



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

Wednesday 25 July 2018

TRRA Public Meeting on Proposed Rate Increases

Port Stephens Council has released a Special Rate Variation (SRV) proposal which details four options for increases in rates over a seven year period commencing in 2019.

The proposals for a SRV will be the main Agenda Item for TRRA's General Meeting scheduled for 6 August 2018 to be held in the Auditorium of the Nelson Bay Bowling Club commencing at 7.00pm.

Mayor Ryan Palmer will be introducing this proposal and other councillors attending will have an opportunity to comment. Senior council officers from the SRV Project Team will be present to answer questions.

The Council's website and printed documents set out a case for the proposed increases and estimates of the impact on residential, farmland and business ratepayers.

Port Stephens Council is facing increased pressure to provide enhanced services and facilities to meet the high standards our community expects. The Council is considering this rate increase to provide additional funds to deliver major projects requested by the community

Options include cumulative increases of 6.5%, 7.5% or 8.5% per annum over 7 years. These increases would be above the existing pegged rate increases which are around 2.5%. The Information Booklet provides an estimate of revenues raised under each option and a list of projects and their locations across Port Stephens which could be funded from the additional funds.

Any increases above the pegged rate must be approved by the State Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Council will be conducting a comprehensive community consultation process from late July, to obtain ratepayer feedback.

You are encouraged to attend the meeting on 6 August to learn more about the proposal and hear what others have to say.

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