

Securing *our future*

A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION WILL ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



WHAT'S PROPOSED

Council is seeking the community's view on a proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) starting in July 2024.

An application would be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise Ordinary Rates by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% IPART rate peg) each year for three consecutive years starting 2024/25. This is a total cumulative increase of 34.9%. The base rate increase would be retained permanently.

The proposed rate rise will only affect the Ordinary Rate. Waste, recycling, sewerage, stormwater and water charges will not be affected by the SRV.



TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Complete a submission form

griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Email us at

admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Community Information Sessions

A list of upcoming sessions can be found on the website

FIND OUT MORE

griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Feedback closes on 31 August 2023



WHY DO WE NEED A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

Without a SRV rate rise Council will not be financially sustainable and will be forced to significantly cut services to make annual savings of more than \$4 million. Senior Staff are also implementing an additional \$1 million worth of cost saving initiatives.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 May 2023 Council gave in principle support to apply for an SRV.

This does not mean a final decision has been made. Council is consulting with the community to inform of the proposed SRV to maintain existing service levels or explain how services may be impacted if no SRV is implemented.



WHAT YOUR ORDINARY RATES PAY FOR

Council uses your ordinary rates to maintain:

- 1,245 km of sealed & unsealed roads
- 100 Parks
- 7 Major Sporting Grounds
- 41 Playgrounds
- 2 Cemeteries
- Community facilities including the Library, Theatre, Art Gallery, Aquatic Centre, Stadium, Pioneer Park, Airport, Saleyards and Landfill
- Community services such as street sweeping, footpaths, street lighting, Scenic Hill, events and sponsorships



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TWO OPTIONS

We have two options to show you what it will look like with or without the proposed SRV.

OPTION 1 - WITH SRV

Maintain current services

Increase rates by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years starting 2024/25 with a total cumulative increase of 34.9%.

This option, plus \$1 million in cost saving initiatives maintains current services and asset renewal. Community facilities, footpaths and roads will continue to be maintained.

OPTION 2 - WITHOUT SRV

Significant reduction of services

Retain the IPART rate pegging limit only. This option, plus \$1 million in cost saving initiatives, will not fully fund current Council operations and will require a plan to find additional savings of \$4 million each year by cutting services. Examples of community facilities that may have reduced hours are the Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre, Griffith Regional Theatre, Pioneer Park Museum, Griffith Regional Sports Centre and Griffith City Library. In addition, service levels will be reduced. Some examples of these include our roads, parks and gardens, strategic planning and storm water drainage.

HOW WILL A SRV RATE RISE AFFECT ME?

Griffith has three different rating categories, Residential, Farmland and Business and one sub-rating category which is Farmland - Irrigable. The value of the SRV increase will depend on the category and value of your property. Council's website provides more information as well as other examples of average increases. To learn more or complete a submission form go to griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay This webpage will be regularly updated and will include a rates estimator.

Average Rates - Residential			
2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	2025/26 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	2026/27 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg
\$1,106	\$1,222	\$1,350	\$1,492



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- June 2023 IPART notified of intent to apply
- Jun-Aug 2023 Community engagement
- October 2023 Decision by Council to apply or not apply for SRV
- May 2024 IPART determination
- July 2024 If approved, SRV commences
- July 2024 If SRV not implemented, service cuts commence

