

# Resolution of Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV)

231253

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Councillors Doug Curran and Jenny Ellis that:

- (a) Council receive and note the SRV Community Engagement Summary attached to the report including submissions, feedback received and key findings.
- (b) Council apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (/PART) under Section 508(A) of the Local Government Act 1993, for a permanent SRV of 10.5% inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27. This is a cumulative increase of 34.9%. Applications are to be submitted by 5 February 2024 as determined by /PART.
- (c) Council to notify /PART that it intends to apply for a Special Rate Variation as referred to in (b) above, by 25 November 2023 (date as determined by /PART).
- (d) Council approves additional Service Reviews to those already listed in the 2022/23-2025/26 Delivery Program, as identified in this report. These are functions within the General Fund and will explore productivity improvements and cost containment strategies. The Delivery Program is to be updated accordingly.
- (e) Management to report to Council on a quarterly basis with details of cost savings and additional revenue initiatives.
- (f) Council to review the Financial Hardship Policy (FS-CP-506) to ensure adequate assistance is provided to ratepayers experiencing genuine financial hardship.

- (g) Council cap increases Water and Sewer charges by the assumed 3% annual rate peg (per the SRV) for the period of the 3 year implementation of the SRV.
- (h) Council increase the pensioner rebates on Ordinary Rates by the following amounts for the period of the 3 year implementation of the SRV.

	<b>Additional Rate per Assess</b>	<b>Additional Annual Cost</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	\$100	\$123,700
<b>Year 2</b>	\$75	\$92,775
<b>Year 3</b>	\$50	\$61,850
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$278,325</b>

- (i) Council staff prepare the next draft Operational Plan (Budget) 2024/2025, draft Delivery Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the draft 10 year 2024/25 – 2033/34 Financial Plan on the basis of removing the Art Gallery project.
- (j) Council staff prepare reports with respect to the following cost savings projects and alternative revenue opportunities:
- Paid parking at the Airport
  - Review of recent energy audit and further installation of solar panels on high energy consumption facilities.
  - Audit of buildings owned by Council which are leased to other entities (to include purpose of the original purchase and current lease arrangements relative to commercial terms).
  - Initiate a Road Service review as a matter of priority (as referred to in this report) including improvements to the gravel and sealed road networks and the resheeting programs.

A division was called for, voting on which was as follows:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
Councillor Doug Curran	Councillor Simon Croce
Councillor Glen Andreazza	Councillor Melissa Marin
Councillor Shari Blumer	Councillor Anne Napoli
Councillor Jenny Ellis	Councillor Christine Stead
Councillor Manjit Singh Lally	Councillor Dino Zappacosta
Councillor Chris Sutton	
Councillor Laurie Testoni	

**The division was declared PASSED by 7 votes to 5.**

The key purpose of the Special Rate Variation Application is financial sustainability. SRV income would be used to eliminate the consecutive operational budget shortfalls as forecasted within our Long-Term Financial Plan and fund the delivery of the activities and actions outlined in our Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents.