



## Your Rates ... Everybody's future

To ensure the community's assets and services are maintained and continued, Councillors voted to put forward a rate rise to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Council will notify IPART of its intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation. The following three options for a rate increase will be subject to community comment to inform the final application to IPART next year:

- 11.5% each year over two years (plus the rate peg)
- 6.27% each year over four years (plus the rate peg)
- 5% each year over seven years (plus the rate peg)

Mayor Findley said, "It is important for the community to understand that in order to continue to retain the current level of services and facilities, to continue to fix our roads and maintain our community assets, Council needs to seek additional revenue. Council is not able to fund the required renewal of assets or address the large backlog of works within the current rating levels and still maintain existing services."

"Council has sought and continues to seek ways to operate more efficiently, obtain State and Federal government grants and find ways to reduce costs, but the simple fact is that there is no other way forward."

"We understand for some that increase may be difficult. For people in financial hardship, there are currently opportunities to work with Council on a system to pay the rates according to each individual's situation. Pensioner concessions are also available."

Council will be seeking the community's feedback on this proposal and on the options. Community consultation will be running from the 21 November 2016 to mid-January. Information about the proposal as well as consultation will be conducted in various forms including random phone surveys, online polls, forums and paper surveys. For further information visit [www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/your-rates](http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/your-rates)

## Do you know how your Council supports you?

Where do your rates go:

- Service 1771 km of Council maintained roads;
- Manage 40 of the 109 beaches and 220 beach access ways;
- Protect 147 threatened species in the area and the environment;
- Manage 12 pools including two leisure and two aquatic centres with 700,000+ people visiting each

year;

- 365,700 people visit five libraries including one mobile library and borrow 461,000 items or attend 230 programs;
- Bring entertainment to the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre with over 51,700 people attending shows;
- Celebrate creativeness at the Arts Centre that attracts 9100 visitors;
- Manage 13 cemeteries (seven active and six historic); including the Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium at Worrigee;
- Maintain 246 road and pedestrian bridges, culverts and causeways;
- Maintain 82 roundabouts;
- Own and maintain 17 telecommunication towers;
- Process some 100 Development Applications, Certificates and Approvals a week;
- Maintain 1200 reserves, parklands and sports grounds;
- Maintain 128 playgrounds;
- Maintain and service 130 public toilet facilities;
- Operate 12 holiday parks;
- Operate two visitor information centres;
- Assist many not for profit organisations with premises, grants, staff support and consultation;
- Investigate 700 incidents a year through our Ranger services; and
- Provide school education, road safety, recycling and water education programs.
- Over 198,220 public litter bins are emptied per year

## We need your signature to help us get a new bridge

Are you stuck on the Shoalhaven River bridge every morning or afternoon? Sign a petition for a speedy resolution to fund the Nowra Bridge and Berry to Bomaderry Highway upgrade.

The petition is available on the Council [website](#), Council offices or at libraries and swim centres.

[Sign the petition here](#)



## Australia Day Awards

Nominate now for Australia Day Awards 2017

[Nominate Now](#)

[Click Here to Nominate An Outstanding Citizen Today](#)

## Nominate an achiever

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Australia Day Awards and will close on Friday, 25 November 2016. Acknowledge a quiet achiever in one of the following categories:

- Citizen Award - 25 years and older;
- Young Citizen Award - 24 years and under;
- Sports Person Award - 19 years and older; and
- Junior Sports Person Award - 18 years and

under.

For more information and to enter visit the Council [website](#).

## SSPAN acknowledged for their work on mental health

Council Mayor Amanda Findley congratulated the Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Awareness Network (SSPAN) for being a finalist in the 2016 Regional Achievement and Community Awards. SSPAN is a local volunteer run not for profit and was acknowledged for their work in Mental Health First Aid as well as being instrumental in bringing theatre productions to the City on how bullying can have an impact on people considering suicide.

Mayor Findley said, "These prestigious Awards are a big deal and we are so proud of the network for their achievements. Congratulations SSPAN".



*Pictured: (L-R) Donna Corbyn (Council), Fiona Stasivkynas (SSPAN), Juan Alvarez (SSPAN), Wendi Hobbs (SSPAN), Mayor Amanda Findley, Jacob Williams (Ann Sudmalis office).*



## Upcoming Events

The XPD Adventure Race World Championships were held this week and saw some of the toughest endurance athletes in the world compete and discover the Shoalhaven.

When the opportunity to host the Adventure Racing World Championships in the Shoalhaven arose Council realised the potential of this event to showcase our natural assets to the world. Shoalhaven Tourism has been working with the organisers, Geocentric Outdoors, for over a year to ensure the events success by providing location advice, contacts for tourism operators, being a financial sponsor, assisting with media and general information on the Shoalhaven .

On the calendar:

- **24-26 November** - The Australian PGA Seniors Championship at Mollymook Golf Club.
- **2-3 December** - Fairgrounds Festival at Berry. So much more than just a music festival. The music line up includes CW



Stoneking, Father John Misty, Jessica Pratt, Mercury Rev, Ratatat, Royal Headache and more. Markets, Food and more. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

To learn more about all the events in the region, visit the [Shoalhaven events webpage](#).

## Community Drop-In Session for REMS 1B

Shoalhaven residents are invited to a drop-in community information session for the REMS 1B project, on 19 November 2016 from 10am to 1pm at the Nowra Library (Library Meeting Room, 10 Berry St, Nowra).

Members of the project team will be available at the session to provide further information and answer questions about the project.

Shoalhaven City Council's Reclaimed Water Management Scheme (REMS) is a significant water recycling scheme that enables former wastewater to be recycled and reused on farms and fields, reducing pressure on our local water resources and the environment.

Construction on Stage 1B of the REMS has started and is expected to be completed in 2018. Stage 1B will see significant and much needed upgrades of the Nowra and Bomaderry Wastewater Treatment Plants.

For more information on the drop-in session, view the [Community Information Session flyer\(External link\)](#) (624kb pdf), call 1800 457 443, email [shoalhavenrems@ugllimited.com](mailto:shoalhavenrems@ugllimited.com) or visit [www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/Major-Projects/REMS](http://www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/Major-Projects/REMS) (external link).



Shoalhaven City Council  
PO Box 42, NOWRA NSW 2541

[www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)

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