

# Media Release



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## Wollondilly Shire Council Special Rate Variation Announcement

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) have today advised that Wollondilly Shire Council's application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10.8% per annum for 4 years has been approved in full.

Mayor Cr Col Mitchell said: "We are pleased with IPART's decision. Council's financial modelling has demonstrated that we will require an additional \$80 million over the next 10 years, primarily to deal with our substantial infrastructure maintenance backlog. We believe the increase is well justified and will deliver better outcomes for our community."

IPART's Chairman Dr Peter Boxall announced today: "The largest cumulative increase approved is for Wollondilly Shire where average residential rates could increase by \$1.94 a week in 2015-16. If applied in full, by 2018-19 the average residential ratepayer will pay \$10.13 a week more than in 2014-15."

"We do understand that this news will be met with mixed reaction from our community. However the increase will ultimately enable Council to deliver better outcomes for our ratepayers, particularly on our roads, in line with our community's expectations," said Cr Mitchell.

Council is committed to ensuring that the revenue raised through the SRV is used in the most effective and efficient way and will focus on renewal and maintenance of the over half a billion dollars of assets Council is responsible for maintaining. Including:

- 840 kilometres of roads
- 90 parks and reserves
- 78 bridges
- 19 halls
- 13 sports fields
- 33 playgrounds

Acting General Manager Ally Dench said: "While Council will be working hard on our asset renewal and maintenance; it is important to understand that the improvement to the condition of our infrastructure won't happen overnight as the funding generated by the SRV will slowly accumulate over a ten year period.

"Council is also aware that we need to ensure that our community is well informed in relation to how these monies are to be spent and the outcomes being achieved," said Acting General Manager Ally Dench.

At this time, Local Government in NSW is going through major structural change and all Councils are required to be "Fit for the Future" by enhancing their financial sustainability. The SRV approved by IPART is one of a number of significant steps Council has taken to become "Fit for The Future".

Council's website includes the following information:

- Special Rate Variation Outcome Fact Sheet
- IPART Media Release
- Wollondilly Shire Council IPART Determination