



Proposed Rate Rise Information Update

At a Council Extraordinary Meeting about the Proposed Rate Rise Decision on 2 February 2017, it was determined that:

- Council receive the feedback and results of the community engagement;
- Council endorse a financial sustainability approach that includes continued improvement in our procurement and asset management practices and improving productivity and implementing a Special Rate Variation;
- Council authorise staff to make a formal application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and lodge a Section 508A Special Rate Variation (SRV) on general income for an increase of 11.5% in 2017/18 and 11.5% in 2018/19, above rate peg for each of the two years in order for Council to financially support the ongoing provision of service levels to the community and increase levels of asset maintenance and renewal;
- Staff provide a report to the next Ordinary Council Meeting on the establishment of a Citizen's Panel to provide recommendations to Council on priority areas for expenditure related to the Special Rate Variation;
- Council accept the submission from The Shoalhaven Independents on behalf of the ratepayers and residents who attended protest meetings at St Georges Basin, Bomaderry, Huskisson and Nowra as part of the overall submissions and the submission also be reported to IPART;
- The General Manager report back to Council on how Council could capture any business that is operating from residential premises and re-categorise to business and if there are any legislative hurdles should Council wish to pursue this as an ongoing part of revenue review. This should include the cost for resourcing such a project. This suggestion was put to Council by concerned ratepayers;
- The General Manager report back if any other Councils apply a levy or any other mechanism to increase rates on those properties that are known to supply accommodation to the tourism industry and are essentially a business- these properties would be those listed by real estate agents and online mechanisms such as Air BnB and Stayz – this suggestion has been raised by concerned business operators;
- The General Manager report back on any measures that can be used to essentially pass some of the financial burden of maintaining assets onto the many tourists that come to the Shoalhaven, suggestions that have come through include parking meters for peak tourist times and places and bed taxes. The report should also include any legislative or resourcing issues for such matters;
- In reporting back, could the General Manager please comment on any timing issues that could be foreseen if such mechanisms were to be adopted by Council; and
- Council refer the matters raised by an Independent Auditor in a recent confidential meeting with councillors to Council's Risk & Audit committee for consideration and any further advice.

The proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a special rate variation above the rate peg is being put forward to address the funding gap that continues to grow in maintaining and renewing infrastructure and providing services for the community.

Ratepayers can download information packs or frequently asked questions and answers from the Council [website](#), contact Council on telephone: 4429 3111 or email council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au.



What happens next with the Rate Submission?

Council staff will now commence a submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

This decision of Council does not mean that a rate rise will be implemented immediately. IPART must first consider Council's submission which will include all of the submissions and community feedback that has been provided to Council. IPART may choose to either approve the proposal, refuse the proposal or approve a smaller rate increase.

The decision of IPART is expected to be received in the coming months and will be provided back to Council for consideration and determination of the next steps forward.

Council will also be shortly commencing engagement on our Community Strategic Plan and Delivery and Operational Plan which sets the direction for the future and any proposed expenditure of the rates and this will be another opportunity for the community to have their say on the expenditure of Council funds for 2017/18.

Council does understand that everyone's situation is different and that some people may be impacted by a rate rise more than others. Council has in place a Hardship Policy to assist anyone having difficulties in paying their rates. Pensioners who have a principal place of residence in the Shoalhaven can also apply to Council for a maximum \$250 pensioner subsidy.

Roads and Works Update

Agars Lane, Berry – Pavement construction and sealing of 1.2km section of pavement. Works are scheduled to be undertaken from 30 January to 6 March 2017, weather permitting.

Naval College Road - Limited to between Pine Forest Road and Seagrass Avenue. Works will include road shoulder widening and sealing. The project construction activities are expected to start in mid February 2017 and it is expected to be completed by the end of July 2017. Traffic will not be hindered with traffic control provided at all times of the works.



Recently Completed Roadworks

Hillcrest Ave, South Nowra - Road reconstruction works between Browns Creek Bridge to east of John Purcell Way and the east bound lane to the Holloway Road intersection, is

Prince Edward Ave, Culburra – Road Rehabilitation works are scheduled to be undertaken from the 27 February to 7 April (weather permitting). The works consist of 455m of full width pavement reconstruction between The Lake Circuit and Eastwood Ave (#145 to #146).

Road and assets projects are regularly updated on the [website](#).

now complete. Council would like to thank motorists for their patience.

Nooramunga Ave, Cambewarra – A 1.2m wide footpath was constructed from the bus stop near Kalinga St to 5 Nooramunga Ave.

Collier Drive, Berrara – Drainage remediation works have been completed with the extension of the existing drainage line.

Clissold Street, Mollymook – Approximately 42m of kerb and gutter has been replaced between No.18 and 22.



NSW Seniors Festival

03 - 12 March 2017

Shoalhaven City Council

shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

The poster features a red background with white text and icons. The icons include a person with a cane, a person with a shopping bag, a person with a dog, a person with a walker, and a person with a bicycle. The Shoalhaven City Council logo is at the bottom, along with the website URL and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter.

Seniors Week

The Shoalhaven will be celebrating NSW Seniors Festival with a number of events. Visit the website for more details. The week starts with the following events:

3 Mar 10am – 1pm FREE
Shoalhaven City Council Festival launch fair - 'Let's do More Together' at Jelly Bean park
Come along and celebrate with us. Talk to service providers and find out about activities for seniors. Enjoy music from local performers and try some activities.
Contact Melissa Andrews: 4429 3111

3 Mar 10am – 1pm FREE
Bundanon Trust - A creative & social event
Refreshments provided. (60+ performance)
Pop-Up Shop, 114a Kinghorne St. Contact Regina Heilmann: 0421 754 121

5 Mar 2.30pm
SEC LIVE - The Hollywood Palace Series
Featuring Vov Dylan, Stephen Fisher-King and members of the Palace Orchestra, and The Greatest Musical Of all Time, Singin' In The Rain, on the big screen.
Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre. 50 free tickets available on a first serve basis (limit 2 per customer) Bookings essential. Sharon Ball 44295754 or at the box office. Free tix not available via website.

Good Water Quality at Beaches

Council is reminding local residents that online water monitoring results are available for some of the area's most popular beaches on Council's [website](#).

As part of the monitoring process, Council test for bacteria known as enterococci which if



found, are indicative of water that is polluted with stormwater or sewage and may be unsafe for swimming. All beaches rated "Good" as at 17 January 2017.

People are encouraged to avoid swimming for a day after rainfall at coastal beaches, and for up to three days in estuarine areas.

Council monitors 10 beaches over the summer period in accordance with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Beachwatch protocols.

Monitored beaches include:

- Shoalhaven Heads Beach
- Tilbury Cove
- Warrain Beach
- Collingwood Beach
- Cudmirrah Beach
- Mollymook Beach
- Rennies Beach
- Racecourse Beach
- Bawley Point Beach
- Merry Beach

Events



Have your say about Nowra Showground

Council and the Nowra Show Society are inviting the community to get involved with the showground and share any ideas about the future use of the Nowra Showground.

An Ideas Day at Nowra Showground will be held at Nowra Showground Pavilion on Sunday, 26 February from 11am to 1pm.

The community will be able to provide feedback on a range of topics including general use, events and facilities at the Showground which can be used by locals as well as visitors.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Thursday,

Outrigger State Titles

The Mollymook Outrigger Canoe Club will host the six person outrigger canoe Marathon State Titles Downwind Regatta on Sunday, 12 February 2017 following the Makai Cup downwind race for skis, one person and double outrigger canoes on Saturday, 11 February 2017.

The event is expected to attract around 350 competitors from over 20 clubs in New South Wales, as well as a selection of teams from around Australia and overseas.

President of the Mollymook Outrigger Canoe Club, Tracey Rutter, was very appreciative of the support from Shoalhaven City Council in sponsoring this event to enable a professional, safe and fun regatta for all competitors.

Neighbourhood Day Sunday, 26 March

Host a street party or a community event to celebrate this year's Neighbour Day on Sunday, 26 March. It's a great way to meet your neighbours, catch up and meet new people. Contact Lilianna Hutchinson at Council on Tel 4429 3372 for more information. In next week's issue we will be giving away a catering voucher for neighbourhoods who are planning an event.

23 February to Susan Edwards, Shoalhaven City Council on email: susan.edwards@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au or ring Council on Tel: 4429 3111.



The Business Bus

Business Advice, face-to-face guidance and support.

FRI 24/02/17 9am-3pm 42 Bridge Rd, Nowra

The Business Bus is a NSW Government initiative. Thank you to Shoalhaven City Council & Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre for supporting this event.



Find out more
1300 134 359
connect@industry.nsw.gov.au
industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect

Face to Face Business Advice

The Business Connect Bus will be in Nowra on Friday, 24 February 2017, parked between Council's Admin building and the SEC. The Business Bus will be at Ulladulla Plaza, Ulladulla Thursday, 23 February 2017 from 9am to 3pm.

The Business Bus delivers highly subsidised face-to-face business advice to regional areas across NSW. The experienced Business Connect advisors are able to provide personalised support on how to start, grow or innovate your business in the comfort of the dedicated advisory bus.

To find out more, phone 1300 134 359 or visit www.industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect



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