increase of 8 per cent a year for

Council is pushing for a rate APPARENTLY Wollondilly

Ray Smith Menangle

increases in electricity charges. Wollondilly local government

rates as well as massive

ourdened with rising mortgage

its impact on families will be enormous who are already

IN 2005 a special rate variation Silverdale and Remembrance was put in place to upgrade Since 2005 Werombi and certainly not 30 years ago. some of the local roads -

population is only a fraction of

those local government areas.

Its road network is immense This council has persisted

with an anti-development

Campbelltown, and Liverpool

than that of Camden,

councils combined. Yet its

area is huge. Its area is larger

management from the op down.
John Marshall Drive have deteriorated tenfold. It would be a good time for council to look for be

More action and less talk on lake

Thirlmere I am sick and tired of the politics over the loss of AS a long-time resident of water at Thirlmere Lakes.

MP Phillip Costa commissioned a government department to I understand that our local examine and report on the situation.

The report concluded that the loss at Thirlmere Lakes was du most likely cause for the water to the recent drought

(Macarthur Chronicle, Jan 11) University, Phillip Pells, has slammed the report as being "simplistic and incomplete" Now I see a geologist and former lecturer at Sydney

the lakes making some political protest. I am concerned about I also see in the same article responsibility to take action. standing in knee-deep mud at our Mayor Michael Banasik Thirlmere Lakes and I don't care if our Mayor stands in chest-deep mud-he has a He should immediately restoring the beauty of

convene a panel of appropriate nquiry and everyone should They should settle on the terms of reference for an then concentrate on implementing any recommendations. experts.

in establishing the expert panel Mr Phillip Pells could assist thereby being proactive and help fix the problem.

Problem-identifiers we have plenty - problem-solvers we have very few.

Wendy Lawton

macarthurchronicle com au

Cecil Walsh

much anyway.

attitude for years, they refuse to residents via new housing ively encourage new

Jollandilly Advertiser

Wed Feb 16th 2041

# Ratebayers ask tological question

General manager runs through the options WOLLONDILLY residents have demanded the council looks more

BY KERRIE ARMSTRONG

years, including the 2.8 per cent rate pegging level set by the independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. Helen Kuiper, of Thirdmere, said she The council has asked for an 8 per cent rate rise each year for seven at the special community forum for closely at savings that could be in Picton was packed with residents The foyer at the council chambers

made before a rate rise is imposed.

"Some assets need to be sold on and other assets could be leased," Mrs cost-saving measures the council had taken were internal. had not investigated selling some unused assets in order to raise

But council general manager Les McMahon said the sale of assets was

variation, I know which ones I will put to council to sell," Mr McMahon said. prepared to see a special rate "If the community say they are not something he had looked at closely.

was disappointed the majority of the

Many of these residents angrily

the rate rise on Monday night.

demanded to know why the council

much-needed funds.

"How many of you are prepared to see your assets go? I don't think many

Kuiper said. "Other councils have people will be prepared to sell that done similar things." Government cost-shifting meant drainage, kerb and guttering as well as additional funds for the Rural Fire council had to come up with extra McMahon

anderra resident Ray Law had the

last word, encompassing the feeling of many in the room.

"I'm not prepared to give up Bargo hall and Bargo skate ramp," Mr Law

price you put on the quality of the amenitities in your shire." it is fair? No. If we want something we have to pay for it. It depends what "Do I want a rate rise? No. Do I think said.



Service and the State Emergency

### It's up to us to pay

It's up to us to pay

ATTENDED Wollondilly Councils'
community forum in Warragamba on
February 7 to discuss the special rate
variation that is proposed.

Council is asking the community its
opinion on a rate increase of eight per
cent for the next seven years, as part
of its 10-year plan.

This apparently includes the standard 2.8 per cent that occurs every year,
making the actual increase 5.2 per
cent, or so we were informed.

Government regulations apply to the
wording.

This, in fact, would mean the average ratepayer would pay a yearly
increase of around \$80 for the seven
years of the SIKV.

That is \$20 a quarter if you pay your
rates in instalments.

The increase is cumulative and

The Wollondilly Advertiser welcomes readers' letters. We reserve the right to edit them for space, legal or clarity reasons. Letters may be republished on the internet or in other media and must contain a name, address, phone number and signature. Send to editor Jeff McGill, Unit 6, 72-80 Argyle Street, Picton NSW 2571 or wellondilly advertiser rom all wollondillyadvertiser.com.au.

would net council around \$50 million, which it needs to improve and keep Wollondilly's assets functioning at an appropriate level.

Several people asked why we—the community—should foot the bill again.

It was explained the funds would be solely used to maintain and/or bring back to a safe and acceptable standard many of council's (this community's) assets.

One person asked why this wasn't

sports grounds, swimming pools and even the odd golf club.

If we want decent roads and well-maintained facilities I guess it's upt to us to help pay for them.

All these things add to the value of our community and, in the long run, to the value of our assets.

There was a general consensus that an increase was needed, but how much was hard to fathom.

I was disappointed the community forum was allowed to be used as a political platform by Liberal candidate Jai Rowell, who is not a Wollondilly Shire resident or a ratepayer.

a ratepayer.
When will the "big fish" learn to stay in their own pond and leave the local games to non-political players?

Sandra Harlor, Warragamba

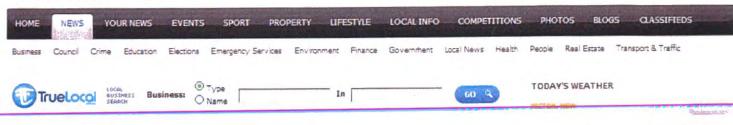


pplication No.	ddress	Lotal to	Section	DP		Form of Development  New Inground Fibregless Swimming Pool
18.2010.000000091.001	4 Pixon PD APPIN	7	4 174	255654	Abode Drafting Services Pty Ltd	Demoilson of Awning & Construct Gable & Flat
10,2010,00000620,001 1	-3 Church ST APPIN	10	3	.758022 -	'Mr S Webster	Awning
		PAREN	ALC: USA	567656	Ranbuild Southern Highlands	Shed with Awning
0.2010.00000883.001 5	OU ATITIE THE BATTOO	1		443467	Opal Building Services	New Awning on existing Timber Deck
10.2010.00000893.001 7		0	and a	28521	Mr C L Turner	Alterations and/or Additions to existing Dwelling as
10.2010.00000903.001 3	O Yellan ST BELIMBLA PARK	98		- Indian		New.Garage
	2 w automatic	7		1129837	Masterion Homes	New Septic Tank - Aerated Surface
10,2011,00000023,001 1	O CANADA LA CANADA DE LA CANADA DEL CANADA DE LA CANADA DEL CANADA DE LA CANADA DEL CANADA DEL CANADA DE LA CANADA DE LA CANADA DEL CANADA DE LA CANADA DEL CANADA D	-		1129837	Mr J P Favero & Mrs C K Favero	Modification to Consent - Dwelling (after position)
10.2010.00000700.002 2		589		707765	K G Nolan	Pergola
10.2010.00000013.001 4	Matthew BD BUXTON	WHAT THE	E S E TOWN	2444 .	WLS Home Improvements	New Awning
10.2010.000000879.001 , 2	3 Arden RD BUXTON	41		9015	Mr S S Doggett	Conversion to Septic Tank - Aerated Sub Surface
10.2010.000000078.001, 2	2 Bridgewater BVD CAMDEN PARK	413	25 m	1062133	Mr B J Watte	New Single Storey Dwelling
8 2011 00000004 001 5	5 Jackey DR CAMDEN PARK	723	·	1075905	Mrs A L Marcon & Mr L J Marcon	Patio:Awning New Dwalling
18 2011 000000007.001 4	Bridgewater BVD CAMDEN PARK	402	2 11	1062133	Mr D B Porter & Ms J M Mangan	Amended Private CDC Swimming Pool with Pergo
18,2009,000000060,002 1	8 Lamond COM CAMDEN PARK	246	1 P - 7	1049114	MrS E Nauta & Ms J A Rogers	Two (2) Storey Dwelling & Pool
18,2011,00000005,001	O Harris ST CAMDEN PARK	1112		1150160	Mr A Bates & Mrs A Bates Jayool Homes	Single Storey Dwelling
10,2010,000000886.001 4		1183		1150160	Metricon	Single Storey Dwelling
10.2010.00000853,001 1		1134	1 7	1150160	Eden Bras Holdings Pty Limited	Two (2) Storey Dwelling
10.2010.00000477.001 8		0.0	a displayed	1321	Mr R J Taylor	Modification to Consent - Dwelling Extensions
10.2005.00050039.003, 9		33	BACK P	1144392	Mr J C Schoffeld & Mrs S L Schoffeld	New Septic Tank - Aerated Sub Surface
10.2010.00000928.001 - 6		105	The Court of	1144392	Belle Abbey Homes	New Dwelling, New Shed (for use as temporary
10.2010.00000927.001 6	ID Burrells AD MENANGLE	100			195	residence) & Water Tank.
1		104	The Course	1144392	Dartanyon Pty Ltd	New Septic Tank - Aerated Surface
10.2010.00000904.001 5	O Burrells RD MENANGLE	5	1000	261211	Mr S C Zammit	Garage
10.2011.00000006.001 1	C. CARCALL	103	7 10 Silver	713827	Ranbuild Southern Highlands	Colorbond Storage Shed
10.2010.00000899.001 4	Tamara CL OAKUALE	22		615413	Mrs T A Taylor	Boundary Adjustment including SEPP1 Objection
10.2010.00000285.001 .1		73	Sex I	751261	Mrs T A Taylor	Boundary Adjustment Including SEPP1 Objection
10.2010.00000285.001 1	205 Barkers Lodge Rd OAKDALE 3/100 Nectarbrook DR ORANGEVILLE		100	270378	Control MOA Steel Buildings	New Rural Shed
10.2010.000000915.001 2	3/100 Nactarbrook Dit OHANGE VICES	A		158424	Mr P J McMahon & Mrs M C McMahon	Demolition of Garage, Shed, Tollet & Laundry
10.2011.00000015.001, 2	V1679 Remembrance DRWY PICTON		anduls	270213	KINbrth	Convert part of three (3) Car Attached .
8.2010.000000099.001 3	FIGUR Memeritorance Critical Control	7 71	-	PA THE	1.42	Garage to Family Room
0.2010.000000668.001 5	Balland PL PICTON	1,2 & 3		253496	CB Richard Ells	Consolidation of Three (3) Lots into Two (2) Lots
0.2010.0000000000.007 3	5 Stockade RD RAZORBACK	7	<b>大学新会</b>	1126573	Mr S A Reed	Modification to Consent - Dwelling (relocate water
0.2010.000000000				A THE SALE		(ank)
A 2011 20000007 001 1	5 Stockade RD RAZORBACK	7		1126573	Mr S A Reed	New Septio Tank - Aerated Burface
10.2011,000000027,001	Robert PL RAZORBACK	11		270319	Mr A Chantery & Mrs M Chantery	120,000 Litre Concrete Water Tank
50 2010 00000080 001 2	Robert PL RAZORBACK	11	14	270319	Mr A Chantery & Mrs M Chantery	New Septic Tank - Aerated Surface
10.2010.000000836.001 2	Robert PL RAZORBACK	11	LI THE	270319	Mr A Chantery	New Owelling Modification to Consent - 9 Let Subdivision (amen
10 2003 00061257.003 2	5 Stockade RD RAZORBACK	8		1126573	Mrs M M Galea	Modification to Consent - 9 Lot Subdivision (arrest
the same of the sa				i d		Building Envelope Lot 8) Inground Concrete Swimming Pool
10.2010.00000794.001	Manne WY SILVERDALE	32	N	855629	Outback Pools	Minor Internal alterations
18.2011.00000008.001	53-159 Remembrance DRWY TAHMOOF	450		1152613	Aldi Roode Pty Limited	
		4-1		to the exis	ting floor plan  Justicid/Bedwine Enterprises	Atterations and Additions to existing Dwelling
18.2011.00000001.001	3-65 Moorland RD TAHMOOR	146		1150349	Mrs W J Nield	Garage & Inground Concrete Swimming Pool
10.2010.00000959.001	2 Moorland RD TAHMOOR	102			Mr P J Cooper & Ms K M Bartels	New Dwelling
10.2010.00000940.001	Hodgson GR TAHMOOR	131	5 A .	879762 1158037	Eden Bras Homes	New Single Storey Dwelling
10.2010.00000918.001	35 Myrtle Creek AVE TAHMOOR	1	2100	1069675	Ma P J Tranter	New Dwelling
10.2010.00000000.001	7 Struen ST TAHMOOR	11	The same of	777104	Mr S L Molennan	Continued Use of Storage Shed
10,2010.00000895.001	11 Kammer PL TAHMOOR	22		1109671	Abode Drafting Services Pty Ltd	New Septic Tenk - Aerated Surface
10.2010.00000685.001	54 Nattal ST TAHMOOR	1		1109671	Abode Drafting Services Pty Ltd	Demolition Of Shed & Erect A Single Storey Dwel
10.2010.00000684.001	54 Nattal ST TAHMOOR	41	115	1.000.0		& Storage Shed
	Care Americani/ with			016902	Ma D'Swift & Mr J Nicol	Storage Shed for Car Housing
10.2010.00000010.001	85 Waterfall Creek RD THE OAKS	161		1145522	Mrs M L Hibbs & Mr. G W Hibbs	New Fence & New Retaining Walls
110.2010.00000897.001	Mary ST THE OAKS	5		206194	Apex Surveying Pty Ltd	Modification to Consent - Four Lot Subdivision
19.2008.00000545.003	110 Craigend RO THE OAKS	ALC: NO	200	1 1 4 1		(socess)
Company of the Compan	24 Turner ST THIRLMERE	40		21549	Mr B Little	Alterations and/or Additions to existing Dwelling
10.2010.00000908.001	DOTA Thirmers WY TURN MEDIE	151	2 3 May 18 3	873266	Mr S M White & Ms J J Ferrara	Garage
10.2010.00000840.001	383A Thirimere WY THIRLMERE 16 Westbourne AVE THIRLMERE	13	The Laws	1569	Mr B J Noble & Mrs A J Noble	New Dwelling
HD 2010.00000785.001	13 Cake ST THIRLMERE	102	100	800630	Me J H Carroll	Refurbish Shop to a Delicatessen
10.2010.00000175.001	18 Mason ST THIRLMERE	20	2	758972	Mrd 9 Hunt	Double Brick 1.8m Front Fence
10.2010.00000720.001	17-Darley ST THIRLMERE	18	4	2339	Rein Warry & Co	Three (3) Lot Subdivision
10 2010 00000577 001	205 Bents Basin RD WALLACIA	161	- 24 W.	1083224	PGH Environmental Planning	New Septic Tank - Absorption
10 2010 00000678 001	31 Fourteenth ST WARRAGAMBA	10	TALL LA	210653	Mr. R M Sheppard & Mrs. J E Sheppan	d Refreshment Room (Cale) and associated works inground Concrete Swimming Pool
10 2010 00000017.001	25 Haylers LA WEROMBI	G	AL TAIL	1012563	Mr D C Rixon & Mrs C Rixon	
10 2010 00000880 001	125 Rapleys Loop RD WEROMBI	A Design	Spin	247271	Mr M Power	Farm Shed
10.2011.00000028.001	30 Seatty ST WILTON	145	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF	280010	Hume Building Pty Ltd	Single Storey Dwelling
10 2011 000000024 001	10 Oxenbridge AVE WILTON	36	THE RESERVE	280010	Jell Mathews Homes P/L	Single Storey Owelling & Detached Garage New Septio Tenk - Aerated Surface
10.2010.00000962.001	135 Willon RD WILTON	52		5152	Mr J Hewitt & Mrs L Hewitt	Man Cabile Land Anti-go College Co.
10.2010.00000931.001	241 Willon Park RD WILTON	41	The same	802164	Ma S A Mortz & Mr T C Lawson	Awning & Masonary Planter Box
16.2010.00000100.001	15 Chisolm ST WILTON	44	V 1005 4 1	280010	Mr G Hutchison	
10 2010 00000834 001	25 Homby STW WILTON	93		280010	Mr C L Paul	New Owelling Stage 4 Subdivision 20 Residential Lots 2 Residential
10 2010 00000756 001	30 Pembroke PDE WILTON	10		270536	DLL Wilton Pty Ltd	Single 4 Subdivision 2 Control of Control
The state of the s		2. 214	120 10			& 1 Precinct Lot  New Septic Tank - Absorption
10.2010.00000723.001	Wilton RD WILTON -			864375	Mr.N J Ferguson	
10.2010.00000605.001	11 Chisolm ST WILTON	113		280010	DLL Wilton Pty Ltd	Bemove Four (4) Trees
William Control to the Control of th	23 Vanderra RD YANDERRA	361		13114	Mr M E Hale	Gable Awning Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling
	20-22 Harley ST YANDERRA	70		13114	Abode Drafting Services Pty Ltd	

### **Macarthur Chronicle**

Go to different newspaper







### Rates anger continues in Wollondilly

COUNCIL 15 FEB 11 & 31 565%





WOLLONDILLY shire residents have expressed their anger online at the proposed 8 per cent rates increase by Wollondilly Council, with most people failing to turn up at community information evenings.

The meeting at Appin on Wednesday last week managed between 6-10 people, while the council said only about 25 people showed up to the Warragamba/Silverdale meeting February 7.

The Picton meeting held last night was expected to have more participants.

The council is considering four rates options but favours an 8 per cent increase a year for the next seven years.

It declined to pass on the details of residents who attended the Appin meeting, but comments on the Wollondilly Have Your Say website were overwhelmingly against the rate rise.

'Ifonly' sent the council a very dear message last week: "Keep your hands out of my pockets. If my roof starts to leak and let in water I have to fix it from the finite funds I have." they said.

"I can't just go to my boss and say 'my roof needs fixing, give me an extra 8 per cent in my pay on top of inflation". I'm not going to borrow the money so I then have to make do by cutting back on my other expenses. I expect the council to do the same (and) make do with the funds available."

The council is still compiling responses from its 700 person survey, with the results due to come before the March 21 council meeting. If it is approved by councillors, the special rate variation will go to the Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal for a decision on June 10.

Asked to comment on the community response so far, Wollondilly Council assistant general manager Luke Johnson said he did not want to pre-empt the March 21 report.

"The community meetings went well but we would have liked more people to come along," he said.

"If we are unable to get the rate rise we will have to cut back on a number of things."

" Opinion: Page XX

### **□** COMMENTS

DISPLAYING (1) COMMENTS

### Mick Gregory writes:

Posted on 19 Feb 11 at 09:21am W.S.C. is so top heavy it is in danger of collapse. There are so many fat cats paid ridiculous saleries including cars and petrol, many of whom do not live in the shire. The Council operated very well in the old days. The roads were better maintained because there were enough outdoor staff to keep up with maintenance, staff living in the shire were aware of any problems, so there was no need to carry out expensive surveys. Now there is a pyramid of supervision which soaks up more of the fiscal dollar, leaving insufficient funds for necessary maintenance of public assets.



C SHARE ILE ...

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Printer Friencis

> Tweet

ext size

Current temp:

31°C 28.5°C

TOMIGHT 18°C

Cloudy. Patchy rain in the early afternoon, cleaning during the afternoon, then patchy rain late this evening...

> view 7 day forecast

» mare photos



### Dave Warner gives special cricket clinic for Camden players

Dave Warner with Camden player Isaac White at a special cricket clining.... more



### Womens Twenty20 Cricket

Sydney Women's Cricket Association Twenty20 competition at Raby Oval,...



· more competitions



### Movie giveaway: Rango

DESPITE being a pet chameleon who lives in a glass bowl. Rango (voiced by Johnny Depp) has long... more

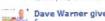


### You could win a dirt bike thanks to "Rango"

We have one major prize and 20 prize packs to givesway... more

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Andre Rieu is back - Competitions Macarthur Chronicle Wollondilly Edition 1,661 people shared this.



Dave Warner gives special cricket clinic

13 people shared this.



Thirlmere Festival of Steam

3 people shared this.



UPDATE: Bum-pinching allegations from candidates forum attract world headlines

6 people shared this



Dog memorial at Tahmoor needs more 5 people shared this



## Forum unleashed rate concerns

It was a packed house at Wollondilly Council last week when residents gathered to discuss the special rates variation the questions came in thick and fast.

The forum was third and last in a series held throughout the shire to inform and gauge public

Wollondilly council won't be making any decision on the eight per cent rate increase until March 21 and the mayor, councillor Michael Banasik said that all the submissions will have to be looked at.

Submissions which closed coday have so far been very mixed, Cr Banasik said.

Last week's meeting was lively, but civil and residents asked a number of questions, the most common was why and how could have council gotten into such a position.

While the council officers were prepared for the onslaught, they had their answers ready.

The general manager, Les McMahon, was asked whether

council's assets could be reviewed.

Mr McMahon said the shire has 16 villages, each with their own facilities - such as halls and sport grounds.

"We have to be realistic, it's very hard to say to people Tm going to close your assets'," he

"If the community says to council we are not prepared for the special rates variation, we will have to put up an alternative

"This is not enjoyable for me or my staff, saying that we need money." Even former mayor and councillor, Helen Kuiper had her reservations about the increase and said the "figures [released] don't add up" and "there needs to be a shire wide look at all the assets".

Many of the residents at the forum agreed that it appeared that they could be paying up to double in the next seven years.

ing the increase "as long as I get value for money". He said he hoped there wouldn't be a call for another rate rise in seven years.

Don Baker of Picton said the special rates variation for the Roads Ahead program introduced several years ago has now been absorbed into the normal rates. He questioned, when the program was finished why wasn't that money allocated to the maintenance work needed.

Another resident from Bargo asked why the council hadn't identified these maintenance issues and the likely deprecation of these assets years ago and included them in the annual budgeting.

Luke Wood, the assistant general manager said it was a problem not isolated to Wollondilly, but right around NSW. Cr Banasik said councillors will look at all the submis-

"I don't think we can be criticised, we have asked for community consultation."

> One resident Roman from Picton said he doesn't mind pay-

The District Algorithms
Who 21st Feb 204





### WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

### INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING (DRAFT DOCUMENTS) SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL

Council has placed the following draft documents on public exhibition and seeks your comments:

Draft Community Strategic Plan, Ten Year Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan), Four Year Delivery Program and One Year Operational Plan.

These documents include a proposal to seek a Special Rate Variation of 8% pa for seven years to address a growing shortfall in funding the maintenance of a range of Council assets, including roads, and minimising

These draft documents are on Public Exhibition from Monday 10 January 2011 and submissions are invited up to 21 February 2011.

Copies of the documents are also available for viewing at the following locations:

- . Council's Administration Building, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton.
- Wollondilly Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton
- . The Wollondilly Mobile Library, and
- . On Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.eu

A series of Frequently Asked Questions and a PowerPoint Presentation have also been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation proposal, and are available on the Council

Several Community Workshops are also proposed for Warragamba - 7 February 2011, Appin - 9 February 2011, and Picton -14 February 2011. Further details will be advertised in the local papers and on Council's

Any comments or submissions should be made in writing to Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton 2571, or via email to council @wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Please quote Council's Reference: TRIM 5473-3.

### PROPOSED DESIGNATED NOMINATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

A Development Application has been received by Wollandilly Shire Council for development of the

Lot 1 DP 608195. Lots 1 & 3 DP 748675, Lots 1 & 2 DP 231892 & Lot 2 DP 216580 (40 Maldon Bridge

For the purposes of: Aggregate Rail Terminal Facility & Road Works

Applicant: Boral Resources (NSW) Ptylutd

Consent Authority: Sydney West Joint Regional Planning Pane

The Development Application is a Designated Nominated Integrated Development under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the Mine Subsidence Board under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 for a licence under Section 15 of the Mine Subsidence

Approval for the proposed development is required from the Department of Environment Climate Change & Water under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 for a licence under Section 43 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997.

Approval for the proposed development is required from the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 for a licence under Section 138 of the Roads Act, 1993.

The application, plans relating to the proposal and the Environmental Impact Statement may be inspected at the following locations during business hours for thirty-three (33) days commencing 26 January 2011:

- Wollondilly Shire Council's Administration Centre, 62-64 Menangle Street, Pictor; and
- NSW Department of Planning Offices, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the Development Application. If a submission way of objection, the grounds of objection must be specified in the submission. Written submissions received may become a public document.

Unless the proposed development is development about which the Planning Assessment Commission in conducted a review, any person who makes a submission by way of objection and is dissatisfied with a determination of the consent authority to grant development consent, may appeal to the Land and Environment Court. If the Planning Assessment Commission conducts a review and the Minister for Planning determines the application that determination is final and not subject to appeal.

Submissions will be received until 4 pm on 28 February 2011, Please quote Council's file number 10.2010.921.1 on any submission. Enquiries may be directed to Grant Rokobauer on phone 4677 1172 or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

(Under S147 of the EP& A Act, any person making a submission is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts (\$1000 or more) made to any local councillor or staff member within 2 years of making of the submission. If the application or gift is made after the submission, a disclosure must be made within 7 days of that donation or gift having been made. Details of information required in the disclosure can be found on Council's website at

http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/files/21608/File/DisclosureofPoliticalDonations.pdf

Any submission you make is open to public scrutiny. Council is required to release written comments or submission under the Government information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA]. The Act imposes obligations on us to plac submissions on Council's website and submissions may be used in Council reports or court proceedings. In this regard, your comments should be restricted to the proposed development.

'rural living'



### WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING (DRAFT DOCUMENTS)

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Applicant: Consent Authority:

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### PUBLIC HEARING TO RECLASSIFY COUNCIL LAND MENANGLE SCHOOL OF ARTS COMMUNITY HALL

Wollondilly Council is seeking comment from the community through a public hearing for a planning proposal to reclassify Council land at 4 Station Street, Menangie (the Menangie School of Arts Community Hall). The public hearing will be held in accordance with section 57 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 and section 29 and 47(3) of the Local Government Act 1993. The hearing relates to the reclassification of one parcel of Council owned land (Lot 1 DP 306388) from community to operational status. This planning proposal will amend Council's soon to be gazetted shire-wide Local Environmental Planning LEP), which is the legal guide for development and planning decisions for the Wollondilly local government area. This amendment will allow Council to sell the Menangie School of Arts Community Hall to the Menangie Community Association for a nominal fee.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday 1 March 2011, from 2pm at Coúncil's Administration Centre (Gallery), 82-64 Menangie Street, Pictor and will be open to the public.

Council has appointed an independent person to act as Chairperson and report on the public hearing.

If you wish to register to speak at the hearing, please phone (02) 4677 8260 or you must register at Council's Administration Centre between 1:30pm and 1.55pm on Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Inspecting documents:

Anyone may inspect the relevant documentation at Council's Administration Centre, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday or on Council's website: www.wollondilly.nsw.pov.au until Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Contact Details:

Telephone enquiries regarding this proposal and public hearing should be directed to Council's Strategic Planning Team on (02) 4677 1100.

Wollondity Shire Conneil
PO No. 21, Pictor NSW 2571,
pt 62 4677 1100 web www.verlonditynsvanovau

'rural living'

Wolfondilly
Adventuser
Wed 9th Feb 201

### Wollondmy since Council's Weekly News 26 January 2011

Council's Radio Show Listen to Macarthur Radio 100.3FM on the last Wednesday of the each month at 3-4pm for Council's radio hour. This informal program gives you up to date information and news about your Shire.

### Mayor's Column



l am really impressed by the great response the Wollondilly Community has given to assist those affected by the Queensland floods. been People have financially, donating businesses have collected donations and individuals are organising events. You

can also donate financially at Wollondilly Shire Council in Picton to the flood appeal if you wish. Council is also organising a Cricket match at Hume Oval in Picton on January 30, the Mayors 11 versus the Deputy Mayors 11. Thank you to Councillor Khan for donating the food for the BBQ and Tahmoor Lions who have offered to cook the BBQ. All money raised will go to the flood appeal.

Our local Wollondilly SES is having a recruitment drive. An information night will be held on Tuesday February 1 at 65 Bridge Street Picton, from 7.30pm. Details: 0437 033 122. They do a great job in assisting locals affected by storm damage and other emergencies.

I would like to congratulate the Camden Valley Inn who won the Australian Hotels Association excellence award for the Best Pub Style Accommodation country award. It's great to have such a great establishment at the entrance to the Wollondilly Shire.

This week I would like to give you some information on Tahmoor Over the years, present day Tahmoor has had many names ncluding Myrtle Creek, Bargo West, Cordeaux, Bronzewing Park and finally Tahmoor, a local Aboriginal word meaning "Bronzewinged Pidgeon". Although it is a modern town, Tahmoor has intriguing pockets of history, nature and general interest. It boasts the oldest house in the Shire, the Travellers Inn, now privately owned. Tahmoor has the largest population for the Shire and has recently enjoyed a main street beautification enjoyed by locals and visitors to the area. The Tahmoor Sportsground is councils biggest with sports including soccer, little athletics, cricket, skateboarding, BMX riding and dog training. Population is around 4800 and the height above sea level is 260

Finally I would like to congratulate Councillor Cassandra Twarloh on her marriage to Jason

Have a good week. Michael Banasik

Growing

together

your future

### Rundown Play Equipment to be \_\_ Removed

potential risks to children using these facilities, it on-line Forum, launched last week. has been decided that this equipment should be removed as soon as possible.

Progress Street Reserve and York Street Reserve in Tahmoor and some older pieces of equipment at Bargo Sportsground. There will also be future. The forum is located at removal of old timber structures at Douglas Park Hall and Appin AIS Sportsground.

There will be signs erected in the relevant parks prior to removal of equipment. Information will "We are very interested in community feedback appear in the Bush Telegraph.

Council is unable to replace these facilities at the present time due to ongoing funding limitations. This will be reviewed if future funding allows.

For further information please contact Wollondilly Council on 4677 1100 or check our website on www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

### **Pound Puppies**

If you are looking for a family pet, the Wollondilly Animal Shelter currently has many quality animals desperately looking for a loving home. We currently have 3 adorable Rottweiler Cross Puppies that are 10 weeks old and ready to be adopted. We have two females and one male. To view all the animals available log onto Councils website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.





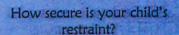
### Bang the Table - Special Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council has recently assessed Wollondilly Shire Council is asking for the many of its assets and has found there are items community's views on a proposed Special of play equipment that are in very poor condition. Rate Variation. One of the ways in which the Given the condition of these assets and the community can have a say is through Council's

This anonymous, safe and monitored on-line forum allows the community to view and consider There will be immediate removal of equipment in four rate options and provide Council with their views via comments and a Rates Survey.

> www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/ fundingyourfuture, or it can be accessed via Council's website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

also be posted on Council's website and will about our proposal for a Special Rate Variation and we will be opening as many avenues as possible for residents to provide that feedback to us. We will also be undertaking other forms of community engagement including a mail out and community workshops. This is your opportunity have a say," says Mayor, Cr Michael Banasik.





to residents of Wollandilly Shire



child restraint fitting and checking day Monday 7 February

> Bookings essential phone: 4677-1777

8am - 5pm

Wollondilly Shire Council, 62 - 64 Menangle St, Picton | Phone (24 hours): 4677 1100 Email: council@wolfondilly:nsw.gov.au | Web: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Library and Information Services: 4677.8300-| Web: library@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Children's Services: 4677 8200 | Tourism Wollandilly: 4677 8313 | Leisure Centre: 4677 1251 Wet Weather Line: 4677 1111 | Fire Control Centre: Web: wollfire@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Community Forum: Monday 14 February 2011 6.30pm

Council Meeting: Monday 21 February 2011 6.30pm.



### sh telegraph 26 January 2011

the last Wedar sidy of the each month of 2-lpm to Council's table how. The, internal program yes signs up to date internal program yes signs about

### Mayor's Column



Council S. also presenting in Cities to the Hume Oval in Pictor on Jenuary 20 the Dayof I terms the Deputy M year 15 Thank you? I councillor Khan for doneing up a sect for the SBQ and Tempoor Lious who lines present to cook the BBQ. All morely raises will be long.

### **Rundown Play** Equipment to be Removed

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"We are very interested in community feedback also be posted on Council's website and will about our proposal for a Special Rate Variation and we will be opening as many avenues as possible for residents to provide that feedback to us. We will also be undertaking other forms of present time due to ongoing funding limitations. community engagement including a mail out and community workshops. This is your opportunity to have a say," says Mayor, Cr Michael Banasik.









Council's Radio Show
Listen to Macarthur Radio 100.3FM on
the last Wednesday of the each month
at 3-4pm for Council's radio hour. This
informal program gives you up to date
information and news about
your Shire.

### Mayor's Column



Australia Day was another great day at the Picton Botanic Gardens, congratulations to all the award winners, award nominees and new citizens. Our Ambassador Janelle Bloom and Peter Everett spoke very well and were very popular

with the locals. Thank you to Picton Rotary, Picton Harmony, Picton Australian Air League, Frances Bodkin, Kati Pita, Jake Budd, Joe Hegarty, Andrew Yates, Gemma Beech and Jack Rofe for their assistance on the day.

I would like to congratulate Bruce Sander from The Oaks for being named a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to education and the community. Also to Ken Chalker from Pheasants Nest Brigade who has been awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal for over 30 years service to the Rural Fire Service.

I visited the Wollondilly SES last week with Luke Johnson, Assistant General Manager, I was very impressed by the volunteers and service they provide to our community. One of their members Adam Croll had just come back from helping those affected by the Queensland floods.

It was a full house at the Thirlmere Hotel recently for a music "Jam" fundraising night for the flood appeal with many local musicians volunteering their services. It was a great night with \$1500 being raised. Well done to Carly Bibb and Councillor Benn Banasik for organising the

The Cricket fundraising match was a fun day with our local pollies Russell Matheson, Phil Costa, Jai Rowell, Cr Khan, Cr Landow, Cr Hannan and Cr Benn Banasik involved in the game.

Do you know what Wollondilly means? Wollondilly is attributed to having three meanings, including: "A place where spirits dwell", and "Water trickling over rocks". The third meaning is connected to a legend about the burning black coal that was carried inside the skull of a bunylp, within a basket woven of waratah stems. "Worron" means black coal and "dilly" means carry basket.

Finally good luck to all the children going back to school this week especially all the new kindergarten pupils.

See you next week, Michael Banasik.

### Proposed Special Rate Variation - Community Forums

All residents are invited to attend community forums about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Wollondilly Shire Council is seeking community feedback and this is a good opportunity for interested residents to have a say in our future direction.

We will be holding three community forums at Council Offices, Menangle Street, Picton. different locations in the Shire, so that community members don't have to travel too far to attend. "We are hoping to showcase the artistic in Wollondilly with this project. We have

Warragamba Town Hall on Monday 7 February at 6.30pm

Appin Community Hall Sportsground Parade, Appin on Wednesday 9 February at 6.30pm

Wollondilly Shire Council Foyer, Picton on Monday 14 February at 6.30pm.

We also have an online forum to allow residents to put forward their views in their own time. This can be found at www.wollondillyhaveyoursay. com.au/fundingyourfuture.

We also have a series of frequently asked questions and a powerpoint presentation that have been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation Proposal. These documents can be viewed on the websites provided below.

For further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation go to www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/ fundingyourfuture.or www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or call Council on 4677 1100.



Council Meeting: Monday 21 February 2011 6.30pm.

### Proposal for Wollondilly Art Prize

District Meporter

Wollondilly Shire Council is looking into developing an Art Prize in Wollondilly during 2011. We are seeking community input into this and would like you to bring your ideas to a meeting to get the initiative started. All interested artists and community members are invited to attend.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 February 2011 from 5pm to 6.30pm at Wollondilly Shire Council Offices. Menangle Street, Picton.

"We are hoping to showcase the artistic talent in Wollondilly with this project. We have some very creative people here and it would be great to promote their abilities. If you are interested in our local artists, come along to the meeting to discuss this initiative," says Mayor, Cr Michael Banasik.

For further details contact Council's Community Project Officer Bob Lester on 4677-8261 or email bob.lester@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

### Winners of 2011 Australia Day Awards

Last Wednesday, at the Botanic Gardens in Picton on the hottest Australia Day in twenty years, the Wollondilly Australia Day Award Winners were announced. They are as follows:

Citizen of the Year - Neville and Sharon Slender Senior Citizen of the Year - Ron Davies Young Citizen of the Year - Jake Budd Achiever of the Year - Kate Spicer Young Achiever of the Year - Gareth Mumby Sportsperson of the Year - Gayle Hicks Young Sportsperson of the Year - Joint winners Tenille Leet and Paddy Kearney Congratulations to all nominees.

### **Pound Puppy**

If you are looking for a family pet, the Wollondilly Animal Shelter currently has many quality animals desperately looking for a loving home. This lovely male, white and tan Jack Russell Terrier is currently available and ready to be adopted. To view all the animals available log onto councils website www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

Growing your future together

Wollondilly Shire Council, 62 - 64 Menangle St, Picton | Phone (24 hours): 4677 1100
Email: council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | Web: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
Library and Information Services: 4677 8300 | Web: library@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
Children's Services: 4677 8200 | Tourism Wollondilly: 4677 8313 | Leisure Centre: 4677 1251
Wet Weather Line: 4677 1111 | Fire Control Centre: Web: wollfire@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
Community Forum: Monday: 14 February: 2011-6.30pm



### bush telegraph

12 January 2011

Council's Radio Show Listen to Macarthur Radio 100.3FM on the last Wednesday of the each month at 3-4pm for Council's radio hour. This informal program gives you up to date information and news about your Shire.

### Mayor's Column



Summer in Australia is certainly very diverse, Queensland and Northern NSW our hearts are with all impacted by those the devastating floods which affected so many people.

While in Wollondilly it may seem nice and

green at the moment but as we know conditions can change rapidly and bushfires are upon us. Now is the time to make a Bushfire Survival Plan and this week we have some tips for making yours, read the article included in this Bush Telegraph to make sure your family stays

I would like to give you some information on the Bargo area. In this district the white settlers first recorded sightings of the Koala, Lyrebird and Wombat. Ex convict, John Wilson, noted the three animals in his diary describing the Lyrebird as a pheasant, hence the name Pheasants Nest, and recorded the Koala as being known to the Aboriginal people as Cullawine. The area boasts two sanctuaries which combined in 2007. Wirrimbirra, an Aboriginal word meaning sanctuary, is preserved as a remnant of the original Bargo Brush, once the haunt of bushrangers. The property includes bushwalking tracks, plant nursery and a wildlife enclosure. Bargo is also the starting point to the splendid Mermaid Pools, accessible on foot.



Mermaid Pools

Yanderra is a small rural town which takes its name from the Aboriginal word for the turpentine tree. The Bargo area Tour Brochure highlights the town's buildings, events and surrounding areas, this brochure is available from the Wollondilly Visitor Information Centre in Picton.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the sad passing away of Bill Groves (former funeral director), he was one of Picton's icons and my sympathy goes to his family and friends.

See you next week. I wont talk about the cricket. Michael Banasik

### Funding available for local community groups

The Veolia Mulwaree Trust provides funding to local community groups to assist them in the work they do in the community. Their next funding round closes on 16 February 2011 then again at regular intervals throughout the year. A wide variety of projects have been funded by the Trust as well as donations of up to \$1,000 to assist groups operations and special events.

Find out full details and what has been funded in the past on their website www. mulwareetrust.org.au along with guidelines and application forms.

Applications for the 2011 Country Arts Support Program (CASP) round are now available through Regional Arts NSW with a closing date of 11 February 2011. This program provides small grants to arts and community organisations and local arts councils in regional NSW which includes the Wollondilly Shire area.

The aims of the program are to

- Assist locally determined cultural activities. Create opportunities for groups to access
- a diverse range of arts programs.
- Enable communities to explore and express their cultural identities.

Eligibility information, guidelines and the application form can be found on www. regionalartsnsw.com.au/grants/casp.html

Information Session

To encourage more local opportunities for cultural activities and increase the awareness of the CASP funding requirements, Information Session is being held Wollondilly Shire Council in conjunction with STARTS.

Date: Thursday, 13 January 2010 Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Foyer of Council's Administration Building, Menangle

O CHIMENITEDE

Please contact Council's Community Project Officer, Bob Lester on 4677 8261 for more Information.

### **Bushfire Survival Plans**

At this time of year we want to remind all residents that it is important to have a Bushfire Survival Plan and to discuss it with your family. Preparation is the key to survival during a Bush Fire, some factors to consider for your plan may include

- If you are going to leave prepare for where you are going to go, how you are going to get there and what you are going to take.
- If you are going to stay, you must have a plan for how you are going to survive and where you will shelter. Know what equipment you need.
- Have a contingency plan know where your nearest Neighbourhood Safer Place is.
- You need to be both mentally and physically prepared to carry out your survival plan.
- Prepare your home and property to survive a fire front and ensure you have adequate levels of insurance.

Remember that your life and your family's lives are always your first priority during bushfires. The safest option is always to be away from a fire. For further details or help with making your own Bushfire Survival Plan check the Bushfire Household Assessment Tool on the RFS website www.rfs.nsw.

### Australia Day 2011

Wollondilly's Australia Day Celebrations will be held at the Picton Botanic Gardens from 8am to 12pm on Wednesday 26 January 2011.

The Wollondilly Australia Day Ambassador for 2011 is Janelle Bloom. Janelle is one of the original chefs on the high rating Network 10 series READY STFADY COOK. Janelle has two best selling cook books in stores, she also contributes to a number of magazines as a writer and food stylist and can be heard regularly on Radio.

The Official Ceremony will take place from 9.15am to 10.30am. Some of the highlights of the Official Ceremony will be the Australia Day Ambassador Address, Citizenship and Affirmation Ceremonies and presentation of Wollondilly's Australia Day Awards for 2011.

Come along for a Free barbecue breakfast and lunch. There will also be Free face painting, jumping castle, animal farm, snake display and entertainment.

Keep an eye on Council's website www.wollondilly. nsw.gov.au for the full program, or contact Council on 4677 1100

Growing vour future together Wolfondilly Community Strategic Plan 2030

Wollondilly Shire Council, 62 - 64 Menangle St. Picton | Phone (24 hours): 4677 1100-Email: council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | Web: www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Library and Information Services: 4677 8300 | Web: library@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Children's Services: 4677 8200 Tourism Wollondilly: 4677 8313 | Leisure Centre: 4677 1251

Wet Weather Line: 4677 1111 | Fire Control Centre: Web: wollfire@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Community Forum: Monday 14 February 2011 6.30pm

Council Meeting: Monday 21 February 2011 6.30pm.



### Attachment H Information Cards

Business card sized promotional cards were distributed via Council's foyer, library, Dilly Wanderer, Tourism Centre and indoor and outdoor staff.



www.wollondillyhaveyoursay. com.au/fundingyourfuture www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Ph 4677 1100 Community Engagement Jan/Feb 2011

Over the next 10yrs, a further \$6 million per year is required to maintain assets in a safe and satisfactory condition.

A rate Increase of 8% per year (including rate cap of 2.8% then approx 3% average) for

If the

seven years is proposed to meet this maintenance need.

proposed rate increase is not approved, asset maintenance and services will need to be reduced.

A series of frequently asked questions and a powerpoint presentation have been developed to provide additional information on the Special Rate Variation Proposal.

These documents can be viewed on

the websites provided over.

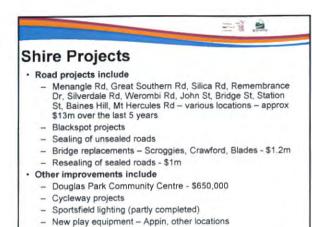
### Attachment I

**Powerpoint Presentations** 

Powerpoint presentations were made to Council staff, the community (via Community Forums) and Councillors. The powerpoint was also displayed in Council's Foyer and Library, and was available via Council's website.







### Shire Services Recurrent expenditure

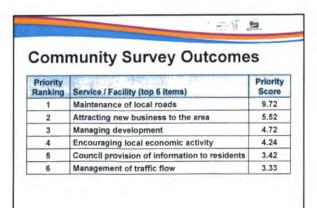
 General costs – street sweeping, mowing, fund street lighting, vandalism repairs, general cleaning and maintenance of roads, bridges, buildings, playing fields, SES and RFS facilities, playgrounds

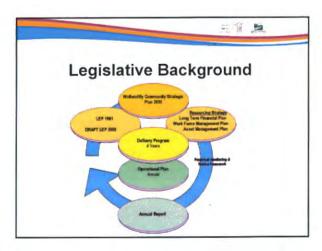
- 1

 library, aquatic centre, Warragamba pool, mobile library, Dilly Wanderer, before and after school care, cemeteries, economic development, environmental management, support RFS/SES, animal control, traffic management, road safety program, waste services, development control, flood plain management, recreation services, tourism



- A comparatively small population of 42,397, growing at about 1.9% per year
- · Covers a relatively large 2,557 sq km
- 16 towns and villages, connected with 743 km of sealed roads
- Significant disadvantage due to the size and nature of the Shire
- Council operating income of only \$33.5m
- 30% more assets by value per resident compared to Campbelltown and Penrith Councils, which each have more than 3 times our population.
- Wollondilly has 14 community halls for hire, compared to Campbelltown which has 16, again indicating a far higher hall provision per resident, due to the isolated and distributed nature of the Shire's population.



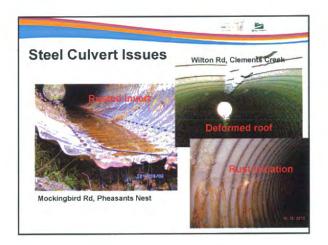




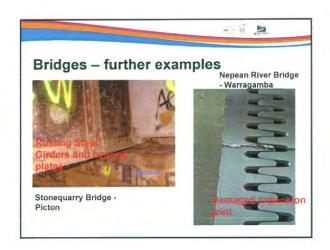
- Substantial review of inventory data and condition
- Audits of playgrounds and sportsfields
- Review existing budgets (for example, buildings maintenance funds have decreased by 35% over the last 3 years under ongoing budget pressures)
- · Identified funding shortfalls

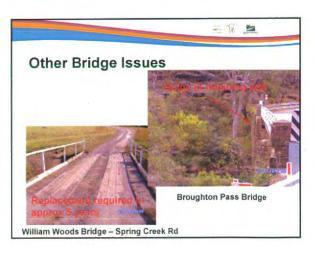
A picture is worth a thousand words..!

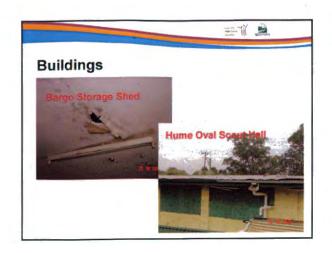
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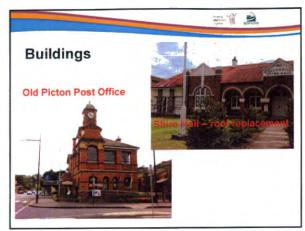


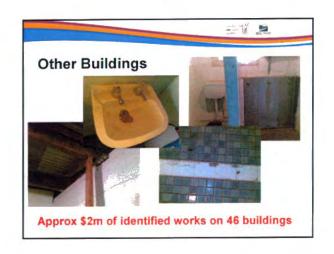


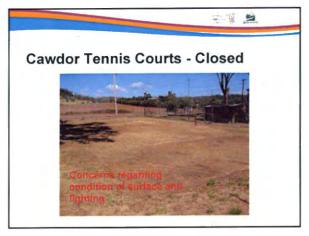






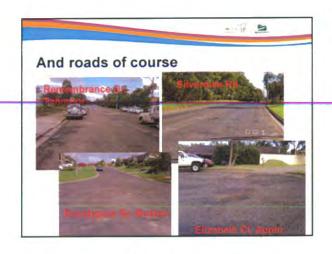












# **Asset Changes**

Key Infrastructure Inventory Changes							
Asset Item Previous Current							
	Inventory	Inventory	Change				
Regional Road Length (km)	74.1	129.5	75%				
Total Sealed Road Length (km)	680.7	742.8	9%				
Footpaths / Cycleways (km)	33.0	45.7	39%				
Kerb and Gutter (km)	169.1	286.0	69%				
Bridges / major culverts (km)	50	78	56%				
Drainage - pipes (km)	36.5	68.6	88%				

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Overall increase in all assets approx 24%



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# Four Scenarios Considered

# Focusing on:

- Asset Maintenance (enough funds to maintain our assets in a satisfactory condition)
- Risk Management (playgrounds, sports field lighting and bushfire mitigation)

# Scenario One

Rate increases at the rate pegging limit 2.8%

Under this Scenario, to avoid a budget deficit Council will need to reduce services and the condition of our assets will deteriorate with anticipated significant failures of key assets occurring.



This provides an increase of \$511,000 in rate income in 2011/2012.

Key cost drivers for Council in the 2011/12 budget include:

Increase in employee costs (award increases)
 Increase in electricity charges:
 \$56,000

Increase in insurance premiums \$60,000
 CPI increases for all other operating expenses \$375,000

for all other operating expenses \$375,000 Total \$853,000

The identified shortfall in operating expenses is therefore \$342,000.

# **SRV Scenarios**

# A total rate increase of 6% over 7 years

 Still insufficient funds available for maintenance of infrastructure over the next ten years

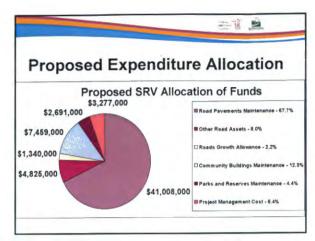
### A total rate increase of 8% over 7 years

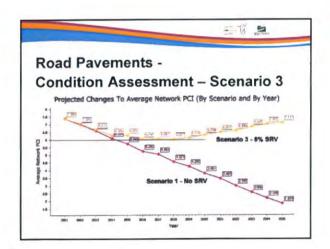
 Able to build sufficient funds to ultimately maintain the core asset areas to a satisfactory level. Some short term deterioration

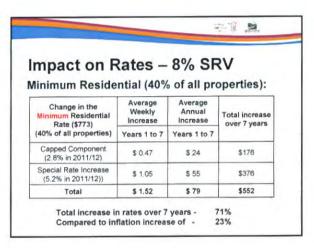
### A total rate increase of 10% over 7 years

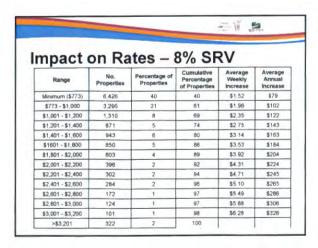
 Able to either accelerate the improvement of its assets to a time-frame shorter than 10 years or allocate the additional funds to deliver major infrastructure improvements

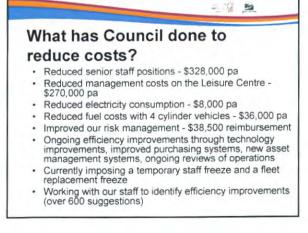


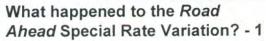












- It raised \$12m, topped up with loans of \$4.5m.
- 29 major projects, \$1m of reseals, and several bridge replacements.
- Multiple projects on Silverdale Road, Menangle Road, Remembrance Drive, Great Southern Drive and many more
- The 5 year SRV allocated all funds to road related projects, overseen by an external Audit Committee
- · Retained some \$2m for road works

# Road Ahead SRV - 2

### The Global Financial Crisis

Ongoing cost pressures on Council, together with rate capping and cost shifting (over \$2m per year); from other levels of government:

Ongoing loan repayments for SRV \$576,000

- Superannuation changes \$400,000

Reduction in Planning income \$400,000

- Decrease in investment income \$600,000



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# Road Ahead SRV - 3

# More funding needed

- · Growth in the road network and more traffic
- The declassification of Barkers Lodge Road and Burragorang Road, which were roads that Council did not maintain previously - 28km
- · Substantial increase in all assets 24 %
- · Need to design safer roads (higher costs)
- A substantial need to fund urgent maintenance of buildings, playgrounds and other assets not funded through the last SRV

# What happens if there is no Special Rate Increase?

Over the next several years, Council will need to consider:

 Reduced Council services as funds are reallocated for urgent maintenance, with consequent impact on local jobs

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- Managing much rougher road surfaces impacting on ride quality and with increasing road safety implications
- Risk of closure of some roads as bridges become unsafe
- Further closure of community buildings such as local halls, as they deteriorate to the point where they are unsafe to use. Further closure of tennis courts
- Further removal of play equipment as it becomes unsafe for use
- Consideration of partial closures of sporting fields with inadequate lighting



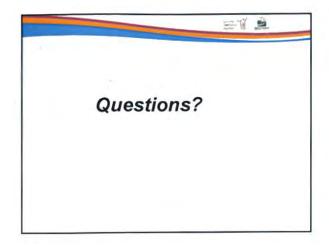
# If SRV Approved:

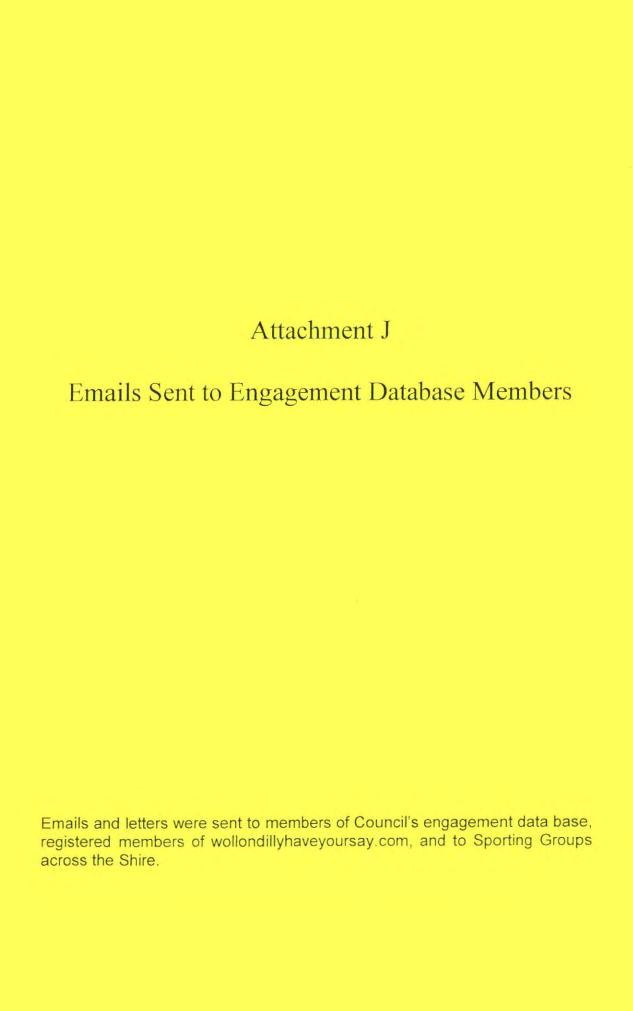
- Improved sports field lighting at 9 fields -\$640,000
- · Replace / make safe 11 playgrounds \$238,000
- · Address buildings repair backlog of \$2m
- More funding for maintenance of footpaths, cycleways, road linemarking, bushfire mitigation, tennis courts, etc
- Undertake urgent bridge repairs \$500,000
- An extra \$3.4m for road pavement maintenance at the end of the 7th year of the SRV



# Consultation and Key Dates

- Media commenced 12 December
- · Website documents 23 December
- · Formal consultation commences 10 January
- Community meetings at 3 locations 7, 9 and 14 February 2011
- · Comments close 21 February
- · Report to Council on outcomes 21 March
- · SRV Submission (if endorsed) on 25 March





From:

admin@bangthetable.com

Sent:

Monday, 24 January 2011 6:10 PM

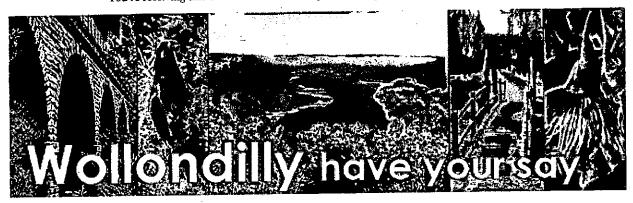
To:

Sarah Lees

Subject: Generating sufficient revenue to provide services to our community and maintain community

assets.

You're receiving this email from us because you are a registered user at Wollondilly Have Your Say.



Wollondilly Council is seeking your views on how services and infrastructure can be best managed now an the future and is proposing four rate scenarios that it invites you to consider and comment on in its online forum and survey.

Your input is important and will help guide and assist Council determine the most appropriate option for maintaining community assets and providing Council's full range of services into the future.

Please have your say in the online forum and forward this email, or text or twitter the link to the forum, w is <a href="http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture">http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture</a> to colleagues, friends and neighbours so they also have their say about how Council can best generate sufficient revenue to provide services to the comm and maintain your community assets.

Not interested anymore? <u>Unsubscribe Instantly</u>. If clicking on the link doesn't work, try pasting "http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/unsubscribe/1b221cf8a9e54e4539f738d59d4f22c86d3doceb" into your browse

From: admin@bangthetable.com

Sent: Monday, 7 February 2011 8:20 AM

To: Sarah Lees

Subject: Wollondilly: Funding Our Future

You're receiving this email from us because you are a registered user at Wollondilly Have Your Say.



This is a quick note to advise and invite you to the following community forums:

- 7 Feb 2011 Warragamba Community Forum, 6.30pm, Warragamba Town Hall
- 9 Feb 2011 Appin Community Forum, 6.30pm, Appin Community Hall
- 14 Feb 2011 Picton Community Forum, 7.30pm, Council Chambers Menangle St, Picton (follows ge Community Forum at 6.30pm)

Not interested anymore? <u>Unsubscribe Instantly</u>. If clicking on the link doesn't work, try pasting "http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/unsubscribe/1b221cf8a9e54e4539f738d59d4f22c86d3doceb" into your browse

From:

admin@bangthetable.com

Sent:

Friday, 18 February 2011 7:00 AM

To:

Sarah Lees

Subject:

TRIM: Funding Our Future...Your feedback is vital!

TRIM Record Number: 1862-2#55

You're receiving this email from us because you are a registered user at Wollondilly Have Your Say.



Do you agree with the need or have ideas about maintaining existing Council service levels, upgrading & renewing parks and buildings, looking after the community; building a strong local economy; caring for the environment; managing and providing infrastructure; and ensuring accountable and transparent governations.

How should this be funded? Go to Wollondilly Shire Council's <u>online discussion forum</u>, take 30 secon complete the survey and then add your thoughts and ideas to the discussion forum.

Your feedback is vital! Please feel free to forward this email or text or tweet the link to the online discu forum <a href="http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture">http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture</a> to your colleagues, friends and neighbor within the Shire so they can also participate in this important discussion.

You can contribute and guide Council in this important discussion until 5.00pm Friday 28 February 2011.

# Please participate!

Not interested anymore? <u>Unsubscribe Instantly</u>. If clicking on the link doesn't work, try pasting "http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/unsubscribe/1b221cf8a9e54e4539f738d59d4f22c86d3doceb" into your browse

From:

admin@bangthetable.com

Sent:

Monday, 21 February 2011 7:00 AM

To:

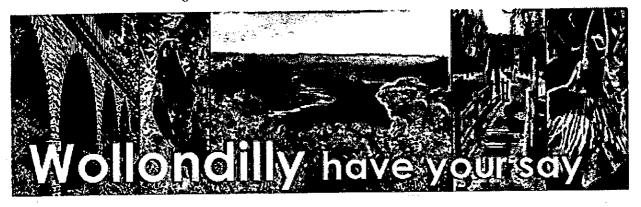
Sarah Lees

Subject:

TRIM: Funding Our Future...Your feedback is vital!

TRIM Record Number: 1862-2#56

You're receiving this email from us because you are a registered user at Wollondilly Have Your Say.



Wollondilly Shire Council's <u>online discussion forum "Funding Our Future"</u> will close today, Monday 21 February 2011 at 5.00pm.

If you are yet to complete the quick survey about rate options or add your comments to the forum please t encouraged to do so prior to 5.00pm today. Your advice is valuable and will help guide Wollondilly Shire Council determine how to best to maintain and improve assets and provide services now and into the futu

Your feedback is vital http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture

Not interested anymore? <u>Unsubscribe Instantly</u>. If clicking on the link doesn't work, try pasting "http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/unsubscribe/1b221cf8a9e54e4539f738d59d4f22c86d3doceb" into your browse

# Bernice Mcdonagh

Subject: Wollondilly - Special Rate Variation

Dear Resident.

Wollondilly Shire Council is responsible for providing multiple services aimed at: looking after the community; building a strong local economy; caring for the environment; managing and providing infrastructure; and ensuring accountable and transparent governance.

# Council rates generate revenue to provide these services!

Council has recently undertaken an extensive review of the condition of our buildings and road infrastructure. This review has revealed that an additional average of \$6 million per year is needed over the next ten years to maintain assets to a satisfactory level. Council is considering a Special Rate Variation of 8% per year over the next 7 years to generate this needed income. However, before Council decides whether to put forward a request for a Special Rate Variation to the relevant body (the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal - IPART), we are asking for the community's input.

Council is seeking your views on how we manage services and infrastructure now and into the future, and is proposing four rate scenarios that we would like you to consider.

An on-line Forum has been established to enable the community to have a say on the future management of the Shire's assets- <a href="http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture">http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture</a>

We welcome your participation in this discussion, and ask that you complete the on-line survey available on the Forum website <a href="http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture?module=survey">http://wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture?module=survey</a>.

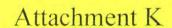
Additional information can also be obtained from Council's website, <u>www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au</u>, or by contacting Council on 02 4677 1100.

Les McMahon | General Manager

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

P (02) 4677 1147 | E les.mcmahon@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | W www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Approved by Les 25/1/2011 + letter approved



Posters / Flyers

Promotional posters were put up around the Shire to promote the Community Forums and encourage community participation / attendance.





Wollondilly have your say

# COME & HAVE YOUR SAY

# Wollondilly's Special Rate Variation Forums

- 7 February, Warragamba Town Hall, 6.30-8.30pm
- 9 February, Appin Community Hall, 6.30-8.30pm
- . 14 February, Picton, Council Chambers, 7.30-8.30pm

For more information: Ph 4677 1100 or

www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture



Did you know that Council is responsible for an extensive range of services and infrastructure that support, and are used by, you and the wider community every day of the year?

Council is responsible for providing multiple services aimed at: looking after the community; building a strong local economy; caring for the environment; managing and providing infrastructure; and ensuring accountable and transparent governance.

# Your rates generate revenue to provide these services!

Council has recently undertaken an extensive review of the condition of our buildings and road infrastructure. This review has revealed that an additional average of \$6 million per year is needed over the next ten years to maintain assets to a satisfactory level. Council is considering a Special Rate Variation of 8% per year over the next 7 years to generate this needed income. However, before Council decides whether to put forward a request for a Special Rate Variation to the relevant body (the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal - IPART), we are asking for the community's input.

Council is seeking your views on how we manage services and infrastructure now and into the future, and is proposing four rate scenarios that we would like you to consider.

Council's preferred option is an 8% increase (includes the rate pegging) per year for the next 7 years. If the rate cap determined by IPART changes, the maximum total rate increase for the 7 years will still be 8%.

This proposed increase will provide sufficient revenue to maintain current service levels and will enable Council to undertake much needed and urgent identified repairs and maintenance to assets including roads, sporting fields and community facilities.

Additional information on the proposed Special Rate Variation on can be found on Councils website or www.wollondillyhaveyoursay.com.au/fundingyourfuture, alternatively are available from Councils front counter or by contacting Council on ph 4677 1100

# **Wollondilly Shire Council Special Rate Variation Forums:**

- 7 February, 2011, Warragamba Town Hall, 6.30-8.30pm
- 9 February, 2011, Appin Community Hall, 6.30-8.30pm
- 14 February, 2011, Picton, Council Chambers, 7.30-8.30pm

# Attachment L

Table of Comments and Copies of Submissions

Comments were submitted by 87 individuals. Some individuals provided multiple comments (particularly via the on-line forum / on different dates), however they have only been counted once.

The comments were summarised in the attached table to enable Council staff to provide a brief response.

Submissions were provided via:

- Email
- post/handed in
- BTT (Bang the Table forum)

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
16/12/2010	5473-3#1	EMAIL	Concerns about illegal fill and impact of trucks on roads	Illegal filling is monitored by Council's rangers as required.  Overweight vehicles are monitored by the South East Weight of Load inspectors.
	·		Sensible growth and development would have increased rates	Growth provides new funding, but is required to match the costs associated with maintaining the roads and facilities servicing the new population. However, growth does not address the significant backlog of maintenance on existing infrastructure.
18/01/2011	5473-3#7	BTT	Understand limited resources	Noted: This is the primary reason to seek additional funding.
			Council does not always follow through with commitments	With regard to the Road Ahead Program, all projects were monitored by an Independent Audit Committee to ensure that all works were delivered as identified through the SRV. Council will establish a similar process should the SRV be approved.
·			Wants a commitment that only projects identified are funded - not new projects	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents.  These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
19/01/2011	1862-2#3	·EMAIL	Rates have risen 50% over 5 years	It is recognised that rates have actually risen by 61% during the previous SRV (10% per year cumulative over 5 years), however this has not been enough to address all asset maintenance issues including a significant asset maintenance backlog.
			Nothing has been done in Hambridge Road (Bargo)	Works were undertaken in Great Southern Road Bargo in 2007/8 and 2008/9, at a total cost of \$1.3m. It is noted that two thirds of the income from the proposed SRV is to be used on roads, which will include projects in Bargo, however the proposed SRV is to enable sufficient resources to maintain roads in all parts of the Shire.
19/01/2011	1862-2#4	EMAIL	Poor condition of Bargo Streetscape	Noted - this requires a substantial allocation of funds through other sources such as Developer Contributions, and is not intended to be addressed by the SRV.
			Very little money spent on Bargo roads	Works were undertaken in Great Southern Road Bargo in 2007/8 and 2008/9, at a total cost of \$1.3m. It is noted that two thirds of the income from the proposed SRV is to be used on roads, which will include projects in Bargo, however the proposed SRV is to enable sufficient resources to maintain roads in all parts of the Shire.
			Damage caused by heavy vehicles	It is recognised that as development and general commercial activity occurs there is a need to transport goods. As traffic increases there is an impact on local roads through increased wear and tear. This is part of the reason for seeking a Special Rate Variation. The maintenance needs of this increased wear and tear have been included in the consideration of the SRV.
			Tahmoor and Picton have seen a lot of road upgrades but Bargo has received nothing	Works were undertaken in Great Southern Road in 2007/8 and 2008/9, at a total cost of \$1.3m. It is noted that two thirds of the income from the proposed SRV is to be used on roads, which will include projects in Bargo.

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TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
		Concern that rates wilt be used to fund improvements to PTT - nothing for Bargo	There are a range of maintenance works identified across the Shire including Bargo, such as replacement of the damaged Bargo Community Hall timber floor, repairs to several bridges, repairs to Bargo Scout Hall, repairs to Bargo Sports Ground Storage Shed, provision of soft fall under the playground at Bargo sportsground, and additional sports field lighting. As the roads maintenance funding increases through the proposed SRV, more funds will also be available for maintaining roads in Bargo, as well as other townships.
5473-3#8	HII I		See Asset Management Plans available from Council's Website
		Wants a commitment that only projects identified are funded - not new projects	Projects and programs have been identified in the Asset Management Plan and Delivery Program documents. These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
5473-3#11	втт	Concerns with the way the survey has been developed	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
		Forget ratepayer-funded junkets for councillors ("family holidays")	Q&A: There have been no Council funded overseas trips for staff or Councillors since 2001.
		Forget about glossy plans and sister cities and get back to basics	The focus of the proposed SRV is to get back to basics and deal with the backlog of asset maintenance issues.
5473-3#12	втт	Wants closer scrutiny of where all of last years funds have gone	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
		. Do we really need cycleways / kerbs / gutters	There is a community expectation that they will have access to safe and well maintained cycleways, kerbs and gutters (as well as other public infrastructure).
·		Questions quality of road work done by Council in the past	Council often engages specialist contractors to undertake work and continuously monitors the quality of this work. Any issues relating to work quality are dealt with directly with the contractors.
		Raises concerns about quality of Silverdale Road	Funds have been identified in the draft works program for future stage works on Silverdale Road.
5473-3#13	втт	Questions survey - biased towards Liberal Party	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
		Comments on trips away / politics have taken over Council	Q&A: There have been no Council funded overseas trips for staff or Councillors since 2001.
5743-3#31	втт	For certain communities increase is not justified	As Council is responsible for the Wollondilly Local Government Area, planning must be undertaken on a Shire-wide and needs-based approach.
		Roads are in a state of non repair / graffiti on sign	Agreed - part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
		No public transport / no school	Whilst these issues are not the responsibility of Local Government, Council plays a key role in advocating on behalf of the community in relation to the need for community services.
	5473-3#8 5473-3#11 5473-3#13	5473-3#8 BTT  5473-3#11 BTT	Concern that rates will be used to fund improvements to PTT - nothing for Bargo  Wants a full and costed list of proposed asset and intrastructure projects  Wants a commitment that only projects identified are funded - not new projects  Concerns with the way the survey has been developed  Forget ratepayer-funded junkets for councillors ('family holidays')  Forget about glossy plans and sister cities and get back to basics  Wants closer scrutiny of where all of last years funds have gone  Do we really need cycleways / kerbs / gutters  Questions quality of road work done by Council in the past  Raises concerns about quality of Silverdate Road  5473-3#13 BTT Questions survey - biased towards Liberal Party  Comments on trips away / politics have taken ove Council  5743-3#31 BTT For certain communities increase is not justified Roads are in a state of non repair / graffiti on sign

		Little or no kerb and guttering	Wollondilly is primarily a rural area, however Council does allocate some resources towards kerb and guttering within townships.
		Council does not return correspondence re DA's	Council receives around 1,000 Development Applications per year. The mean gross determination time is 63.04 days. The median net determination time (excludes stop the clock provisions in EPA Act) is 24 days. In 2010, Council received 4,807 customer requests and averages between 400 to 450 CRM's each month.
		Faded 10 ton weight firnit sign	Weight Limit Signs are not the responsibility of Council, they are managed by the South East Weight of Load Group (jointly funded by Local Government).
5473-3#32	втт	Increased tip fees / development / parking inspectors should have increased income	The proposed SRV is based on a detailed assessment of financial needs and takes into consideration any increases in other income.
		Should have charged reasonable amount for York Street	The sale price of York Street was based on an independent market assessment and was influenced by its current market value.
		Strange road works at Camden and Razorback	Works have been undertaken in accordance with relevant design standards.
		Three resealing of roads that are still not right	Council often engages specialist contractors to undertake work and continuously monitors the quality of this work. Any issues relating to work quality are dealt with directly with the contractors.
		Growth of roadside litter - poorly run and organised Council clean up	Comments noted.
19 19 19 19 19		Edges of roads being chewed away by Council workers removing trees for firewood	The removal of road side trees is a public safety requirement.
		Councillors with vested interests	All elected Councillors are governed by a strict Code of Conduct
5473-3#33	втт	8% increase is well above inflation rate or annual salary increases	Acknowledged - however the proposed 8% SRV is based on asset maintenance needs across the Shire and are reflective of the true costs of addressing these needs.
		Why have Councils across NSW failed to convince State Gov to peg rates above 3%	Q&A: The rate peg limit set by IPART is not designed to address asset maintenance backlogs or funding shortfalls. Councils are required to apply for a Special Rate Variation to address these costs separately to the rate peg.
ļ		Where will households find the extra \$ for rate increase in addition to other utility increases	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
		Shouldn't Council consider borrowing	Q&A: It is inappropriate to borrow money on a long term basis for maintenance activities, as these costs occur annually and this type of debt would continue to grow and would be unsustainable in the long term. As borrowed funds need to be repaid plus interest, this would leave a large debt for future generations.  Some limited short term loan arrangements have been used previously, and may be appropriate in a small number of circumstances.
			Faded 10 ton weight firmit sign  Increased tip fees / development / parking inspectors should have increased income  Should have charged reasonable amount for York Street  Strange road works at Camden and Razorback  Three resealing of roads that are still not right  Growth of roadside litter - poorly run and organised Council clean up  Edges of roads being chewed away by Council workers removing trees for firewood  Councillors with vested interests  8% increase is well above inflation rate or annual salary increases  Why have Councils across NSW failed to convince State Gov to peg rates above 3%  Where will households find the extra \$ for rate increase in addition to other utility increases

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			Consider different concepts of channelling \$ to important assets	Council continually reviews services and takes advantage of available funding opportunities. However, many funding programs require a dollar for dollar commitment from Council, and many of these funding programs do not cover the true costs of providing services.
			Suggests rationalisation of federal and state governments	Noted however this is not a Local Government issue.
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25/01/2011	5473-3#34	вп	How much of the present rate income is used for staff wages and admin costs	Q&A: As Council is a service organisation, most of our activities are provided directly by staff - for example Library, Children's Services, parks maintenance, compliance / health inspections, animal control etc. During the 2010/2011 financial year, Council anticipates that 44% of total operational expenditure will be spent on employee costs. Staff wages and salaries are the major part of employee costs (about 85%) which also include superannuation, workers comp, Fringe Benefits Tax and training. This figure includes all employee costs associated with Works, Infrastructure Planning, Facilities and Recreation, Community Services, Environmental Services, Strategic Planning, Development Services, Information Services, Financial Services and Administrative Services, as well as the Executive (including General Manager and Assistant General Managers).
			How many Council staff have the use of a Council vehicle	Q&A: Council currently has a fleet consisting of 21 Utilities and 59 Passenger cars. There is personal use associated with these vehicles ranging from commuter use (to and from work) to full private use. Those with full private use make a contribution towards vehicle costs. All Council cars are available, and used for, operational purposes such as inspections following resident requests, meetings with other organisations and residents, and supervision of works during the working day. Not just by the lease holder but by all staff. This includes the General Managers car.
			Will the proposed increase be used for infrastructure and/or additional staff	See FAQ#1
26/01/2011	5473-3#35	вп	Council rates have doubled since 2006	It is recognised that rates have actually risen by 61% during the previous SRV (10% per year cumulative over 5 years), however this has not been enough to address all asset maintenance issues including a significant asset maintenance backlog.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
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			Difficult for pensioners	Agreed. Q&A: Eligible pensioners in the Shire are currently receiving the following rebates:  - a discount of 50% of their combined rates and charges up to a maximum of \$250. This is a mandatory rebate funded by the State Government (55%) and Council (45%),  - a discount of 50% on Domestic Waste bins - this is a voluntary rebate fully funded by Council (Section 582 rebate), and  - walving of the Stormwater Levy charges (applicable to ratepayers located in urban areas) of \$25 - this is a voluntary rebate fully funded by Council (Section 582 rebate).  These rebates can potentially equate to a saving for Pensioners of up to \$476 per annum depending on their bin service and location.  The total cost to Council for pensioner rebates is just over \$630,000 per annum  In comparison to other Councils, Wollondilly's Section 582 rebate could be considered 'very generous'. The majority of Councils do not offer any additional voluntary rebate under Section 582, including Wollondilly's neighbouring Councils Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecambee. Other examples of Councils that do offer rebates under
			Start getting more efficient	See FAQ 5. Also see Council's Seechange document. Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members
			New housing areas are already giving Council an increased rate flow	of the community.  Growth provides new funding, but is required to match the new costs associated with maintaining the new roads and facilities servicing the new population. However, growth does not address the significant backlog of maintenance on existing infrastructure.
			Did Council lose so much money in overseas investments that they have a big shortfall	Q&A: To date Council has not lost any capital on investments as a result of the GFC. There is 2% or \$500,000 of Council's investment portfolio considered to be at a high risk of at least partial capital loss pending the liquidation of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
27/01/2011	5473-3#36	EMAIL	Votes for Scenario 4 - 10%	Comments noted.
		•	Understand that rate rise is never an easy step to take but is supportive	Comments noted.
25/01/2011	5473-3#37	EMAIL	Disgusted that ratepayers should be asked to pay higher than rate peg	Comments noted.
			If scenario 4 adopted, would be paying double current rates	Comments noted.
			Other Councils charge users of parks and community facilities to pay to use	Wotlondilly Council charges for the use of sporting facilities and community halls in line with its Fees and Charges policy. However, Council does not necessarily charge commercial rates, as this is a service we provide to the community.
			Over the past year road projects have been a joke e.g. Thirdmere Way	Council often engages specialist contractors to undertake work and continuously monitors the quality of this work. Any issues relating to work quality are dealt with directly with the contractors.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
		- -	Re-marking of Remembrance Drive - changed and now increases risk of accidents	Line marking has been implemented in accordance with design standards and the marking of Remembrance Drive has been approved by the RTA.
26/01/2011	5473-3#39	ВТТ	Oakdale roads are terrible	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Cheap contractors - shoddy work	Council often engages specialist contractors to undertake work and continuously monitors the quality of this work. Any issues relating to work quality are dealt with directly with the contractors.
			Complaints about waterboard	Unable to comment - refers to Waterboard.
			Horrific building site in middle of (town)	Unable to comment - refers to commercial business.
			Graffiti not removed	Council responds to an average of 65 reported incidents of Graffiti each year, and has introduced a graffiti management system.
			Wollondilly ignores Oakdale / Bellimba Park - close to 3,000 residents. No grass cutting done in the area.	Assets across the Shire are maintained on an as-needs and risk management basis within limited available resources.
			Don't acknowledge that Oakdale exists	Comments noted.
			Access to Natti destroyed by coal trucks and neglected by Council	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Asking ratepayers about rate rises is a cowards way - looking for blame	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
			Do something in Oakdale so can at least catch up with rest of the Shire	Assets across the Shire are maintained on an as-needs and risk management basis within limited available resources.
26/01/2011	5473-3#40	втт	Council needs to increase efficiency and control costs and work within budget	See FAQ 5. Also see Council's Seechange document. Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
			Road repaired at end of street has already started to break up- how much money was wasted on this repair	In many cases, Council does not have the resources available to undertake permanent repairs. This is part of the reason for the proposed SRV.
			Contract work out to more efficient companies - more cost productive	Council often engages specialist contractors to undertake work and continuously monitors the quality of this work. Any issues relating to work quality are dealt with directly with the contractors.
27/01/2011	5473-3#48	EMAIL	Positive changes have taken place	Comments noted.
<u>.</u>			Good planning in area	Comments noted.
	1		Concerned about Park Street Tahmoor	Comments noted.
26/01/2011	5473-3#51	ВТТ	Complaints about Silverdale Road and Famsworth Road Roundabout - response from Council referring to Contractor	Council often engages specialist contractors to undertake work and continuously monitors the quality of this work. Any issues relating to work quality are dealt with directly with the contractors.
27/01/2011	5473-3#52	ВТТ	Rates nearly doubled since 2005	It is recognised that rates have actually risen by 61% during the previous SRV (10% per year cumulative over 5 years), however this has not been enough to address all asset maintenance issues including a significant asset maintenance backlog.
			Paying double what other Councils are charging	This statement is not supported by a comparison with a number of local councils
			Merge with another Council	See FAQ 10.
			Pot hole filler is a waste of time and money	In many cases, Council does not have the resources available to undertake permanent repairs. This is part of the reason for the proposed SRV.
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Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			Silverdate Road is disgusting	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			How are we guaranteed that increase funding will go towards roads in need	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents. These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
			State MP has not provided money to roads in Silverdale/Warragamba -	Silverdate Road was reclassified in 2009, making it eligible for some limited State funding.
		·	Options do not allow for someone to choose not to agree with any of them	Council accepted written submissions, emails, phone calls and completed surveys. In addition, Council held three Community Forums where members of the community were permitted to ask questions and raise their concerns. All feedback has been included in the summary report.
			Should be bought out by another Council where we are charged rates similar to the rest of Sydney West	See FAQ 10.
27/01/2011	5473-3#53	BTT	Believe rates increase is needed	Comments noted.
			Needs to be more clarity in where the money is going	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents. These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
:			People should take more responsibility for what we have around us - don't just say 'Council should fix that'	Comments noted.
			CRM system does work - graffiti has been eliminated in Warragamba and Silverdale	Comments noted.
			Need to do something with Famsworth Ave as road is not coping with increased traffic since dam reopened	Extra works have now been completed on Farnsworth Avenue, funded through current resources.
			Need to do something about the sides of Silverdale Road for people walking along the sides	This would require a high level of resources as it would involve major construction work. This is not something that Council has planned in the near future:
29/01/2011	5473-3#54	втт	Not so inexpensive glossy survey - uses a reply paid form at our expense	Council only pays postage for those surveys that are returned. This is a much cheaper option that supplying reply paid envelopes. The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
			Survey does not properly disclose the full impact of 8% per annum increase	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. Further detail was provided via Council's website (including all IPR documentation and FAQs/Fact Sheets and link to online forum and Q & A's), via the online Forum (IPR documentation, Q & A's and link to Council website). The survey include a section regarding where to get further information. Information was also provided over the Counter, via phone and posted out to individuals where requested. In addition a power point presentation was provided at three community forums and also displayed in the Council Foyer, Library and Information Centre.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			Rates proposal is a convenient and easy fix for Council and Councillors to solve a problem without putting proper and considered thought to alternatives	A range of scenarios were developed and presented in response to detailed financial and asset maintenance assessments.
			Attempt to bully people by continuing to bias the proposal towards Council's preferred option	Four possible scenarios were presented to the community for consideration. In order to be transparent, Council acknowledged its preferred option in light of the asset maintanance requirements.
27/01/2011	5473-3#55	втт	Would like confirmation that 50% of rates are used for admin costs	Q&A: As Council is a service organisation, most of our activities are provided directly by staff - for example Library, Children's Services, parks maintenance, compliance / health inspections, animal control etc. During the 2010/2011 financial year, Council anticipates that 44% of total operational expenditure will be spent on employee costs. Staff wages and salaries are the major part of employee costs (about 85%) which also include superannuation, workers comp. Fringe Benefits Tax and training. This figure includes all employee costs associated with Works, Infrastructure Planning, Facilities and Recreation, Community Services, Environmental Services, Strategic Planning, Development Services, Information Services, Financial Services and Administrative Services, as well as the Executive (including General Manager and Assistant General Managers).
29/01/2011	5473-3#56	втт	Council needs to be very clear about how it has performed with past investments	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
			Council not showing us how it intends to ensure income is not wasted either through poor investment decisions or leakage in expenses	Q&A: To date Council has not lost any capital on investments as a result of the GFC. There is 2% or \$500,000 of Council's investment portfolio considered to be at a high risk of at least partial capital loss pending the liquidation of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
27/01/2011	5473-3#57	втт	Would pay increased rates if Council will fix the appalling roads	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Want to know what my current rates are paying fo	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community. Council's Annual Report provides information relating to activities undertaken in the financial year.
			No street lights, no kerb and guttening, no sewer, no town water, overgrown bush and weeds, condition of roads is disgusting in suburb (not named)	Wollondilly is primarily a rural area, however Council does allocate some resources towards kerb and guttering within townships.
			Potholes get bigger every time it rains - road base just washes away	In many cases, Council does not have the resources available to undertake permanent repairs. This is part of the reason for the proposed SRV.
			Strongly oppose rate rise unless Council plans to fix the problems	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents. These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
29/01/2011	5473-3#58	ВТТ	Council does nothing to make me feel we will see any benefit	Comments noted.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
28/01/2011	5473-3#59	втт	Special rate rise was granted a few years ago for the same thing - nothing has changed	See FAQ 2.
			Council has flash new excavators, graders, trucks, cars - don't use them properly	Councit appropriately schedules the use and replacement of equipment to meet the growing maintenance needs of the Shire.
			Near Bridgewater when you enter Wollondilly - shambles - long grass, weeds	Noted - CRM raised.
			Accidents in area - large number are road condition related	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues. Council also works with the Federal Black Spot program to address areas that are identified as having high accident rates.
			Thirlmere Way - how many times have you re- surfaced over the last 2 years - who is paying for the stuff ups	Remedial works have been undertaken in 2011 to address the poor quality of work. This remedial work has been at the contractors cost.
			Razorback - took ages and when it got hot the roads melted - most dangerous parts are neglected	See FAQ 11.
		1	Remembrance Drive - good stuff but a contractor did it	Comments noted.
			Tar Truck should be sold - pot holes are back in a day or two	In many cases, Council does not have the resources available to undertake permanent repairs. This is part of the reason for the proposed SRV.
			Council needs to get back to basics - signage, road markings and proper maintenance of the roads	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Intersection of Avon Dam Road and Lupton Road needs a sign - T intersection up ahead	Noted for further investigation.
	1		Road markings needed on Razorback	Noted and raised with Works - proposing nightime audits.
:			Razorback road surface is unsuitable and Armoo railings have been smashed for years	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Stop worrying about stupid things like entry to Khans Supermarket	Comments noted.
			What is the road work at Bridgewater for	The road work has been undertaken to match the road width of the adjoining section that sits within Camden Local Government Area.
	:		Council should reduce running costs and become more efficient	See FAQ 5. Also see Council's Seechange document. Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
			Should have to present to the people of Wollondilly prior to putting your hand out	The purpose of the SRV Community Engagement is to present the situation to the community and seek their feedback.
29/01/2011	5473-3#60	втт	Comments about 'family ties' make up of Councillors and amateurish presentation - stepping stone to state politics	Comments noted.
29/01/2011	5473-3#61	втт	Council lost all our money through poor judgemen on so-called investments - gambled our money away	Q&A: To date Council has not lost any capital on investments as a result of the GFC. There is 2% or \$500,000 of Council's investment portfolio considered to be at a high risk of at least partial capital loss pending the liquidation of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
			All overseas trips for Councillors should be banned	Q&A: There have been no Council funded overseas trips for staff or Councillors since 2001.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
27/01/2011	5473-3 <del>#</del> 62	втт	Rates have increased by 25% since 2007 - income has not kept pace	It is recognised that rates have actually risen by 61% during the previous SRV (10% per year cumulative over 5 years), however this has not been enough to address all asset maintenance issues including a significant asset maintenance backlog.
			If assets have deteriorated, where has the money gone	Sufficient income has not been generated to maintain assets over an extended period of time.
			Has Council considered reducing the number of minimum rate payers gradually over the next 7 years	This would not have any effect on our total rate revenue. It would only change the mix of who pays what amount. Council's total rate revenue would still remain the same because the approved rate increase (ie: the 2.8% rate peg increase, or the 8% special rate increase if approved) is the amount that Council is allowed to increase its total rate revenue by. Once that total amount is determined, then we need distribute that amount across all of Council's rateable properties. So, to have less people on the minimum would mean that the minimum rate would need to be lowered and therefore the difference would be applied across all other (non-minimum) assessments.
			Council may have to consider reducing those facilities in most need of repair - e.g. some Shire Halls	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed.
	:		Council should manage our assets better - sometimes difficult decisions must be made	Council needs to balance the cost and usage of community assets with the need to provide low-cost facilities as part of its commitment to supporting the community.
27/01/2011	5473-3#63	втт	Has Council explained how they have been effected by the GFC as stated in roads ahead FAQ	Q&A: To date Council has not lost any capital on investments as a result of the GFC. There is 2% or \$500,000 of Council's investment portfolio considered to be at a high risk of at least partial capital loss pending the liquidation of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
			Would feel happier about a rate rise if Council were to have the funding independently audited and a prioritised list of expenditure provided	With regard to the Road Ahead Program, all projects were monitored by an independent Audit Committee to ensure that all works were delivered as identified through the SRV. Council will establish a similar process should the SRV be approved.
			How was the other funding spent (previous rate rise)	As above.
			Council should be more proactive regarding development - there would be more ratepayers	Growth provides funding, but is required to match the costs associated with maintaining the roads and facilities servicing the new population. However, growth does not address the significant backlog of maintenance on existing infrastructure
28/01/2011	5473-3#64	втт	List of intended key projects and services is needed to be able to consider specific budgeted projects	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents.  These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
27/01/2011	5473-3#65	ВТТ	The difference between 2.8% and 8% is significan (quotes some figures)	Comments noted.
			Option 4 - early delivery - wouldn't be needed if State Government hadn't put a cap on developer levies	Developer Contributions are used to meet the needs of future populations that result from the new developments, not to deal with existing asset maintenance.
			Bingara Gorge has ten times the amount of footpaths the rest of the area has	New Developments are required to provide a higher level of infrastructure than compared to 20 years ago.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			Happy to pay the extra, but new services need to be spread around	As Council is responsible for the Wollondilly Local Government Area, planning must be undertaken on a Shire-wide and needs-based approach.
28/01/2011	5473-3#66	вп	Community Strategic Plan - how much did it cost Council to produce	Produced in-house.
			Spend less on what we need in 2030 and focus on 2011	Council needs to plan for the future of the Shire. It is required to have a minimum 10 year Community Strategic Plan and minimum 10 year Financial Plan. It is essential to have an understanding of the communities expectations and future financial needs in order to plan for future generations.
			Look at major cost reduction through day to day operations	See FAQ 5. Also see Council's Seechange document.
			Get back to basics - many things we perceive as assets are actually liabilities - some we need to discard	Council needs to balance the cost and usage of community assets with the need to provide low-cost facilities as part of its commitment to supporting the community.
			Council should focus less on minority and more on a majority - concentrate on the necessities not the niceties	There are a range of community expectations relating to Council services and infrastructure. Council needs to balance these expectations in line with financial constraints.
			Suggests user pays for Council amenities and facilities	Wollondilly Council charges for the use of sporting facilities and community halls in fine with its Fees and Charges policy. However, Council does not necessarily charge commercial rates, as this is a service we provide to the community.
29/01/2011	5473-3#67	втт	Need a proper analysis of what is needed rather than what would be nice to have	See Asset Management Plans available from Council's Website.
_			Need a proper and reasoned argument without having to delve through a pile of documents	See FAQs and Q&As on Council's website and Bang the Table Forum. Council also ran three Community Forums to explain the issues.
			Are there any dissenting Councillors prepared to speak against the increase	Matter for Councillors.
		•	Asset sales, swaps, cross Council alliances, rationalisation of assets, and cost efficiency assessment long overdue	Council has in place a range of resource sharing agreements which have been established and implemented over a number of years.
			Biased material sent to ratepayers - not a balanced assessment	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
30/01/2011	5473-3#68	ВПТ	Save money by not sending glossy parriphlets	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
30/01/2011	5473-3#69	ВТТ	With increases in essentials, Council like us has to curtail spending	In addition to seeking additional revenue, Council is also continuously seeking to improve efficiencies.
			Average person cannot afford increase - Council should make cuts	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed. See FAQ 5. Also see Council's Seechange document.
1/02/2011	5473-3#73	POST	As a pensioner can't afford rate increase	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
			No street lights, mows the Council property along the roadside	Streetlighting is provided in accordance with available resources. As with most Councils residents maintain the verge outside their properties.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			What will the SRV provide	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents.  These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
1/01/2011	547 <del>3.3#74</del>	POST—	Rates-wasted-on-the-survey-	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need-for a SRV-and-to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
			Does Council believe a representative number of residents would sanction 8 or 10% increase	As above.
			Was the survey necessary	As above.
31/01/2011	5473-3#76	EMAIL	Braddocks Road - contractor graded the road and created more damage - Council came along and repaired	Comment noted.
31/01/2011	5473-3#77	EMAIL	Many people will struggle to afford - particularly those on low income	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
			Proposes that larger businesses contribute more \$ towards infrastructure	Council's total rate revenue would still remain the same because the approved rate increase (ie: the 2.8% rate peg increase, or the 8% special rate increase if approved) is the amount that Council is allowed to increase its total rate revenue by. Once that total amount is determined, then we need distribute that amount across all of Council's rateable properties.
29/01/2011	5473-3#78	EMAIL	Happy to increase by 8% but wants to see more of the rates spent in The Oaks	Assets across the Shire are maintained on an as-needs and risk management basis within limited available resources.
1/02/2011	5473-3#79	EMAIL	Survey is a waste of money	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
			Why are rates the only option	A range of options have been assessed such as loans and asset sales which have been evaluated and are not considered appropriate for reasons of sustainability and intergenerational equity.
			Look at allowing subdivisions	Growth provides funding, but is required to match the costs associated with maintaining the roads and facilities servicing the new population. However, growth does not address the significant backlog of maintenance on existing infrastructure
			Comparison to Taree Rates - lower than Wolfondilly	Council has provided information to demonstrate relativities between Councils.
			Increase the population in Tahmoor, Thirlmere, Picton and Bargo	Growth provides funding, but is required to match the costs associated with maintaining the roads and facilities servicing the new population. However, growth does not address the significant backlog of maintenance on existing infrastructure
			Thirlmere Streetscape is disappointing - parking is dangerous	Concern noted.
2/02/2011	5473-3#80	POST	User pay option for pools, libraries etc should be introduced	Wollondilly Council charges for the use of sporting facilities and community halls in line with its Fees and Charges policy. However, Council does not necessarily charge commercial rates, as this is a service we provide to the community.
			Should only increase the rates to the cost of living index	This would not address the infrastructure maintenance backlog.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			Amalgamate	See FAQ 10.
/02/2011	5473-3#85	EMAIL	Complaint about local road - should have paid for the job properly (Farnsworth Ave)	Extra works have now been completed on Farnsworth Avenue, funded through current resources.
22/01/2011	5473-3#88	POST	Not acceptable to threaten to close parks and facilities yet ask for a pay rise	The proposed SRV is based on a detailed assessment of financial needs and is focused on infrastructure renewal. Council is required to remunerate staff in accordance with the NSW State Award.
			Need better management of ratepayer money	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
			Government gave the Shire 40 million for roads last year - where to?	This statement is incorrect.
			Spend too much on Council Christmas parties	Council only spends a modest amount on Christmas celebrations.
			Reduce company cars	Refer Q&A on Council Vehicles
***************************************			Spend money on elections but cannot spend money on sending the residents a pamphlet voting for or against	All ratepayers were sent an information brochure and survey.
20/01/2011	5473-3#89	POST	Rates have risen by 10% every year since moving to Cawdor	It is recognised that rates have actually risen by 61% during the previous SRV (10% per year cumulative over 5 years), however this has not been enough to address all asset maintenance issues including a significant asset maintenance backlog.
			Further rate increase would cause financial difficulties	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
			No major works done on Razorback in 6 years	Works have been undertaken on Remembrance Drive at a number of locations. Further works are also programmed.
6/02/2011	5473-3#96	EMAIL	Does not support a rate rise	Comment noted.
			Council should manage their spending more efficiently	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community. Council continually strives for efficiency improvements.
8/02/2011	5473-3#97	POST	Spend half weekly income on mortgage alone and too many more increases would see loss of home	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
10/02/2011	5473-3#102	PO <b>S</b> T	8% is preferable to selling community assets	Comment noted.
		_	What can be done to assist pensioners, genuine hardship cases, farmers	See Q&A concerning Pensioners.
7/02/2011	5473-3#103	EMAIL	Street has no kerb and guttering	Council has limited funds available for kerb and gutterworks.
			State of road between Picton and Tahmoor is atrocious	Council is seeking additional funding for infrastructure maintenance through the SRV. Additionally, some funds have been budgeted fro works in this area in 2011.
			Need to clean up section between Castlereagh and Pitt Streets Tahmoor	Concern noted.
7/02/2011	5473-3#104	EMAIL	Can't afford to pay more with increases in utilities	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
			Do we really need the flowerbeds that stick out into the main road in Picton	Streetscape works in the various townships are considered to be an important priority by the community.
			Traffic lights put in then taken out - waste of money	Comment noted.
			Managed to ruin the rural aspect of Tahmoor by allowing medium density development	Concern noted.

Da	ate	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			_	Government housing in Thirtmere - no buses or trains, no doctors or supermarket	This was determined by the State Government.
	:			Allow mining under people's houses and have had to repair bridge in Picton because of mining	Approval of mining activities is generally a State responsibility.
				Community Hall in Westbourne Ave looks like its ready to fall down - fix or sell off	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed.
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1(	0/02/2011	5473-3#105	POST	Most people cannot afford to continually keep paying more	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
				Wages and pensions do not increase by more than 3%	Concern noted. The proposed rate variation is to address a long-stand infrastructure maintenance backlog.
١				Federal government has lived outside its means and blown any reserves	Comment noted.
ļ		i		State government is wanting to sell assets as a short term fix	Concern noted.
				Council should start controlling spending and minimise waste	Council's Income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community. Council continually strives for efficiency improvements.
				Look closer to user pays	Wollondilly Council charges for the use of sporting facilities and community halls in line with its Fees and Charges policy. However, Council does not necessarily charge commercial rates, as this is a service we provide to the community.
١			-	Stop the big trucks damaging the roads and corners	Council only has a very limited ability to control loads on roads.
				Bargo Hall floor could be put on hold	Deferred maintenance is an option that can be considered as part of Council's overall asset management role. However, the current asset backlog is due to on-going deferred maintenance and at some stage unmaintained assets will need to be decommissioned.
				Sporting lighting is a nice to have - not necessity	Council is required to manage community risks. Inadequate lighting may result in some sportsgrounds being closed for evening uses.
9	3/02/2011	5473-3#106	EMAIL	Has seen no documentation in the Council books that warrant increase	Refer range of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents including draft Asset Management Plan and draft Long Term Financial Plan.
9	9/02/2011	5473-3#107	EMAIL	Has not sent back the survey received in rates notice - did not give ratepayers a choice	Four options were listed in the survey seeking community comment.
				Would like improvements but not through a rate rise	Improvements cannot be provided without additional funding.
				Oppose proposal to have Waste Management Centre in Bargo	Comment noted.
-	11/02/2011	5473-3#108	EMAIL	Council does very little for Silverdale and Warragamba	Over recent years, significant funds have been allocated in this area.
			<del></del>	Lack of parking at school and shopping areas - stunned by decision not to approve additional parking at Silverdale shops	Concern noted.
				Has to pay for envirocycle sewage management but Council doesn't come anywhere near it	Concern noted.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
11/02/2011	5473-3#110	EMAIL	Article in Macarthur Chronicle - tables about impact of rates - questioning calculations	Council has provided a broad range of information and documents regarding the proposal. It is acknowledged that one of the headings in a table was incorrect.
12/02/2011	5473-3#111	EMAIL	Roads are shocking - potholes are patched up	Agreed - part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Trees hang over road	Council undertakes a tree trimming program in accordance with available funding.
•			Need a sign saying 'stay on your own side of the road and slow down'	Comment noted.
			Would like to know where all the money goes	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
14/02/2011	5473-3#125	POST	Opposes proposed SRV - will support Mayor in Councillors election if SRV opposed	Comment noted.
15/02/2011	5473-3#130	EMAIL	Stop giving concessions to people other than pensioners - rate rise should be across the board	Council's rating structure seeks to maintain an equitable approach to rating.
			Don't agree with concessions for farmers - use roads with heavy vehicles - proposes increase to farmers rates by the 5.2%	As above.
16/02/2011	5473-3#132	EMAIL	Need proper planning and management of spending priorities	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents. These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be fund
			Locals have been supporting community assets for years - special levy should be put on people who use community facilities	Wollondilly Council charges for the use of sporting facilities and community halls in line with its Fees and Charges policy. However, Council does not necessarily charge commercial rates, as this is a service we provide to the community.
16/02/2011	5473-3#137	EMAIL	Questions validity of IPR documents	Concern noted, Council does not agree with the views expressed.
			Questions accuracy of financials presented	As above.
			If Valuer General adds %, this means that income will increase	Revaluations do not have the effect of increasing Council's total rate income.
16/02/2011	5473-3#138	POST	Council needs to look harder at its spending - eg The Oaks landscaping works not important	Comment noted.
		•	Ask residents if they really want high cost sewer option	Sewer is not a Council responsibility.
			Should not be funding new assets if can't maintain	Agreed.
17/02/2011	5473-3#140	POST	Questions about media story - mentions 8% but did not indicate that this was Option 3	Concern noted.
			Why is Council involved in Child Care	This provides an important service to families in our community.
			Community Development is a State responsibility	Council receives some government funding that supports the work undertaken in relation to community development.
			Why is Council managing Community Transport	Council does not manage community transport. However, it does provide a community bus which is available for hire to local community groups.
	1.		Why is Council involved in Community Safety	Community safety is considered important to our community.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
			Cultural affairs - there is a State department that looks after these matters - \$10,000 Art Prize where did this come from	Council does not provide a \$10,000 art prize.
	<u> </u>	;	State and Federal government have bodies monitoring economic development	Economic Development was identified as a high priority in our recent community survey and in response to the Community Strategic Plan 2030.
•	-		Do we really need a parking officer	This provides an important service.
<del> </del>		<u> </u>	There has been a growth in community	Comment noted.
			expectation from Council for community matters which are not Council's concern	Congress noted.
·			Role of AGM looking after Development, Strategic, Community, Information and Admin should be reviewed to ascertain what should be discontinued	Comment noted.
17/02/2011	5473-3#141	POST	Why now when utilities are increases and households are slowly recovering from the GFC	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
			Ratepayers are doing it tough - give us a break	As above.
20/02/2011	5473-3#145	EMAIL	Westbrook and Finns Road are a death trap	Council monitors crash history across the Shire to assist in identifying priorities for funding.
			When was the last time Riversford Road was professionally tarred and sealed	The purpose of the SRV is to assist in addressing maintenance backlogs (particularly roads).
			Septic system tax - \$45 per household - locals let effluent flow down the street	Concern noted - if further details are provided Council may be able to follow-up.
			Waste - why is recycled and household waste being emptied into the same truck?	The truck has 2 chambers and the sensor on the lifting arm can tell if its a red ( waste ) bin or a yellow ( recycling) bin by the size the arms need to contract as it lifts the bin. Recycled and household waste are emptied into the separate chambers.
			Why is there only one green bin collection fortnightly	The services is provided having regard to cost and community need.
			Need enquiry into how Council spends money - is it overstaffed	Q&A: As Council is a service organisation, most of our activities are provided directly by staff - for example Library, Children's Services, parks maintenance, compliance / health inspections, animal control etc.
20/02/2011	5473-3#146	EMAIL	Position Paper submitted	Comments noted.
18/02/2011	5473-3#147	POST	Previous increases in rates - being asked to consider further permanent increase - annual income does not share the increasing percentage	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
21/02/2011	5473-3#148	EMAIL	Rate payers money has been wasted on cycleways and paying for rubbish to be collected on public holidays	Concern noted
12/02/2011	5473-3#154	EMAIL	Automatic progression of salaries does not exist in Campbelltown Council but has been announced by Les McMahon as happening in Wollondilly	All Councils are required to remunerate staff in accordance with the State Award.
			Is Council tendering for contracts	Council tenders for contracts in accordance with S55 of the Local Government Act.
			Have not divulged income Council already receives from rates	This information is freely available. Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
			Extravagance in examining pending works	Concern noted.

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Date	TRIM	Source		Response to comments
			Children swing sets were banned 25 years ago - immediate action is required	Concern noted.
				The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
			Suggest appointing a management consultant to iron out Council's problems	Suggestion noted.
			Safety - awaiting the report of injury and motor vehicle accidents with parked cars in The Oaks - drivers are now at risk due to narrow parking areas and carriageways	Comment noted. Investigations in progress.
			Still awaiting action from Council regarding road safety complains at The Oaks - left turning articulated delivery vehicle May 2010	Comment noted. Investigations in progress.
			Saleable assets are available to generate income	Council continually reviews its operational holdings for opportunities to recover as suitable return.
			Mt Hunter still has no town water and sewerage	Council is not the Water / Sewer Authority.
			Much of the Shire is without affordable sewerage	As above.
	·		Council sewerage schemes generate revenue for Council	As above.
			Council wants 25 years to prepare for development that was to have occurred by 2000	Concern noted.
4/02/2011	5473-3#161	BTT	My house no longer exists in 2030 Vision for retail in Wilton	Comment noted.
6/02/2011	5473-3#162	ВТТ	Need to get back to basics - roads are appailing	The proposed rate variation is focussed on addressing this concern.
•			Footpaths and cycleways are not important	There are various community views regarding the importance of footpaths and cycleways.
			Lighting for sports fields - don't play on them in the dark	Limiting sports led to day-time use is an option.
			Need prioritised list for expenditure	Projects and programs have been identified on the Asset Management Plan and Delivery Program.
31/01/2011	5473-3#163	ВТТ	Doubles rates - income will not increase by that rate	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
			Worried about impact on families	As above.
			Council should reassess amount of people it employs - too many Council expenses	Council continually strives for efficiency improvements.
			Council outgoings need to be published	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community.
			Do we really need as many assets - eg halls in small towns	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed.
	<del> </del>		Council spent a large amount of money on an equestrian centre	This is not correct.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
9/02/2011	5473-3#164	вп	Why do all sporting fields need lights	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed.
15/02/2011	5473-3#165	ВТТ	Used to have meter box to use lighting on sports fields - why are ratepayers paying electricity charges to lights at sporting fields	These charges are generally passed on to the users.
15/02/2011	5473-3#166-	.811	Save ratepayers by huming off-sporting lights	As above:
10/02/2011	5473-3#167	втт		Rating structures generally fluctuate across a local government area depending on land value rating classification.
3/02/2011	5473-3#168	81T	Amused that Council has removed play equipment because they are now unsafe and now cant be replaced - surely should have been planned in long term capital expenditure program	Council has recently undertaken an audit and condition assessment of assets and this has been used to prepare a long term asset management plan
15/02/2011	5473-3#169	вп	Maybe equipment has not been maintained since installed - what are Council workers doing if they are not maintaining assets	Council has not had the resources to maintain all assets in a reasonable condition, this is the reason for the proposed SRV.
21/02/2011	5473-3#170	811	Existing rate variation (Roads Ahead) - does Council intend on removing this variation before imposing a new one	No. The proposed new Special Rate Variation is in addition to the previous Roads Ahead Program, providing further funds for maintenance for all assets, not just roads.
22/02/2011	5473-3#171	втт	Council has increased rates over 10% each year - increase has resulted in 61% which is now built in to rates. With new SRV, a further 71% will be built in.	Noted
			Suggest that rates be levied for 5 years and then revert	If rates revert after 5 years, maintenance will then also decrease.
22/02/2011	5473-3#174	POST	People on rural properties would be carrying an unfair proportion of the costs	The Farmland Rate is proposed to increase by a lesser amount than other categories.
			Increases should be equal across the board as everyone uses the facilities equally	Council applies its rating structure so as to achieve an equitable outcome
			Wollondiily is a mining rich area - should pay for	The mining rate is proposed to increase at a greater rate than other categories.
22/02/2011	5473-3#176	POST	Currently pay 2 separate garbage rates for 2 separate blocks but one is a vacant block of land	Vacant blocks attract an * availability charge * of around \$100 this covers admin and other waste services and is legal under the Local Govt Act. Nearly all Councils charge one . A standard 3 bin collection service in Wollondilly is currently \$400.
			Entitled to primary producers rates but Council has knocked me back	Noted.
			Still paying the extra rates from 6 years ago	It is recognised that rates have actually risen by 61% during the previous SRV (10% per year cumulative over 5 years), however this has not been enough to address all asset maintenance issues including a significant asset maintenance backlog.
			Roads are inferior, breaking up, rough, melt on hot days - saw a truck load of dirt being poured on road	The reason for the proposed SRV is to address outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Paid a neighbour to cut grass at front along the road - this is Council's job	Council does not generally mow the verges in front of private residential properties, and generally relies on residents to undertake this activity.

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	·	Refuse private enterprise sponsorship such as	
		Picton Ghost Hunt Tours - I don't pay rates for this	Concern noted.
		Noxious weeds not treated	Noxious weeds are managed in accordance with available resources.
5473-3#177	POST	Reduce staff by one Director and Four Managers	Suggestion noted.
		Hand over road maintenance to private enterprise	Substantial components of roads maintenance such as sealing are already provided by private contractors.
		Charge motorists a levy for travelling on Council roads	Toll roads not a Council option.
		Put an extra \$30 on player registration for sporting lights	Wollondilly Council charges for the use of sporting facilities and community halls in line with its Fees and Charges policy. However, Council does not necessarily charge commercial rates, as this is a service we provide to the community.
		Antill Park - should be an investigation	Lease negotiations are currently in progress.
		All underutilised buildings should be shut down	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed.
		Management of playgrounds should be handed over to community groups	The maintenance costs would not change as a result of the management model.
		Keep Council as small as possible - if this means fewer services, so be it	Council continually assesses efficiencies and service levels.
5473-3#182	ВТТ	Worried about how to pay as a self funded retiree	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
		No faith that Council will properly prioritise proposed new works	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents.  These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
		Disagree with spending on non-essentials such as sportsground lighting	Part of the engagement is to determine how the community would feel about Council reducing the assets. Cawdor Tennis Courts, Menangle Hall and some playgrounds have already been closed.
		Support increased spending on roads but need fong term solutions	In many cases, Council does not have the resources available to undertake permanent repairs. This is part of the reason for the proposed SRV.
		Council should provide a long term apolitical commitment	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents.  These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
5473-3#183	BTT	Need a list of specific services to be cut and facilities that will not be maintained	This may be the subject of a further consultation process.
	,	Scenario 3 and 4 hold ment provided a specific list of infrastructure is provided	Projects and programs have been identified in the IPR documents.  These projects are focused on maintaining existing infrastructure, or ensuring that resources are made available to reduce risks to the community. Any new capital improvements will be funded through other sources such as grants or Developer Contributions.
	5473-3#182	5473-3#182 BTT	Hand over road maintenance to private enterprise Charge motorists a levy for travelling on Council roads  Put an extra \$30 on player registration for sporting lights  Antill Park - should be an investigation  All underutilised buildings should be shut down  Management of playgrounds should be handed over to community groups  Keep Council as small as possible - if this means fewer services, so be it  5473-3#182 BTT Worried about how to pay as a self funded retiree  No faith that Council will properly prioritise proposed new works  Disagree with spending on non-essentials such as sportsground lighting  Support increased spending on roads but need long term solutions  Council should provide a long term apolitical commitment  Need a list of specific services to be cut and facilities that will not be maintained  Scenario 3 and 4 hold merit provided a specific list

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
21/02/2011	5473-3#184	ВТТ	Demand that Prices Road at Douglas Park must be sealed - unsafe and creates a lot of dust	Council only has limited funds for the sealing of unsealed roads.
4/02/2011	5473-3#185	втт	Time for staff to think deverly and effectively in producing income beyond the norms - attend sustainability training	Suggestion noted.
4/02/2011	5473-3#186	втт	Seems that the decision has been made to increase rates	The decision has not yet been made.
			Don't want cycleways - don't want to contribute to crumbling asset or playgrounds	There are various community views regarding the importance of footpaths and cycleways.
			Don't have kerbs and gutters but that is part of the attraction	There are various community views regarding the importance of kerb and guttering.
6/02/2011	5473-3#187	ВТТ	FAQ answers are politically correct but don't adequately address the why behind the queries	Concern noted
7/02/2011	5473-3#188	втт	Impressed and appreciative of Council's Community Forums - made me understand the importance of the SRV	Comment noted.
	<u> </u>		Council did take comments on board and I am now more likely to accept an 8% levy	Comment noted.
25/02/2011	5473-3#194	POST	Stop wasting money on brand new vehicles for the collection of stray dogs	It is important that Council provide appropriate resources for the tasks it undertakes.
			Don't change stainless steel handrails at the new Railway Museum	Suggestion noted.
			Sure that Council has sufficient funds to be able to maintain all of assets without further rate increase	This is not supported by the analysis that Council has undertaken.
			Sure that there will be money available to spend in advertising the upcoming state elections	State elections are not a Council responsibility.
25/02/2011	5473-3#195	POST	Junction of Yanderra Rd and Cartisle Street Yanderra - matter of time before there is a fatal crash - irresponsible drivers who speed - simple solution is to swing Cartisle Street further over into the bush	Suggestion noted and will be further investigated.
10/02/2011	5473-3#196	втт	8% increase is a big slug - what's to say Council wont ask for another 10% the next year	A further increase is not proposed at this time.
			Have noticed a substantial decline in services and conditions in the last 5 years	Part of the reason for the proposed SRV is to address the outstanding road and asset maintenance issues.
			Glossy survey was an expensive spin - Council probably engaged Consultants to put it together a our expense	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
10/02/2011	5473-3#197	втт	We are not the only Council in Sydney to be aske about an SRV	d Agreed
			Council presented a number of things completed in the Shire at the Community Forums	Noted
9/02/2011	5473-3#198	ВТТ	Why not give every rate payer a car with unlimited fuel like the office workers get	Refer to Q&A concerning Council vehicles.
			Anyone can see the car park with 82 numbered car spaces - therefore the total of 80 vehicles must be inaccurate	As above.

Date	TRIM	Source	Comment	Response to comments
		_	How much did the google car cost	The condition assessment of all of Council sealed roads, including kerb and gutter, fencing, signs and lines, bus shelters and other structures cost approximately \$100,000.
			How many people proposing the SRV actually pay rates in the Shire	Not relevant.
			Have 240 staff but only 55 work on roads	Council provides a range of services including, but not limited to, road infrastructure.
	ļ		Why so many 4x4 driving around	Refer to Q&A concerning Council vehicles.
			Was a consultant hired at \$110 an hour to build a shed for 2 fire engines	Council utilises consultants to assist with various projects where Council does not have the skills / resources required. Appropriate market rates are paid.
9/02/2011	5473-3#199	вп	Council fills potholes with bitumen which gets washed out	In many cases, Council does not have the resources available to undertake permanent repairs. This is part of the reason for the proposed SRV.
			Expect the Council to make do with the funds available	Council does not have sufficient funds to adequately maintain existing assets.
			Like to see a report on how the Storm Water Management Levy was spent	Council's income and expenditure reports are audited by an independent external Auditor and financial reports are made available to members of the community. A report was provided to Council in February, providing an update on this program.
			How much was spent on the leaflets and advertising in the papers, and how much was spent on staff wages for the community forums and documentation creation	The survey was developed to provide information to the community regarding the need for a SRV and to facilitate the gathering of community feedback. It represents the issues in a factual manner.
9/02 <b>/2</b> 011	5473-3#200	ВТТ	Self funded retiree and cannot agree to rate rise for financial reasons	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
10/02/2011	5473-3#201	ВТТ	Who is paying \$700 a year in rates	40% of ratepayers are on the Minimum rate of \$773.
16/02/2011	5473-3#202	ВІТ	Lived here for 20 years and have been many instances of Councillors acting in their best interests rather than in the best interests of rate payers	Comment noted.
			Cost of living increases - harder to make ends meet - rate increase will add to financial stress of many families	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
17/02/2011	5473-3#203	вт	How can any low income person cope with hikes (utilities)	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
:			Will not pay for higher staff wages -	Councils in NSW are required to remunerate staff in accordance with the NSW State Award.
			Not against annual increases but need to make sure it is actually affordable	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
19/02/2011	5473-3#204	вт	Pensioner who can only just make ends meet	Council acknowledges that this will be difficult for people, that is why Council is consulting with the community about a SRV.
_			Cut some of the lazy workers	Comment noted.
19/02/2011	5473-3#205	вт	Have not seen many changes or improvements over 10 years	There have been substantial changes and improvements over the past 10 years.
		_	Have to pay \$40 application fee to have enviro cycle system in own yard	Concern Noted.
			Why is Council building a sporting complex in Picton	Council is responding to on-going growth in demand for recreational facilities.

Date	TRIM So	ource	Comment	Response to comments
			Why doesn't Council start looking at development and raising funds that way	Growth provides new funding, but is required to match the new costs associated with maintaining the new roads and facilities servicing the new population. However, growth does not address the significant backlog of maintenance on existing infrastructure

#### Phone Submission

Submission				
24/01/2011	#9	Dick Webb	He wanted to ask why the survey options did not include the total percentage increase in rates for Council's preferred option - he claimed it was 100% increase over the life of the SRV,  He also wanted to know if Council would be providing information to Council on the individual survey results -	I advised him it was actually 71%. I advised that this information is available on the website, and in the presentations we will be providing. I encouraged him to view the information on the website, and make a submission.  I advised that Council will be provided with feedback on the overal! survey results, as well as information on each individual formal submission.
24/01/2011	#10	Dick Webb	How can Council exceed the rate cap?  No funds have been spent in Bargo despite numerous complaints about road problems, particularly Avon Dam Road  Cannot see any evidence that Council spends money on roads, that all funds get spent in Picton and other areas  Why should she pay for maintaining facilities such as community centres and playgrounds when she does not use them?  Objects to local issues such as the waste management facility and approval of a Telstra Tower	I provided some background information on the issues she raised.
			Concerned that Council ignores any objections by residents and just approves things  Has been a resident for 2 years, but is not happy with Council's decisions  Why rely on the survey. Council could just change the results to suit themselves when submitting the information to IPART	l encouraged her to make a formal submission, and indicated that all submissions will be tabled.

E-mail Message

From:

To:

Cc:

Sent: Received: Subject: 16/12/2010 at 8:26 AM 16/12/2010 at 8:26 AM

FW: Rates

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 15 December 2010 1:27 PM

Subject: Fw: Rates

From: To:

Sent: Wed Dec 15 13:28:54 2010

Subject: FW: Rates

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 15 December 2010 1:27 PM

To:

Subject: Rates

Dear \_\_\_\_

We read the Council needs money !!!!!!!!!!!!

Well most people do, but to "fix" the roads is laughable, as the amount of truck & dogs that cart the illegal fill out to this Shire creates much more road damage than the ratepayers that live here !!

These vehicles start as early as 6.00am and run on most of the Shire roads, these trucks are in need of repair and over loaded...but it appears they are free to travel and break up the roads without any interference from Council staff ??

Another point...some sensible development and growth over the last few years would have created homes and small businesses...thus providing added rates for the Council...see an income without effort !!

Page 1 of 1

# 5473-3

1862-2#3

From:

Wednesday, 19 January 2011 5:38 AM Sent:

To:

Council External Incoming

Subject: TRIM5473-3

Las many people in bargo do not want these new rate rises proposed by the council as we have just come out of a 50% rise over 5 years which in my case has rise in my rates to 1200.00 a year what for i been hear 15 years and and there has been nothing done in my street you want to rise the rates to 1872.00 by 2017 what for garbage services.

> WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL TRIM No. PROP. No. 1862-2 1 9 JAN 2011

AUTH, No.

ABSIGNED TO:

1862-244

5473-3

From:

Sent

Wednesday, 19 January 2011 6:44 PM

To:

Council External Incoming

Subject: Rate Rise Objection to TRIM 5473-3

Council Reference "TRIM 5473-3"

I wish to register a strong objection, on behalf of my wife and myself, regarding the proposed 6% rate increase re; TRIM 5473-3.

We live in Bargo and have done so since the limit that time we have had very little money spent or resources used on any main projects in our area. I am referring mainly to the repair and maintenance or our roads within Bargo and surrounds as well as the disgusting condition of the Bargo shopping streetscape.

The roads are nothing short of goat tracks particularly around the railway bridges and from the railway station past the Bargo Primary School and out toward the Hume highway. Most of the damage from these SUSPENSION TESTING ZONES is caused by heavy vehicles that no doubt service the likes of Tahmoor and Picton with general goods etc. yet both Tahmoor and Picton have had ongoing road upgrades, new roundabouts installed, bridges repaired, signage etc since we have moved here and Bargo receives nothing....yet we pay rates for the ongoing disinterested non-service. The Bargo shops speak for themselves. Old broken concrete footpaths, weeds everywhere, poor parking design, unattractive signage. Its a total disgrace and an eyesore to greet tourists to the area. Bargo is the Southern Gateway to the likes of Tahmoor and Picton and this is the best you can provide ???

We believe your proposal to hike up our rates to continually fund the improvements of Picton, Tahmoor and Thirtmere and do nothing for Bargo is absolutely insulting and will guarantee NO support from us either now or at election.

Sincerely

Bargo.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No.

PROP. No. 1862-2

1 9 JAN 2011

AUTH, No.

ASSIGNED TO

### Comment 1 18 Jan 2011, 7:58

#### **PM**

I understand that Council like most businesses is struggling with limited resources to maintain its assets. However I have concerns that Council does not always follow through with commitments. If this rate increase is to allow Council to provide the much needed maintenance to our assets then I would like to see a commitment that only projects identified to achieve this be considered throughout the next seven years unless funds are obtained from an external source. As a rate payer I am concerned that we are saying there is not enough money in the pot but committing to new projects like new sports fields or facilities when the ones we have are not up to scratch to begin with. If I and my fellow rate payers have to contribute considerably more each year in rates I want some assurance that Council will make a plan and stick to it. Not make promises that they cannot keep unless something else suffers. At the end of the 7 years it would be good to see progress

### Comment 2 23 Jan 2011, 9:20 AM

I appreciate the difficulty Council has in operating in an environment in which increasing costs outstrip capacity to maintain services, however, I suggest Council provide a full and costed list of proposed asset and infrastructure projects and allow the community to participate in prioritising those projects. I also agree with "local with concerns" and would like to see Council commit to undertake those projects identified and not divert funds to other projects or activity.

### Comment 2 24 Jan 2011, 9:57 PM

This survey has been put together using a very old and questionable 'sales technique'. The survey opens with a request for us to rate the importance of council maintaining services and assets. Naturally, the majority of respondents will answer that it is very important. Subsequent questions then present scenarios indicating that anything less than 10% increase will result in a loss of services. As we have just said that maintaining services is important, we would contradict ourselves if we selected any other option, wouldn't we? The printed survey doesn't even provide ratepayers with the opportunity to add extra comments. Not everyone has the internet; what a con job.

In simple terms, the whole survey is a cynical attempt to dupe ratepayers into agreeing with what the council wants.

Here's a thought. Why doesn't our council just do its job in a simple, no frills way. Forget about the ratepayer-funded junkets (given that most councillors come from a couple of households these trips are just family holidays that we pay for); forget the three year plans, the five plans, and all the other ridiculous studies that soak up rate dollars on consultant fees and glossy paper; forget about sister cities on the other side of the world; forget all the other time-wasting twaddle that lets you people avoid doing real work.

Get back to basics; stop wasting OUR money on non-productive rubbish (like meaningless con jobs disguised as "surveys") and you'll be surprised how much you have for basic facilities and repairs to the goat tracks that you call roads.

### Comment 3 25 Jan 2011, 12:09 PM

You want more money from us the ratepayer so that you can thrust more of your ineptness upon us. And when that is squandered I bet you will ask for even more again without batting an eyelid. I for one would like to see closer scrutiny of exactly where all of last years funds have been mispent before committing to paying any additional funds.

You need to start asking yourselves do we really need cycleways. New kerb and guttering and footpaths etc. I don't think I have seen any of the above works around Silverdale or Warragamba in the 15 years I have lived here.

As for maintenace of roads. Where does one start. Council has a great reputation in the community for completing roadworks of a substandard quality that fail after a short time thus requiring additional works and maintenance that would not normally be deemed necessary had the works been performed correctly in the first place. Even your method of repairing pot holes using the 'White Elephant' is a far cry from satisfactory to say the least. Just another waste of time and money. Your pictures of rememberance driveway tell the sad story. Mind you if you think the ride quality is poor on that road I suggest that you take a trip along Silverdale road sometime soon. All in all it is no wonder your forecasted roads budget is so high you end up doing everything twice.

I am sure that if residents see you spending the money we already provide wisely then they would in my mind not hesitate to consider an increase, but as things stand at the moment I for one say no to any additional increase above the setpoint.

## Comment 1 24 Jan 2011, 11:42 AM

this is a very biased survey and shows the Mayor's bias towards the Liberal Party and his contempt of Rate payers within the Shire. Trips away make you wonder what the rate payers are really paying for. Politics have overtaken our so-called Independent Council and this type of survey only shows how much our rates are being used for frivolous things.

### Comment 3 25 Jan 2011, 5:22 PM

The increase in rates for certain communities is just not justified. I pay between \$1200.00-\$1300.00 per year for a residential block in a town that has nothing more than a garbage pick up once a week. The roads are in a state of 'non" repair, Graffitied give way signs, no public transport, no school, little to no curb and guttering, non DA approved dwellings and extensions being allowed. The council never return any correspondence in regard to these matters. I have been a rate payer for over 30 years and am sick of "throwing" my hard earned money away to a council that won't even replace faded 10 ton weight limit sign that have been in place for 25 years and do anything to enforce these limits!

### **Comment 4 26 Jan 2011, 12:46 PM**

We all have to do more with less. Seems to me with increased tip fees, development, parking inspectors and numbers of residents, you have increased the amount and volume of money collected. A reasonable price for York St, would have covered some of these rate costs. Strange roadworks at Camden and Razor back that make it difficult for residents and three resealings of roads that are still not right seem an obvious waste of funds.

The growth of roadside litter due to the poorly run and organised council clean up. Edges of roads being chewed away by council workers removing trees from verges for firewood and drain cleaning.

Oh and lets not forget councilors with vested interests.

### Comment 5 26 Jan 2011, 1:06 PM

Council preferred option would result in approximately a minimum of 70% increase over 7 years compare to the current rates.

The 8% annual rate increase is well above inflation rate or annual salary increases.

A question that should be asked is why councils across NSW failed to convince the state government to peg rates at levels above 3%?

Another question is, from which magic bucket is the household expected to find the significant extra \$ to pay for the proposed 8% annual rate increase in addition to all other utility charges increases + increases in cost of living?

Rob, steal or borrow?

Assuming borrowing as the only legitimate option, shouldn't council consider the same option (borrowing) that it is de-facto proposing that rate payers do when faced with an ever increasing burden of charges across the board, well above inflation rates or salary increases?

If priority projects can't be funded and maintained without a 70% increase in rates in 7 years, perhaps it is time to consider different concepts of channelling \$ to important community assets and services including a rationalisation of federal and state governments involvement in the process of maintaining community services and assets.

It is apparent that somewhere along the line our taxes do not reach the optimal targets and council rates may also suffer the same malady.

### Comment 5 25 Jan 2011, 8:37 PM

How much of the present rate income is used to meet staff wages and admin costs?

How many of the council staff have the use of a council vehicle? .

Will the proposed increase be used for infrastructure improvements or will some of the increase be used for additional staff?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

### Comment 6 26 Jan 2011, 11:23 AM

Council rates have nearly doubled since 2006 and if you are on the pension thats not funny. Now another increase of upto 70% is proposed - no way - start getting more efficient and use OUR money wisely. New housing areas are already giving Council an increased rate flow and will keep increasing.

Could it be that Council lost so much money in overseas investments that they now have a big shortfall to overcome!!!!!!!

## 5473-3 #36

#### E-mail Message

From: To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Çc:

Sent: -Received;\_\_

27/01/2011 at 6:54 AM 27/01/2011 at 6:54 AM

Subject: 2//01/2011 at 6:54 AM
Subject: Funding Your Future SUBMISSION

Attachments:

image001.jpg

Dear

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the "Funding Your Future" initiative.

Within this initiative you present rate payers with a choice of four options. I'd like to make our households submission as Scenario Four.

While I understand that raising rates is never an easy step to take and will present certain hardships, I am also acutely aware that you and the Wollondilly Council members are there to serve and look after our interests. In that regard, I'd like to ensure that you have all necessary available resources at your disposal to allow you to carry out these tasks.

Yours sincerely

#### E-mail Message

From: To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

GOUNCILIOU=COUNCILICN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL)

Cc:

Sent: Received: Subject: 25/01/2011 at 12:38 PM 25/01/2011 at 12:38 PM Increase in rates....NO

Dear Council,

I have recently received my notification of rates being due.

In this notification was a "Funding Your Future" document which I found to be absolutely disgusting of the suggestion that we, the rate payers of the shire should be asked to pay higher than the pegged rate.

I am paying \$1200.00 a year at present...if scenario 4 were to be used, in seven years my rates would be \$2338.46...almost double of that now charged.

I have had interaction with a few councils and know that many councils require the users of parks and community facilities to pay for the privilege of using these amenities.

Also, I wish to add the following comment to show my disappointment with the current council.

I have noticed over the past year that many of the road projects have been

(what I would call) A JOKE.

Take Thirlmere Way as an example.

The re-surfacing of this road was done...only to fall apart and have to be

re-done...again and again and again.

And then there was the re-marking of Remembrance Drive at both Mt Hercules Rd

and Finns Rd. Both were safe and well marked...only to be changed to (in my opinion)

intersections that have increased the risk of accidents and harm to motorists where

the main thoroughfare is affected by vehicles turning on and off the main road.

At Finns Rd, the main through traffic has to give way to traffic entering the main road.

In all..... am VERY DISAPPOINTED with the current council.

Please note: I am just a rate payer and do not have any political agenda.

If I can see this mess in our community....I am sure a lot of other people can to.

Your Sincerely

The two messages below in blue text were submitted on our support desk today 26 January 2011. I advised each user that their comments will be forwarded to Wollondilly Shire Council for inclusion with other comments and also recommended they contribute via the forum and survey.



Recieved the pamphlet funding youre future, come to Oakdale check the roads they are terrible, but perhaps they should stay that way as whenever the council does the roads they are worse ie back creek. The council must get some very cheap contracters as when there shoddy work is aparant there doesnt seem anything done about it. Mind you it could be worse they could be repaired by council workers, when the front driveway of my house was destroyed by an equally incompetent body the waterboard, it took 5 vehicles and 5 workers all day to put down 2 mts of tarmac (i have the photos). I will mention again that horrific building sight in the midle of that our gutless council refuse to deal with, wont even get the graffitti

The state of the s

I have seen bomb sites that looked better, as far as i can see apart from my bin being picked up wollondilly ignores Okdale, bellimba park area and i could be wrong but i beileve there is close to 3000 people living inthis area and we are badly neglected by the wollondilly council, i dont think you ever see grass cutting in our area or any new work such is done at the Oaks and Picton.So i regard youre suggestion of rate rises as offencive, how can you talk about maintaining satisfactory standards to the ratepayers of this area when you dont even acnowledge that we exist ,check all the other pamphlets you send out,not a mention. I will also mention Nattia as part of this area, where we have one of the finest look outs in n.s.w. recently improved by national parks, but what will the average tourist think when he has to drive on roads that are being destroyed by coal trucks and neglected by council, through a town overgrown and half built disasters. It is becoming fairly obviuos that the council is becoming even more incompetent as they can only think of squeezing more money out of the ratepayers these are not good times for a lot of people, with rising costs of living higher taxes even when i go to the toilet you tax me ( septic).so i strongly suggest you consider other ways. I might also point out that asking the ratepayers about rate rises is just a cowards way, so later when the incompetents gets worse you have someone else to blame as no one is going to want to pay more. So as this is Australia day take a tip from the Queenslanders you and all the council get youre finger out ,especially in Oakdale area so we can at least catch up with the rest of the shire.

youres respectfully THE RESERVE

removed.

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 26 January 2011 6:52 PM

Tod

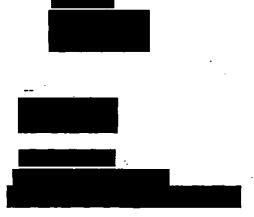
Subject: Support Desk Submissions

in blue text were submitted on our support desk today 26 January 2011. I advised each user that their comments will be forwarded to Wollondilly Shire Council for inclusion with other comments and also recommended they contribute via the forum and survey.

I don't agree with any increase in rates. I believe council needs to increase there efficiency and control the costs and work within its budget.

One reference is the road that has just been repaired at the end of our street has already started to break up after the first time the garbage truck has driven on it. This happens every time council repairs it.

I would like to know how much money was wasted on this repair and maybe council should look to contracting these works out to more efficient companies to make this work more cost productive.



Sign up for our newsletter - Engaging your Community Online

#### E-mail Message .

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL

Cc:

Sent: -Received:\_\_ 27/01/2011 at 2:22 PM 27/01/2011 at 2:24 PM

Subject: rated return

WSC. As a rate payer of 31 years in central Tahmoor, I have to support the council on the proposed rate increase. There have been many changes in my area, and indeed throughout the shire, good changes brought about by good planning. However in supporting council may I also express my dismay at the state of our road here at Park St. Tahmoor, no doubt there are others waiting patiently to see kerb and gutter installed in their street but ours is near half done with places developed having contributed, and one spot which council has developers funds for, still to be completed. Our street is narrowing due to heavy transport using it, and it looks rather odd as it is near completed on one side, and commenced on the other. could favorable consideration be given to our street for completion of this project.

### Comment 3.1 26 Jan 2011, 8:09 AM

I couldn't agree more! Last time they 'fixed' the part of road between the Roundabout of Silverdale rd & Farnsworth rd through to Warragamba & I complained about it I was told IN WRITTING by council 'it is quite upsetting for all the good work undertaken by Council staff to have the finishing coat, provided by a contractor, to be of poor quality

we have had the contractor out to see their finished product and they have given assurances that all will be fixed' that was this time last year....Perhaps if we assured the council that we would pay our rates at the same speed that they fix our roads they would realise exactly how slow they are!

Its rubbish - we would have some of the highest rates & still have the poorest services for the cost

### Comment 3.2 27 Jan 2011, 7:00 PM

I totally agree with was disgusted when I got my council rates last year to find they are nearly doubled since I have lived here from 2005. I have compared our rates to other local councils with a lot more residential areas but also acreage and we are paying double what they are paying and are putting up with poorer road conditions. Tell me where all the costs are going? My belief is we need a more decent council or merge with another council that can actually manage and afford to repair our roads.

I agree there are many mismanaged costs within the council and yes the pot hole filler is a waste of time and money. Within 1 month they reappear but hey its keeping someone in a job isnt it.

Silverdale Road along the shopping Centre up to Econo Place is disgusting. I have to drive off the road on the walk way to avoid all the bumps and holes in road. How are we guaranteed that with increased funding that the money will go towards roads in need when it has not in the past.

Our State MP received state funding for roads in Wollondilly and none of this money was provided to Silverdale/Warragamba. I was told by a member of his office it was on Silverdale Road but this was the Oaks. Our supposingly regional road that was granted has not been followed through and poor residents now have to pay more to get our roads fixed. Its ridicilous.

Your options do not allow for someone to choose not to agree to any of them. I do not agree with any of them but I say we are bought out by another council where we are charged appropriately similar rates to rest of Sydney West.

### Comment 3.3 27 Jan 2011, 10:01 PM

I believe that the rate rise is needed, however there needs to be far more clarity in where the money is going. Warragamba and Silverdale areas make up about 10% of the total population of the Shire and yet does 10% of the money get spent here??? I have no problem paying the extra rates as long as results are seen in more places than Picton. The Council needs to rationalise to and use what it has better, but not to the point where key services suffer.

We also as a community need to take a bit more responsibility for what we have around us. If you notice a problem in a Council area, notify Council, don't just say "Council should fix that" and expect them to find it. If things are reported immediately it may work out more economical to repair it before the damage gets worse. It is something I regularly do via the Council CRM system and it DOES WORK! If you see a light on in the daytime, report it to Integral, it's your rates that pay for the power bill. Also the Community needs to help look after it's assets, while you cannot stop all yandals, taking a little time and reporting potential problems to the relevant authorities, will help reduce the costs to Council as less vandalism means less costs to Council to repair and replace vandalised equipment. Call the police and keep calling them until your happy, if we move this problem on, it costs US less! With Council, myself and a few other locals we have virtually eliminated graffiti in the area of Warragamba and Silverdalc - what does this mean to residents 1. A cleaner and friendlier place to live 2. less likelihood of Council having to pay out money unneccesarily. And all it cost me was a few hours and I used donated paints and graffiti remover.

While I might sound like I see no issue with rates, my husband, son and I are a normal family. We don't own a big house, or have lots of money, but we are happy and we love living in Warragamba. We try and help the community where we can and are always on the lookout for anything we can do. I help by reporting issues to Council and removing graffiti, others do other things.

I feel Council definetly needs to do something with Farnsworth Ave, it is the major roadway to what our local MP and Water Minister says is becoming "Western Sydney's biggest tourist attraction" Warragamba Dam. The road is not coping with the increased traffic since the Dam reopened, or the extra trucks now using it to access the Production Ave industrial area. Also something needs to be done about the sides of Silverdale Road, between the village and the shops. People are taking their lives into their hands walking along the sides to go either way, and some of those people have no choice but to walk.

If it costs more in rates to see these things happen for the betterment of the Community as a whole, along with many other projects and things the residents would

like to see, then I'm all for it. Just as long as we see where the money is being spent a lot more than we do now.

I also encourage those who want to have their say about more than just this issue and live in the Warragamba and Silverdale areas to visit the online Community Forum on the <a href="https://www.warragamba.net.au">www.warragamba.net.au</a> website (hover on for locals and select community forums) Many issues that have been raised via this "for community" website have been raised and resolved just by bringing it to the attention of myself, Council and others in the community.

### Comment 4.1 29 Jan 2011, 3:19 PM

Well said The not inexpensive "glossy" received in the last few days, using a reply paid response form (at our expense) is extremely dishonest and is disingenuous in it's failure to properly disclose the full impact of a fixed program of 8% per annum increases.

There is NO need for such a long term plan without proper review during the intervening years.

This appears to be simply a convenient and easy fix for Council and councillors to solve a problem without putting proper and considered thought to alternatives and options. And to attempt to "bully" people by continuing to bias the proposal towards Council's preferred option by implying everything is is "bad", that is just crass stupidity and reflects very very poorly upon those who thought this was the right way to treat their ratepayers!

### Comment 5.1 27 Jan 2011, 7:01 PM

I believe but would like confirmation that 50% of our council rates get eaten up by admin costs. Now if that is not mismanagement what is.

Council please clarify.

### Comment 6.1 29 Jan 2011, 3:22 PM

you are very right in that Council needs to be very clear about how it has performed in terms of past investments, but it also has to show us that it can perform professionally, responsibly and properly with future monies entrusted to it.

Council is asking to be given further substantial sums without showing us how it intends to ensure it is not wasted either through poor investment decisions or "leakage" in expenses.

. . . . . . .

### Comment 7 27 Jan 2011, 4:12 PM

I would gladly pay some increased rates if Coucil would fix the appalling roads in Wollondilly. However, I want to know what my current rates are paying for! In my suburb, and especially in the more rural areas, we have no street lights, no kerb and guttering, no sewer, no town water, the bush and weeds are severely overgrown, and the condition of the roads is disgusting - they look more like goat tracks from a third world country, with potholes you could lose a small car into! And every time it rains, the potholes get bigger and bigger, and Council's solution is to fill them in with road base, which just washes away in the next rain, leaving bigger holes. So unless Council plan to fix some of these problems, I will be strongly opposing ANY sort of rate rise. If needs be, I will bring in the media!!!

### Comment 7.1 29 Jan 2011, 3:23 PM

I concur whole-heartedly. I too live in an area such as yours.

Council does nothing to make me feel that we will see any benefit, nor do I feel it will be used properly in addressing the problems with our roadways!

### Comment 8 28 Jan 2011, 10:16 PM

Wollondilly Council. What are you thinking? A special rate rise was granted a few years ago for the same sort of things. Nothing has changed. Yes it has. You have flash new excavators, graders, trucks, cars. Somebody likes new toys. Pity you just dont use them properly. Somebody must be getting nice and fat. I always laugh when you drive say from Camden to Picton and the vast difference in the roads and maintenace of the grounds. Have a look near Bridgewater when you enter Wollondilly. Shambles. Long grass and weeds. Welcome to the Crappy Shire Council.

Just to clarify I live and work in Wollondilly Shire. I work in an Emergency Service which requires me to travel at speed on our roads. I also attend a large number of accidents yearly. I would clearly state that half are road condition related.

1. ROADS: You guys have no idea. Let me say, Thirlmere Way. How many times have you re-surfaced it over the last 2 years. It is a joke. Whos paying for all the stuff ups. Sorry to say but the people in the Council who fix the roads should be put out to pasture. Improvements to Razorback. (Mt Hercules and Finns Rd.) Took ages and when it got hot the roads melted like Thirlmere Way. The most dangerous parts on Razorback are neglected. On the other hand the improvements to Remembrance Dr entering Picton. Good stuff. A contractor did it. Hang on I remember a Council guy holding the Stop/Go sign. The stupid spray tar truck should be sold on Ebay or something. I am sick and tired or driving through tar after the truck has been through. The pot holes are back in a day or two. I have had enough of tar all over my cars as well.

You guys need to go back to the basics. Start with signage, road markings and proper maintenance of the roads. Signage. The intersection of Avon Dam Rd and Lupton rd at Bargo. Been to three t-bone accidents there. In 80km/hr zone. All that is need is signs to prevent this (ie T Intersection up ahead. Slow down.) You guys have been notified of this before. You still do nothing. Probably cost \$1000. How much is your leg or arm worth?

Road markings. I had a visitor outside of Wollondilly drive over Razorback in the wet. They found it very hard to see where they were going. Try driving it on a wet dark night pretending you dont know where you are going. Use the lines as guidance. Chances are you wont make it. The basics. Good qulaity White Lines and cats eyes.

Maintaince. At the moment it doesn't really exist. The road on Razorback through the bends should be ripped up. You have been notified before that the surface is unsuitable. If you are reading this, Do not travel in lane one up Razorback in the wet. The road surface has no adhesion as the stones have sunken into the tar. The road itself is oil soaked most probably by diesel from trucks travelling up the hill. The

### 5473-3459

surface needs renewing. How long have the armoo railings been smashed for. Years. Even the sites of the fatal accidents.

I take road safety seriously. The Council don't. It is about time you really started looking at the roads properly. Stop worrying about stupid things like the entry to Mr Khans supermarket. Just to finish on Roads. What the hell is the major works being done at Bridgewater. Surely there are heaps of other areas that need upgrading before that.

I will have a quick say on general business for the Council. You want more money. What are you going to do to reduce your running costs and become more efficient? You should have to present this to the people of Wollondilly prior to putting your hand out. As far as I am concerned you guys can make many cuts in your spendings and become more efficient. I wont even start. Hang on have to say one. (Roadworkers shadow boxing on the side of the road. Really efficient.)

I am considering entering the arena for Council. I am that passionate about the local issues I wouldn't draw a cent from the people of Wollondilly. I would do the job on passion alone. I have spoken to large amounts of residents who all have nothing positive to say about you. You are a joke. Have a good look at what you are doing and not doing. The time is coming that the broom needs to be put though the doors of Council. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

### Comment 8.1 29 Jan 2011, 9:02 PM

You've got my vote already. I drive in excess of 1,000kms a week all over Sydney as a self-employed tradesman. It's only when I get back here into my Shire that I get nervous.

The current Council is a joke, although not a very funny one. It is actually the laughing stock of other councils because of its amateurish presentation and its "family ties" make-up. Combine that with the fact that other councillors are only interested in using their position as a stepping stone to State politics, it is a complete sham.

What really cheeses me (and you) off is that they make no effort whatsoever to hide their disregard for the people they are supposed to represent.

I would really like to push this further. If you wish, drop a contact # or similar into

### Comment 9 29 Jan 2011, 10:37 AM

The only reason the council is trying to justify the rate increase is they lost all OUR money through poor judgement on so-called investments. They gambled OUR money away.

Therefore, the council should tighten it's belt before we do

Therefore, ALL overseas trips for councillors (mayor included) should be banned for the period of any (supposed) temporary increase in rates.

### Comment 6 27 Jan 2011, 12:46 PM

since choosing to move to Picton in late 2007, our rates have increased annually by 11.8%,5.8%,5.8% (to year ended May 2011). This equates to 25%. My income HAS NOT kept pace with this rate of increase.

I am concerned with the following aspects:-

- 1. If as stated our assets have deteriorated over this period-where has the money been spent?
- 2. 40% of our population pay the minimum rate, this places significant pressure on the remaining ratepayers. Have council considered reducing the rate of minimum payers gradually over the next 7 years to say 30%
- 3. Perhaps council has to consider reducing those facilities in most need of repair egsome shire halls
- 4. Whilst I understand that costs are increasing at a rate sometimes above inflation, this should place more responsibility on council to manage our assets much better than in the past. Sometimes difficult decisions must be made. Once made, reasons must effectively be communicated to all ratepayers. This is the only way ratepayers such as us can continue to afford to live here!!

### Comment 7 27 Jan 2011, 8:58 PM

Has council explained exactly how they have been affected by the GFC as stated in response to what happened to their 'roads ahead' funding in FAQ.

I would be happier about a rate rise if I felt that council were to have the actual funding independently audited and a prioritised list of intended expenditures provided.

As this is not the first occasion we have been hit with a 'special rate rise' can we be advised how the other funding was spent, after all these specials are only necessary because the State Government wanted to call a halt to inefficient councils being able to raise rates at will.

If Wollondilly Council had been a bit more pro-active regarding development ther would be a lot more rate payers to share the pie.

## Comment 7.1 28 Jan 2011, 6:18 AM

I agree that a list of of intended expenditures across key projects and services is something Council could provide and ask the community to prioritise items on the list. At the moment we are being asked to confirm our preferred rating option without being able to consider specific budgeted projects and services for each option. I don't necessarily disagree with a rate rise, however, I would like to know the specifics of what my rates will be buying.

#### Comment 8 27 Jan 2011, 10:34 PM

I think has made a valid point, the difference between the 2.8% rise and the 8% is quite signifigant, based on rates being \$1000 per year for simplicity, with a 2.8% rise each year, they would rise to \$1318 in ten years time. If they rise 8% each year over ten years they will rise to \$2159.00 per year in ten years time.

Option 4 speaks about the 'early' delivery of developer funded infrastructure projects, maybe they wouldn't need subsidising by council if the state government hadn't put a cap on developer levies that can be charged by council. Why should only the new residents of Wollondilly receive the benefit of our extra funds. Take Bingara Gorge, the development was supposed to be integrated into the existing community, a footpath was to be built from the new estate to the existing shops, where is it? There would be a less than a kilometre of footpath's in the existing township, Bingara Gorge allready has ten times that amount. Happy to pay the extra, but the new services need to spread around and the developers can pay their own way thanks very much!

#### Comment 9 28 Jan 2011, 5:01 PM

I have been wading through the mountains of information that council has produced to enhance and substantiate, its case for an SRV.

Amongst the myriad of information is the Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2030 which incorporates information from a previous plan the Councils Vision 2025. Well might I just say "what a grandiose document". Forty eight pages long with pretty pictures of all our councillors and even a picture of a child cuddling a calf. I do wonder how much it cost council to produce this fine document that highlights how they intend to spend our money on hundreds of kilometers of footpaths and cycleways amongst other things. Pehaps if less was spent on what we need in 2030 and more about what we need in 2011 we might in fact get somewhere. Although I fear not, especially given that council can't seem to manage a budget in the present let alone the future.

Council instead should look at a major cost reduction programme throughout its day to day operations with particular emphasis on spending less money on trying to convince us to hand over additional funds that many residents simply do not have.

It is my view that council needs to get back to the basics. They and we alike need to realise that many of the so called things that we perceive as assets are not really assets but in fact liabilties. Some of which we need to discard. Pehaps even sold off, whereby, the proceeds could be funnelled into maintaining the necessities.

It may be more prudent for council to focus less on a minority and more on a majority and the basic need of that majority. It may be a case of concentrate on the necessities not the niceties. If clubs and special interest groups use or wish to use council amenities etc, maybe it needs to be more a case of user pay or offset costs by performing some of the minor maintenance needed on or around facilities they use. Please do not get me wrong. I am not saying this has to be the way but it is just one of the many things we need to consider at this time.

#### **Comment 9.1 29 Jan 2011, 3:44 PM**

I agree with what you say and think these are real issues that do need to be addressed before resorting to any package of rate increases.

Council and councillors are far too ready to seek further funds from ratepayers without a proper analysis of what IS needed rather than what it would be "nice" to have and without providing us with a proper and reasoned argument in support of the proposal which is easily understandable by us without having to delve through a pile of documents. Are there any dissenting councillors prepared to speak against this increase?

Further, asset sales, community asset "swaps", cross-council "alliances", rationalisation of asset holdings, a true and objective "cost/efficiency" assessment process within council, and a proper review of the "extras" provided to councillors and staff is long long overdue.

It is also relevant to suggest that councils seeking such exhorbitant rate rises run a real risk of a ratepayer revolt, whereby councillors could either turfed from office, or in the ultimate, sued by ratepayers for negligence/lack of care in their duty to ratepayers. This is not an impossible situation given how corporate boards are being held more and more accountable for their actions and inactions.

I would suggest to Council and councillors that they tread a very very careful path in this process. The "biased" material sent to ratepayers recently is a serious case in point, where the only "right" box to tick is Council's preferred option. Anything else and you are a "bad person" looking to contribute to the "ruination" of Wollondilly. Not a balanced assessment in any way, shape or form.

#### Comment 10 30 Jan 2011, 2:24 AM

FOR STARTERS..SAVE SOME OUR MONEY BY NOT SENDING OUT GLOSSY PAMPHLETS! WASTE OF\$\$

#### Comment 11 30 Jan 2011, 5:07 PM

No. With all the increases in essentials, ie electricity, petrol, food, Council like us has to curtail their spending. Like the play equipment in parks, which has been in the local paper. Now is a time for essentials and keeping rates to a minimum because the average person and especially pensioners are really suffering and Council has to do its bit to keep rates down. Councils like business have to makes cuts no matter how unpopular because ultimately the cuts will be less unpopular than increases to our rates.

4.

WOLLONDILLY-SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No. 5473-3
PROP. No.
1 - FEB 2011
28/1/1/AUTH. NO.
ASSIGNED TO
Das Sed/ madem.
In regards to the Land Retes
being increased I am certainly very
Much against it and am very workied
to how I will be able to manage my
life Jam a hensioner and struggle
lack week as I received a total of
\$ 16,269,00 for the last year as I live on
a hension only. you have littled me
\$2,122.17 for lest your pension which
gave me \$14, 147.00 to locat for the year.
Tell me how on ever car Flive on
that (could you??) Now you want
to increase it how I would be
able to manage I do not know. Please
arewer me this - Could you live on
that amount?
There is no servet lights have

by cuch y guttering but I always serty along the madride you still want to charge me more Grow you as I want my question answered - Could your live on \$14,147.00? Minns Lelephone, water, Botherd Also let me know what I will get if the Roles are increased, because I cent afford to "goout" To do this to a Permine is a diagrace and Jan very what that is may trappen

503-3#1A

WOI LONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL P O BOX 21=

PICTON NSW 2571

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No.

PROP. No. 5473-3

- 1 JAN 2011

AUTH No

ASSIGNED TO:

#### **DEAR SIRS/MADAMS:**

I REALLY MUST PROTEST ABOUT RESIDENTS' RATES BEING WASTED IN SUCH FOOLISH FASHION AS THIS PRESENT SURVEY INOT TO MENTION THE LAST HILARIOUS ONE].

IS ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SO CHILDISH TO BELIEVE THAT A REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WOULD SANCTION AN EIGHT OR TEN PERCENT INCREASE IN RATES?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS SURVEY WAS NECESSARY?

HOW MUCH COULD COUNCIL HAVE SAVED BY USING COMMON SENSE?

SUGGEST IN FUTURE ALL CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL BE SUBJECTED TO IN IQ TEST AND ALL THOSE WHO DO NOT ACHIEVE AT LEAST A THREE DIGIT RESULT BE BARRED.

MOST SINCERELY.

SCANNED

28<sup>™</sup> JANUARY 2011

#### E-mail Message

## 54733476

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc:

Sent: Received: 31/01/2011 at 12:35 PM 31/01/2011 at 12:35 PM

Subject:

Fw: road repairs braddocks road werombi/rate increases

----<u>Oridinal Mess</u>age -----

From:

To: www.council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:15 AM

Subject: road repairs braddocks road werombi/rate increases

Dear Sir/Madam

After reading your survey to increase rates in different scenario's today i am most disappionted in the waste of rate payers money.

I live at a contractor with a

roadgrader, roadsweeper and

front loader graded the road from the T-junction to the end of the road. Trees were knocked over and

left on the side of the road more damage of the road surface was done then the pot-holes on the road.

My thought were that the council is re-surfacing the raod as marks at the T-junction indicated that something is going to happen.

This morning council road repair truck with pilot filled in the potholes and repaired all the damage done by the grader.

This to me is a waste of money and council ask rate payers from an increase of 8% for seven years to maintain " satisfactory standard, with no reduction in existing Council services ".

I believe that Council have to organise it services to get my approval from these inceases in rates.

Yours faithfully.

É-mail Message

5473-3477

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc:

Sent: Received: 31/01/2011 at 10:49 AM -31/01/2011 at 10:49 AM

Subject:

Proposed Special Rates Variation

Dear Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the propsed special rates variation. I live in Picton with my family, and work as a and so know many local people, and see how many people struggle to afford adequate food, medicine and adequate

and so know many local people, and see how many people struggle to afford adequate food, medicine and adequate health care.

My concern is that many people will really struggle to pay the increased amounts of money, particularly those who are in low paid employment (or a benefit eg superannuation or work cover) that means they do not qualify for a pension. As you say, salaries may well rise cumulatively in line with inflation, but not by 8% each year. This rise will disproportionately hit those who are least able to pay..

A potential alternative would be to enable the larger businesses with a presence in Wollondilly to contribute. Companies like Woolworths, Coles, the mining companies, MacDonalds which are large multinationals. Many of the assets Wollondilly has allow these companies to make large profits — their deliveries are brought in on large trucks which damage our roads, mining damages our natural resources, and we see the effects of this on our local aquafers. These large companies donate small sums back to local community groups, but they could afford to make a contribution that would benefit the whole community, which is something they are keen to do according to their marketing.

I look forward to you considering this alternative, which will allow all those with a presence in our community to contribute.

Regards

E-mail Message

5473-3478

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL

Cc:

Sent: Received: Subject: 29/01/2011 at 2:29 PM 29/01/2011 at 2:29 PM

re in addition to our survey

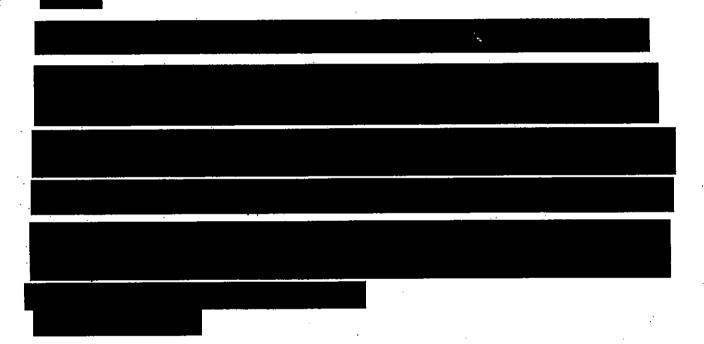
I have just completed the survey on behalf of my husband and I. We are happy to increase our rates by 8% but we need to see more of the rates spent in The Oaks area. Picton has the gardens, footpaths, pool, a cycle track and other amenities. We would just like the verges of our non guttered roads regularly mowed. Footpaths and cycle ways are just a dream for The Oaks! It does not appear equitable for all rate payers.

## 5473-3#79

From:

Subject: RE: Surveyunsewered

Date: Mon, 31 Jan 2011 22:31:51 +1100



From

10.

Subject: Survey

Date: Mon, 31 Jan 2011 15:57:22 +1100

Dear

I was very disappointed to receive the Councils survey in the mail this morning....what a waste of rate payers money!!! Preaching that there are 4 options when really Council are only promoting one option. Saying the residents can choose but the first 2 options all have negative comments and basically saying that residents are terrible people and don't care, if they don't choose the 3rd or 4th option.

Why are rates the only option? Why can't the council look into allowing more subdivisions or dual occupancy? Council have opted to allow Big W and Mc Donalds to build but we don't have the residents to make it successful!! If Mittagong Big W are regretting opening because it's not as successful as they hoped and they have a lot more residents available to shop there then we have (18 000 in

## 5473-3479

Bowral/Mittagong)...what chance do we have??

Also based on a quote I was given in the way of a "developers contribution" if I wanted to subdivide (which I can't) or do dual occupancy (which I can't) I would have to pay \$20 000 (how a normal person could even afford that, beats me) then working on that formula with Bingara Gorge, if they put in 20 000 blocks x \$20 000 per block (which is what normal mums and dads get charged) then that equals \$400,000,000....how is that not enough???

Or is it if you are a big developer like Delfin you get a discount?? The rich get richer...??

Yes I like quarter acre blocks and the rural appeal but there is no reason there can't be more quarter acre blocks around town.

I have been doing a bit of research as my mum lives mid north coast and a real estate agent

Taree has 3728 sq km area with 47 000 population their rates are \$844 a year. (12.6 people per sq km)

Wollondilly 2557 sq km area with 40343 population our rates are currently \$1168.58 a year (15.77 people per sq km)

Great Lakes is 3373 sq km area with 35 006 population their rates are \$1120 approx a year. (10.37 people per sq km)

Then to put into perspective: Camden has only 200 sq kms with 55 000 population not sure of their rates. (275 people per sq km)

. Wollondilly really doesn't have a major centre, just small villages within close proximity of each other.

In contrast Taree has 19 000 residents living in Taree the town, (with suburbs) surrounded by lots of rural land.

In comparison Tahmoor, Picton, Thirlmere, Bargo only have a combined population of 15 745!!

It's almost like Council wants Wollondilly to be progressive and develop but then struggling with the idea of the rural appeal of our area. Unfortunately council can't have it both ways as now highlighted by the very real prospect that council can't be self sustainable and looking to hike up rates without any other options being presented for residents to consider. Many people I have spoken to believe there needs to be more housing to support the Big W development and that we are too small to have a development like this!!

I believe we should be increasing population in Tahmoor, Thirlmere, Picton, Bargo up to a combined 20.000 meaning an extra 4200+ houses/families paying rates = approx. \$5 000 000

We don't have a centre link office like other council areas or medicare....major banks are leaving our area. Our train stations are packed every morning with commuters heading out of the shire to work. We can't even access something as simple as ultrasounds in Wollondilly we have to leave the area. Most council areas have hospitals and 24 hour police stations not Wollondilly...we are a long way from being self sustainable. It's time Wollondilly got serious about it's plans and what we want Wollondilly to be. Done properly we can still keep the country/rural appeal.

I would also like to say that Thirlmere's "streetscape" attempt is disappointing, and has made it dangerous for elderly residents with steps and steep declines and limited parking out side of post office. For example I witnessed an elderly lady park in a very dangerous position outside of takeaway/cafe near post office where the new pavement juts out onto the road, and I don't think she is allowed to park anymore, she then slowly negotiated the steps up to walk way then down to post office. It can not be expected that elderly people want to park opposite near the

## 5473-3#79 Page 4 of 4

park then cross a very busy, wide road at times, to get over to the post office and newsagent...not well planned at all.

Well those are my thoughts on a hot Monday afternoon, hope I haven't bored you with too much detail.

## 5473-3#80

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No. 5 473-3
- 2 FEB 2011
AUTH. No.
ASSIGNED TO:

Picton

27.1.11

Dear Sir,

Upon reading your submission to the rate payers re. increasing the cost of rates I believe none of the given scenarios is suitable.

- 1. If council paid infrastructure eg. Pools, libraries etc., are costing so much, a user pay option should be introduced.
- 2. Council should only increase the rates to the cost of living index.
- 3. If you can't run the essential services that council have to provide, amalgamate and spread the overhead costs.



From

Cc: Sent: Wed Feb 02 18:50:20 2011

Subject: Re: Council query - Farnsworth Avenue

5473-3 #85

Thank you all for your swift response to my complaint -- no doubt I was in a list of many who had complained so your reply is appreciated.

Unfortunately I am away at the time of the Community forums for the proposed special rate variation & unable to voice any concerns so these are my thoughts on the matter:

I only wish I had the councils sales team & logic when I have to go before my employer for my salary review — I am sure that in any private organisation you would not be rewarded with extra funds after such poor performance in the past. I think if I was to suggest to my boss 'oh we got it wrong the 1st time but give me more money & I will do much better' I would be laughed out of the office & told perform next year or not only will there be no salary increase but you will be out on your ear — and quite rightly so.

At the end of the day, I have to run my household on the budget that I am allocated by my employer & the council is responsible to do the same – Any increase above standard inflation is a slap in the face to ALL rate payers who currently work their butts off to maintain a household

#### 21/02/2011.

within their means.

I laughed when I read the local news flyer when it said that the Mayor had said how great a place Warragamba is to come for a day out – I would be embarrassed to encourage people to come because of the state of the roads – Its almost like saying please come – the trip up is a bit scary (if you make it without a flat tyre or tar sprayed all over your nice new car)but once you get here the view is spectacular & makes up for the hundreds of dollars you will need to spend to fix your car.

Once again — thanks for your swift response to my email — No reply is necessary to this email — I just wanted to let you know my opinion on the proposed rate increase as I would be unable to voice my protests at the meeting — Hopefully they will be taken into consideration regardless of attendance.

Thanks for your time.

To: Subject: council query



Please see the attached email in response to a complaint that I made about the section of Farnsworth Rd that was 'fixed' late 2009.

You will see from the attached email that I was under the impression that the road would have been fixed......

From memory I don't remember when this happened & to add insult to injury about 2 weeks ago the road was scattered with loose tar & rocks & then today (yes this 40 degree day) when driving home from work I found that it is now worse than ever & was unable to avoid hitting MANY potholes—Funny that—not sure that you need to be a rocket scientist to figure out that was going to happen!!—I wonder had I had an accident because of this & based on the fact that I have in writing that this should have been fixed how my insurance company would have gone tackling council about their sub standard roads???

This is ridiculous – the council want to increase by more than twice the normal rate & they simply can't get anything right with the money that we already pay them – What makes them think they

## 5473-3 #85 Page 4 of 4

deserve more money to waste on sub standard projects — Perhaps if they paid for the job to be done properly the first time they would end up saving money but it would appear that all they are concerned about are cutting corners.

Along with the councils list of reasons they need more money from us was the maintenance of land - if they need more money what about selling the laneway land that continues to create antisocial behaviour — not only would they make money from the sale but it would save them the money they spend maintaining these lane ways (although I am sure that is minimal although council would have you believe they regularly maintain them!)

Can you please ask council again for a date on when this road will be botched - sorry fixed - again?

Thanks for your time.

We will be holding Community forums for the proposed special rate variation on 7 February at Warragamba, 9 February at Appin and 14 February at Council in Picton. Check our website for more information on www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

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22 January 2011

PROP. No. 5473-3

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

4 - FEB 2011

Wollondilly Shire Council

REF:\_TRIM\_5473-3

AUTH No.

TRIM No.

ASSIGNED TO

To Whom it May Concern,

I am voting against the rate increase we are already having increases over the next few years. I am aiready paying over one thousand dollars a year and in the paper the dearest rates were \$937.00.

I don't think it is acceptable that you threaten to close parks and facilities and on the same breath you want pay rises. Pay rises are definitely out of the question the rate payers say no to a pay rise.

I think better management of rate payers money needs to be looked at. As for the roads that is not right the Government gave the shire 40 million dollars for roads last year 2010 and we have not seen much done the mine subsidence has done most of our road repairs as well as the roundabout near Woolies. Where is all our money going? Our new parking officer is picking up our shortfall for our roads and parks \$72,000 in six months that must mean roughly \$300,000 or more a year. Not to mention millions in development approvals, contributions from developers. The government is giving the shire in 2011 15 million dollars to fix picton road. I have read everything on the website you can do more in the council premise and there are a lot more cuts you can do In-house, You spend too much on Christmas parties at our expense they need to be tapered. Fourty company cars I am sure that can be reduced. There is no need to replace those cars every year. Do not think people can pay extra money when you think you need more. Special Rate Variation Proposal old people and a lot of people probably would not give it a second look i guess that's what you count on. You spend money on council elections but cannot spend money on sending the residents a pamphlet voting for or against the rate rise because you might actually get a response. I think rate payers need to be kept more in touch with our earnings and our spenditures and I do not think putting it on the internet or office is sufficient there are a lot of rate payers that are not mobile for lots of reasons and they all should be kept informed. We are saying no to Rate rises and No to shire pay rises.

Ratepayer



CAWDOR

20 January 2011

Assistant Manager

Wollondilly Council

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No. 5473-3
4 - FEB 2011
AUTH, No.
ASSIGNED TO:

Dear Sir

I would like to respond to the matter brought to my attention in the 'The District Reporter' concerning "more rate rises for Wollondilly Residents" and as you asked for residents feedback I would live to contribute.

I have lived in the suburb of the for 6 years now and I would like you to be aware that my RATES have RISEN by 10% EVERY YEAR since I became a resident in this area.

To read an article addressing "much needed maintenance" and because "without any increase in funding" this may not happen I find myself very angry when I have paid an increase of 10% each year since I purchased my property. A further 8% increase on top of this increasing amount would cause us financial difficulties and also I do not believe works are being done in my immediate area.

In the six years of my residency, the Old Razorback Road has not had any major works only pot-holes filled in when absolutely necessary. My road is famous for its dangerous bends and hazards, however, regular major road works has never happened. This makes me even angrier at the mention of further rate rises when I doubt it will be to my benefit.

I write this letter to voice my objection to any further increases than I have already worn.

Many thanks

#### E-mail Message

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc:

Sent: Received: 6/02/2011 at 7:56 PM 6/02/2011 at 7:57 PM

TRIM 5473-3= Subject:

TRIM 5473-3

Special Rate Variation Proposal.

I have reviewed your pamphlet, and information contained on the Council website.

I don't support an additional increase of 8%. The rate rises and additional income over previous years together with sound management practices should have been sufficient.

Council should manage their spending more efficiently.

Unfortunately, further rate rises will fail to encourage more 'new' residents.

Regards

Lou always have to	Sou always have to bear in mind as well
that there are man	are many one wome formilles
that can not afford	that can not afford all these increases.
rotes/water/power/	rotes/water/ power/warrance/food-and mortgage
wherest rades.	
late pay out 1/2 our	We nay out 1/2 our weekly income on our
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Con Con Carlo	
Too many more	WOLLGNDULY SWIRE COUNCIL ON 11
us_loose our home	US LOOPE DUT LIGHTE FROENS 5473-3
	- 8 FEB. 2011
	AUTH No.
	ASSIGNED TO

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No. PROP. No. 5473-3

1 0 FEB 2011

AUTH No.

ASSIGNED TO:

5473-34102







#### **Special Rate Variation Community Forum**

7 February, 2011 6.30pm – 8.30pm Warragamba Town Hall

Welcome & Introduction 6.30pm - 6.35pm Mayor -- Cr Michael Banasik Overview of asset maintenance issues and proposed rate 6.35pm - 7.15pm variation General Manager - Les McMahon Assistant General Manager – Luke Johnson Manager Infrastructure Planning - Dick Webb **Further Questions** 7.15pm - 7.55pm Q&A Panel - All speakers Closing Remarks 7.55pm - 8pm Mayor - Cr Michael Banasik Coffee 8pm

Your opportunity to "Have Your Say" about the future of Your community's assets and services

# SRV SUDMISSION 5473-34102 Your Questions?\_Uhat assist

Name: \_

Address

WARRAGAMBA

#### Privacy Statement

The personal information being voluntarily supplied on this form is collected by Wollandilly Shire Council for the purpose of community consultation and matters of concern at Community Forums. The information collected on this form may or may not be recorded in the Community Forum "Record of Proceedings" document subject to whether the information is addressed at the Community Forum.

Regardless of whether it is recorded in the "Record of Proceedings" document the Information shall be stored on Council's electronic data management system. At any time you have the right to access, view or correct the personal information that you have provided and as such this information could be subject to a request for access to information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 [GIPAA].

## 5473~3 州码

#### E-mail Message

From: To:

Council External Incoming (EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL

Cc:

Sent: Received: 7/02/2011 at 12:21 PM 7/02/2011 at 12:23 PM

Subject:

Comments re Funding Your Future

I am writing this email as I think that comments are required further to the quick survey you have sent out.

Firstly I think that council only deserves Scenario 1 -

Council has been collecting rates from my housing block for many many years, it is a residential street and still has no kerb and guttering. The land was subdivided in 1917, I am unsure when all the houses went in, but I am sure that council has collected rates from every one of the blocks. I would have thought there was ample time since 1917 to have kerb and guttering installed.

The state of the road between Picton and Tahmoor is attrocious, it needs major resurfacing, not just spot repairs that makes it worse.

Also between Castlereagh and Pitt Streets in Tahmoor is what I think is a stormwater easement and walkway used to get to the railway station, the whole section needs to be cleaned up on a regular basis and a proper path put in.

These sections are not new areas and council has been collecting rates for a long time, but alas it has to date done nothing, therefore I see no reason to increase the rates charges beyond the standard 2.8%. At a time when average families are already hurting, to see no improvements to long term problems doesn't make us want to grant increases over and above the standard.

Regards

## 543-34-104

#### E-mail Message

From:

To:

Cc:

Sent:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL)

7/02/2011 at 5:06 PM

Received: 7/02/2011 at 5:06 PM Subject: Rate increase

#### To Whom It May Concern

We cannot afford to pay any more money out what with electricity, gas+now rates what on earth do u think we will have left to live on All we seem to do is pay, pay+pay. The pensioners+low income earners cannot pay any more.I for one am sick of getting bills in the mail that i am scared to open.You may get payed a large wage but as we are pensioners we do not even receive any where near the same as low income earners. The way things are going all we will be able to do is pay the mentioned bills and nothing else Every time we receive the rates it has increased i wonder what on earth you do with OUR MONEY you don't seem to manage it very well do you Those flowerbeds that stick out into the main road in Picton they may look ok but i don't think we really needed them did we? The traffic lights whether you paid for them or not was rediculous first you put them in then take them out. You have managed to ruin the rural aspect of Tahmoor allowed medium density and government housing in Thirlmere i hope the families who will live in the government housing have cars because the public transport stinks just buses no trains also there are no Drs, no decent supermaakets but lots of takeaways+heaps of empty shops. The bridge in Picton has been closed so many times i hope you have got it right this time. You allowed mining under peoples houses+had to repair the bridge in Tahmoor because of itThe community hall in Westbourne Ave looks like its ready to fall down + its been that way for a long time. I could go on but i don't think i need to do i. If you need more money for road repairs ete why don't you try getting some off the Road Traffic Authority instead of trying to squeeze more money from a dry well.

## 5473 #3 # 105

Majorily Suice Corners. SWIENDAYON AND MICHAEL BANGERS 5473-2 WED ROW HES. 2011 MENTAN. 1 0 FEB 2011 -\_ AUTHERO -RE: JUNDINE OUR FUTHREGUET TO ean les aux Miasaes, TAIS LETTER 15 IN RESPONCE TO THE PROPOSED TO INTEREMENT WE Country Know MORE THAN THE C.P.I. INCREASE, OF LOT 3%. RICHT OF FRONT 17 15 IN CORRESPONT FOR WE TO SOY NO. TO THE RATE INCREASE, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXPLANTATION. I HAVE READ THE SURJEY AND COLDER STAND HOW SURVEY IN DE WORKED TO SUPPORT A PARTICULAR CASE. 1 Say NO TO A RATE INCREASE AS MOST KEDPUT THE LIVE IN THE WOLLDWY SHIRE CANOT AFFORD TO CONTINUAL Koop Paring. WACES DO NOT INCREASE BY MORE TOOK 3%. PETRION DO MOL MOSEDLE BY WASE LION 34. THE FEDERAL CONSUMERT HAS HUED OUT SIDE ITS MEANS AND HAS BLOWN ANY RESCRIET. THE STATE COVERN MONT IS WANTING TO SEN OF OUR ASSETS AS A SHORE TERM FIX FOR THORE INABILITY TD CONTROL THEN SPENDING. IT IS TIME TOOK YOU BE WOLLOWDILLY PENERSY MANAGER AND THE MAYOR STEP UP TO YOUR RESPONSOSILITY IND STATE CONTROLLINE SPENDING, MINDAMISE THE WASTE AND WE THE BUDGET BACK IN THE BLACK. 1 HAVE RENS THE WASSETHER CHROSICIL WHICH LISTO THE TOP 10 REASONS WHY A RATE INCREASE IS NEWS. IT IS TIME YOU LOOKES CLOSER TO USER PAY, Shows A BIC JOS BE REQUIRED. IF IT MEANS A FAMILY CANT PAY THE ELECTRICITY BILL OR PARIX A LUNCH BAC FOR SCHOOL TANK SOME TRING WAS TO GO.



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IE NEWS TO STOP TIME . SIC TRICKS, 'B' DONGLET ETC
DWACING THE RODOS AND CORNLERS.
- Community BuildINGS 1 NOTE TOE BORCO HOW IS DIE
TO USUE THE FLOOR REPLACED, \$48K. WHILE THE FLOOR
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and the second s
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WOLLUNDIELY SHIKE COUNCIL!
- 1-0 FEB 2011
RECEIVED AT COUNTER -

## 5473-3 #106

#### E-mail Message

From:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

To:

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL)

Cc:

Sent: \_Received:\_ 9/02/2011 at 5:08 PM 9/02/2011 at 5:14 PM

Subject:

variation to rates

Attachments:

image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg image005.glf

Community engagement office

Please accept this as a formal objection to the proposed rate increase, I have seen no documentation in the council books available to the public that warrants this outrageous increase.

Regards,

E-mail
Phone

Fax

Mobile

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments, files or previous e-mail messages attached to it may contain confidential information and is for the intended recipient(s) only. Confidential information should not be disclosed, copied, distributed or used without the permission of the sender or

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me by reply

e-mail and destroy the original transmission.

14/00/2011

## 5473-3州107

#### E-mail Message

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL

Cc:

Sent: Received: 9/02/2011 at 7:26 PM 9/02/2011 at 7:27 PM

Subject: Rates and Waste centre at Bargo

Attention to the Mayor , Manager or anyone who will take notice,

I have not sent back my survey which I recieved with the rates notice, I found it absolutely rdiculous.

What choice did it give rate payers - none. Of course we would like improvements, but not through

a rate rise but through better management of our funds already being collected. I have lived in Bargo

for 15 years and the only improvement I can see is the kerb and guttering put in in Southern Rd.

NO other improvement to be seen.

As for the proposal to have a Waste Management centre placed in Bargo I strongly oppose.

Has any one considered the general housing in close proximaty, let alone the local school

and the roads leading to the location. I would like to know how many councillors live in Bargo?

It obviously won't effect anyone pushing for this development. Put where you live!

## 3-34 108

#### E-mail Message

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc:

Sent: Received: 11/02/2011 at 10:26 AM 11/02/2011 at 10:26 AM

Proposed Rate Rise Subject:

Hello Wollondilly Council,

I wish to advise that I do not support the proposed rate rise for Wollondilly Council Residents.

The Council continues to do very little for the areas of Silverdale and Warragamba while funding continues to be poured into Picton and Tahmour etc.

We live with constant problems on our roads, lack of parking at school and shopping areas and generally no support from the council in our area what so ever. Other than organising a contractor to take away our garbage and continuing to take money from us we wouldn't even know that the council existed. I am still stunned by the decision not to approve additional parking at Silverdale shops you guys obviously haven't tried to park there at the busy times of the day 3pm -6.30pm. Further - what difference does it make to any of you - you are never here!

I have just written a \$63 cheque to Council for my on-site sewage management renewal. I have to pay over \$200 per annum to Enviro Cycle to maintain it. The council never comes anywhere near it. Why do I have to pay you any money for it?

You get enough money for doing nothing and I do not support any proposal to give you any more!

Regards

#### E-mail Message

From: To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

Cc:

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Sent: Received: Subject:

11/02/2011 at 10:46 PM 11/02/2011 at 10:46 PM Special Rate Variation

To the General Manager

There is an article in The Macarthur Chronicle, dated 8th February 2011, about Council's proposed application for a rate variation. On page 5 there are some tables about the impact of the proposed rate increases compared to a projected 3% CPI increase. But the column titled "Total additional payments over 7 years" is inaccurate. At just a rough calculation, it appears to me that the very top column should be more like about \$1486 extra paid over the 7 years, not \$552, for properties on the minimum rate.

If that is right, then for the Forum to be held on 14th February in the Council Chambers, could attendees be provided with the correct figures all the way down in the 'Total Additional payments over 7 years' column please. Could you hand that information out to the attendees at the Forum.

Regards

## SCANNED TRI

From:

Sent: Saturday, 12 February 2011 5:11 PM

To:

Council External incoming

Subject: Re Rate

Dear Sir, I object to the rate rise, I live on an and the only thing the council does for us is to remove the rubbish, the roads are shocking and have never been repaired properly, the truck comes along and patches it up and in a few days it is back to the same pot holes. Every know and then someone comes along a does a strip of grass along the road, the trees hang over and if another car is on the opposite side your car gets scratchers. Some weeks ago a lady visiting nearly was wiped out on the corner of Spring and Calf Farm Road, and a gentleman about 3klms down the road took his own machine up there and cleared the corner so now you can see who is coming. (In New Zealand properties would be fined very heavily for having so much scrub along the front of their property and it is up to them to keep it neat and tidy).

If nothing is done about the speed of the cars and the trucks there is going to be a nasty accident. We need a sign saying "stay on your own side of the road and slow down"!!! and double lines.

Yes I would like to know where all the money goes and to increase our rates by 8% is not

PS the email address in the paper wollondilly..nsw.gov.au could not be sent .

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No. PROP. No. 5473-3
1 4 FEB 2011
AUTH. No.
ASSIGNED TO:

54-73-34-125
SCANNED TRIMIJA
10. M. Banasiki
S am writing this fellow as

I appose the new rate variation advertised in the local paper and brochuse sent out to us from Wollandilly Council. I hope I can count on: your vote in opposition to this proposal. de the up and comming eouneillas elections are comming up you can count on my vote iff if this is apposed.

## 5413-34130

From:

Sent:

Tuesday, 15 February 2011 12:55 PM

To:

Council External Incoming

Subject:

SRV sub.

Attachments: SRV-sub..pdf

WOLLOWDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No.

PROP. No. 5473 - 3

1 5 FEB 2011

AUTH. No.

ASSIGNED TO:

Thank you for the presentation in the Council foyer last night. As suggested at the meeting by the Mayor I have attached my submission of your consideration. I hope it is clear as to what I am suggesting, however if it isn't please feel free to contact me on the numbers below or by return email.

Best regards,

**SCANNED** 

TRIM JR

This email and any attachments may contain confidential information. If you have received this email in error, you are obliged at law to keep the context confidential. Please contact the sender immediately and delete all copies of this email information contained in this communication, nor for any delay in its receipt.

## 5473.3 4 130

If we are to get this Shire back on its feet we need to stop giving concessions to all and sundry. If there is to be a rate rise, which I support, then it should be across the board.

I do understand the Council gives concessions now to those on a fixed income, i.e. pensioners, this should still be the case as these people made this country what it is today, a great place to live and raise our families without prejudice.

As for the concessions for farmers to keep their business going in the area I don't fully agree with. This section of the Shire uses the road with heavy vehicles which are detrimental to the roads. So as an option why doesn't the Council increase the farmer's rates by the 5.2% of the base rate of \$773 this way adding an extra \$79 on average to the rates, as per your table?

It seems only fair as many other business owners do not receive discounts from the council or for that matter any other government agencies. The farmers are the backbone of our country and are also the most subsidized group in the area. They have just been granted "Hail Storm Relief" funds to assist in rebuilding after the recent hail storm.

In closing it seems only fair that if you ask the mum and dad's of this shire to contribute to rebuilding after years of problems then we all should roll up our sleeves and help.

Respectfully yours,

## 5473-3 4132

From:

Sent

Wednesday, 16 February 2011 9:24 AM

To:

Council External Incoming

Subject: Special Rate Variation

We are writing to express our concern over the councils wish to apply for a SRV, and to state that we disagree with the plan.

Most ratepayers understand fully that costs have risen and demands for improved services and new infrastructure is increasing,

however, without proper planning and management of spending priorities, we feel that asking rate payers to solve these problems

by increasing rates unacceptable.

While the threat of closure of council facilities should be taken seriously, more local community

invlovement in planning solutions

to problems in the area they live in should be taken up.

Local people have been developing, supporting and maintaining various community assets for years, and usually know what is needed

and how to achelve satisfactory results, given the motivation and assistance from council.

Governments at all levels use increases in taxation to make up for poor decisions made previously and being made still.

Trouble is, the taxpayer cannot always increase their income to cover it.

Using percenatge based increases on ratable properties, means that a few pay much more for the same access to council assests as

the majority.

A special levy should be bourne equally by the people living in Wollondilly, that use the facilities, not by incresing rates as a percentage.

Sincerley.

WOLLONDILLY TRIM No. PROP. No. 54 1 6 FEB 2011 AUTH, No.

ASSIGNED TO

E-mail Message

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc:

Sent: Received: Subject:

16/02/2011 at 8:45 PM 16/02/2011 at 8:45 PM

TRIM-5473-3 SRV submission

Attachments:

Rates 2011 - Council.doc

Dear Sir,

Please find attached our comments on the Special Rate Variation and note our objection to it. Copies will be given to the councillors including a CD with the spreadsheet that backs up the numbers.

Regards,

Dear Councillors,

# 5473-34131

It was a very interesting evening Mon 14th. Along with the handout and some explanations from your staff, I have come to the conclusion that you as the governing group are either very smart or totally naïve.

The spin that the documents give are a piece of masterwork. By this I mean it covers the real truth behind the numbers.

I have included in the Mayors package a CD with the simple spreadsheet where you can change both the Rate % and if you want to be fully honest you can include a % for the Valuers General's additions that we get lumbered with on top of rate % increases.

I have printed out a few tables based on the data supplied by your staff so you cannot deny the base numbers. They gave 14 groups ranging from \$773 to \$3201+. To make it simple where in each group there was a range I have taken the midpoint. I have then multiplied that value with the number of properties. This gives a base value "income" from rates to a total of \$18,873,655 P/A. This number is almost half of the \$33m that was on the presentation. I have totally ignored the \$33m as it was either wrong or a smokescreen.

Now looking at the chart I have applied an 8% increase each year for 7 years. Your income will then be \$32,346,127 P/A. This is an increase of \$13,472,473 P/A

But if I do the council officers slight of hand accounting / reporting this is only a mere average of \$7,108,971 P/A. This seems more that what is needed each year according to the fancy presentation. The extra total in fact is \$49,762,799 over 7 years. More that doubles your current income

From this point I will refer to \$ Millions only to save space and typing.

If the Valuer General adds a modest 5% every 2 years, starting in the 2<sup>rd</sup> year you will gain an extra \$67million above you current income. A 10% increase gives \$86 million

Are you aware of these massive numbers or do your staff only talk in average numbers over 7 years? Like your example for that of the lowest rate giving an increase of \$1.52 p/w where in fact it's approx \$10 p/w in year 7. This 40% of properties only represent 26% of the income. Spin Spin Spin. You can con some of the people some of the time but all of the people all of the time

Both and I think that you as a group should do a little soul searching, play around with the spreadsheet and come up with a percentage that makes your actual requirements achievable, also take into account of the Valuer generals increase. You are not obliged to add your 8% on top of the VG%. It seems from the discussion at the meeting that the officers feel obliged to add the 8% just because they can.

Looking forward to a response that is free from spin and deals with actual numbers.

Yours Sincerely



A copy of this letter will be sent to the Advertiser so that they can amend their story.

3/73# M

1	WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
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	WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL TRIM No. PROP. No. 5473-3
	1 6 FFR 2011

CON HITUA

ASSIGNED-TO

Mayor Wollondilly Council

Dear Sir,

Re - Special rate variation story in Bush Telegraph / Advertiser 26 Jan 2011

We wish to advise you that we do not support any rate increases above normal approved limit. We only agree with Scenario no 1. We can't afford a big rate increase.

Council needs to look harder at what it is spending funding on. As an example the recent street landscaping works at The Oaks while they might look nice to some the funding used for this work would have been better spent fixing up Shire roads and bridges.

Also we refer to Barry O'Farrell news item in the Advertiser on 26/1/11 re him wanting to push for bringing forward sewer connections to some communities. This is a typical poly statement BUT how about government and Council first ask the residents if they really want high cost sewer.? The answer may be a reality check. Government and Council should NOT be funding new assets and facilities if it can't maintain what it currently has.

We understand that Council is no longer permitting the installation of Bio Cycle systems in many places but directing new house owners to have pump out systems because the sewer is coming who knows when. Council and government need to realise many residents don't want sewer due to its higher costs than Bio Cycle systems.

We five in Wilton and have a good clean licensed Bio Cycle system and do not ever want to be connected to the sewer. Bio Cycle systems save water, keep gardens and lawns alive in drought. Council needs to take a leaf out of the design book for the Bingara estate at Wilton in that all future on site sewer treated water is recycled back to the residents gardens. Council should be pushing Sydney Water to follow this design for all of its future sewer treatment projects.

5473-3# 140

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No.
PROP. No. 5473-3

17 FEB 2011

AUTH: No:
ASSIGNED TO:

The Mayor
Mr Michael Banasick,
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
Picton NSW 2571

Subject: Proposed rate increase your ref " Trim 5473-3"

#### Dear Michael

You will no doubt recall we spoke to each other on 6<sup>th</sup> of feb at the Markets, and the matter of the increased rate was mentioned amongst other matters during our conversation.

There has been a bit of press about the matter and I noted in one article, which purported to indicate that the rate increase of 8% per annum would cost households approximately \$1:52 per week ie \$79:04 per annum. It was not pointed out that this was scenario 3 on the document Funding your future.

Indeed \$79:04 per year over 7 years does not appear much, and roughly \$553.28 over the full period, and this takes in the 3%as determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulation tribunal.

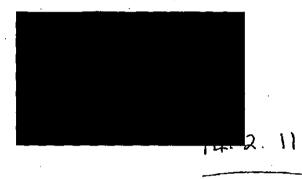
For those of us on fixed pensions, we receive the CPI increase, the same applies to Aged Pensioner albeit they receive a rate reduction which they appreciate, but will this go also ?! do not know any employed person who receives an increase in salary at 8% or even 10% per annum.

I have lived in Wollondilly shire since 1979, and have enjoyed the Rural atmosphere. When we arrived Council was involved in basic activities such as Garbage, Road Works, Town Planning, Parks and Gardens, Library, Swimming pool, Cemetaries, Septic removal, and general council matters as outlined in Bluetts Local Government Handbook as per the Local Government Act of 1919.

Time moves on and situations change, and as a result the old Act was repealed and the Local Government Act 1993, came into being. I believe this new Act does gives Council wider power and allows them to become in other activities, but at what cost.

In view of the matters raised above I believe that there should be no increase in rates, That the role of the Assistant General Manager that looks after the Development Services, Strategic Services, Community Services, Information and Administrative services be totally reviewed to ascertain what should be discontinued or handed back to the State Body involved. Both the relationship RFS and the SES with council be reviewed and all those functions transferred to them.

Michael I look forward to you passing my views on thank you.



# 5473-3 # 140

I have taken the opportunity to view councils web site, particularly Frequently asked Questions in respect of what services council provides. Indeed they are many Running through a couple I wish to comment as follows:

1Child Care . Why is council involved in child care, surely this is a State Government responsibility and administered by The Department of Family and Community Services. This has been sub contracted to the rate payer to meet the short fall. It is perceived as ok to say have dollar for dollar seeding grants but provision must be made for on cost maintenance etc and as time goes on then there becomes the community expectation, that it is a council responsibility. Which indeed it is not.

2Community Development The issues mentioned here are clearly State Government responsibilities, with the exception of Public Halls. My comments above re seeding grants are very pertinent here, as well as State Government funding, Why are we managing Community transport this is clearly the responsibility of the Department of Transport.

3Community Safety: Surely that is in the province of the Police, Dept Transport, Facs, Health. Emergency Services is clearly in the province of the SES. This a large organization with salaried officers and should look after their own affairs especially buildings. Turning to the Regional Fire Service this is bureaucracy in itself with salaried officers with huge headquarters at Homebush why are we maintaining the rfs fleet and buildings, transfer the lot. The captains of the RFS do a magnificent job and not paid but are subject to direction of rfs. But complexes in Picton are not councils responsibility.

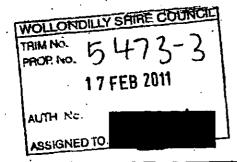
4Cultural Affairs: Indeed there is a State Department which looks after these matters, of course they no doubt offer some funds which is clearly not enough my comments in i above apply re funds etc. Promote Art sure that is fine I note there is a \$10,000:00 art prize. Council officers to organize but where did the money come from was allowance made for on cost accommodation etc.

5 Economic Development I strongly support local business and industry, but I believe both the State and Federal Governments have bodies monitoring on a regional basis.

6 Environmental Health and Regulatory Compliance. Most of the business issues mentioned here are basic council activities. In the parking situation do we really need a parking officer, or has this been contracted out by the Police Dept with insufficient funds.

In summary in my time in the Wollondilly shire there has been a growth in community expectation from council for community matters which are really not councils concern nor should ratepayers subsidise such activities when they are the responsibilities of other bodies.. Wollondilly Council and ratepayers have been engineered into a state of acquiescence by trying to do the right thing and this has been to the detriment of other basic services ie roads.

# 5473-3 #141







### **Special Rate Variation Community Forum**

14 February, 2011 7.30pm – 9.30pm Council Chambers, Picton

Welcome & Introduction 7.30pm - 7.35pm Mayor - Cr Michael Banasik Overview of asset maintenance issues and proposed rate 7.35pm -- 8.15pm variation General Manager -- Les McMahon Assistant General Manager -- Luke Johnson Manager Infrastructure Planning - Dick Webb 8.15pm - 8.55pm **Further Questions** Q&A Panel - All speakers Closing Remarks 8.55pm - 9pm Mayor - Cr Michael Banasik Coffee 9pm

# 54B34H1

Your Questions? WHY NOW WHEN EXECTRICITY AND WATER
COST IS UNCREASENG - WHY NOW WHEN BUSINESS
AND HOUSEHOLDS ARE SLOWLY RECOVERING FROM THE G.F.C.
WHY NOW WHEN WORKERS WILL BE PAYING A
FLOOD LEVY AND ENOURING HIGHER INSURANCE
PREMIUMS WHY NOW WHEN POSSIBLY FIVE
VOLLAGES IN THE SHIRE ARE HOPEFUL ON HAVING
THE FINANCES TO MAKE CONNECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SEWAGE SCHEME - "THE LIST GOES ON!"
Comments: V AND MANY PEOPLE ARE SERIOUSEY ALARMED
AT THE TIMING OF THIS S. R.V. THE COUNCIL REPORTS
THEY ARE DOING IT TOUGH, BUT THE RATE PAYERS
HAVE THE SAME FINANCIAL BURDENS TO TRY
AND MAINTAIN THEIR PERSONAL LIVES AND ASSETS.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH GIVES US A BREAK MANAGE WITH
WHAT YOU GET NOW LIKE WE HAVE TO . OF YOU CAN'T GIVE AFAIR AND REASONABLE RESULT. PUT IT TO THE
GIVE AFFAIR AND REASONABLE RESULT. PUT IT TO THE Name: BALLOTBOX AND LETTHE PEOPLE DECIDE ONE
OWAY OR THE OTHER
Address:
NAME .
ADDRESS-

### E-mail Message

5473-31145

From:

To:

Council External incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc: Sent: Received: Subject:

20/02/2011 at 7:58 PM 20/02/2011 at 7:58 PM

To The Mayor

I am writing in response to correspondence received to increase rates.

I'm angered that this has even been suggested when no visible activity has been attempted by council in my area.

1. Westbrook Road and Finns Road are a death trap. We have to navigate around pot holes, craters and attempts of council filling these with a couple of shovel loads of tar. Driving too close to the shoulder of the road is also placing lives at risk as it is so uneven cars are bounced uncontrollably. We have had the expense of replacing shock absorbers on one of our cars and one alloy rim was cracked from the constant impact. We bore the cost of this when council should be paying the costs rate payers are being hit with due to No maintenance for a period of years, not just lately. Why is there no roundabout at Menangle and Westbrook roads? Is council waiting for a serious accident? Cars cut the corner to perform a right hand turn to travel to Camden Razorback etc.

When was the last time Riversford close was professionally tarred and sealed? Obviously some time ago as it is need of attention.

- 2. Now for the tax for operating a septic system what a crock \$45 per household. I could actually accept this if council policed the use of these systems. There are at least three properties in this street who either let the effluent flow down the street or have it piped directly into the storm water. It makes me sick to see children swimming in the river and adults fishing in it. The day I hear of someone becoming very ill from either of these activities I will take this email to the Sydney newspapers and expose council for its' don't care attitude.
- 3. Should I mention the garbage system. Why is the recycle and household waste bins being collected and emptied into the same truck? Why is there only one green waste bin collection fortnightly? Maybe you haven't realised or haven't bothered to look that households are dumping greenwaste on the side of roads or in local paddocks. We have had to pay for two additional bins to ensure our greenwaste is diposed of responsibly. Are you waiting until agapanthus and other seed bearing plants to become noxious weeds as they have become in other Australian state?
- 4. My suggestion is an enquiry into how council spends our hard earned money? is it overstaffed? After all it is the rate payer who is to be answered to. When there are acceptable answers to our questions and concerns we will be happy to consider your request.

Regards

Menangle NSW 2568

21/02/2011

# 54733 X146

#### E-mail Message

From: To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL

Cc: Sent:

20/02/2011 at 9:01 AM

Received: Subject: 20/02/2011 at 9:01 AM Response to the Funding your future Special Rate Variation Proposal

Attachments:

Response to Wollondilly Council Special Rate Variation Proposal\_v2.0.pdf

To the General Manager;

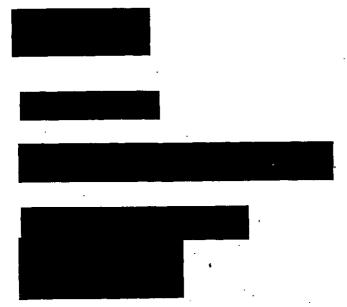
Wollondilly Shire Council.

Following a quality check yesterday, I noticed a few irregularities with the previous report - notably grammar mistakes in page 2, and I had unintentionally selected a stacked line chart in the road cost comparisons chart was giving false statistical results. Although no doubt the result of a 15.5Hr working day, these have now been resolved.

Again, I am happy to be contacted in relation to this response, and as such my contact details are found below. After hours I am contactable on the mobile reception is minimal in Thirlmere.)

Thank you again for the opportunity to have some input during this process.

Regards,



: 5473-3H146

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notify the sender immediately and delete the message.

### Response to Wollondilly Council Special Rate Variation Proposal

#### A Position Paper

Author:

Reference: TRIM 5473-3

Following the community presentation for the Special Rate Variation at Picton Council Chambers on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, this paper represents a technical response for consideration by councillors and Council for consideration moving forward.

It is my intention to provide this information in balanced and even manner insomuch that any personal agenda is not conveyed. As such arguments are referenced with real data and publications that I have been able to research in the time available to make this submission.

The primary drivers for requesting a Special Rate Variation for Wollondilly Council are:

Asset Management

In summary, the review has found a substantial ongoing shortfall in the funding

Funding Limitations

The identified shortfall in operating expenses is therefore \$342,000

(2. Wollondill Council, 2011)

### **Funding Limitations**

Addressing the second driver, the \$342,000 shortfall compared to the previous year (approximately 0.8% income) is much less than the residual funding available from the completion of the roads ahead program, and as it is relatively small has potential at being targeted through efficiency improvements without a Special Rate Variation

In the case where a Special Rate Variation is the only method identified as capable of addressing this cost driver, an additional rate increase of 1.5% for 1 year would suffice.

The Roads ahead SRV has introduced an additional \$6M to the annual income from where the budget would be if the roads ahead SRV had never been introduced. Wollondilly Council has elsewhere commented that this money has been used to pay these additional costs instead of continuing to improve roads.

It is noted that Council has not been able to maintain the same level of funding in 2010/2011 as at the completion of the SRV program, with funds required to meet the ongoing loan repayment costs of the program (\$576,000), as well as meet continuing external funding pressures, including the ongoing cap on general rating income through rate pegging, increased public utility and superannuation charges, and other state government charges such as Fire Brigade Levies that are rising at a higher rate than the rate cap amount Additionally, there have been reductions in development services income through changes to Planning legislation, and through the ongoing loss of investment income following the global financial crisis.

(3. Wollondilly Council, 2010)

As the ongoing funds from the Roads Ahead SRV are being used to address the short fall in operating income, it becomes unfeasible to use this cost as justification for additional funding through a new Special Rate Variation.

It should be noted that the primary driving force behind the SRV Request is the information gained through implementing Asset Management over the last year.

#### Asset Management

To the credit of Wollondilly Council, implementing Asset Management under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirements has given Council clear visibility of its owned assets, including the condition and risk associated with them. This is a vast step forward in the management of the asset base.

The approach taken by Wollondilly Council is base on a Publicly Available Specification from the Institute of Asset management in the United Kingdom (4. Institute of Asset Management, 2008). Known as PAS55, this document is currently leading the way towards an International Standard in Asset management that is yet to be developed.

A new International Standards Organisation Project Committee [ISO/PC 251 Asset Management) has been established to develop the ISO standard.

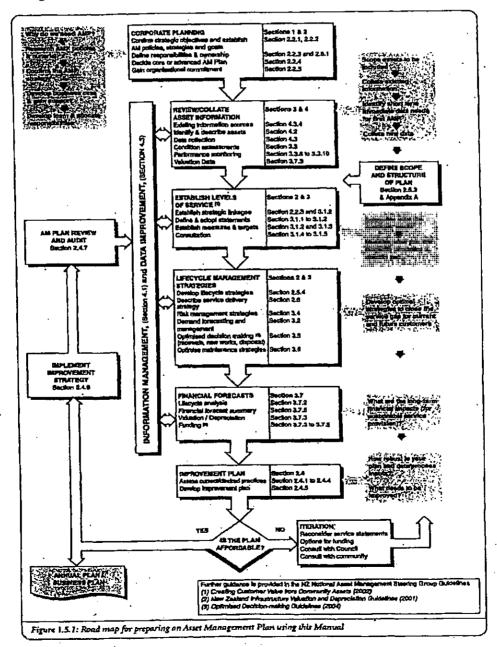
The first meeting of ISO/PC 251 is scheduled for February 2011 in Melbourne, Australia. Completion of the work program is expected in 2013 at which time Standards Organisations from all participating countries will formally consider whether to adopt the new standard.

(6. Asset Management Council of Australia, 2011)

The detailed requirements of an Asset Management Plan for Council are defined the Department of Local Government position paper on Asset Management Planning for NSW Local Government, referencing the International Infrastructure Maintenance Manual (2006).

The IIMM is a more prescriptive and practical approach to Asset Management, and by the Association of Local Government Engineering New Zealand and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

The IIMM outlines the development of an Asset management Plan through the following diagram



(7. Institute of Public Works Australia and Others, 2006)

From the content available within the Wollondilly Council Asset Management Strategy it appears that this process has been followed up to the point where systems capabilities prohibit further progress.

Council has recognised the need to centralise its asset management processes, and the need to focus on developing a single asset management system, based on the Civica Asset Management module (AIM).

It is however noted that the AIM module does not currently possess any higher order capabilities, including strategic planning, predictive modelling, risk analysis or lifecycle costing.

However, it appears that the higher order asset management functions are not included in these proposed upgrades, and there is uncertainty as to when a fully functional system is available that will provide full compliance with the Planning and Reporting Manual for Local Government in NSW.

Council does not currently possess any capability for asset strategic planning. However, some information is currently being collated on the level of usage for various community facilities and parks assets, which will assist in understanding the current utilisation levels for key assets.

Council does not currently undertake any routine risk analysis across all assets. Council does undertake some limited risk management on key assets such as timber bridges, playground equipment and footpaths.

#### (5. Wollandilly Council, 2011)

Based on this research, it is clear that the manner in which the asset management plan has been generated has been excellent, with good adherence to known standards and industry best practice. It is important to note that this is growing industry knowledge and that current best practice is consistently being challenged and improved.

The details on how this asset management plan has been incorporated into the forward financial plan is of the most significant concern when considering the relevance of the asset management plan and how it impacts on the current issue of the Special Rate Variation. The key issues that need to be addressed are:

- 1. Is the estimation of cost accurate?
- 2. Has efficiency improvements been factored into the forward plan budget?

#### Cost Estimation Accuracy

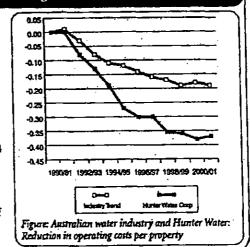
Although the individual costing of works is expected to be accurate as experienced persons have been utilised to generate this information, the consolidation of this cost data into a forward plan needs to be performed to allow the efficiencies to be gained with work grouping and forward resource planning to be factored into the future budget.

#### Case Study: Benefits of Asset Management Planning

In Australia, substantial demonstrable benefits have been achieved by the country's major urban utilities in service reliability, lower life cycle costs, reduced risk exposure and improved overall service levels to customers.

For example, Hunter Water Corp. (serving nearly 500,000 people on the East Coast) has:

- Cut operating costs per property by more than 40% (refer figure).
- Reduced capital expenditure by US\$185 million (about 4 years of planned capital expenditure).
- Reduced real costs per property by 34% in terms of revenue charged.
- Improved the level of service by reducing the number of properties with low pressure from 4800 properties in 2000 to 1700 in 2004.



(7. Institute of Public Works Australia and Others, 2006)

As can be seen above a cost benefit of on average up to 20% (or over 35% in high performing organisations) can be realised through the implementation of asset management planning in an organisation.

If merely the average is achievable in Wollondilly Council, the forward spend required for maintenance of assets to address the Infrastructure backlog would be significantly less that is currently planned. In fact, the requirement for additional funds would halve, requiring a SRV of only 4% a mere 1.2% higher than the pegged rate (assuming the carryover from the last SRV has been entirely consumed in the normal budget formation). If a 35% cost reduction were obtained, the SRV would become virtually meaningless.

The other aspect of Cost estimation of interest is the confidence levels relating to the individuals estimations for work. The IIMM (on which the asset management plan is based) recommends including confidence statistics with cost estimates to allow challenge and refinement of the financial forecast (see figure below)

Confidence Quade	-General Meaning			
THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	Highly reliable.			
^	Data based on sound records.			
	procedure, investigations and			
	analysis, documented property			
	and recognised as the best			
	method of assessment.			
В	Reliable.			
В	112			
	Data based on sound records,			
	procedures, investigations, and			
	analysis, documented property			
	but has minor shortcomings,			
	for example the data are old.			
1	some documentation is missing,			
	and reliance is placed on			
}	unconfirmed reports or some			
	extrapolation.			
C	Uncertain.			
,	Data based on sound records,			
1	procedures, investigations and			
	analysis which is incomplete or			
Ļ	unsupported, or extrapolated from			
Ì	a limited sample for which grade A			
	or B data are available.			
.D	Very uncertain.			
	Data based on unconfirmed verbal			
	reports and/or cursory inspection			
	and analysis.			
	frastructure Grading Guidelines- Water			
Assets, 1999) Figure 3.7.10: Confidence Grades				

(7. Institute of Public Works Australia and Others, 2006)

This information presented in a manner that allowed an overall understanding of confidence if forward spend would allow councillors greater peace of mind when being asked to make decisions based on rate rise increases, and not just internal budget allocations.

#### Efficiency Improvement Inclusion

Referring to the Guidelines for the preparation of an application for a special variation to general income in 2011/2012 - Criterion 5:

5.5 Criterion 5 - An explanation of the productivity improvements the council has realised in past years, and plans to realise over the proposed special variation

Councils must demonstrate that they have implemented a program of productivity or efficiency improvements to help fund expenditure pressures before considering an increase in rates.

Applications for a special variation must include details of:

- productivity improvements that the council has implemented over the previous two years (as a minimum), and the actual or estimated savings resulting from each initiative. The costing should clearly indicate if the savings are one-off or ongoing in nature; and
- efficiencies and productivity improvements proposed for the period of the special variation. These proposed initiatives, which may be capital or recurrent, must be to reduce costs.

For councils that have implemented the IP&R framework, the application should identify how and where the proposed initiatives have been factored into the council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Asset Management Strategy and Plans.

#### (8. Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2011)

Of particular interest is the final paragraph. Initiatives of productivity improvements need to be planned into the council's long term financial plan and the Asset management Strategy and Plans. This information appears to be void from the submission. The closest reference is a general comment in the presentation and appears to not impact on the financial plan:

Ongoing efficiency improvements through technology improvements, improved purchasing systems, new asset management systems, ongoing reviews of operations

#### Other Considerations

#### Process Immaturity

As asset management processes as implemented as Wollondilly Council are still relatively new and immature, can long term decisions such as the proposed rate rise be made on the basis of the information contained within?

#### **Executive Summary**

This is the first formal Asset Management Strategy to be developed by Wollondilly Shire Council to meet its obligations' under the Integrated Planning Reforms introduced by the NSW Government. This Strategy will be a living document that will be reviewed regularly as Council develops greater capabilities in asset management, and to reflect input from the ongoing development of the Community Strategic Plan, as well as input from other components of the Integrated Planning Framework.

#### (5. Wolfondilly Council, 2011)

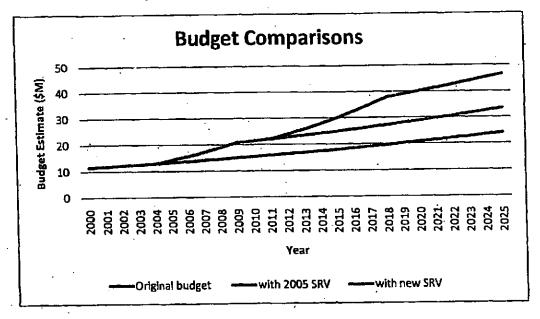
There is no expectation from Council that should they have over-estimated in the generation of the asset management plan and the associated financial strategy that the rates will be reduced to suite. There is also no record of Key Performance Indicators that can be used to manage this information and the associated processes in an ongoing manner.

The very least that the Council could provide is a peer or external audit and review that can validate the asset management plan and the resulting financial plan and give the public greater confidence in the data provided within.

### The True Impact of Special Rate Variation

It appears through the discussions on 14th February that the Special Rate Variation will be applied for under a 508A Scenario (as was the belief that the previous SRV was also applied for under this scenario). The impact of this approach is that long term funding is being sought to address a short (or medium) term problem.

The following chart outlines my understanding of how the proposed SRV will impact on what has historically been the rates expectation from early in this century.



As can be seen, the "Roads to Recovery" SRV generates (approximately) and additional \$6M for the Shire through rates alone. As promised, \$2M is being allocated to roads and the rest \$4M is being absorbed into other operational costs.

At the end of the SRV (June 2010), there was a commitment to retain some \$2m for road works, and with the remaining funds to be used for other operational areas, including maintenance of buildings and other assets.

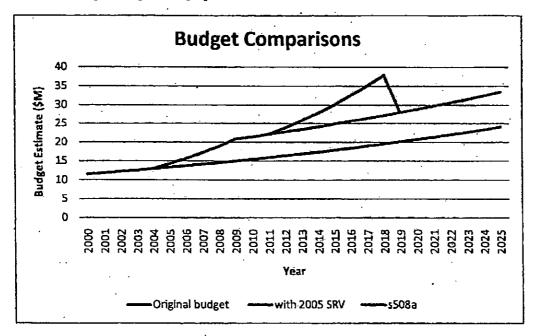
Annual funds of \$2m of the original SRV are however being retained for road maintenance works, as promised.

#### (1. Wollondilly Council, 2010)

Should the proposed Special Rate Variation proceed, Council will have in essence doubled their income through rates in the space of 13 years, whereas the pegged rate would recommend an increase of only 46%.

Due to the nature of the mathematics, this ratio would continue to increase as time progresses.

There is option within the submission for a Special Rate Variation to apply under scenario 508(2) fixed for x years. The impact of this would be that for the short to medium term, Council can raise funds to address the short to mid term issues of an Infrastructure Backlog, without impacting as severely on future generations. In this case, the Budget comparison graph would look as follows:



This of course still assumes the size of the rate variation is at proposed levels and does not include efficiency factors or options for alternate income.

#### Other Income Options

The Guidelines for the preparation of an application for a special variation to general income in 2011/2012 states:

Councils must also demonstrate that the decision to apply for the variation has been made after all other options (i.e. alternative revenue sources, changing expenditure priorities, alternative modes of service delivery) have been considered and exhausted.

The community presentation stated,

Reduction in Planning income \$400,000

Decrease in investment income \$600,000

It would be wise with these considerations in hand to further review the Draft Growth Management Strategy 2010.

Some considerations include:

Council has also considered the question of "how much growth?" Through demographic forecasting we know that the population can be expected to grow at rates of between 1.6% and 2.2% per year.

This growth figure appears to be in-line with the population growth rate for Australia. For a community that is not growing, this would be sufficient, however for the community to grow, a slightly higher growth rate that the general population growth rate will be required. Growth in the population will require higher housing demands, and new infrastructure as noted below, however the clever introduction of new infrastructure may address specific items within the infrastructure backlog, and should not be disregarded.

While rate revenue has risen over time with population growth, this increase is clearly no windfall gain for Councils as growing populations require Council services and new infrastructure. The costs of these increased services and infrastructure demands exceed the minimal rate increases that have been allowed under the NSW ratepegging system.

This is no doubt a sensitive subject as there is public belief that growth will destroy the rural living nature of the shire; however in line with the requirements for submitting a request for rate variation, this avenue should be considered formally.

#### Lean Thinking

The intention of a position paper in 2006 (A New Direction for Local Government) reflects much of the intent of NSW government toward how local government can best perform. This has been fundamental in the development of the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines and regulations. In this paper, the following is noted.

The matters raised in the paper are based on the assumption that the local government sector is committed to innovation and continuous improvement.

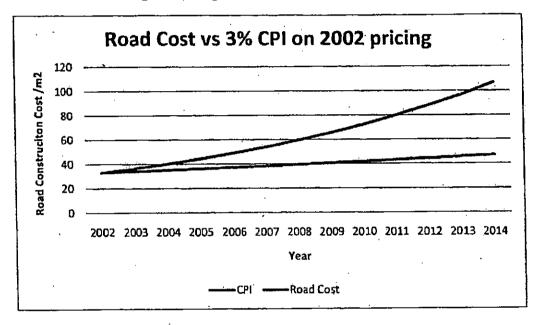
Councils operate in a context of increasingly demanding and complex community expectations where there are limited resources and skills shortages.

This paper is based on the assumption that local government wishes to take the path of increasing its role to match the changing needs of local communities. The challenge is to develop appropriate ways to do that cost effectively.

The new direction forward seems to understand the current situation of reducing resource availability and greater expectations. This is very similar to the situation most Australian manufacturing has experienced throughout the last 20 years. The situation is the motivation for improved efficiency and a reduction in waste.

Additional ongoing funding will relieve this pressure and remove the urgency of the current motivation for improvement.

In a lean environment, figures such as the \$80/m<sup>2</sup> for road construction are prime candidates for being challenged. The increase in road-construction costs from the research I have been able to conduct this week would indicate that the cost of road construction has increased far beyond the CPI rate over recent years. This would indicate that there is great potential for even small percentage savings (<10%) that will have direct and significant impacts on the bottom line for council performance.



In the event of funding over-estimation

Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.
- Parkinson's Lew

If we consider Parkinson's Law in relation to the additional funding requested, I have no doubt that if approved Council will naturally expand the work of its resources and spend the funding.

Performance reporting in future years may point to inefficiencies in delivery if the asset management plan is over-estimated, however rate payers will not see a reduction in rates or a refund of misused funds. Once approved, the increased rates will be spent regardless of how efficiently they are spent.

#### Bibliography

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THE MOMENTURY SHIRE COUNCE RATES & CHARGES 
IN THE PERIOD AUGUST 2007 - AUGUST 2010 (44 MM)

HAS INCREASED 26 2 BIN MY ESTIMATION, SO THE

I NDEPENDENT PRICIPLY & REGULATION JOINNAC HAS.

APPROVED AN INCREASE OVER 2 & 9.

JUTHE PROPOSED SEENARIOS AS RATE PAYORS, WE ARE ASKED TO CONSINER AN PERMANENT LIVERSTONE OF 6% & %, 10% SEEMINGLY FOR FOR THE GOTOPS AHERIOS AND AND THE

HS WE WILL TRYING TO BUDGET FOR

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OUR ANNUALINGUES DO NOT SHARE THE INCREMENTAGE

PERCENTAGES - - -

THANKING YOU,

THIM NO. 54 73-3

1 8 FEB 2011

AUTH NO

ASSIGNED TO:

# 5473-3#148

#### E-mail Message

From:

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL]

Cc: Sent:

21/02/2011 at 11:12 AM

Received: Subject: 21/02/2011 at 11:13 AM Wollondilly Council Special Rate Variation proposal

Attachments:

image001.jpg

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Wollondilly Council Special Rate Variation proposals

I strongly oppose the 8% per annum proposed rate increase. My view is that rate payers' money has been wasted on schemes such as white elephant cycleways and paying for rubbish to be collected on public holidays (presumably at penalty rates?) I run a business and in spite of inflation, certainly don't put my rates up every year but rather stick to my budget and make savings on non-essential items.

Yours faithfully



54	3-3	#	154
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rom:

ent:

Saturday, 12 February 2011 12:01 PM

**):** 

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TRIM: Fw: Wollendily Shire Council

RIM Record Number: 5473-3#154

s process as a submission on the srv & ipr. Thanks,

om:

ant: Fri Feb 11 16:12:56 2011

ubject: FW: Wollondily Shire Council

Vollandilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

' (02) 4677 1147 | E les.mcmahon@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | W www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

rom

ient: Feday, 11 February 2011 1:29 PM

'os

,C:

iubject: Wollondily Shire Council

Mayor and General Manger Wollondilly Shire Council

Dear Peter and Les,

Further to your recent survey.

As a critique of your councils financial problems.

In the words of the Independent Pricing Tribunal in response to the recent application of Sydney Water, so too, does your council needs to learn to be less extravagent and do more with less. The Sydney Water received \$50 million dollars less than it asked for as a result of this advice from the Tribunal and it was instructed to do more with less.

No Development for twenty five years - no income for 25 years for council from that lost development. Council recently announced that this is its plan.

E.g., Campbelltown Council in the 1960's before the Macarthur Development Board was established and developed its Tri City Development program for progressive development in Cambpbelltown Camden and Wollondilly Shire councils to generate supporting income and sustainability into the future. Wollondilly's position today is testament to it's attitude and past decisions over the past 40 years.

Wollondilly Shire Council's automatic progression of salaries in Wollondilly Shire Council does not exist in Campbelltown Council. Automatic progression of salaries in Wollondilly Shire

## 5473-3 H 154.

Council as announced recently by Les McMahon is preventing monies providing its services.

Is 'Council Tendering and Letting of Contracts" for competitive works for competitive pricing to prevail for essential works so as to do more with less or not?

I note you both have not divulged the dollar amount of income council already receives from rates and the cost of automatic annual increases in annual wages and salaries.

I note you both have not divulged the amount of monies council has in section 94 contributions. is it \$6, \$9 or \$12 million dollars as reported, which is correct?

I note extravagance in examining the pending works as a result of inappropriate continuous maintence of assetts, in council.

I am surprised to see the swing set for children displayed as council's 'dirty washing', these swing sets were banned 25 years ago. Immediate action is required.

I note extravagence in the issue of a questionable survey, the likes of which I have never seen, instead of a Council Letter and reply paid envelope, to ratepayers, because council does not agree with the Tribunal.

Who is responsible and made the decision for the issue of such an elaborate survey, in Wollondilly Shire Council, and at what cost?

This persons decisions making and actions should be targetted and investigated.

I note that Wollondily Shire Council is generally in denial, has a bad attitude, and prefers to misbehave and not to operate with honesty and integrity as is expected by its mandate and ratepayers and residents.

I note the repeated winges for more money, by Wollondilly Shire Council instead of appointing a management consultant to iron out its problems.

I note that time is not of the essence in Wollondilly Shire Council.

I note that Wollondilly Shire Council prefers not to fix the problem, by just puttin fires out with deceit and misleading statements that are an insult to its customers intelligence. At what cost to council does being in denial come?

#### SAFETY ISSUES

I note that Wollondilly Shire Council does not have due regard for safety. I await report of injury and motor vehicle accidents with parked cars in the newly refurbished town of The Oaks.

Drivers are now at risk when alighting from and returning to their parked cars due to the sub standard narrow nature of the new parking areas and carriageways. Cars trucks and buses all use these new narrower carriageways as no doubt councils designers would have been well aware.

I note that I still await action from council regarding my road safety complaint at The Oaks regarding a left turing articulated delivery vehicle in May 2010.

I note that I also await rectification of the invert problem across William Street the Oaks on the southern end.

I note that Wollondilly Shire Council has saleable or able to be developed assetts to generate income to offset the costs as now proposed.

I note that Wollondilly Shire Council does not have a logical reason for inappropriately standing in the way of progress and as such should not complain under the circumstances when it needs to start helping itself.

I note that the village of Mt Hunter has no town water still and also no sewerage scheme while The Oaks/Oakdale/Belimbla Park sewerage scheme passes through the village.

I note that much of the Shire is without town water still.

I note that much of the Shire is without affordable sewerage.

I note the Minister for Water and Local Member has now stated that Bargo is only now in Sydney Water's License area. Bargo could have had a Wollondilly Shire Council Sewerage Scheme it now seems. Wollondilly Shire Council should have been well aware of this and did nothing - 'not smart' when the Minister for water has now stated there is a logical reason for Bargo not getting the sewer in the near future. Is this a satisfactory reason is my question?

Council Sewerage Schemes after all generate revenue for councils providing them with a saleable commodity. Sydney Water has a 60 year sewage scheme backlog and its schemes are not affordable except where pump out systems are connected to a sewage scheme if ever made available by Sydney Water.

I previously wrote to council and advised of the development of a new sewerage entity. You will note the progress of development of the entity for water and sewerage services as approved by the Minister for Water recently in the Gosford and Central Coast area of NSW north of the Hawkesbury River. That is appropriately not the Sydney Water License Area.

Where Wollondilly Shire Council wants services not being provided in the near future by Sydney Water can Wollondilly Shire Council now examine income benefits by providing these sevices itself for Sydney Water as it does with its arrangement to maintain Main Roads for the DMR.

I have noted at incredible expense and now cost to council and ratepayers, Wollondilly Shire Council wants 25 years to prepare for development that was to have occurred by the year 2000 - 11 years ago.

So too, do others note these things. This is Wollondilly Shire Councils own self made dilemma in 2011.

Where the council will not take the advice of the Tribunal that it must do more with less.

I note this proposal of Wollondilly Shire Council is to do more, with more and is contrary to the ideology of the Tribunal in its endeavours to improve competence and efficiency of State Government entities and also those operating at arms length to the NSW Government and still not delivering the services such as Sydney Water.

I trust that this critique will be of great assistance to Wollondilly Shire Council and wish it well in its furture more positive endeavours.

Regards,

Page 4 of 4 5 473-3 H | 54

# Comment 9.2 4 Feb 2011, 10:31 AM

In regard to the 2030 vision. Since the 2015, 2020 and now 2030 if you look at the vision for retail in Wilton. my house no longer exists!

It "IS" indeed a grandious document that has resulted in, not only a huge waste of money in propaganda, but the real cost to me is, the inability to sell my house.

### 5473-3#162

# Comment 9.3 6 Feb 2011, 3:19 PM

I don't know where to begin to comment on all these posts I am totally with you on the need to get back to basiscs. The roads are appalling, so they must be first. I do not support at all 'hundreds of kilometers of footpaths and cycle-ways' which are unimportant, as is the lighting on sportsgrounds - don't play on them in the dark!

If I could be convinced by Council that my hard earned dollars were being spent wisely - and on a prioritised list which all ratepayers agreed - I might think about a reasonable SRV.

### Comment 12 31 Jan 2011, 1:45 PM

As a rate payer I feel that the requested increased rate of 8% over the next 7 years, doubles our rates. From around \$700 to nearly \$1400 pa......Now in the next 7 years our incomes will NOT increase that amount. How do you expect rate payers to be able to afford that an amount of increase. We are worried that the result of such an increase would put people especially families like us with only one income in dire straights. Council needs to see how you as a Council and stop the wastage of rate payer monies, yes we feel that the council needs to reaccess the amount of people that they employ and the amount of the budget that is spent on wages. There seems to be too many Council expenses. Its should not always fall on the rate payer to pay up, a revision on all Council outgoings needs to be audited and made public. Council needs to see if they really need as many building assests that it has and does not get used frequently, eg halls, in small little towns etc. It seems why would council spend a large amount of money on an equestrian centre and yet ANOTHER sports complex, the current ones would suffice for the amount of usage that get. Its not a matter of just increasing the rates its a matter on how you as a council spend it, maybe it should be less high wages on unecessary staffing. This household is not happy at all. You will find the majority of community would not be happy with the increase as you as a council have not shown us in the past that you have managed finances properly. Maybe re assessing on how you invest OUR money as well needs to be checked.

Signed NOT HAPPY

### 5473-3#164

## Comment 12.1 9 Feb 2011, 9:02 PM

Hi

I could not agree more, with you. You have said all that I wanted too. The only other thing was why do all the sporting fields need lights? They are NOT used every night, so why do so many of them need lighting? Maybe I am old and missing something in the sporting world. signed older and not happy

# Comment 12.1.1 15 Feb 2011, 1:37 AM

When I was young growing up in a country town, we had a few sports field with lights. If your team wanted to use them you had to feed a meter box with money to pay for the lights if you didn't want to do this you learnt to train and play sport during daylight hours. Why are ratepayers paying electricity charges for lights at sports fields that you quite often see no one there but the lights are still burning away. Hasn't anyone heard of switching off the lights. They need to do something for the ratepayers and the environment. I am old school too and maybe we need to go back to some of the old tried and true ways.

#### 5473-3#166

#### Comment 12.1.1.1 15 Feb 2011, 5:12 PM

What a good idea, but can you see the footballers doing that? I can't, but the idea of turning off the lights is a

GREAT IDEA and it would save us the RATE PAYERS MONEY. As NOT all the that use the sporting fields live in our

Shire.

# Comment 12.2 10 Feb 2011, 3:27 PM

I have to ask.. where do you live? \$700 per year rates? I pay over \$1300 per year for a normal building block!

I don't understand how the prices can fluctuate so much in the same shire:(

### Comment 14 3 Feb 2011, 3:20 PM

I'm amused that Council has removed playground equipment because they are NOW unsafe and NOW can't afford to replace them. Surely the maintenance of these assets would and should have been included in any long term capital expendiure program. Maybe they just fell off the asset register.

#### Comment 14.1 15 Feb 2011, 1:45 AM

It may be that council never maintained the equipment in the past since it was initially installed. Hence the state of disrepair now, and the subsequent need to remove it. Haven't we heard all of these plea's for money in past years and for what have we received. Maybe they are planning to replace the equipment with new stuff so that they won't have to maintain it again and so the cycle continues. By the way you have to ask yourself what are all the council workers doing if they are not maintaining any of these assets at the present time?

## 5473-3 4170

Phone:
عمل المساهد ال

**Wollondilly Shire Council** 

**Piction NSW** 

Re: Proposed Rate Variation

**Dear Council** 

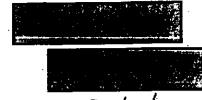
I want to draw Council's attention to the existing rate variation that was introduced in 2006 for 5 years, does Council intend to remove this existing variation before imposing a new variation.

If this current variation is not removed, why do we need a new variation? If a new variation is introduced, will the current variation form part or all of the new variation.

V	ours	•	_		

	PRUP No. 547 3-3 2 1 FEB 2011
	AUTH, No
l	ASSIGNED TO

#### 5473-3417)



The General Manager, TRIM No. 5473.
Wollowdilly Shire Council, PROP No. 5473.
Picton. AUTH No.

Hear Les Assigned to the Assigned to increase the rates by 8% each year for the next seven years is excessive.

Over the last five years Council has increased the rates each year by 10%, which was about 6.5% more each year them the yearly pegged rate merease of 3.5%. This meant that in the fifth year of these rises the merease has been 61% instead of 18% (of the previous rates). This bible increase is now "built in" and any

new mereases are added to it.

years is now added to this these will be a further increase of 71% (of the 2010-11 rates) in the seventh year rather than an increase of will also then be "built in" to future rates. I suggest that either the proposed rate rises be substantially less or that rate payers be levied the extra rates for 5 years and then have the rates revert to what they round have been had they only been increased by the pegged amount. Had they only been increased by the pegged amount.

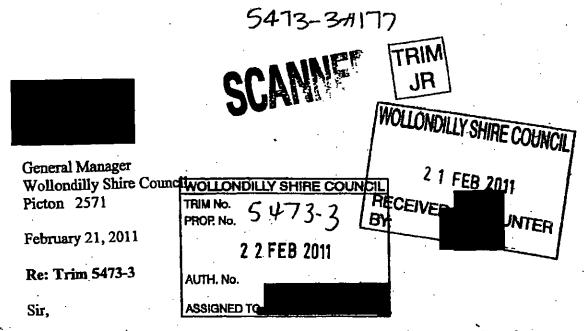
the his on a lound amposty and a me hence endlere amount Donier Contract Title Street in romadla view progress Their take progress of our preasure removed and they are com

## 5473-34174

infly know aport as. Now that provide the eas, but they give all the profess of all over heard labourers presented resources the a much minorally on overseld its called blothers obberg they can pay more that sestour the community they eranica alika Villenavieta PRIORIES IS 1175 - 5 - 5 2.7 円到 2011 ASSIGNED TO

**WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL** PROP. No. 5473-3 5473 # 176 2 2 FEB 2011 2 2 FEB 2011 AUTH, No. RECEIVED AT COUNTER In regard to "Special Rate Variation proposal. Iam unable to attend any of these special Rate Rise Meetings. I have filled in the survey, waste of more money In general I would estimate most rate payers would be against this rise of any sorts or for reasons in Councils 10 point plan. I personally lave almost blocks so pay two seperate garbage rates, one I don't even have a jarlage him for esits a vacant black of land I am entitled to Primary Produces Rates but Wollondelly has knocked re back. I pay over \$4,200 - in rates pet year Six years ago Wollindilly apped-the rates for five years at 5% per year or rate pegging Even though we are now we are in the swith year we still pay the entra rise over the priestions five years. This amounts to a huge amount, when the taken over our big Shire area Now not even six months after the 5 % rise ended Council already want 8% increase for the next seven years I don't think an' In mentioning the 5 /o. 5 year rate rise for roads alot of the areas repaired are already showing inferior quality with, breaking up a roughness On hot day they are like chewing gum -is not surprisingly long lasting Then again the round about at south Comden in a joke to becoming another m5 "sarga? If your out-door staff were more efficient e accountable that would cut expenditure enormally. Ill give you two examples. should times e areas, length of road & Km's be made to document worked per day. Fuel consumption won't be any good work for it. wants a job he Then the general workers in trucks get into giute "High Holes"

ntil knock off time, after they decide they have done enough and for the day. Don't they realise rate payers drive past e see They got very deeply bogged I asked council to fell up the wheel racks & I have a letter from Council to say it would be fixed p within two weeks. The house in question is For Sale so big wheel racks are unatractive e we of course cont mow across them as hey are too deep. This is council land but we maintain it, (asthere want my sign of grass cutting man) e it a Fire hagard I am a till waiting or Council to come efill in the damage . As to date it still hasn't been fixed Excuses, the truck was never there as it was still working lash grass along the road this is Councils job where is the grass yet your staff working efficiently e you will be susprised how such this cuts costs a work mercases. Then of course refuse private enterprise sponsorship as in Picton Glost Hun Jours. I don't pay rates for this. Then again what dose your Morcious Weed man do? He sent me a letter e detailed treatment to real my property of Serated Tussock e get red of it by a certain date or I would be in dire strates guess what I don't e never did have Scrated Tussock! But I will soon have Black Berries thanks to him not spraying along the roads e not getting land owners to get rid of them. They are also Parcious Woods e no one seems to be doing a thing to get rid of this menacing weed why do Council have this man doing seemingly nothing? If he desent do his job get rid of him, No I object strongly to any sort of Rate Rise Become more efficient e work wise slash wages or entire un recessary jobs. I wouldn't be moloued it I worked like some of the louncil workers. mployed if I worked like some of the louncil workers. Regards.



It is a shame that Council has to resort to propaganda, lies and half-truths in trying to get a special rate variation in place.

"Founding your future" is about you, the Council not us the Taxpayers. Council's sustainability is on the line.

The less of Council there is, the better the Taxpayer will be off.

Reduce the staff by one Director and four Managers, the Taxpayers will not feel one little bit of difference to their (perceived) services. No special rates variation will be necessary.

Services need to be paid for, I am happy to pay for good service.

Look what happened when Council put the running of the Aquatic Centre in private Hands. Magic! Council loses \$27000.00, Private Enterprise makes it profitable!

Do the same with the big ticket item, Road-Maintenance, hand it over to Private Enterprise! The savings will be huge. Council can let another two Managers go. Why not charge every Motorist a levy for travelling on Councils roads. (Weight per car/truck and kms travelled)

For training under lights, participants need to pay. Put an extra \$30.00 on each players registration.

It is outrageous that you ask the Taxpayer for the upkeep of Antill Park. Council manages this particular property so badly, there should be an investigation! (By the way it is not a community building.)

Any underutilised Buildings should be shut down after due notice and then sold.

Management of Playgrounds should be handed over to Community Groups.

It is a misguided option to believe that we need State and Local Government, it is also an inappropriate believe that when one Council increases rates, Wollondilly Shire has to do the same

Please mention the Councils that do not need a special rate variation.

#### Comment 16 6 Feb 2011, 3:28 PM

As a ratepayer in the \$1800 category, I am looking at a considerable increase in costs over the next 7 years with the proposed 8% SRV. And as a self-funded retiree, I am worried about how I will pay for it. And I will get nothing for it: the road leading to my estate is a goat track (the road/kerbing standard that Council set for the estate is obviously not the standard Council sets for itself anywhere else), and the Main Road belongs to the RTA and not Council.

I have no faith that Council will properly prioritise any proposed new works under the SRV, and I disagree with spendings on non-essential items such as sportsground lighting: when I was younger, if it was too dark, we stopped playing.

I do support increased spending on roads. But again, I have no faith that Council will do the work with the long-term in mind: so often I have seen poor road repairs that last maybe 3 months, when what is required is the 30-year solution. And where are the plans for the kerb and guttering in the more rural parts of our shire?

If Council could provide some level of long-term committment - apolitical of course - I'd be far happier to consider an SRV. Currently I'm not at all happy about it.

#### Comment 17 18 Feb 2011, 1:06 PM

Clearly it is important to maintain assets.

Although some examples are given in the council survey brochure:

- 1. General statements are made regarding services and workforce management. To help us in making a decision concerning rate rises it would be more beneficial to see a list of specific services to be cut and facilities that will not be maintained.
- 2. Scenario 3 and 4 hold merit provided a specific list of infrastructure projects and improvements is published, with a timeframe, so that accountability for the increased revenue is possible.

I am sure you agree that general statements are difficult to hold to account.

#### Comment 18 21 Feb 2011, 12:49 PM

If this rate increase goes ahead, I demand that Prices Road at Douglas Park \*MUST\* be sealed.

It is very unsafe for all of our residents; it creates \*alot\* of dust that affects the freeway (near Moreton Park Road South);

it is very dangerous for residents vehicles - we have cracked two wheel rims (\$200 each) in rushing to the Fire Shed in response to call-outs. (doing my/our civic duty - which in turn helps Council.

I have asked repeatedly over the last several years for Prices Road to be sealed, but have not long ago received a knock-back from Council, due to the expense. I would like to advise Council that as with alot of issues in our society:

#### SAFETY WILL NEVER BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN AN ACCIDENT!!!

When Council last asked residents for their views on a rate increase, I agreed & was ensured by Council then, that Prices Road would be sealed & did in fact see it written on a list of capital works, more towards the end of the then five year plan.

This capital works project is extremely important to these residents.

I bet residents in more populated towns of the shire wouldn't put up with the condition of our road; 1.4 km dust, enormous pot-holes that cause extreme damage to residents vehicles.

Please Council, I would give you the world & approve the HIGHEST rate increase if this work was promised to be done soon.

#### Comment 12 4 Feb 2011, 8:08 AM

With all respect Council and Councillors, there is no need to be cutting back on creating a more sustainable Shire than what you have agreed to with the community and signed to. For example the Vision Sustainability Plan Biodiversity Plan are requirements for you to meet in operations and service delivery, is it not?! Like the train system where they advertise a service in their timetables and do NOT deliver. Also can be said of this Council if it prefers to abandon essential services and maintenance towards a more sustainable environment to operate in. To not is to admit you are failing to meet the most basic sustainable practices services and maintenance. Is it not?! It is time for all the staff to think cleverly and effectively in producing income beyond the norms and get on with supporting their services that they offer as part of Vision 2025 Sustainability community strategic plan etc. Otherwise the staff do not understand what sustainability means or how to implement it?! As for Councillors they need to attend Sustainability training often and be smart not beggars with their hand out all the timeasking for more money. Thank you.

#### Comment 13 4 Feb 2011, 9:14 AM

I am astounded that council comes 'cap in hand' with this veiled request for increased funds. With such a loaded question it seems that the decision has been made to increase our rates. Do the council live in the same world as the rest of us? We have continual demands to contribute to this disaster or that disaster (not downplaying the need there) and we are still reeling from the GFC. I personally have been retrenched from two major companies in the last 24 months due to financial pressures - and you moan because the increase you received ONLY paid for your annual wage increase?! Wage increase???? Really?? No - I don't want cycleways, No, I don't want to contribute to some crumbling asset or indeed playgrounds which, woe betide us if little Johnny cuts his finger (thank you the legal world). We don't have kerbs, busses, streetlights, footpaths, sewer, water, great roads etc - but that is part of the attraction; we (or at least some of us) are happy to do without. To coin a phrase, "you don't spend my money wisely enough for me to want to give you more". Don't we pay enough in Federal and State taxes? Where does this stop? A categorical NO from me. I would like to take the survey but of the four options, I do not support any increase.

### Comment 14.1 6 Feb 2011, 3:37 PM

OK Ive read your new FAQ, and can I say they are not convincing? If we are in such a parlous state, surely Council must consider all these avenues? I sense that the answers being provided are politically correct, and don't come from a totally committed council member, nor adequately address the 'why' behind the queries.

#### Comment 15 7 Feb 2011, 9:17 PM

It was really impressive and I was appreciative of the council to take the time out for the community forums to discuss this special rate levy. It has made me understand the importance of such levy and was disappointed that not more of the residents of the area attended the forum at Warragamba/Silverdale for the northern area.

They ie councillors did listen and take our comments on board. I am now more likely to want to accept 8% special levy on basis of commitment of fixing the major roads in Silverdale ie Silverdale Road at Econo Place and Warragamba - Farnsworth Avenue.

It would be devastating to see assets taken away from us due to not accepting special levy and knowing there were at least 20 other councils in NSW that have and will be doing the same thing to maintain and improve assets, we are not alone.

I do hope that people rethink their decision and take all comments on board as I was against such increase at first but hearing the council speak out tonight gave me reassurance and promises that I know will be kept as special levies are maintained separately from other funding given to council and are audited to assure money has gone where required

# Mr Mayor Michael Banasik Comment 1.15.1 7 Feb 2011, 10:29 PM

Thanks for your comments I would have liked more people there to but everyone who attended raised some good issues we have a big Shire and Warragamba/Silverdale is a great area.

#### Comment 1.15.1.1 8 Feb 2011, 7:55 AM

Thanks Michael Banasik. I believe that having you all there ie councillors to listen to our community needs was great.

We as the community obviously need to see actions put into words and others within the community believe and trust that these problems will be fixed with agreeing to the special levy. You have shown that from last year what works have been done up here already and we look forward to seeing more done.

Note, if there is possibilities when roads fixed on Silverdale Road to shopping, a footpath along which I know is a new asset but would be great if in the future we can afford it as its very dangerous as many residents walk and ride to the shops on sides of road

# 5473-34 194

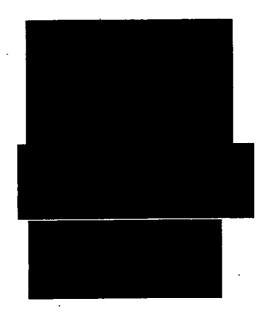
#### None of the above!!

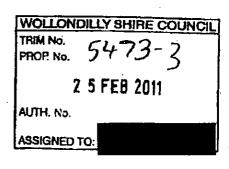
How about this Scenario – No rate Increase and the Council stops wasting our hard earned money on brand new vehicles for the collections of stray dogs in the area!!

- No rate increase and the council Stops wasting our hard earned money on changing stainless steel handrails at the new Railway Museum after they were already made and installed!!

Yes we all care about roads, paths, play equipment, sports grounds ect. As they are a vital part of any community, but many single income families and pensioners are finding it more and more difficult to be able to afford to venture out of their homes due to rising petrol, food, rent prices.

I'm sure that the council has sufficient funds to be able to maintain all of these services at a satisfactory standard without any further rate increase. Just like I'm sure that there will be Money available to spend in advertisement in the up and coming state elections. Another waste!!





## 5473-3#195

Atten Michael Banasik, Mayor



#### Re Expected Rates Increase

I could not support any rate increase while ever council shows a complete disregard
for the many deathtraps existing on councils side roads [not RTA roads]
A particularly bad example exists outside my home this is the junction of
and Yanderra, where it is only a matter of time before there is a fatal crash here, also
my front fence is knocked down regularly - at least twice a year, by irresponsible drivers, who speed
through the corner.
The simplest answer to this problem is to swing Street further over into the
bush, at this point, thereby increasing the radius of the corner. When you consider the cost of the new
cycleway{Chandos Rd -and almost to Bargo,}.I am sure that the Street/ Road
problem would have been cheaper, [particularly when the new cycleway is never used] and also
more likely to save lives

Yours paidfully

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No.
PROP. No. 5 4 7 3 - 3

2 5 FEB 2011

AUTH, No.
ASSIGNED TO:

#### Comment 1.15.2 10 Feb 2011, 9:48 AM

I appreciate your view point BUT an 8% increase is a very big slug for rate payers & what's to say that next year it won't be 10 % because the Council will say that the 8% increase wasn't enough.

I've lived in this shire for 18 years and have noticed a substantial decline in services & conditions in the last 5 years, one would have to ask what's changed. The answer is the councillors, the father & son combo should not be allowed, the councillors are divided and ultimately the rate payers are suffering.

"The glossy survey" was not a survey, it was an expensive "spin" which the council probably engaged consultants to put together at great expense, our expense.

#### Comment 1.15.2.1 10 Feb 2011, 11:07 AM

Fair point but if you were present at the forum there was explanations in relation to maximum pegged CPI rates councils are allowed to increase rates to and are reviewed independently

On the upside, we are not the only council in Sydney there are at least 20 who are foregoing special increase in rates but without ANY increase you would see further services diminished and no further roads fixed etc.

And if you were present at the forum the COuncil did present the number of things completed in the shire as a result of the prior roads special levy

I know we all object to increases at first but we all need to understand reasoning why.

Remember councils are subject to independent audits which are meant to maintain integrity and objectivity

#### Comment 1.16 9 Feb 2011, 10:01 AM

Why not give every rate payer a a car with unlimited fuel like the office workers get? Given that most of them live outside the shire, they're leeching the life blood out of our rates. Any joe blow can walk behind the admin building and see a car space numbered 82 so therefore the total of 80 vehicles must be inaccurate.

How much did the google car cost to state the bleeding obvious?

How many of the people proposing the rate rise actually pay rates in our shire? Is it true that you have 240 staff but only 55 of these work on the roads, why are the figures so inflated inside (in the office) and how come we see so many 4x4 driving around, what is the need for these? The last rate rise appeared to be an act of empire building given all the job ads over the last five years when the resources weren't there.

Is it true that a consultant was hired at \$110 an hour to build a shed for two fire-engines?

So just give every rate payer a car and forget about the roads as nobody will care about the damage their doing to the vehicles.

#### Comment 1.17 9 Feb 2011, 6:15 PM

Well didn't we have a rate increase a few years ago to fund 'urgent' road works?

I live in Appin and there are a couple of roads close to me that have potholes. Rather than fix them properly the council simply fills them in with some bitumen - then the next time it rains they the bitumen gets washed out and the holes are back. Imagine how much money you would have saved if you had fixed the road properly in the first place and only had to do it once.

If my roof starts to leak and let in water I have to fix it from the finite funds I have at my disposal or take out a loan. I can't just go to my boss and say 'My roof needs fixing, give me an extra 8% in my pay on top of inflation based increases for the next few year so I can keep fixing it.' I'm not going to borrow the money so I then have to make do by cutting back on my other expenses. I expect the council to do the same, make do with the funds available.

You've already gouged extra money from us this year with the Storm Water Management Levy - I'd like to see a report on how that money is spent.

#### KEEP YOUR HANDS OUT OF MY POCKETS.

I'd also like to see a report on how much money has been spent on the leaflets, advertising in the papers and staff wages for the community forums and documentation creation.

When is the next council election? I'll make sure that I do no vote for any incumbents.

5473-3#200

Comment 1.18 9 Feb 2011, 9:24 PM

I am a self funded retiree,...for financial reasons, I cannot agree to any rate rise...

#### 5473-3#201

# Comment 1.19 10 Feb 2011, 8:26 AM

I would like to know just who is paying \$700 per year in rates? I know that I am paying over \$1300 for a residential block!

Because of the lack of infrastructure in Wilton, I was upset at paying what I already pay.... but I'm confused and angered by this threat of increasing rates in areas that get 'nothing' for their money! Why should I pay more for property that (according to the 2030 Vision) won't exists and therefore unsellable at this time!

I also notice that our Mayor will only respond to favourable comments in this forum...

Way to go there sir!!

## Comment 1.20 16 Feb 2011, 4:32 PM

through increased rates, any better than they handle the revenue they now have. I've lived here for over 20 years and in that time there have been many instances of our councillors acting in their best interests, rather than in the best interests of the rate payers of this shire. The cost of living is constantly increasing and it is becoming harder to make ends meet - to slug us with a massive annual rates rise would just add to the financial stress of many families. Considering the nepotistic nature of our current council and the "boy's club" practice of swapping the mayor's job back and forwards, I have very little confidence that they have the professionalism to administer increased revenue any better than they do at present.

#### Comment 1.21 17 Feb 2011,

#### 7:31 PM

AVeryStressedPensioner, sorry but with ever increasing utility bills (dreaded electricity mainly) how can any low income (particularly on fixed) person cope with all the hikes. I dont care what any politican says, cpi indexed increases twice a year DO NOT reflect realtime cost increases, overall. I am not paying for higher wages for other people when i cant even afford to replace my giasses or even eat a proper meal. Someone want to tell me what a piece of steak tastes like, i dont remember. A couple of years ago, all the politicians got a pay increase, but low income earners missed out. When is it gonna end, fair go for all? What is it going to amount to, all low income earners struggling to pay their rates, miss out for 3 years an we all loose our houses an live on the street? Guess its one way for the council to get extra funds. Im not against annual increases, its part an parcel. However you really need to sit down an do some maths to make sure it is actually affordable for the lowwer masses over an extended period of time. I can barely afford to buy food now, what do i have to do ,have my electricity turned off to pay for the land rates? Stop filling scripts? I dont drink, smoke or gamble, or even go out, who can afford it? I miss close to 50% of meals now to try saving money. With increases in everything over the last couple of years, there is a VERY SERIOUS Problem NOW with people in FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY I cant now turn a heater on this coming winter, just cant afford it, hope we dont have a cold one. Cold weather means more pain. I am just trying to speak out for low income people. Thank goodness for the church seconds shop, at least i can sometimes afford some clothes.

#### Comment 1.21.1 19 Feb 2011, 10:06 PM

Another Pensioner who only just makes ends meet, but if we have that big rate increase we will be in BIG trouble. We have to buy specials and mark downs lots of mince or we would never have any meat. One of us is not very well so we have medical costs to deal with as well then the Chemist. Now the Council!! we have lived here for just on 30 years and most of the roads have been the same in all that time, the footpaths in the main Street of Picton are the only ones that have been done and NOT

very well at that!! What they need to do is cull some of the LAZY workers that we all see standing around looking at each other

wondering who will use the shovel. Does it take 6 to use one shovel? If they worked harder The Shire might be in a better state

of affairs. Give your RATE PAYERS A FAIR GO. AFTER ALL WE ARE THE ONES THAT PAY THE WAGES AND VOTE FOR THE COUNCILLORS.

#### Comment 1.22 19 Feb 2011, 10:19 PM

where is our money going? I have lived in the shire for almost 10 years and have not seen many changes or improvements in the area. The council seems to always come up with some reason for a extra levys for the rate pays. One increase comes to mind was a increase for improving our roads, roads in Bargo (where i live) are still the same as they were 10 years ago. Instead of fixing the roads, they purchase a large truck with a trunk that looks like an elephant to drive around and fill water filled pot holes. Then we have to start paying a \$40 application fee for the council to give us approval to have enviro cycle system in our yard, as Bargo doesn't have sewer yet! Then recently we are getting stugged \$35 / year for stormwater management!!! why am I paying stormwater management when the council has nothing to do with my stormwater. This is just naming a few.

They are concerned about repairing playgrounds, playing fileds etc, why are they building a super sporting complex in Picton? I know 1 Junior Rugby league club that pays a fee to use the field they play on.

why doesn't the council start looking at development and raising funds that way?

We cant afford to pay increase rates because we are repairing our cars due to the negelected roads that we have to drive on.

# ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER CLOSING DATE

THESE SUBMISSIONS HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN ATTACHMENT L - THE TABLE OF COMMENTS

# Late submissions received after the closing date.

5473-3#209 @6- (SRV)

I Rove voted Ocenani 1
as I am un certain, when reading
the Funding Scaplet Row the Scenario
work
es de la Rates were \$100 a year,
+ 3°   = \$ 103
would 'the following year Rotes be
\$ 103 ascon or \$ 103+37
and so a for many year
If the record example is correct
(103+3"/ 106+3°/ ctc)
(te Scenarios 2, 3, 4 could
be embarresser ja - Pensione
_ coftet many years.
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Tank Jan
WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No
PROP. No. 5473-3
- 1 MAR ?211
AUTH. No.
ASSIGNED TO

## 5473-34211

#### E-mail Message

From:

au]

To:

Council External Incoming [EX:/O=WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL/OU=COUNCIL/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL EXTERNAL)

Cc: Sent:

3/03/2011 at 6:13 PM . 3/03/2011 at 6:13 PM

Received: Subject:

Re Council Rate Increases

Hello to you at the Council,

I would like to have my say about what you intend on doing as far as the Rates are concerned, and as a

very concerned Rate Payer for the last 33 years of paying Rates to Wollondilly Shire for my property

here at Belimbla Park I really can't see how you can justify any increase at all as we have been paying

dearly for quite a few years and if you have lived here as long as we have been, there hasn't been a lot of

progress at all but the rates kept on going up and up and you want us the Rate Payers to pay even more,

you have got to be joking as we think that we should not even be paying the Rates that we have been paying.

So as a serious and concerned Rate Payer I totally object and not back up any of your suggested Scenarios that you have shown in your survey.

I think its an absolute disgrace the amount that we have been paying for what we have been getting especially since my wife and I bought the property back in 1978.

Thank you and regards from

Belimbla Park 2570

Telephone: Mobile: Email:

#### 5473-3+1212

Camden Park NSW AUST 2570

Tel/fax:

2 March 2011

**Wollondilly Shire Council** 

#### council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

I am writing in relation to the proposed rate increase over the normal 2.8%. That is a lot more than most people can afford, including pensioners and young people who are already under enormous financial burden from increased electricity, mortgage & food increases.

We have to budget on our wages coming in without increased pay rises, finding the increased electricity bill or whatever goes up, so why can't Council do the same. Wollondilly rates are already more than the equivalent in Camden Council and we don't get as much services ie. greenwaste & recycling only every fortnight unlike our counterpart Camden ratepayers.

you in anticipation

#### 5473-3# 215

General Manager Mr Les McMahon Wollondilly Shire Council Menangle St Picton 2572 7th March 2011

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM NO. 54 73-3
PROP. No. 54 73-3
8 - MAR 2011
AUTH NO.
ASSIGNED TO:

Thirlmere 2572
Ph/Fax

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

- 7 MAR 2011

RECEIVED AT COUNTER
BY:

Dear Mr McMahon

I apologise for this late submission regarding Council's proposed Special Rate Variation application. I asked the Council staff for additional information regarding the figures that were presented at the Forum which was held at Picton on this application. Having read the figures I oppose the proposed variation and urge the Council to rely on the CPI yearly increase and greater efficiencies and cost cutting.

#### My reasons are:

- the cost impacts are far too severe on residents
- the figures handed out to residents at the Forum were very lacking in detail and comprehensiveness so that residents were unable to properly assess the impact of any rate increases over the number of years proposed
- Council has just absorbed very substantial increases in rates over the past few years and residents are still paying them even though the increases were for special purposes at the time
- there was no strategic plan presented to residents regarding more efficient ways to manage assets or to even sell some assets
- Before further financially burdening residents, Council needs to present evidence that they have seriously sought to address the asset issue comprehensively and in detail for the long term otherwise the problem will continue, even with the proposed rate increases.

Examples of some ideas that I would propose be investigated are:

- The sale of the golf course which only costs the Council money for minimal local use when there is now another golf course being developed at Wilton anyway
- Entering into a partnership with the new Thirlmere Rail Museum for Tourist Information. There is excellent parking and access there, and there are now wonderful facilities. Then sell the Post Office building. As a heritage building it cannot be developed or changed and staff costs could be saved.
- Investigate entering into leases with the sporting groups for some or all of the sportsgrounds so that they take much of the responsibility for, and ownership of, the asset such as Picton Tennis did for their tennis courts.

# 5413-3+215

- Sell under used or duplicated assets such as tennis courts where there has been a change in culture and players now go to big tennis centres. Also buildings such as Thirlmere Hall could be considered for selling now that the school and the Rail Museum have modern auditoriums.
- Investigate the funding for Council assets Statewide that the Coalition has committed to after the upcoming State election.

Yours sincerely

