

# Special Rate Variation Survey

Please Return by Tuesday 28 October, 2022



Council intends to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special rates variation (SRV) which will result in a cumulative increase to rates of 57.74 percent over three years (please see tables in the Fact Sheet for details of the average increase to each category over this period).

The purpose of the SRV *is to become financially sustainable, maintain service levels wherever possible, and be able to proceed with planned asset renewals despite a challenging operating environment.*

Survey Questions – please tick  the most appropriate option

**1. How satisfied are you with the standard of maintenance of Council infrastructure (for example roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, parks)?**

Very satisfied;  Satisfied;  Neutral;  Dissatisfied;  Very dissatisfied

**2. How satisfied are you with the standard of Council services (for example rubbish collection, nuisance animal control, customer service)?**

Very satisfied;  Satisfied;  Neutral;  Dissatisfied;  Very dissatisfied

Please read the appended Fact Sheet and then tick  the option you most agree with:

**3. Do you believe that it is acceptable to fund current consumption of local government goods and services through debt (which will be ultimately paid for by future generations of ratepayers)?**

Yes, if carefully applied to long-lived assets only

No, I don't agree that our children and grandchildren should be left with additional public debt.

**4. After reading the Fact Sheet are you now aware of the effect that the proposed special rate variation will have on the average rates paid by each category of ratepayer at Walcha over the five year period up to 2027-28?**

Yes, I am now aware of the proposed SRV and its effect on average rates.

No, I am not aware of the SRV and its effect on average rates.

**5. After reading the Fact Sheet are you now aware that the proposed special rate variation is needed so that Council can become financially sustainable?**

Yes, I am aware that the purpose of the SRV is to allow Council to fund current operations.

No, I am not aware that the proposed SRV is required to fund Council operations.

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**6. Are you aware of the options available to obtain further information commencing October, 2022?**

- Yes, I am aware of meetings, videos, the professor's reports, and listening post options which I can use to obtain further information as outlined in the Fact Sheet.
- No, I am not aware of the options outlined in the Fact Sheet.

**7. Given the need for additional revenue to balance the budget and ensure financial sustainability – a proposition held by Professor Drew, Professor Miyazaki, and Professor Ferreira as well as TCorp (Treasury Corporation) and IPART (pre-2016) – which of the three options do you prefer?**

- I prefer the status quo and acknowledge that several external parties state that this will mean that Council will remain financially unsustainable. I understand that continued financial unsustainability may result in regulatory interventions.
- I would prefer to reduce staff by 10%, capital expenditure by 15% or a combination of the two. I acknowledge that cuts of this kind would result in a very significant decline to local government services and local employment.
- I accept the need for the proposed additional SRV.

**8. If you chose the proposed special rate variation above, are there any conditions regarding your willingness to pay?**

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**9. Do you have any specific feedback that you would like Council or IPART to consider with respect to the proposed special rate variation?**

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Please note that the full SRV application will be posted to the Council's website, and that members of the public may also make submissions directly to IPART at:

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local-Government/For-Councils/Apply-for-a-special-variation-or-minimum-rate-increase>