

Securing *our future*

SRV Community Engagement Summary September 2023



Acknowledgment of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community. Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

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1. Introduction

Community engagement must be undertaken prior to applying for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) under the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) guidelines. In particular, IPART requires evidence that the community is aware of the need for and extent of a rate rise. The guidelines state that Council's engagement approach must utilise an appropriate variety of methods to ensure community awareness and input is received.

It is important to note that IPART's assessment is not based on the level of support received from the community but rather that the community was made aware of the impacts of a proposed SRV.

This summary report has been prepared as evidence of the extensive community engagement undertaken by Council, prior to a potential application to IPART for an SRV.

Community Engagement Plan

Council actively engages with the local community providing information in a timely, open and transparent nature, to ensure that residents and stakeholders remain well informed.

Council's Community Engagement & Communication Strategy was reviewed and adopted in 2022, forming the framework of Council's community consultation practices.

This Strategy outlines methods and the manner in which Council should conduct public consultation for key activities. A dedicated SRV Community Engagement Plan (Appendix 1) was developed based on the principles of this Strategy.

Key dates

Action	
May - June	Community engagement on Delivery Program and Operational Plan outlining need for future SRV.
30 May 2023	Meeting with IPART representatives
27 June 2023	IP&R docs adopted by Council
May – August 2023	SRV Community Engagement period
24 October 2023	Council meeting to consider community feedback and determine if SRV application to be submitted to IPART
January 2024	Application due to IPART

2. Community Engagement Overview

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 May 2023 Council gave in principle support to apply for an SRV and committed to community engagement to be undertaken seeking the community's view on the proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV) by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

As part of the SRV application requirements outlined by IPART, Council must fully communicate the impact of the proposed increases to ratepayers and demonstrate an appropriate variety of engagement methods to ensure community awareness and input into the process.

During the engagement, Council sought feedback from residents on the proposed SRV options through the use of an online feedback form, media releases, information on Council's website, social media channels, community sessions, online presentations and meetings.

As part of the community consultation Council explained that without a SRV Council will not be financially sustainable and will be forced to significantly cut services to make annual savings of more than \$4 million. Senior Management are also implementing an additional \$1 million worth of cost saving initiatives.

Council consulted on two options:

Option 1 - With SRV

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 annually maintains current services and asset renewal in the General Fund. Community facilities, footpaths and roads will continue to be maintained.

Option 2 - Without SRV

Retain the IPART rate pegging limit only. This option, plus \$1 million in cost saving initiatives annually, will not fully fund current Council General Fund 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 include 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.

3. Engagement Outcomes

Council utilised a wide variety of communication methods during the engagement period to raise awareness in the community of Council's intention to apply for an SRV. During the engagement period, Council encouraged ratepayers and residents to join the conversation and provide feedback on the proposal.

Method	Outcomes
Online submissions	141 online submissions were received. The majority of submissions indicated they were not supportive of an SRV.
Email or other submissions	16 other submissions were received in writing or via email.
Website	Information was provided on Council's website on a page dedicated to the proposed SRV: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay 1,604 page views during the community engagement period 254 views on the Rates Estimator page and 184 users. More than 325 people viewed the SRV video presentation.
Flyer to ratepayers	Council mailed out over 10,000 flyers to all ratepayers with the rates notice, informing them of the proposed SRV and process involved, as well as encouraging community feedback.
Online mailing list	Emails were sent to 2,159 local businesses, service groups and other ratepayers to encourage participation in the engagement process and to invite to attend information sessions.
Media releases	9 media releases distributed to local media outlets, placed in the community newsletter, Council Catch Up and placed on the website and social media.
Advertising – Radio & Newspaper	Radio Advertisements - 40 x 30 second commercials in prime time 6am – 7pm across 963 Triple M and Hit 99.7 – June to August. 10 x Monday with the Mayor on Hit 99.7 Breakfast with Matt Collins. Local Newspaper - 2 x SRV ads were placed in The Area News
Advertising - Council Catch Up Newsletter	Throughout June to August 2023 the printed weekly Council Catch Up Council newsletter featured 24 SRV articles or advertisements. 10 electronic email versions were sent to over 2,000 subscribers.
Social Media – Facebook & Instagram	31 posts were made to Council's social media channels. Total post reach Facebook and Instagram over 59,500.

Method	Outcomes
Community meetings Information sessions	<p>10 presentations by GM and Mayor made to community groups or organisations.</p> <p>Seven community information sessions were held. These included 2 Community Opinion Group Meetings and 5 Council Café / Information Sessions.</p>
Online presentation	<p>An online presentation by the GM, explaining the process and encouraging participation, was added to Council's website and to Council's Facebook page.</p>
Staff and Councillor Communication	<p>Councillor Workshops were held on a number of occasions to discuss the budget and proposed Special Rate Variation.</p> <p>An all-staff breakfast barbecue was held on 27 April 2023. All staff received an email from the GM on 10 May 2023 following the Council Meeting which resolved to consult the community on the proposed SRV. Follow-up meetings held on 8 June 2023 to provide an update on the process.</p>

4. How did we engage?

Online, email and other submissions

Launched 5 June 2023

Action

Council offered an online submission form on the website for ratepayers and residents. The form was promoted through social media, Council's website, Council Catch Up newsletter (2,159 subscribers). In addition, residents were invited to make submissions via email or post. A QR Code was provided to attendees at SRV engagement events with a link directly to the SRV page, allowing ratepayers to make a submission.



**PROPOSED
SPECIAL RATE
VARIATION**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO

Watch a video
presentation

**Learn more and
make a submission**

griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

**Contact Us
1300 176 077**

Outcome

Total submissions including received by online form, email/letter: 157 – refer to Appendix 2 - Submissions Received.

- 69% of respondents said they were not in favour of the SRV
- 16% were in favour of the SRV
- 15% made no comment/not clear.

Of the 141 submissions received online (via Paperform), 96% were ratepayers to Griffith City Council.

Of the 141 submissions received online (via Paperform) 92% indicated they had received/read information about the SRV.

A summary of the key themes in the submissions follows:

- Affordability of proposed rate increase / cost of living / capacity to pay / user pays system for facilities
- Smaller increase / fewer years plus / supported by reduced operational costs and revenue streams / alternatives in combination with the SRV
- Do not want to cut services / lose jobs
- Reduce Councillor numbers and Councillor costs
- Review current spending / services, Council efficiency, cost saving initiatives/ streamline processes
- Review senior positions and staffing levels
- Concentrate on essential infrastructure projects
- Concerns about the new Art Gallery proposal
- Affordability of Housing (higher rents).

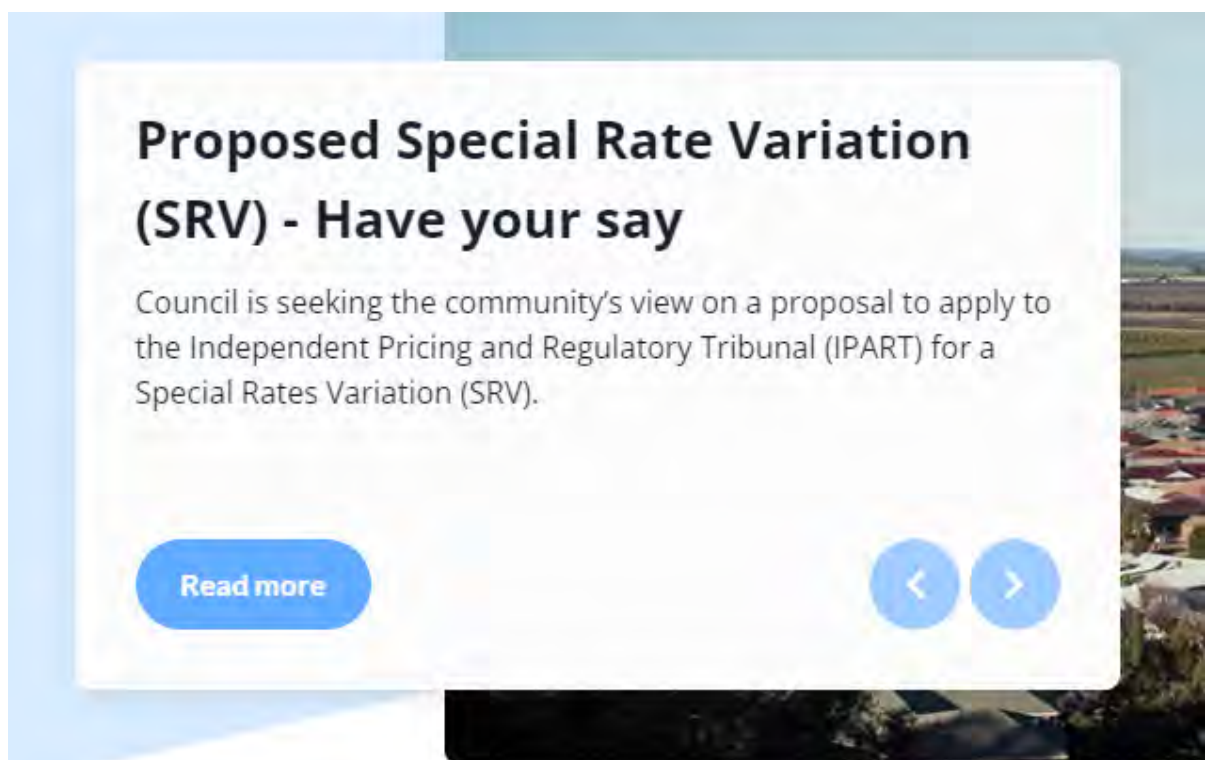
Website

Launched 5 June 2023

Action

A dedicated SRV page was launched on 5 June 2023 with a slider directly linking from Council's homepage. The SRV page served to provide information throughout the SRV consultation process and following the community engagement period. The page was updated throughout the community engagement period in response to questions raised.

A Rates Estimator was made available on the webpage to assist ratepayers to estimate the impact of the proposed SRV on their rates.



Outcome

During the community engagement period, Council's SRV page received 1,604 views.

Special Rate Variation



BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday, 9 May 2023, Council gave in principle endorsement for an application to be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented over three years commencing 2024/25 financial year. You can view the [Council report here](#) and our [IP&R documents including the Long Term Financial Plan](#)

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and Rate-Pegging?

Rates increase each year in line with an amount set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This amount is calculated every year and is called the 'rate peg'.

For the 2023/24 financial year the rate peg applied to Griffith City Council, will be 3.7%.

If a council's rate revenue is not sufficient to maintain service levels or undertake capital works, it can apply to IPART to increase overall rate revenue by more than the rate peg. This is known as a Special Rate Variation (SRV). In order to apply for an SRV, councils must demonstrate to the community and IPART that they need the money and have implemented improvements to be more efficient and productive. Council has already identified \$1M in savings annually.

Why do we need a Special Rate Variation (SRV)?

The rate increases set by IPART have not kept pace with cost escalations faced by Council in providing services to our community. Cost shifting from other levels of government and diminishing value of annual operating grants over time have also contributed significantly to the pressure on Council's financial position.

The additional funds received through the SRV will increase the money available to address and correct Council's operating position and enable sufficient funds to be available for renewal and maintenance of assets and the continuation of current service levels.

What will happen if the SRV is not implemented?

Council will have to look at options to reduce the levels of services to the community. 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.

What level of rate rise is Council considering?

The proposed rate increase is based on Council's funding requirements.

Griffith City Council is seeking the community's view on a proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV) by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

How much will rates change?

Average Rates - Residential				
	2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
With SRV 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	\$1,106	\$1,222	\$1,350	\$1,492
No SRV assumed 3% Rate Peg	\$1,106	\$1,139	\$1,173	\$1,209

Average Rates - Business				
	2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
With SRV 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	\$2,968	\$3,280	\$3,624	\$4,005
No SRV assumed 3% Rate Peg	\$2,968	\$3,057	\$3,149	\$3,243

Average Rates - Farmland				
	2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
With SRV 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	\$4,184	\$4,623	\$5,109	\$5,645
No SRV assumed 3% Rate Peg	\$4,184	\$4,310	\$4,439	\$4,572

Based on Office of Local Government Performance comparative data FY2020/21 - average Griffith

[Special Rate Variation Estimator here](#) Ratepayers are encouraged to assess the impact of the SRV on their respective properties by using this estimator.

How can I have my say?

Griffith City Council values community input and actively seeks feedback during the consultation period for the Special Rate Variation. (Up until Thursday 31 August 2023)

You can email admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au or write to PO Box 485 Griffith, 2680. You can also make an online submission using the button below.

[Make a submission here](#)

Following extensive community consultation, should Council resolve to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation, members of the public will also be able to make a submission to IPART.

We will have community information sessions:

Date	Time	Location	Event
6 June 2023	7pm	Yoogali Club	Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
15 June 2023	10am-12pm	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
27 June 2023	5pm	Council Chambers	Information session
6 July 2023	11.30am-1.30pm	Griffith Central Plaza	Information session
20 July 2023	10am-12pm	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
1 August 2023	7pm	Hanwood Sports Club	Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
4 August 2023	10am-12pm	Griffith Central Plaza	Information session

When will the decision on the Special Rate Variation be made?

The decision on the Special Rate Variation will be made by Griffith City Council after intensive community consultation has been undertaken. Following the public consultation period, a further report will be considered by Council in October 2023. At that meeting Council will make a final decision as to whether it will apply to IPART for the Special Rate Variation. If IPART approves the application, the first stage of the increase will be effective in July 2024.

[View the online SRV Presentation here](#)



[View the SRV Flyer here](#)

[View our latest PowerPoint presentation here](#)

TIS National interperative service

TIS National is a - phone 131450 - language service.

SRV - Frequently Asked Questions from community consultation

1. The Cashflow statement shows that Council will have around \$190M in cash in June 2033. Why is this SRV necessary if Council has so much money in the bank?

Council must restrict funds to the water, sewer and waste areas. It is a legal requirement to do this. Council does not include capital works in the Long-Term Financial Plan for major projects in the outer years as they are not within the Councillors Delivery Program period (ie; 4 years). Council must ensure that it has sufficient cash reserves to fund major future renewal of existing infrastructure and growth for new development.

2. Does this SRV guarantee no future SRVs?

This SRV will allow Council to become financially sustainable in the General Fund to maintain existing services and provide the capability to grow. Future regulation changes, additional State Government cost shifting and future capital works programs as determined by Councillors may influence future SRVs.

3. Will water and other charges increase?

Yes.

4. What services will be impacted?

If a SRV is approved the current level of services will be maintained. If a SRV is not approved, 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.

5. Is the SRV increase permanent or will it wind back after 3 years?

The proposed SRV will increase the rate base annually over the 3-year period of implementation with the third year being 2026/27.

The annual rate base as from the 2027/28 year will increase by the annual rate pegging limit as set by IPART.

6. With the cost of living going up so much now, how can we be expected to manage this increase?

The proposed SRV is not a decision taken lightly. Council recognises the delicate balance between providing essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and ensuring affordability for our residents. Council offers the Pensioner Rebate Scheme, which financially supports this important group in our community. Council also has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time. The increase is proposed to come into effect in July 2024 and staged over a 3-year period, recognising the impact and in an effort to minimise this impact as much as possible whilst ensuring Council's financial sustainability.

7. What is Council doing to remediate the situation?

Regardless of whether Council resolves to apply for an SRV, Council's Senior Management Team is committed to finding \$1 million in savings each year starting from 2024/25. This will be achieved by identifying operational efficiencies. Councillors are also being encouraged to identify possible alternate revenue sources and potential saving opportunities.

8. What do land valuations have to do with my rates?

The NSW Valuer General's Office is responsible for the valuation of all rateable land in NSW and is revalued every three (3) years. Rateable land within the Griffith LGA was revalued during 2022 and these values were provided to Council. Council calculates rates using the land value determined for your property plus a base amount.

The land revaluation process does not provide any additional rate revenue for Council. The total increase in rate revenue to Council is capped on an annual basis by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 year the rate cap increase is 3.7% above 2022/23 level (ie approx. \$700,000).

Changes to land values will impact the amount of rates payable for individual properties but the total increase in rate income received by Council for the year does not exceed the rate cap as determined by IPART.

Whilst we acknowledge that some individual assessments have moved by much greater than the 3.7% rate pegging figure, many have also increased by less and in fact some assessments have reduced in line with new land valuations.

9. What is the alternative to the proposed rate increases?

Without a Special Rate Variation, Council would need to consider reducing the levels of services provided to the community to save costs. Examples of services that may be impacted include 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.

READ NEWS AND UPDATES HERE:

2 June 2023 Council seeks support for proposed SRV

8 June 2023 COG Meeting kicks off community consultation

22 June 2023 SRV consultation continues

13 July 2023 Have you had your say on the proposed SRV yet?

25 July 2023 Rates estimator now available

8 August 2023 Council's Special Rate Variation Consultation Progress Update


21 August 2023 Time running out for residents to have their say on Council's proposed SRV

1 September 2023 Council's SRV next steps

For more information on Special Rate Variations visit the [IPART website here](#)

[Home](#) » [Special Rate Variation \(SRV\) - Rates Estimator](#)

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Rates Estimator



RATE NOTICE Tax Invoice
Assessment No. **9947243**

1 Benerebah Street, Griffith NSW 2680
PO Box 485, Griffith NSW 2680
Phone: 1300 176 077
Email: admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au

ABN 61 274 100 792

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned land has been rated by the Griffith City Council as shown hereunder, under the Section 560/561 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

If address is incorrect please advise council in writing

Enter Your Assessment Number

Disclaimer

Please note this Rates Estimator provides an estimate only and is subject to change due to the Valuer General assessment of your land value. This Rates Estimator does not include Sewer, Water, Waste, Recycling or Stormwater charges. This estimate cannot be substituted for actual Rates Notices and Council cannot be held liable for an incorrect estimate. The information is provided in good faith, however Council makes no statements, representations or warranties about the information provided by the Rates Estimator.

Flyer to ratepayers

14 July 2023 quarterly notice

Action

An SRV flyer was sent to all ratepayers informing them of Council's intention to apply for an SRV and encouraged them to have their say. The flyer included the following information:

- The SRV options being proposed and SRV timeline
- Information on how ratepayers could provide feedback
- Average residential yearly rates under the SRV
- Overview of what general rates pay for.

Outcome

A total of 6,861 hard copy flyers were mailed and 3,219 were sent to e-notice customers via email. The flyer was also handed out at all of the information sessions and meetings and was available to pick up from Council's customer service area and the library.

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.

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

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

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	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
3.7% Rate Peg	10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg	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



admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au www.griffith.nsw.gov.au 1300 176 077

admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au www.griffith.nsw.gov.au 1300 176 077

Mailing list

Various dates throughout

Action

Over 2,000 people received emails throughout the community engagement period encouraging them to attend meetings and information sessions and to have their say.

These included separate SRV specific emails as well as Council Catch Up e-newsletters containing SRV articles and advertisements.




**Securing
our future
Special Rate Variation**

Council is inviting you to attend a series of Community Consultation sessions for the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Griffith City Council is seeking the community's views on whether to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a SRV by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%).
If you can't attend any of the consultation sessions below, please visit the [SRV webpage](#) to find out more and make a submission.

Date	Time	Location	Event
6 June 2023	7pm	Yoogali Club	Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
15 June 2023	10am – 12pm	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
29 June 2023	5pm	Griffith City Library	Information session
6 July 2023	11.30am - 1.30pm	Griffith Central Plaza	Information session
20 July 2023	10am – 12pm	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
1 August 2023	7pm	Hanwood Catholic Club	Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
4 August 2023	10am – 12pm	Griffith Central Plaza	Information session



**Securing
our future
Special Rate Variation**

Have you had your say on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV)?
Griffith City Council is seeking the community's views on whether to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a SRV by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%).


A series of Community Consultation Sessions have already been held.

Upcoming information sessions and meetings:

- Tuesday 1 August 2023 - Hanwood Catholic Club - 7pm
- Friday 4 August 2023 - Griffith Central Plaza - 10am to 12pm

If you can't attend any of these face-to-face consultation sessions, please visit the [SRV webpage](#) to find out more and make a submission.

DESKTOP MOBILE TEXT



**Securing
our future
Special Rate Variation**

Have you had your say on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV)?
Griffith City Council is seeking the community's view on whether to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a SRV by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%).

Time is running out to have your say, with the consultation period ending **4pm Thursday 31 August 2023.**

Your input is important to us!

Please visit the [SRV webpage](#) to find out more or make a submission.

Media releases

Nine issued throughout consultation period

Action

Media releases were distributed on 17 May 2023, 2 June 2023, 8 June 2023, 22 June 2023, 13 July 2023, 25 July 2023, 8 August 2023, 21 August 2023 and 1 September 2023.

These media releases were to inform the media and community of community consultation for the proposed SRV. Further media releases were distributed advising key dates for meetings, encouraging submissions, the launch of the rates estimator and an update on the progress of the consultation.

Outcome

The media releases were published on Council's website and social media with several news agencies following up on the media releases.

17 May 2023



2 June 2023



Friday 2 June 2023

GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL SEEKS SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Griffith City Council is seeking support from the community to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented over a three-year period, starting from the 2024/25 financial year.

Council proposes to submit an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), an independent body that determines the maximum which councils across NSW can increase rates.

The proposed SRV seeks a 10.5% increase each year for three years, inclusive of the assumed rate pegging increase of 3.0%. This equates to a cumulative increase of 34.92% over three years.

Mayor Doug Curran said these increases are necessary to sustain the current level of services provided by Council.

"To secure the future of our community and the services and assets that we cherish and to ensure our Council is ready for the future, we need to engage our community with very mature discussions about why we need this Special Rate Variation (SRV)," Councillor Curran said.

"I ask that you take the time to read all of the information what we will be distributing, attend meetings and briefings or watch our online presentation, ask questions, seek to understand and provide your feedback.

"As well as the sessions listed below, we are meeting with service groups, committees and organisations in our community to have these discussions, if you would like us to do so for your group please reach out and let us know."

During the Council Meeting on Tuesday, 9 May 2023, Council provisionally endorsed the application to IPART.

To learn more about the proposed SRV and express your opinion, please visit www.griffith.nsw.gov.au.

Residents are encouraged to attend the following sessions:

- Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 7pm: Yoogali Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Thursday, 15 June 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Thursday, 22 June 2023, 5pm: Griffith City Library
- Thursday, 6 July 2023, 11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 7pm: Hamwood Catholic Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting

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- Friday, 4 August 2023, 10am - 12noon: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- In addition to the above forums, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual community organisations. Contact Council 1300 176 077 to arrange.

Important key points to note:

- The SRV will only be applied to ordinary rates
- Following the public consultation period, Council will consider a subsequent report in October 2023. At that meeting, Council will make a final decision on whether to apply to IPART for the Special Rate Variation.

ends

8 June 2023



Thursday, 8 June 2023

COG MEETING KICKS OFF SPECIAL RATE VARIATION CONSULTATION

Griffith City Council's Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting on Tuesday night, kicked off consultation for the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), with almost 40 people attending alongside Councillors and Senior Council staff.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran said he was pleased to see residents attend to find out about the proposed SRV and have other agenda items addressed.

"The first COG meeting was very interactive and I truly appreciated the members of the community, our Councillors and senior management attending Yoogali for the session. We answered quite a few questions on the evening about the ramifications of the SRV and took some on notice, there was obviously quite a bit of interest which is great to see," Councillor Curran said.

"Over the next three months we will be doing our best to inform all of our ratepayers and hear their views. If you can't get along to one of the sessions listed below, I ask that you head to our webpage www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srv/haveyoursay. You will find lots of information and an option to make a submission.

"We are also meeting with service groups, committees and organisations in our community to have SRV discussions, if you would like us to do so for your group please reach out and let us know."

A number of other concerns were also highlighted at Tuesday night's COG meeting at the Yoogali Club. Residents are reminded that the best way to have matters addressed at COG Meetings is to lodge an agenda item prior to the meeting.

SRV Community Consultation Sessions:

- Thursday, 15 June 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Thursday, 22 June 2023, 5pm: Griffith City Library
- Thursday, 6 July 2023, 11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 7pm: Hamwood Catholic Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Friday, 4 August 2023, 10am - 12noon: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- In addition to the above forums, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual community organisations. Contact Council 1300 176 077 to arrange.

ends

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22 June 2023



Thursday 22 June 2023

COUNCIL CONTINUES SPECIAL RATE VARIATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Griffith City Council continues to seek the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

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.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran is encouraging all ratepayers to get involved in the process.

"We have held two information sessions so far plus the General Manager and I have also addressed the Griffith Business Chamber and USA," Councillor Curran said.

"We've got five more community sessions where we will be informing our ratepayers and taking feedback. If you can't get along to one of the sessions listed below, I ask that you head to our webpage www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay. You will find lots of information and an option to make a submission.

SRV Community Consultation Sessions:

- Tuesday, 27 June 2023, 5pm: Council Chambers
- Thursday, 5 July 2023, 11:30am - 1:30pm: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Friday, 4 August 2023, 10am - 12noon: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- In addition to the above forums, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual community organisations. Contact Council 1300 176 077 to arrange.

ends

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13 July 2023



Thursday 13 July 2023

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY ON THE PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION YET?

Griffith City Council wants to hear the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

Following extensive community consultation (June to August) Councillors will make a final decision in October 2023 as to whether to apply 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%.

So far, Council has held four general public information sessions and eight meetings with community organisations including the Griffith Business Chamber, USA, Rotary Club, Griffith Ladies Probus, Yanda Progress Association & Yanda Rotary, Griffith Lions Club and NSW Farmers Association.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran said the aim was to reach as many ratepayers as possible.

"We are doing our very best to engage as many community members as possible through this difficult process. I am proud to be part of a community that cares about each other and about the services our Council delivers," Councillor Curran said.

"We still have three community sessions to go. If you are keen to see a detailed presentation, I'd urge you to get along to the Hanwood Catholic Club on Tuesday 1 August 2023.

"If you can't make that meeting, you can still talk to staff and Councillors at one of our stalls. It is important that we explain why we are considering this SRV and hear what our community thinks."

"If you are unable to get to any of the face-to-face sessions head to www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay. You will find lots of information including a video presentation and an option to make a submission. We will also have a Rates Estimator up and running in the next few weeks."

Upcoming SRV Community Consultation Sessions:

- Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Friday, 4 August 2023, 10am - 12noon: Griffith Central - Council Cafe

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those unable to pay their rates in full on time. The increase is proposed to come into effect in July 2024 and staged over a 3-year period, recognising the impact and in an effort to minimise this impact as much as possible whilst ensuring Council's financial sustainability.

Q. What is Council doing to remediate the situation?

Regardless of whether Council resolves to apply for an SRV, Council's Senior Management Team is committed to finding \$1 million in savings each year starting from 2024/25. This will be achieved by identifying operational efficiencies. Councillors are also being encouraged to identify possible alternate revenue sources and potential saving opportunities.

Q. What do land valuations have to do with my rates?

The NSW Valuer General's Office is responsible for the valuation of all rateable land in NSW and is revalued every three (3) years. Rateable land within the Griffith LGA was revalued during 2022 and these values were provided to Council. Council calculates rates using the land value determined for your property plus a base amount.

The land revaluation process does not provide any additional rate revenue for Council. The total increase in rate revenue to Council is capped on an annual basis by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 year the rate cap increase is 3.7% above 2022/23 level (ie approx. \$700,000).

Changes to land values will impact the amount of rates payable for individual properties but the total increase in rate income received by Council for the year does not exceed the rate cap as determined by IPART.

Whilst we acknowledge that some individual assessments have moved by much greater than the 3.7% rate pegging figure, many have also increased by less and in fact some assessments have reduced in line with new valuations.

Q. What is the alternative to the proposed rate increases?

Without a Special Rate Variation, Council would need to consider reducing the levels of services provided to the community to save costs. Examples of services that may be impacted include 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.

Griffith City Council values community input and encourages feedback during the consultation period up until 4pm on Thursday 31 August 2023. Residents can submit their views via email to admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au, by mail to PO Box 485 Griffith, 2680, or through an online submission.

Following the comprehensive community consultation, Council will consider a further report in October 2023, during which a final decision will be made on whether to apply to IPART for the Special Rate Variation. If IPART approves the application, the first stage of the increase will take effect in July 2024.

For more information and updates, residents are urged to visit Council's website at griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay or follow Council's Facebook page.

Council sincerely appreciates the community's engagement and looks forward to reaching a decision that best serves the interests of all residents.

ends

25 July 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith City Council

Tuesday 25 July 2023

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION ESTIMATOR NOW AVAILABLE

Griffith City Council has launched a Rates Estimator to allow ratepayers to assess the impact of the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) on their respective rates.

The SRV Estimator is available on Council's website: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srv/srvcalculator

The SRV Rates Estimator has been added to help ratepayers better understand how the increase will impact them as Council continues to ask for the community's view on a proposed SRV to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

Simply enter your Assessment Number, which can be found in the top right-hand corner of your rates notice to see the estimated rates based on proposed SRV (10.5% including 3% Rate Peg) each year for three years commencing 2024/25.

Following extensive community consultation (June to August) Council will make a final decision in October 2023 as to whether to apply 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 34.5%. The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

Please note, the Rates Estimator shows Ordinary Rates, it does not include Sewer, Water, Waste, Recycling or Stormwater charges.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran said: "I encourage all ratepayers to use the Estimator in an effort to overcome a lot of misinformation circulating. If you have any questions after using the Estimator, please feel free to contact myself or the GM and we'll do our best to answer your questions."

Ratepayers are being urged to attend upcoming SRV Community Consultation Sessions:

- Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 7pm: Harwood Catholic Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Friday, 4 August 2023, 10am - 12noon: Griffith Central - Council Cafe

In addition to the above forums, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual community organisations. Contact Council 1300 176 077 to arrange.

Residents are urged to have their say up until 31 August 2023 when the consultation period closes. Council appreciates the input received so far, with some constructive discussions had.

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8 August 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith City Council

Tuesday 8 August 2023

COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATE VARIATION CONSULTATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Griffith City Council is pleased to announce that face-to-face community consultation regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) has concluded.

Council would like to thank the community for actively participating and providing valuable feedback during the process so far.

This phase of the consultation has been highly successful, with a significant number of community members attending various meetings held across the Local Government Area. These gatherings included COG Meetings at Yeogali and Harwood, as well as five Council Cafes/information sessions at different locations in Griffith. Additionally, Council representatives delivered presentations at several community group meetings, fostering engagement with organisations such as the Griffith Business Chamber, USA, Rotary Club Avanti, Griffith Rotary, Griffith East Rotary, Griffith Ladies Probus, Yenda Progress Association, Yenda Rotary, Griffith Lions Club, NSW Farmers Association, and Griffith business leaders.

While the formal presentations and information sessions have concluded, Council emphasises that online feedback submissions remain open until August 31 2023. Residents are strongly encouraged to submit their feedback to ensure that all relevant information is available to Councillors for an informed decision on whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The proposed SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.5%). The increased revenue would be permanently retained in Council's rate base.

To assist ratepayers in understanding the potential impact of the SRV on their properties, Council offers a Special Rate Variation Estimator on its website.

More than 100 submissions have been received so far, with Council endeavouring to answer all questions submitted on the SRV page on the website. Many questions and a significant proportion of community comments in general have been concerned with the cost of living. This and some of the other frequently asked questions are addressed below.

Q. With the cost of living going up so much now, how can we be expected to manage this increase?

The proposed SRV is not a decision taken lightly. Council recognises the delicate balance between providing essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and ensuring affordability for our residents. Council offers the Pensioner Rebate Scheme, which financially supports this important group in our community. Council also has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of

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21 August 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith City Council

Monday, 21 August 2023

LAST DAYS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Time is running out for Griffith residents to have their say on Griffith City Council's proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV).

The proposed SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

Submissions close at 4pm on Thursday 31 August 2023. You can provide your feedback and find information about the proposed SRV: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran is urging residents to visit the SRV Have Your Say page and use the Rate Estimator to find out how the increase will impact them.

"It's vitally important that we hear from our community," Councillor Curran said.

"I strongly encourage people to submit their feedback to ensure that all relevant information is available to Councillors for an informed decision on whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the proposed Special Rate Variation.

"We've already received more than 100 submissions and I thank each and every one of those residents who have taken the time.

"Council appreciates the community's engagement and looks forward to reaching a decision that best serves the interests of all residents."

Following the public consultation period, a further report will be considered by Council on Tuesday 24 October 2023. At that meeting Council will make a final decision as to whether it will apply to IPART for the Special Rate Variation. If IPART approves the application, the first stage of the increase will be effective in July 2024.

Residents can also submit their views via email to admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au, by mail to PO Box 485 Griffith, 2680, or through the online submission griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay.

ends

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1 September 2023



MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith City Council

Friday 1 September 2023

COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATE VARIATION NEXT STEPS

Community consultation for Griffith City Council's proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) has concluded.

Council would like to thank all those who attended meetings or information sessions over the past three months as part of community consultation.

The SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%).

During consultation a significant number of community members attended various meetings held across the Local Government Area. These included COG Meetings at Yeogali and Harwood, as well as five Council Cafes/Information sessions at different locations in Griffith.

Council representatives also delivered presentations at community group meetings, with organisations such as the Griffith Business Chamber, USA, Rotary Club Avenel, Griffith Rotary, Griffith East Rotary, Griffith Ladies Probus, Yenda Progress Association, Yenda Rotary, Griffith Lions Club, NSW Farmers Association, and Griffith business leaders.

Submissions closed at 4pm on Thursday August 31 2023, with over 150 received.

The community feedback received will now form part of a report to be presented to Council at a meeting on Tuesday 24 October 2023.

At this meeting Councillors will consider whether or not to advise IPART that an application will be prepared and submitted to request a Special Rate Variation.

ends

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Collieland manders on rise in region

The cost of living pressures Collieland manders on rise in region. The cost of living pressures Collieland manders on rise in region. The cost of living pressures Collieland manders on rise in region.



Griffith Care and Support Centre conference president, Yvonne Cooper. Picture by Alan Wilson

Sessions on rate variation

Griffith City Council is hosting info sessions for locals

Griffith City Council is hosting a series of information sessions for locals regarding the proposed rate variation. The sessions will be held on Wednesday, June 7, at 7pm, at the Griffith City Council Community Centre. The sessions will provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed rate variation. The sessions will be held in a room that is accessible to all residents. The sessions will be held in a room that is accessible to all residents.

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JULY 7-9 2023

BOOKETS AT ARTDECOFESTIVAL.COM Proudly sponsored by The Irrigator



Margaret Whiting and Ursula Wood had a wonderful time at the event on Tuesday.

Call to use SRV estimator

Griffith City Council is calling on residents to use the SRV estimator to help determine their council rates. The SRV estimator is a tool that allows residents to compare their council rates to those of other residents in the area. The SRV estimator is a tool that allows residents to compare their council rates to those of other residents in the area.

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SCAN FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Dog trainer's book debut

Griffith dog trainer shares her tips



Rachel Burrell with her dog, Duke. Picture by Alan Wilson

Griffith dog trainer Rachel Burrell has published her first book, 'Dog Training for Dummies'. The book is a guide to dog training for beginners and is available in paperback and e-book format. The book is a guide to dog training for beginners and is available in paperback and e-book format.

Two weeks for SRV questions to council

Griffith City Council has given residents two weeks to provide feedback on the proposed rate variation. The council has received a large number of questions from residents regarding the proposed rate variation. The council has received a large number of questions from residents regarding the proposed rate variation.

Paint and sip a festival delight



Griffith City Council Community Centre. Picture by Alan Wilson

Speak up about rates

Griffith City Council is calling on residents to speak up about their council rates. The council is aware that many residents are concerned about their council rates. The council is aware that many residents are concerned about their council rates.

DINE

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BAGTOWN MOTEL

WWW.EXIES.COM.AU

The Griffith Phoenix
12 June · 🌐

Griffith City Council is seeking support from the community to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented over a three-year period, starting from the 2024/25 financial year.



GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

GCC Seeks Support For Special Rate Variation
Griffith City Council is seeking support from the community to apply for a Special Rate Variatio...

The Griffith Phoenix
17 June · 🌐

Griffith City Council's Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting on Tuesday night, kicked off consultation for the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), with almost 40 people attending alongside Councillors and Senior Council staff.



GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

COG Meeting Kicks Off Special Rate Variation Consultation
Griffith City Council's Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting o...

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

The Griffith Phoenix
2 July · 🌐

Griffith City Council continues to seek the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.



GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

Council Continues Special Rate Variation Community Consultation
Griffith City Council continues to seek the community's view on a proposed Special Rate V...

The Griffith Phoenix
20 July · 🌐

The Griffith Business Chamber has lodged its response to Council's proposed application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special rate variation (SRV).



GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

Griffith Business Chamber Lodges Response To Council's SRV Proposal
The Griffith Business Chamber has lodged its response to Council's proposed application to th...

The Griffith Phoenix
31 July at 15:30 · 🌐

Ratepayers can now assess the impact of the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) on their respective rates thanks to the new Rates Estimator launched by Griffith City Council.



effective in July 2024.

View the online SRV Presentation here

G GCC Special Rate Variation (SRV) Presentation

Watch on YouTube

GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

Ratepayers Can Assess Personal Impact Of Proposed Special Rate Variation
Ratepayers can now assess the impact of the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) on their re...

The Griffith Phoenix
13 August at 15:30 · 🌐

Face-to-face community consultation between Griffith City Council and residents has come to an end regarding the special rate variation application proposal, but the more constructive feedback Council receives the better equipped they will be to make an informed decision about whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the proposed Special Rate Variation (RSV).



GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

Special Rate Variation Decision Draws Closer
Face-to-face community consultation between Griffith City Council and residents has come to ...

The Griffith Phoenix
25 August · 🌐

There is just one week left to have your say on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) which aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5 per cent (including the assumed 3 per cent rate peg) annually for three consecutive years.



GRIFFITHPHOENIX.COM.AU

Last Chance To Provide Feedback On Proposed Special Rate Variation

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Region Riverina
11 May · 🌐

Social media has been abuzz with reports of rate rises for Griffith residents - find out what the mayor has to say and what council plans to do over the coming months.



REGIONRIVERINA.COM.AU

Griffith Council to consult community on three proposed 10.5 per cent annual rate hikes | Region Riverina

Region Riverina
10 June · 🌐

The Minister for Local Government doesn't have much sympathy, but Griffith Council will be trying to convince its residents of the need to increase rates by 35 per cent over the next three years. Here's how and where you can have your say.



REGIONRIVERINA.COM.AU

Griffith council seeks to justify rate hike as Minister criticises local government spending | Region Riverina

Region Riverina
19 July · 🌐

The peak body representing businesses in Griffith has asked the local council to consider alternatives to a proposed massive rate hike of 35 per cent over the next three years, such as paid parking at the airport and raising rent for leases and licences for council-owned land.



REGIONRIVERINA.COM.AU

Griffith Business Chamber proposes alternatives to three years of council rate hikes | Region Riverina

The Area News 15 August at 15:17

There are just two weeks left to get your thoughts in on Griffith City Council's proposed rate variation.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Two weeks left for SRV consultation

Just two weeks remain to get feedback and responses in regarding the proposed rate increase

The Area News 3 August at 10:00

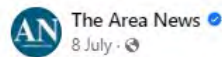
Tuesday's COG meeting on the proposed rate variation saw tensions run high as community members debated what services could be cut or sold to fill the budget deficit.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Tensions run hot at SRV community meeting

The community opinion group meeting on the rate variation saw tensions run high as commu...



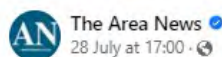
While Griffith City Council has been pushing for community engagement on the controversial proposal for a rate variation, some demographics could be being left out of the conversation.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Concern for unheard voices on rate variation

While Council pushes to hear back from the community on the SRV, some groups remain unh...



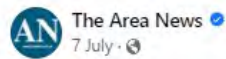
"We want the community to be as informed as possible because that's the only way this process will be successful."



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Ratepayers urged to seek clarity through SRV estimator

It comes with around a month left of community consultations into the proposed SRV.



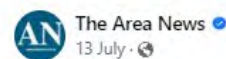
Griffith City Council's budget info sessions are drawing mixed responses, from begrudged acceptance to stoic refusal.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Consultation on rate variation finds varied responses

Griffith City Council's consultation period on the proposed rate rise has drawn responses from ...



"Ripping the band-aid off."

The Griffith Business Chamber has put forth their submission regarding council's proposed rate rise - hoping to bring it down to a one-off hit.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Business Chamber shares concerns over rate rise

Griffith Business Chamber is pushing for a single higher rate rise, in a bid to keep business con...

Confusion reigned over Tuesday's meeting as councillors struggled and argued over whether approving the 2023/2024 budget constituted an endorsement of the special rate variation.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Budget confusion at council meeting

Griffith City Council struggled to determine whether the special rate variation is included in thi...

Griffith City Council is hosting a number of information and consultation sessions through winter, covering the planned special rate variation.



AREANEWS.COM.AU

Info and feedback sessions on rate variation

Griffith City Council is hosting a number of information sessions on the pitched rate variations

Advertising and Council Catch Up Newsletter

Throughout

Action

Council purchased 40 x 30 second radio ads in prime time 6am – 7pm across 963 Triple M (AM) and Hit 99.7 (FM) – June to August 2023.

In addition, 10 x Monday with the Mayor interviews were held on Hit 99.7 Breakfast with Matt Collins.

Council also placed advertisements in the local newspaper, the Area News. The advertisement included Council's proposal, contact details and information on how people could provide input into the decision.

Advertisements and articles were also placed in Council's weekly newsletter, Council Catch Up.

Outcome

Advertisements were placed in the Friday edition of The Area News (Historically the largest circulation). The Monday morning breakfast radio interviews with Mayor Curran discussed the proposed SRV and allowed questions from residents to be addressed.

Each Friday 500 copies of the Council Catch Up community newsletter are printed, an e-Edition or PDF version can also be read on the website. Printed copies can be picked up from 20 locations around the city including all local supermarkets, major shopping centres and Council facilities.

More than 2,000 Council Catch Up e-Editions were sent out each week.

25 August 2023 Edition 33/23

COUNCIL CATCH-UP

IN THIS EDITION

- Work on bus routes looks promising
- Free of bus services around the city
- Take care of the people reaching out
- Messages from the Mayor and Councillors
- Public Health and Safety
- Visit the Mayor

Time is running out for residents to have their say on the proposed Special Rate Variation

Time is running out for Griffith residents to have their say on Council's proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV). The proposed SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.5%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

Submissions close at 4pm on Thursday 31 August 2023. You can provide your feedback and find information about the proposed SRV: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran is urging residents to visit the SRV Have your say page and use the Rate Estimator to find out how the increase will impact them.

"It's vitally important that we hear from our community," Councillor Curran said. "I strongly encourage people to submit their feedback to ensure that all relevant information is available to Councilors for an informed decision on whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the proposed Special Rate Variation."

"We've already received more than 100 submissions and I thank each and every one of those residents who have taken the time. Council appreciates the community's input and looks forward to reaching a decision that best serves the interests of all residents."

Following the public consultation period, a further report will be considered by Council on Tuesday 24 October 2023. At that meeting Council will make a final decision as to whether it will apply to IPART for the Special Rate Variation. If IPART approves the application, the first stage of the increase will be effective from July 2024. You can also submit your feedback via email admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au

B

Better bus services for Griffith from 18 September

- Better connections to hospitals
- New Sunday and Public Holiday services
- More travel options for Yenda and Daggon Point
- New services for growing suburbs

Learn more

14 July 2023 Edition 27/23

COUNCIL CATCH-UP

IN THIS EDITION

- National Police and Welfare services to be improved
- New technology to help improve road performance
- Local Police Services
- Council's Catching Up
- Visit the Mayor

Have you had your say on the proposed Special Rate Variation?

Griffith City Council wants to hear the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

Following extensive community consultation (June to August) Councilors will make a final decision in October 2023 as to whether to apply 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 34.5%.

So far, Council has held four general public information sessions and eight meetings with community organisations including the Griffith Business Chamber, Rotary Club, Yenda Progress Association and NSW Farmers Association.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran said the aim was to reach as many ratepayers as possible.

"We are doing our very best to engage as many community members as possible through this difficult process. I am proud to be part of a community that cares about each other and about the services our Council delivers," Councillor Curran said.

"We still have three community sessions to go. If you are keen to see a detailed presentation, I'd urge you to get along to the Hanwood Catholic Club on Tuesday 1 August 2023.

"If you can't make that meeting, you can still talk to staff and Councilors at one of our stalls. It is important that we explain why we are considering this SRV and hear what our community thinks." If you are unable to get to any of the face-to-face sessions head to www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay.

You will find lots of information including a video presentation and an option to make a submission. A Rates Estimator will be up and running in the next few weeks.

Read the media release in full: griffith.nsw.gov.au/media-releases

GRASS ROOTS

UNDER 30'S OPEN MIC COMPETITION

SUNDAY 30 JULY 2PM

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Information sessions

- 20 July 2023 - Kooyoo Street Kiosk - 10am - 12pm
- 1 August 2023 - Hanwood Catholic Club - 7pm
- 4 August 2023 - Griffith Central Plaza - 10am - 12pm

FIND OUT MORE

griffith.nsw.gov.au

Council seeks support for proposed Special Rate Variation

Griffith City Council is seeking support from the community to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to be implemented over a three-year period, starting from the 2024/25 financial year. Council proposes to submit an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPRT), an independent body that determines the maximum which councils across NSW can increase rates. The proposed SRV seeks a 10.5% increase each year for three years, inclusive of the assumed rate pegging increase of 3.0%. This equates to a cumulative increase of 34.50% over three years. Mayor Doug Curran said, "To secure the future of our community and the services and assets that we cherish and to ensure our Council is ready for the future, we need to engage our community with very mature discussions about why we need the Special Rate Variation (SRV)."

Residents are encouraged to attend the following sessions:

- Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 7pm: Voogal Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Thursday, 15 June 2023, 10am: 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk
- Thursday, 22 June 2023, 3pm: Griffith City Library
- Thursday, 6 July 2023, 11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central
- Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10am: 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk
- Tuesday, 3 August 2023, 7pm: Hinwood Catholic Club
- Thursday, 4 August 2023, 10am: 12noon: Griffith Central

The Mayor and Cll are also available to address individual community organisations. Call 1300 135 077 or email: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srv



Have your say on the draft Lake Wyangan Foreshore Plan

The draft Lake Wyangan Foreshore Master Plan is currently on public exhibition, with feedback sought on preferred options. At the Council Meeting on 11 July 2023 Council adopted the Minutes of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee Meeting, which included a recommendation to put the Master Plan out for public consultation. Councilor Curran said, "I encourage everyone to take a look at what has been identified as priorities in the first stage and let us know what you think."

The draft plan can be viewed at: griffith.nsw.gov.au/ow



Message Cr Christine Stead

This week I've been busy learning as much as I can about the ever changing world of tourism. The 2023 Local Government NSW (LGN) National and Visitor Economy Conference was held in Manly over three days and we got to hear about what other councils are doing. It's always insightful to learn about the challenges and opportunities from other local government areas. Even though we are all different, there is always something we can take away in terms of creating successful and sustainable tourism events. We are fortunate here in Griffith to have many great events such as A Taste of Italy and Springfest. The King's Birthday Long Weekend is a time we are all proud of. We need to check out our wonderful beaches and take a look at the Griffith Shirebook. The Griffith Shirebook is a great resource for anyone looking to visit Griffith. It provides a wealth of information about the area, including the Griffith Shirebook. The Griffith Shirebook is a great resource for anyone looking to visit Griffith. It provides a wealth of information about the area, including the Griffith Shirebook.



Until next time, Councillor Christine Stead

Have your say on whether to introduce a FOGO bin service



Griffith City Council is exploring the possibility of introducing a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service. FOGO is a kerbside collection service that allows food to be added to a green lid garden waste bin so it can be recycled into top quality compost. Give us your feedback on this proposed service by taking the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HMOQV5F>

Make a splash and join the GRALC Break Time Lappers

Want to give your fitness a kick each day to help you stay motivated and increase your fitness? GRALC Break Time Lappers is a great way to meet and train with others of your mates. No bookings required, just come and join us. Best of all there is no additional cost. If you pay to swim, you're in. For more information call GRALC on 6962 8228



Seeking community feedback on Special Rate Variation

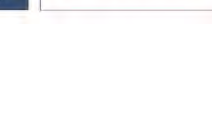
Griffith City Council continues to seek the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels. An application would be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPRT). Rates by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% IPRT rate peg) each year for three consecutive years starting 2024/25. This is a total cumulative increase of 34.50%. The base rate increase would be retained permanently. Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran is encouraging all ratepayers to get involved in the process.



The Australian Ballet returns to Griffith Regional Theatre



Experience the artistry of The Australian Ballet on stage at the Griffith Regional Theatre on Wednesday 9 August 2023. With a program including a classical favourite and contemporary pieces, the Australian Ballet is delighted to return to celebrate their 60th year as Australia's national ballet company, with over 40 years of touring repertoire across Australia.



Special Rate Variation consultation progress update

Face-to-face community consultation regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) has concluded. Council would like to thank the community for actively participating and providing valuable feedback during the process so far. This phase of the consultation has been highly successful, with a significant number of community members attending various meetings held across the Local Government Area. These gatherings included Clls, Meetings at Voogal and Hinwood, as well as five Council Cates/Information sessions at different locations in Griffith. Additionally, Council representatives delivered presentations at several community group meetings, fostering engagement with organisations such as the Griffith Business Chamber, USA, Rotary Club Austral, Griffith Rotary, Griffith East Rotary, Griffith Ladies Probus, Vendo Progress Association, Vendo Rotary, Griffith Lions Club, NSW Farmers Association, and Griffith business leaders.

While the formal presentations and information sessions have concluded, Council emphasises that online feedback submissions remain open until August 31 2023. Residents are strongly encouraged to submit their feedback to ensure that all relevant information is available to Councilors for an informed decision on whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPRT) for the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The proposed SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 to the local government area. The increased revenue would be permanently retained in Council's rate base. To assist ratepayers in understanding the potential impact of the SRV on their properties, Council offers a Special Rate Variation Estimator on its website. More than 100 submissions have been received so far, with Council endeavouring to answer all questions submitted. Many questions and a significant proportion of community comments in general have been concerned with the cost of living. This and other frequently asked questions are addressed below. Council encourages feedback during the consultation period up until 4pm on Thursday 31 August 2023. Have your say: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srv

Frequently Asked Questions
Q. With the cost of living going up so much now, how can we be expected to manage this increase?
A. The proposed SRV is not a decision taken lightly. Council recognises the delicate balance between providing essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and ensuring affordability for our residents. Council offers the Pensioner Rebate scheme, which financially supports this important group in our community. Council also has a hardship policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time. The increase would come into effect in July 2024, staged over 3 years to minimise the impact.

Message from Cr Jenny Ellis

I am very excited to say that our draft Cultural Precinct Master Plan is now available for people to view and comment on. Along with our Committee have been working very hard with our consultants and the community to get this important document completed. The Master Plan is a strategic and comprehensive document that will guide Council in managing and improving our cultural facilities to meet the needs and expectations of our community and contribute to our cultural identity and the economic vitality of Griffith. It is particularly focused on Griffith's key cultural sites including the Regional Art Gallery, City Library, Regional Theatre, and Pioneer Park Museum. It also addresses the sustainability of our current Art Gallery and the potential locations of a new one, including considering the value of the Clock building and whether it fits into the cultural requirements of the city in the future. Even if you are not 'into' the arts, the precinct needs to be recognised that to remain a vibrant city that attracts people to live, work and visit, this is one of the key areas of appeal. Personally, when my husband and I moved here 30 years ago for a 'three-year country stint', it was the relationships formed through the arts that were one of the biggest factors in keeping us here - apart from drinking the chardonnay water that is!



Regards, Councillor Jenny Ellis



Council celebrates Local Government Week 2023

Council is inviting residents to help celebrate Local Government Week 2023. Held from 31 July – 6 August 2023, Local Government Week is designed to showcase the work councils do in their local communities, including the wide variety of services they provide.

This year, Griffith City Council is using the week to say thank you to the selfless volunteers who support Council and highlight some of the services and facilities the community enjoys.

Council will hold a Thank You Morning Tea for Council Volunteers on Tuesday, 1 August 2023 at the Griffith Regional Theatre foyer. Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre (GRAALC) will offer free come and try classes for Griffith residents.

Monday – 9.30am HIT & 5.30pm Pump, Tuesday – 6am



Message from Cr Shari Blumer

At a time in the town where a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) is being discussed, it is important that all residents of the community who can weigh in.

We need the community to partner with us as a Council and make their voices heard on all the issues that Council is considering, including the proposed SRV.



One of the most pressing of those issues for consideration is Lake Wyangan. The small Lake Wyangan Horseshoe Motel Plan is now an public exhibition, with feedback sought on preferred options.

The Lake Wyangan & Horseshoe Motel Management Committee members have identified eight priorities in Stage 1 to travel Council's current budget allocation of just over \$2 million.

This draft plan is now on exhibition and can be viewed at: griffith.nsw.gov.au/re-survey.

Please make sure you take a look and share with those who may not know about it, or are not necessarily tech savvy, and provide your comments back to Council.

Meanwhile, Council staff are building their capacity and the capacity of our community with spend consultation and inclusion projects that are proving that when community and Council work together the outcomes are always better.

The establishment of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) has shown that when you provide people, especially

Regards,
Councillor Shari Blumer

WE ARE HIRING

We are currently seeking applications for the following positions:

- Road Safety & Traffic Officer**
Gardener (Permanent/Revolving basis)
Applications close: Monday, 24 July 2023
- Work Health and Safety Coordinator**
(Permanent)
Applications close: Monday, 31 July 2023
- Water/Wastewater Analyst** (Permanent)
Applications close: Monday, 7 August 2023
- Swim School Coordinator** (Permanent)
Applications close: Monday, 14 August 2023

Apply online at griffith.nsw.gov.au/jobs

21 July 2023 Edition 28/23 COUNCIL CATCH-UP



IN THIS EDITION

- Event planned to mark 60th Anniversary of land of valleys WOC
- Draft of Water Discussion Paper and its impact
- Council celebration, 2023
- Council to mark 2023
- Message from Cr Shari Blumer
- Public body camera and postcard system



Council's Her Way 2680 Project enters implementation phase

The exciting Her Way 2680 project, an initiative aimed at enhancing the perception of safety for women, girls, and gender diverse people in the CBD of Griffith, is moving into the implementation phase.

Council is pleased to be partnering with Transport for NSW on the Safer Cities Her Way Program, which aims to make public spaces around transport hubs feel safer for everyone.

Feedback received from the community through a survey in February and March identified the CBD of Griffith as an area that required attention.

A vital aspect of the project involves community engagement through workshops and Co-Design sessions. A total of 56 participants joined the four workshops, which took place along a predefined route in the CBD to Coolah Street.

The workshops were conducted during both daylight and night-time hours to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the precinct at different times of the day. In addition, 53 participants actively contributed

to the four Co-Design sessions. These sessions included creative exercises that resulted in over 600 individual responses. Involvement in the sessions was open to the public, high school girls from Murrumbidgee Regional High School, and stakeholders, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives were considered during the design process.

Building upon the information gathered from the community consultation, the Her Way 2680 team has developed a project plan that focuses on trialling the key components identified as unsafe and in need of attention. These include the installation of gender sensitive lighting, installation of way finding signage, upgrades to pedestrian bridges, murals and public art, increasing amenity of bus shelters, new landscaping, street furniture, footpaths and a new gathering space.

The project will now progress to the implementation phase, with the development of a concept plan and quotes sought for the necessary assets and upgrades.

Read the media release in full: bit.ly/3Nq8038

PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
Watch a video presentation
Learn more
Make a submission

griffith.nsw.gov.au/submitproposal

1300 176 077

The Area News

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION INFORMATION SESSIONS

Council is seeking the community's views on a proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise Ordinary Rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV).

Come along to information sessions to find out more:

- 27 June 2023 5pm - Council Chambers
- 6 July 2023 11.30am - Griffith Central Plaza
- 20 July 2023 10am - Kooyoo Street Kiosk

Ph: 1300 176 077 Have your say: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION INFORMATION SESSIONS

Council is seeking the community's views on a proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise Ordinary Rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV).

Come along to information sessions to find out more:

- 1 August 2023 7pm Hanwood Catholic Club
- 4 August 2023 10am Griffith Central Plaza

Ph: 1300 176 077 Have your say: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au

Social Media

May 2023 - ongoing

Action

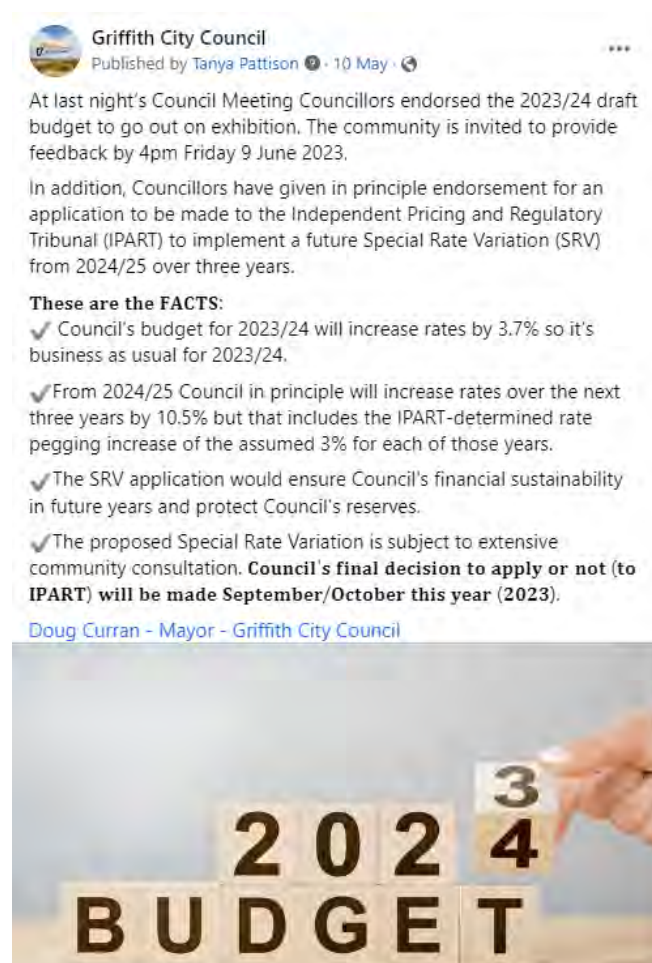
Council has an active social media audience with more than 10,000 users engaging with Council's Facebook and Instagram accounts. The social media SRV community engagement included a series of SRV posts and SRV event posts for community engagement activities.

SRV community engagement opportunities were published as events on Facebook and appeared as posts at the same time throughout. When permitted posts were also shared to Griffith Community Noticeboard Facebook Group (17,500 members).

Outcome

31 posts were made to Council's social media channels. Total post reach Facebook and Instagram over 59,500.

There was strong engagement on most social media posts related to the SRV.



Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 3 June ·

Griffith City Council seeks support for special rate variation

Council is seeking the community's views on whether to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary (general) rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV).

The proposed SRV seeks a 10.5% increase each year for three years, inclusive of the assumed rate pegging increase of 3.0%. This equates to a cumulative increase of 34.9% over three years.

Residents are encouraged to attend the next Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting on Tuesday 6 June 2023 at the Yoogali Club to find out more.

Read more here: <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/.../griffith-city-council...>



Securing *our future*

Special Rate Variation (SRV)
Community Consultation
opens Tuesday 6 June 2023



Published by Tanya Pattison · 6 June ·

! REMINDER - COG MEETING TONIGHT!

Don't forget, the Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting will be held tonight, Tuesday 6 June at the Yoogali Club.

The COG Meeting is an opportunity to connect with Councillors to discuss matters important to you including the proposed Special Rate Variation.

You can view the agenda here: <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/.../community-opinion...>

COMMUNITY OPINION GROUP (COG) MEETING



TUESDAY
6 June, 2023

START AT
7.00PM

LOCATION
Yoogali Club



Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 16 August at 10:16 · 🌐

Have you had your say on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) yet?

👉 Council wants to hear your view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

Following extensive community consultation (June to August), Councillors will make a final decision in October 2023 as to whether to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise Ordinary Rates by 10.5% (inclusive of ... [See more](#)

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY ON THE PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO

Learn more
Watch a video presentation
Use the rates estimator
Make a submission!





griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Contact Us
1300 176 077

1 comment

👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share

Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 13 June · 🌐

Want to know more about what the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) is all about? Come along to one of our community information sessions being held over the next few months. **THIS WEEK** Council Café is being held on Thursday 15 June 2023 at the Kooyoo Street Kiosk from 10am to 12pm.

Upcoming SRV Community Consultation Sessions are listed below:

If you can't attend any of the face-to-face sessions, an online presentation can be viewed. Further information on the proposed SRV is available at: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



Securing
our future


SRV COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

- **TUES 27 JUNE 2023**
5pm: Council Chambers
- **THURS 5 JULY 2023**
11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central
- **THURS 20 JULY 2023**
10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk
- **TUES 1 AUGUST 2023**
7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club
- **FRI 4 AUGUST 2023**
10am - 12noon: Griffith Central

In addition to the above sessions, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual organisations. Call 1300 176 077 to arrange.

For more information or to make a submission go to:
griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



 **Griffith City Council**
Published by Tanya Pattison · 3 d · 🌐

👉 Catch up on all things Council!

In this week's issue:

- 🗣️ Have you had your say on the proposed Special Rate Variation?
- 🏞️ National Parks and Wildlife Service to conduct training
- 🛠️ New technology to help improve road maintenance
- 📄 Input needed on draft Lake Wyangan Foreshore Master Plan
- 🎵 EOI - Creative Director - Griffith Carols by Candlelight
- 🏀 Calling all First Nations artists for Basketball Court artwork
- 📧 Message from Councillor Glen Andreatza
- 📌 all the latest in Positions Vacant, Public Notices, Development Applications, Road Closures and more!

📄 View the e-Edition or read the 📄 PDF version here: <https://bit.ly/3o7gxrf>

📄 Subscribe here: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/subscribe

📄 Or pick up a copy from:
Beelbanger Store, Griffin Plaza, Collier & Miller, Danny's Store, Griffith Central, Griffith City Library, Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre, Griffith Retirement Estate, Hanwood Village Store, Kmart, News & Gifts on Banna, Riverina Family Chiropractor, Rossie's Foodworks, Vaccari's Bakery, Woolworths (Main and North), Yenda Producers (Yenda), Yenda Supermarket, Griffith Airport and from Customer Service at Griffith City Council.

 **Griffith City Council**
Published by Tanya Pattison · 13 July · 🌐

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY ON THE PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION YET?

Griffith City Council wants to hear the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

Following extensive community consultation (June to August), Councillors will make a final decision in October 2023 as to whether to apply 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%.

So far, Council has held four general public information sessions and eight meetings with community organisations including the Griffith Business Chamber, U3A, Rotary Club, Griffith Ladies Probus, Yenda Progress Association & Yenda Rotary, Griffith Lions Club and NSW Farmers Association.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran said the aim was to reach as many ratepayers as possible. "We are doing our very best to engage as many community members as possible through this difficult process. I am proud to be part of a community that cares about each other and about the services our Council delivers," Councillor Curran said.

You can find more information about why the SRV is being proposed and make a submission here
👉 www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srv/haveyoursay

Or read the media release in full here 👉 <https://bit.ly/3Nq8Q88>

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Information sessions

- ▶ 20 July 2023 - Kooyoo Street Kiosk - 10am -12pm
- ▶ 1 August 2023 - Hanwood Catholic Club -7pm
- ▶ 4 August 2023 - Griffith Central Plaza - 10am -12pm



Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 15 June · 🌐

! REMINDER - COUNCIL CAFE TODAY - KOOYOO STREET

Council Café is being held today, Thursday 15 June 2023 at the Kooyoo Street Kiosk from 10am to 12pm.

Come along and find out about the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV).

If you can't make it today, a list of upcoming sessions can be found below.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROPOSED SRV 📄 <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/.../special-rate-variation>

Griffith City Council created an event.
7 June · 🌐

THURS, 15 JUN
Council Cafe - Special Rate Variation (SRV) Consultation
Griffith, NSW
4 went · 31 interested



Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 4 h ·

...

Understanding the Special Rate Variation (SRV)

For a comprehensive explanation about the proposed SRV and what it means for Council and the community please take the time to watch the attached video.

<https://youtu.be/sn7xUvcHiMQ>

👉 For more information or to make a submission head to griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 17 May ·

...

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) PRESENTATION

Watch a presentation regarding the proposed SRV below 🌟

At the Council Meeting on 9 May 2023 Councillors gave in principle endorsement for an application to be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to implement a future Special Rate Variation (SRV) from 2024/25 over three years.

The FACTS:

- ✓ Council's budget for 2023/24 will increase rates by 3.7% so it's business as usual for 2023/24.
- ✓ From 2024/25 Council in principle will increase rates over the next three years by 10.5% that includes the IPART-determined rate pegging increase of the assumed 3% for each of those years.
- ✓ The SRV application would ensure Council's financial sustainability in future years and protect Council's reserves.
- ✓ The proposed Special Rate Variation is subject to extensive community consultation. **Council's final decision to apply or not (to IPART) will be made September/October this year (2023).**

Watch the video below to learn more.



Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 13 June ·

Want to know more about what the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) is all about?
Come along to one of our community information sessions being held over the next few months.
THIS WEEK Council Café is being held on Thursday 15 June 2023 at the Kooyoo Street Kiosk from 10am to 12pm.
Upcoming... See more



Securing
our future

SRV COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

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5pm: Council Chambers
- THUR 6 JULY 2023**
11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central
- THUR 20 JULY 2023**
10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk
- TUES 1 AUGUST 2023**
7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club
- FRI 4 AUGUST 2023**
10am - 12noon: Griffith Central

In addition to the above sessions, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual organisations. Call 1300 176 077 to arrange.

For more information or to make a submission go to:
griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



2 comments 1 share

Published by Tanya Pattison · 22 June at 12:17 ·

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION CONTINUES

Griffith City Council continues to seek the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

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.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran is encouraging all ratepayers to get involved in the process.

"We have held two information sessions so far plus the General Manager and I have also addressed the Griffith Business Chamber and U3A," Councillor Curran said.

"We've got five more community sessions where we will be informing our ratepayers and taking feedback. If you can't get along to one of the sessions listed below, I ask that you head to our webpage www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay. You will find lots of information and an option to make a submission.

👉 SRV Community Consultation Sessions:

- Tuesday, 27 June 2023, 5pm: Council Chambers
- Thursday, 6 July 2023, 11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central - Council Cafe
- Thursday, 20 July 2023, 10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk - Council Cafe
- Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club - Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
- Friday, 4 August 2023, 10am - 12noon: Griffith Central - Council Cafe

In addition to the above forums, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual community organisations. Contact Council 1300 176 077 to arrange.



Securing
our future

SRV COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

- TUES 27 JUNE 2023**
5pm: Council Chambers
- THUR 6 JULY 2023**
11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central
- THUR 20 JULY 2023**
10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk
- TUES 1 AUGUST 2023**
7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club
- FRI 4 AUGUST 2023**
10am - 12noon: Griffith Central





Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 27 June at 12:14 ·

REMINDER - Special Rate Variation (SRV) INFORMATION SESSION TONIGHT, 5PM

Don't forget, we've got the next SRV community information session taking place at 5pm TODAY in the Council Chambers.

Council is seeking the community's view on a proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV) by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%).

Come along and find out more.



Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 26 June at 12:34 ·

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REMINDER

The next SRV Information Session will be held tomorrow Tuesday, 27 June 2023, Council Chambers - 5pm

Griffith City Council continues to seek the community's view on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

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.

If you can't make it tomorrow at 5pm, or to any of the sessions listed below, head to our webpage www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay.

You will find lots of information and an option to make a submission.

Securing
our future



SRV COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

TUES 27 JUNE 2023

5pm: Council Chambers

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10am - 12noon: Griffith Central

In addition to the above sessions, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual organisations. Call 1300 176 077 to arrange.

For more information or to make a submission head to:
griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay





Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 6 July at 11:03 ·

! REMINDER - SRV INFORMATION SESSION TODAY!

We will be down at Griffith Central from 11.30am to 1.30pm today.

Come along and learn more about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

Securing
our future



SRV COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

THUR 6 JULY 2023

11.30am - 1.30pm: Griffith Central

THUR 20 JULY 2023

10am - 12noon: Kooyoo Street Kiosk

TUES 1 AUGUST 2023

7pm: Hanwood Catholic Club

FRI 4 AUGUST 2023

10am - 12noon: Griffith Central

In addition to the above sessions, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual organisations. Call 1300 176 077 to arrange.

For more information or to make a submission head to:
griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 6 July at 11:44 ·

SRV community consultation information session [Griffith Central Shopping Centre](#) now on.





Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 14 August at 10:42 ·

HAVE YOU TRIED THE SRV RATES ESTIMATOR YET?

We've launched a Rates Estimator to allow ratepayers to assess the impact of the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) on their rates.

The SRV Rates Estimator will help ratepayers better understand how the increase will impact them as Council continues to ask for the community's view on a proposed SRV to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.... [See more](#)

Securing
our future

NOW LIVE

SPECIAL RATE
VARIATION (SRV)
ESTIMATOR



**FIND OUT what the proposed SRV
would mean to your rates**
griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



1 share



Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 25 July at 14:14 ·

RATES ESTIMATOR NOW LIVE

Griffith City Council has launched a Rates Estimator to allow ratepayers to assess the impact of the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) on their respective rates.

The SRV Rates Estimator has been added to help ratepayers better understand how the increase will impact them as Council continues to ask for the community's view on a proposed SRV to ensure long-term financial viability and to maintain service levels.

Simply enter your Assessment Number, which can be found in the top righthand corner of your rates notice to see the estimated rates based on proposed SRV (10.5% including 3% Rate Peg) each year for three years commencing 2024/25.

The SRV Estimator is available here <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/special-rate-variation.../>

NOW LIVE

Special Rate Variation
ESTIMATOR





Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 8 August at 14:46 ·

COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATE VARIATION CONSULTATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Griffith City Council is pleased to announce that face-to-face community consultation regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) has concluded.

Council would like to thank the community for actively participating and providing valuable feedback during the process so far.

While the formal presentations and information sessions have concluded, Council emphasises that online feedback submissions remain open until August 31, 2023.

Residents are strongly encouraged to submit their feedback to ensure that all relevant information is available to Councillors for an informed decision on whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The proposed SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increased revenue would be permanently retained in Council's rate base.

For more information and updates, residents are urged to visit Council's website at griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Read the media release in full, including some FAQs - <https://bit.ly/4558VFW>



Griffith City Council

Published by Tanya Pattison · 19 July ·

REMINDER

Special Rate Variation (SRV) consultation session tomorrow at Council Cafe - 10am to 12pm.

Call down to the Kooyoo Street Kiosk, hear about the proposed SRV and give us your feedback.

If you can't make it tomorrow, you can find lots of information on the webpage <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/-/special-rate-variation> including an option to make an online submission.

We need to hear what you think!

COUNCIL CAFE

Special Rate Variation Information Session



REMINDER

**THURSDAY**
20 July, 2023

**TIME**
10AM - 12PM

**LOCATION**
Kooyoo Street Kiosk



Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 2 d · 🌐

Time is running out for Griffith residents to have their say on Griffith City Council's proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV).

The proposed SRV aims to increase ordinary rates by 10.5% (including the assumed 3% rate peg) annually for three consecutive years, starting from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

Submissions close at 4pm on Thursday 31 August 2023. You can provide your feedback and find information about the proposed SRV: griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay

Griffith Mayor, Councillor Doug Curran is urging residents to visit the SRV Have Your Say page and use the Rate Estimator to find out how the increase will impact them.

"It's vitally important that we hear from our community," Councillor Curran said.
"I strongly encourage people to submit their feedback to ensure that all relevant information is available to Councillors for an informed decision on whether or not to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the proposed Special Rate Variation.
"We've already received more than 100 submissions and I thank each and every one of those residents who have taken the time.
"Council appreciates the community's engagement and looks forward to reaching a decision that best serves the interests of all residents."

Following the public consultation period, a further report will be considered by Council on Tuesday 24 October 2023. At that meeting Council will make a final decision as to whether it will apply to IPART for the Special Rate Variation.

If IPART approves the application, the first stage of the increase will be effective in July 2024.

Residents can also submit their views via email to admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au, by mail to PO Box 485 Griffith, 2680, or through the online submission griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay.



Griffith City Council
Published by Joanne Bollen · 20 July · 🌐

Special Rate Variation (SRV) consultation session at Council Cafe today.
We are at the Kooyoo Street Kiosk until 12pm.

Call down to hear about the proposed SRV and give us your feedback.

If you can't make it you can find lots of information on the webpage <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/special-rate-variation> including an option to make an online submission.

We need to hear what you think!



Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 31 July at 19:13 · 🌐

! REMINDER!

📍 SRV COG MEETING IN HANWOOD TOMORROW NIGHT

📅 The next Community Opinion Group Meeting (COG) will be held in HANWOOD - Tuesday 1 August 2023 @ 7pm - Hanwood Sports Club

👉 This COG Meeting will focus on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), please come along and hear why this is being considered.

✓ If you can't make this meeting and would like to find out more about the proposed SRV or provide feedback, use this link: <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/.../special-rate-variation>

📄 Find the agenda here: <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/.../community-opinion...>



**COMMUNITY
OPINION GROUP(COG)
MEETING**

Special Rate Variation Information Session

TUESDAY
1 August, 2023

TIME
7PM

LOCATION
Hanwood Sports Club

REMINDER

3 shares

Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 26 July at 11:45 · 🌐

! REMINDER!

📍 SRV COG MEETING IN HANWOOD NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT

📅 The next Community Opinion Group Meeting (COG) will be held in HANWOOD - Tuesday 1 August 2023 @ 7pm - Hanwood Sport Club

👉 While the aim of this COG Meeting is to focus on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV), you can still submit other agenda items.

Make a submission for the COG Meeting using this link:
<https://forms.griffith.nsw.gov.au/Forms/COGS>

If you can't make this meeting and would like to find out more about the proposed SRV or provide feedback, use this link: <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/.../special-rate-variation>



**COMMUNITY OPINION
GROUP (COG)
MEETING**

Special Rate Variation
Information Session

TUESDAY
1 August, 2023

START AT
7.00PM

LOCATION
Hanwood Sports Club

Griffith City Council
Published by Tanya Pattison · 18 July ·

Find out more about the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Council hopes to reach as many residents as possible to explain the proposed SRV. Please help spread the word.

📌 The next SRV information session will be held this Thursday 20 July 2023 at the Kooyoo Street Kiosk from 10am to 12pm.

👉 If you can't make this session, there will be another night meeting, where a full presentation will be made, at the Hanwood Sports Club on Tuesday 1 August from 7pm.

✓ Or drop into Griffith Central on Friday 4 August 2023 between 10am and 12pm.

🗣️ In addition to these sessions the Mayor and GM are available to address individual organisations. Call 1300 176 077 to arrange.

♥️ Following extensive community consultation (June to August) Councillors will make a final decision in October 2023 as to whether to apply 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%.

For more information or to make a submission head to the webpage griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



SRV thanks

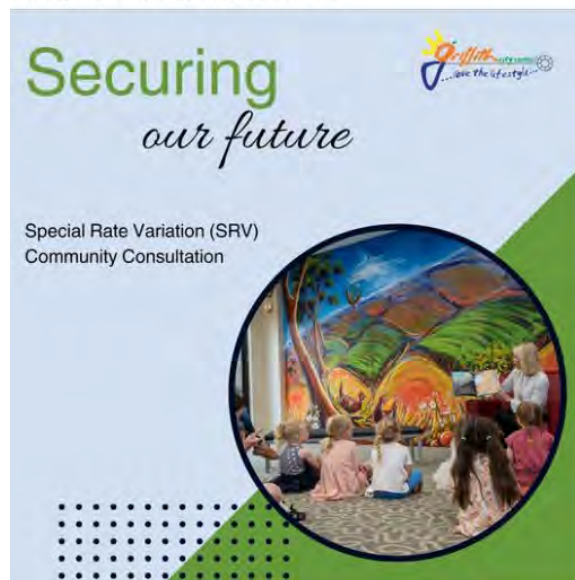
Council would like to thank all those who attended meetings or information sessions over the past three months as part of community consultation for the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV).

Thanks also to those who took the time to make a submission. Submissions closed at 4pm yesterday.

So, what's next?

All of the community feedback received will now form part of a report to be presented to Council at a meeting on Tuesday 24 October 2023.

At this meeting Councillors will consider whether or not to advise IPART that an application will be prepared and submitted to request a Special Rate Variation.



REMINDER

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) SUBMISSIONS CLOSE AT 4PM TODAY!

If you haven't provided feedback on the proposed SRV yet you have until 4pm TODAY Thursday 31 August 2023.

We want your view on a proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV) by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

Find out more and have your say 🗣️ griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) SUBMISSIONS CLOSE TOMORROW

If you haven't provided feedback on the proposed SRV yet, you still have time.

But hurry, submissions close at 4pm Thursday 31 August 2023 (tomorrow).

We want your view on a proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for approval to raise ordinary rates through a Special Rates Variation (SRV) by 10.5% (inclusive of the assumed 3.0% rate peg) each year for three consecutive years from 2024/25 to 2026/27 (a cumulative total increase of 34.9%). The increase would be retained permanently in Council's rate base.

Find out more and have your say 🗣️ griffith.nsw.gov.au/srvhaveyoursay



Community meetings and information sessions

June – August 2023

Action

Council held seven information sessions. These included two Community Opinion Group (COG) Meetings and five Council Café Information Sessions. Residents and ratepayers were invited to attend to provide feedback.

Council also attended 10 community group meetings where the GM and Mayor gave presentations. These included Griffith Business Chamber, U3A, Rotary Club, Griffith Ladies Probus, Yenda Progress Association & Yenda Rotary, Griffith Lions Club, NSW Farmers, Griffith Rotary & Griffith East Rotary, Griffith Business Group and Griffith Sikh Community. More than 230 people attended these sessions.

Council attended these community meetings and used the presentation to explain the proposed SRV and discuss with residents and ratepayers. An online presentation was also provided where the GM again provided a presentation.

Outcome

Approximately 500 ratepayers participated in community meetings or information sessions.

Community consultation sessions held:

Date	Type	Venue	Time	Numbers	In person / online
17-May-23	SRV Presentation	Facebook online video	5:00 PM	325+	Online presentation
25-May-23	Griffith Business Chamber	Gemini Hotel	6:00 PM	20	In person
5-Jun-23	U3A	Senior Citizens Hall	10:00 AM	22	In person
6-Jun-23	COG Meeting	Yoogali Club	7:00 PM	39	In person
8-Jun-23	GCC Staff	Council Chambers	1:00 PM	70	Online and in person
15-Jun-23	Council Café	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	10 am - 12 pm	22	In person
22-Jun-23	Rotary Club	Griffith	7:00 AM	23	In person
27-Jun-23	Information Session	Griffith City Council	5:00 PM	1	In person
27-Jun-23	Griffith Ladies Probus	Coro Club	10:30 AM	25	In person
3-Jul-23	Yenda Progress Association & Yenda Rotary	Yenda Diggers Club	6:00 PM	30	In person
4-Jul-23	Griffith Lions Club	Leagues Club	6:30 PM	20	In person

Date	Type	Venue	Time	Numbers	In person / online
5-Jul-23	NSW Farmers	Griffith	5:00 PM	10	In person
6-Jul-23	Information Session	Griffith Central Plaza	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	15	In person
20-Jul-23	Council Café	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	10 am - 12 pm	20	In person
26-Jul-23	Griffith Rotary and Griffith East Rotary	Exies Sports Club	7:00 PM	27	In person
28-Jul-23	Griffith Business Group	La Cantina	12:30 PM	25	In person
1-Aug-23	COG Meeting	Hanwood Catholic Club	7:00 PM	80	In person
4-Aug-23	Information Session	Griffith Central Plaza	10 am - 12 pm	30	In person
16-Aug-23	Griffith Sikh Community	Sikh Temple	7pm	20	In person





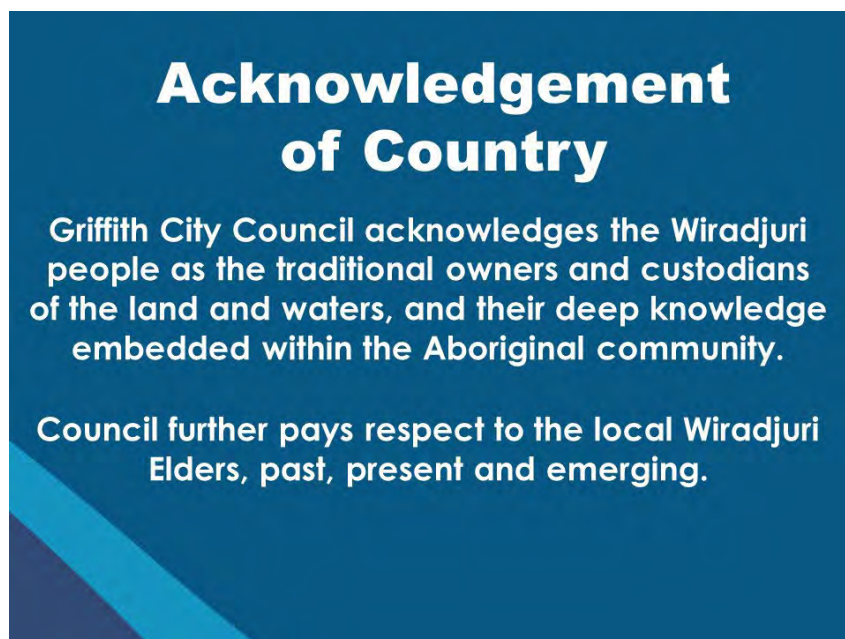




SRV Presentations

At Community Meetings

The following PowerPoint was presented at COG meetings and meetings with community organisations.





Budget Snapshot

- Rate revenue to increase by 3.7% - as per IPART Rate Peg (Approx \$700K)
- Operating Revenue - \$74.3M
- Capital Grants & Contributions - \$5.2M
- Capital Works Program - \$15.2M
- Operating Surplus - \$88K (Consolidated)

Rate impact

- Council can increase its Ordinary Rate revenue by \$716K from 1 July 2023
- There are 11,372 rateable properties in Griffith
- This equates to an average rate increase of approximately \$63 for each property

2023/24 Budget by Fund

General Fund
(including Waste Fund)

(\$3.76M)

Water Fund

\$1.89M

Sewer Fund

\$1.96M

Consolidated Operating
Surplus

\$88K

Brett Vaseby
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





Investment of Reserve Funds

- Council held \$77M of cash and investments as at 30 June 2022
 - Includes \$11M of unexpended grants and loans for capital projects
 - Council held \$66M in reserve for the following funds as at 30 June 2022:
 - Water Fund \$29M
 - Sewer Fund \$18M
 - Waste Fund \$4M
 - General Fund – Restricted * \$6M
 - General Fund – Allocated Reserves \$9M
- * Predominately Developer Contributions

Investment of Reserve Funds

- Council is committed to ensuring that externally restricted funds are used in accordance with legislation.

Major Projects – 2023/24

- Griffin Green – Affordable Housing
- Lake Wyangan Recreation Area Improvement
- Yoogali & Hanwood Flood Levees
- Completion of Yambil Street Redevelopment
- Hanwood Oval Amenities Upgrade
- Memorial Gardens Embellishment
- Mountain Bike Track

Affordable Housing Griffin Green



Partnership with Arygle Housing
20 townhouses and 42 residential blocks of land

Lake Wyangan Recreation Area Improvement \$2.0M

Recreational facilities, public amenities and
green space upgrades

Roads, footpaths and cycleways \$5.3M

Major projects include:

- Boorga Road / Dickie Road
- Citrus & Rifle Road Intersection



Visit griffith.nsw.gov.au/budget for detailed Budget information or to make a submission

**Submissions close
4pm Friday 9 June 2023**

Keep up to date with Council news via the Council Catch Up, our website or Facebook

Proposed Special Rate Variation Commencing 2024/25

Griffith City Council



2011 – 2022: A Decade in Review

- **2011**
 - Very low Reserves - \$14M
 - Deteriorating annual financial results
- **Council response:**
 - Organisational restructure - \$2M annual savings
 - Operating efficiencies. Eg: address leave entitlements, Overtime, Safe work culture
 - Alternative revenue sources identified
 - Annual operating surpluses

2011 – 2022: A Decade in Review

- **Results:**
 - Significant increases in Reserves – 2023 \$66M
 - Numerous additional Facilities
 - Financial capacity to take opportunities and be innovative

New Facilities all within Rate Pegging – Supplemented by Grants

- St Vincent's Private Hospital
- Griffith Regional Sports Centre
- 50 metre outdoor pool
- Griffin Green Affordable Housing Project (in partnership with Arygle Housing)
- CBD Upgrade – Yambil and Kooyoo Streets
- Flood Mitigation Infrastructure
- Griffith Industrial Link Road (North and South) and numerous other road upgrades
- Shared path ways including pedestrian bridges

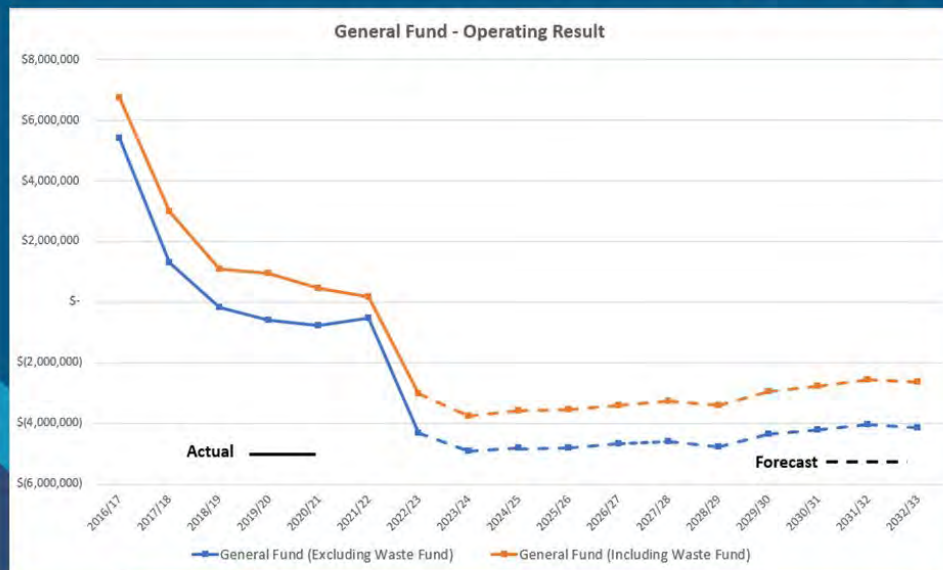
New Facilities - continued

- Two new CBD car parks
- Jubilee Oval amenities block
- New playground equipment
- Two community outdoor performance stages
- Griffith Regional Theatre Upgrade
- Lake Wyangan water circulation project
- Skate Park and Pump Track
- CBD festive lighting, event activation infrastructure (kiosks, seating, light & sound equipment)
- Additional 67+ CCTV cameras in CBD

Current Status

- Operating result deteriorating and unsustainable
- Revenue is not keeping up with inflation, cost shifting and diminishing operating grant funds
- Maintain existing services
- Asset value \$1 Billion – needs to be maintained and replaced

General Fund - Rate Peg Only



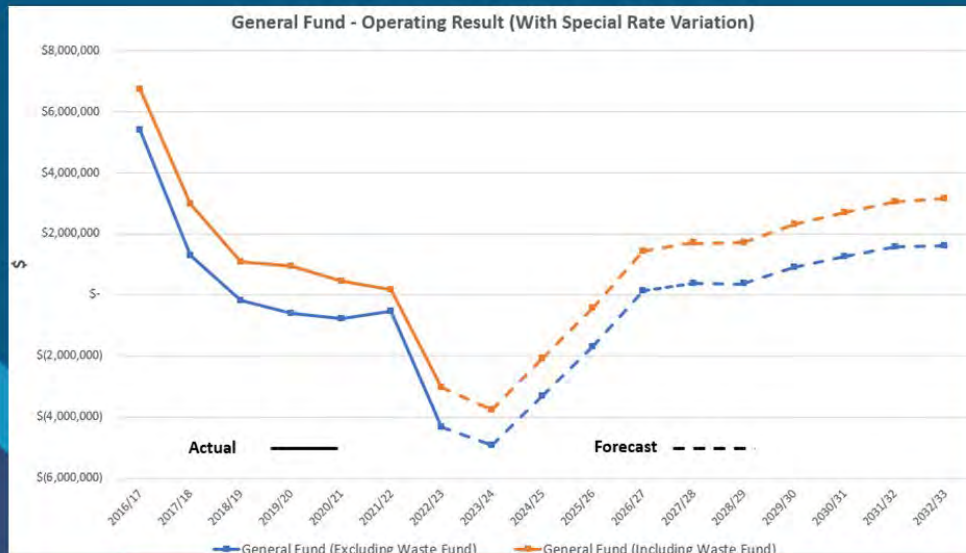
Options

- We need to respond early..... Not “kick the can down the road”
- Council is committed to finding \$1M per year in operational savings....but that will not address the whole challenge
- Option 1 – Special Rate Variation (SRV) plus annual operational savings
- Option 2 – Reduction of Services plus annual operational savings

What is a Special Rate Variation

- Councils in NSW can only increase Rate revenue by the % set by IPART each year. This is known as the Rate Peg. (2023/24 - 3.7%)
- If a Council decides to increase Rate revenue above the Rate Peg they must apply to IPART for a SRV
- If approved by IPART, the SRV will not take effect until 1 July 2024

General Fund – With SRV



Why we need to consider a Special Rate Variation for 2024/25 onwards

- The 2023/24 Budget and future projections clearly demonstrates that the General Fund is financially unsustainable
- The 2023/24 Budget for the General Fund is in deficit by \$3.65M (\$4.94M excluding Waste Fund)

What SRV is proposed?

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Cumulative
Increase including the assumed 3.0% Rate Peg	10.5%	10.5%	10.5%	34.9%

- Special Rate Variation proposed over 3 years - 34.9% cumulative increase (10.5% x 10.5% x 10.5% = 34.9%)
- Permanent – will remain in the rate base in future years

How much will rates change?

Average Rates – Residential *				
Council	2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)	2025/26 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)	2026/27 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)
Griffith	\$1,106	\$1,222	\$1,350	\$1,492
Albury	\$1,493	\$1,538	\$1,584	\$1,632
Wagga Wagga	\$1,236	\$1,274	\$1,312	\$1,351

* Based on Office of Local Government Performance comparative data FY2020/21
Note: 90 of 128 NSW Councils have implemented an approved SRV since 2011

How much will rates change?

Average Rates – Business *				
Council	2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)	2025/26 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)	2026/27 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)
Griffith	\$2,968	\$3,280	\$3,624	\$4,005
Albury	\$6,624	\$6,823	\$7,028	\$7,239
Wagga Wagga	\$6,642	\$6,841	\$7,046	\$7,258

* Based on Office of Local Government Performance comparative data FY2020/21

How much will rates change?

Average Rates – Farmland *				
Council	2023/24 3.7% Rate Peg	2024/25 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)	2025/26 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)	2026/27 10.5% includes assumed 3% Rate Peg (Griffith only)
Griffith	\$4,184	\$4,623	\$5,109	\$5,645
Albury	\$4,724	\$4,866	\$5,012	\$5,163
Wagga Wagga	\$3,074	\$3,166	\$3,261	\$3,359

* Based on Office of Local Government Performance comparative data FY2020/21

Special Rate Variation Process

- 9 May 2023 - Council resolved to make an 'in principle' application for a SRV to IPART
- May to Sep 2023 - Community Consultation
- Oct 2023 - Council resolution – vote to apply or not apply to IPART
- Jan 2024 – Deadline for application to IPART
- Feb 2024 – IPART undertakes community consultation
- May 2024 – Determination by IPART

SRV Community Consultation

Date	Time	Location	Event
6 June 2023	7pm	Yoogali Club	Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
15 June 2023	10am – 12pm	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
27 June 2023	5pm	Council Chambers	Information session
6 July 2023	11.30am -1.30pm	Griffith Central Plaza	Information session
20 July 2023	10am – 12pm	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
1 August 2023	7pm	Hanwood Catholic Club	Community Opinion Group (COG) Meeting
4 August 2023	10am – 12pm	Griffith Central Plaza	Information session

- In addition to the above, the Mayor and GM are available to address individual community organisations. Contact Council 1300 176 077 to arrange.
- Mayor & GM to attend community & business group meetings. (Rotary, Lions, U3A, Business Chamber, NSW Farmers Assoc. etc)
- Council website – information and submissions
- Council social media and newsletters

Online presentation

An online presentation by the General Manager, explaining the background, SRV process and encouraging participation, was available on Council's website and Council's Facebook page.

View the online SRV Presentation here



Staff and Councillor Communication

April, May and June 2023

Action

Councillor Workshops were held to discuss the budget and proposed Special Rate Variation:

- 21 March 2023
- 13 April 2023
- 24 April 2023
- 8 June 2023

An all-staff breakfast barbecue was held on 27 April 2023 where staff were advised the SRV proposal for engagement would be going to Council.

All staff received an email from the GM on 10 May 2023 following the Council Meeting which resolved to consult the community on the proposed SRV.

Follow-up meetings with all staff were held in Council Chambers and online on 8 June 2023 to provide an update on the process.

Outcome

Providing information to staff and Councillors helped to ensure they were equipped to respond to feedback or queries received from the community.



5. Response to Feedback

Throughout the community engagement period, Council responded to concerns raised by the community by:

- addressing questions directly at face to face forums
- written responses to enquiries received by email / letter
- regular updates on Council's website including "Frequently Asked Questions" section.

A report to Council on 24 October 2023 provides responses to the key themes highlighted in the submissions received.

SRV - Frequently Asked Questions from community consultation

1. The Cashflow statement shows that Council will have around \$190M in cash in June 2033. Why is this SRV necessary if Council has so much money in the bank?

Council must restrict funds to the water, sewer and waste areas. It is a legal requirement to do this. Council does not include capital works in the Long-Term Financial Plan for major projects in the outer years as they are not within the Councillors Delivery Program period (ie: 4 years). Council must ensure that it has sufficient cash reserves to fund major future renewal of existing infrastructure and growth for new development.

2. Does this SRV guarantee no future SRVs?

This SRV will allow Council to become financially sustainable in the General Fund to maintain existing services and provide the capability to grow. Future regulation changes, additional State Government cost shifting and future capital works programs as determined by Councillors may influence future SRVs.

3. Will water and other charges increase?

Yes.

4. What services will be impacted?

If a SRV is approved the current level of services will be maintained. If a SRV is not approved, 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.

5. Is the SRV increase permanent or will it wind back after 3 years?

The proposed SRV will increase the rate base annually over the 3-year period of implementation with the third year being 2026/27.

The annual rate base as from the 2027/28 year will increase by the annual rate pegging limit as set by IPART.

6. With the cost of living going up so much now, how can we be expected to manage this increase?

The proposed SRV is not a decision taken lightly. Council recognises the delicate balance between providing essential services, maintaining infrastructure, and ensuring affordability for our residents. Council offers the Pensioner Rebate Scheme, which financially supports this important group in our community. Council also has a Hardship Policy to accommodate the special needs of those unable to pay their rates in full on time. The increase is proposed to come into effect in July 2024 and staged over a 3-year period, recognising the impact and in an effort to minimise this impact as much as possible whilst ensuring Council's financial sustainability.

7. What is Council doing to remediate the situation?

Regardless of whether Council resolves to apply for an SRV, Council's Senior Management Team is committed to finding \$1 million in savings each year starting from 2024/25. This will be achieved by identifying operational efficiencies. Councillors are also being encouraged to identify possible alternate revenue sources and potential saving opportunities.

8. What do land valuations have to do with my rates?

The NSW Valuer General's Office is responsible for the valuation of all rateable land in NSW and is revalued every three (3) years. Rateable land within the Griffith LGA was revalued during 2022 and these values were provided to Council. Council calculates rates using the land value determined for your property plus a base amount.

The land revaluation process does not provide any additional rate revenue for Council. The total increase in rate revenue to Council is capped on an annual basis by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). For the 2023/24 year the rate cap increase is 3.7% above 2022/23 level (ie approx. \$700,000).

Changes to land values will impact the amount of rates payable for individual properties but the total increase in rate income received by Council for the year does not exceed the rate cap as determined by IPART.

Whilst we acknowledge that some individual assessments have moved by much greater than the 3.7% rate pegging figure, many have also increased by less and in fact some assessments have reduced in line with new land valuations.

9. What is the alternative to the proposed rate increases?

Without a Special Rate Variation, Council would need to consider reducing the levels of services provided to the community to save costs. Examples of services that may be impacted include 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.

6. Appendices

1. SRV Community Engagement Plan
2. Submissions Received (redacted)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV)
from 2024/25



Contents

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1 Introduction

The Special Rate Variation (SRV) Community Engagement Plan provides the framework within which Council will engage with the community to ensure Council remains financially sustainable to continue to provide services and infrastructure in the future.

Council undertook intensive community engagement during the preparation of the Griffith City Council Community Strategic Plan (CSP), Delivery Program 2022-2026 / Operational Plan 2022/2023 and the Resourcing Strategy 2022 - 2032.

All community feedback to date indicates that the Griffith community wish to live in a vibrant City with a range of services.

Like many other councils in NSW, Council is facing challenges in maintaining financial sustainability over the long-term. Over the last few months Council has been carefully reviewing its Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP), as well as reviewing operations with a view to continue to improve productivity.

Over the past 10 years Council has worked to identify savings to help ensure Council can operate sustainably and efficiently into the future. Council has resisted applying for an SRV to date, but the rate increases set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) have not kept pace with cost escalations faced by Council in providing services to our community. Cost shifting from other levels of government and diminishing value of annual operating grants over time have also contributed significantly to the pressure on Council's financial position.

The additional funds received through the SRV will increase the money available to address and correct Council's operating position and enable sufficient funds to be available for renewal and maintenance of assets and the continuation of current service levels.

Council's main revenue stream is income from rates. In NSW income from rates is capped each year by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. The mechanism by which a council can increase the rates by more than the cap is through a Special Rate Variation Application (SRV).

For Council to consider the potential preparation of an Application for an SRV in 2024/25 it must be demonstrated that the Council's Community Engagement Plan for the proposed SRV demonstrates an appropriate variety of engagement methods to ensure community awareness and input occurred.

This document sets out the levels and methods of engagement that Council will undertake regarding the proposed SRV.

This Community Engagement Plan outlines the approach, key messages and timeline for community consultation on the potential SRV. This plan has been developed to ensure that it meets the SRV assessment criteria set out by the NSW Office of Local Government, who sets policy and oversees the local government industry, and IPART, who will assess any SRV application submitted. It has also been developed in compliance with Council's Community Engagement and Communications Strategy, as well as the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia Quality Assurance Standard.

Griffith City Council is proposing a Special Rate Variation to fund essential infrastructure and maintain services in the community.

The proposed Special Rate Variation will ensure that the Griffith Local Government Area (LGA) remains a liveable and sustainable community for current and future generations and is structured as follows:

- 10.5% increase 2024/25 (Inclusive of rate pegging increase assumed at 3.0%),
- 10.5% increase 2025/26 (Inclusive of rate pegging increase assumed at 3.0%),
- 10.5% increase 2026/27 (Inclusive of rate pegging increase assumed at 3.0%).

This equates to a cumulative increase of 34.92% over three years.

2 Purpose and goals

The purpose of this plan is to inform and engage the community of the Griffith LGA about the proposed SRV and encourage their input and feedback through community consultation.

The community is to be adequately informed and consulted about the impact of the proposed special rate variation and the impact of not applying for a special rate variation.

The objectives of this community engagement process include:

- To present the proposed SRV
- To identify the impact of the SRV on the average rates across each rating category
- To communicate to the community the timeline and process for any potential SRV application
- To gather and consider the community's feedback to inform Council's final decision on whether and how to move forward with an SRV application.

To ensure Council has been transparent with its community, the following must be explained during the consultation and engagement phase:

- the proposed cumulative SRV rate increases including the rate peg for each major rating category (in both percentage and dollar terms)
- the annual increase in average rates (in both percentage and dollar terms) that will result if the proposed SRV is approved in full (and not just the increase in daily or weekly terms)
- the size and impact on rates where an existing SRV will continue, expire, be renewed or replaced at the end of the current financial year or during the period when the requested SRV will apply
- the rate levels that would apply without the proposed SRV increase, also clearly showing the impact of any expiring SRV
- productivity enhancements or cost containment strategies undertaken by Council and potential alternatives to the SRV.

Council will also show how it has considered and responded to issues of concern within our community as well as the community's capacity and willingness to pay higher rates.

3 Who will we engage

The key impacted ratepayers are those that pay rates in the Griffith City Council Local Government Area (LGA) or are renting property in the LGA where there may be rent increases passed to cover the proposed rate increases fully or partly.

Stakeholder groups have been identified below to ensure that the specific considerations of these groups can be integrated into the community engagement plan.

Stakeholders	Considerations
Community	The proposed SRV is a community wide issue and will impact ratepayers directly.
Elected representatives	Councillors are an important connection point/source with our community.
Council Staff	Staff in most instances are also ratepayers of the Griffith region and as such, are an important connection with our community.

4 Why are we engaging?

Council is proposing to apply to IPART for Special Rate Variation to commence from 2024/25. As part of its application Council needs to demonstrate that it has taken the necessary steps to ensure community awareness and engagement regarding the Special Rate Variation.

Council will ensure that the community has adequate opportunities to consider the proposed SRV increase, to provide feedback to the Council and for Council to consider this feedback.

Council needs to demonstrate it has:

- clearly communicated the full impact of the proposed rate increases to ratepayers
- clearly articulated whether the SV will result in either a temporary or permanent increase in the council's total income
- clearly communicated what the SV would fund
- used an appropriate variety of engagement methods to ensure community awareness and input into the SV process
- made the community aware of the need for and extent of the rate rise.

IPART will assess whether Council's consultation with ratepayers has been effective based on:

- whether an effective variety of engagement methods were used to reach as many ratepayers as possible across all relevant rating categories in order to ensure the community is aware of the need for, and extent of, the proposed rate increases, including its timeliness
- the content of the material used for consultation and its clarity
- whether the opportunities for input and feedback on the proposal made available to the community were effective
- the outcomes from consultation and any council response to community feedback
- how the IP&R documents set out the extent of the requested rate increases.

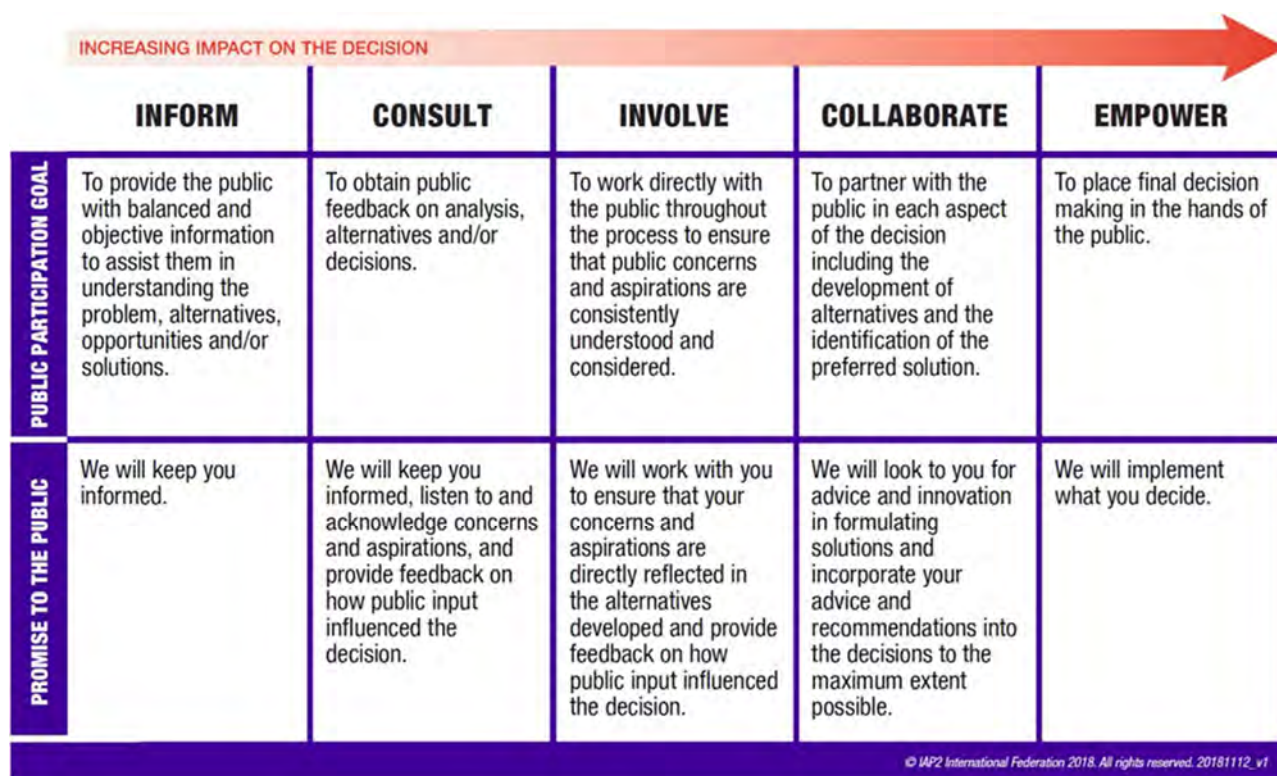
5 What is community engagement?

The level of engagement is defined from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation in the figure below, also included in Council's Community Engagement and Communication Strategy. This spectrum outlines the level of engagement required depending on the purpose and desired outcome of the project.

The Table below outlines the different levels of input and influence the community may have over a particular project. It is our goal to give the people of the Griffith LGA as much say as the legislation, regulation, and practical realities of a given project allow.

For the purpose of the SRV Community Engagement Plan, Council will Inform, Consult, Involve and where possible Collaborate with the identified stakeholders.

Figure 1 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



The diagram illustrates the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation as a progression from left to right, indicated by a large red arrow at the top labeled "INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION". The spectrum consists of five levels: INFORM, CONSULT, INVOLVE, COLLABORATE, and EMPOWER. Each level is associated with a specific public participation goal and a promise to the public.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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6 How and when will we engage?

The SRV Community Engagement Plan below outlines actions and timeframes for engaging the community in the potential application for an SRV from 2024/25.

Inform	Council website Fact sheet Background Rates Estimator Other information including community information sessions Online SRV presentation Frequently Asked Questions	5 June 2023 Updates as required
	Pop-up sessions COG Meetings Council Café Information Sessions with community groups and organisations	6 June 2023 1 August 2023 15 June 2023 27 June 2023 6 July 2023 20 July 2023
	Media Media releases Advertisements – Radio, Local Newspaper, Newsletters	Ongoing throughout consultation phase
	Social media Online presentation Q&A Facebook and Instagram posts Videos	Ongoing throughout consultation phase
	Printed promotional material Fact sheet, flyers, newsletter, rates notices	Ongoing throughout consultation phase
	Email newsletters Council Catch Up Council Capers (staff) Rates notices	Ongoing throughout consultation phase
	Email other Staff Community groups	10 May 2023 Staff email
Consult	Pop-up sessions COG Meetings Council Café Information Sessions with community groups and organisations	6 June 2023 1 August 2023 15 June 2023 27 June 2023 6 July 2023 20 July 2023
	Online community consultation Presentation and Q&A	17 May 2023
	Council website Have your say – online submission Written submissions	5 June 2023
	Hardcopy submission/survey Available at key Council locations	Ongoing throughout consultation phase

Involve	Pop-up sessions COG Meetings Council Café Information Sessions with community groups and organisations	June 2023 1 August 2023 15 June 2023 27 June 2023 6 July 2023 20 July 2023
	Council website Have Your Say – Online Survey Written Submissions	5 June 2023
	Hardcopy Submission/survey at key Council locations	Ongoing throughout consultation phase
Collaborate	Council website Have Your Say – Online Survey Written Submissions	5 June 2023
	Hardcopy Submission/survey at key Council locations	Ongoing throughout consultation phase

7 Methods

Dedicated SRV Webpage

- Develop a webpage dedicated to the Special Rate Variation that provides information on the proposed increase, the infrastructure and services it will fund, and how it will affect ratepayers. Website to outline community information session details, fact sheet, background, online SRV presentation, frequently asked questions and will provide a mechanism for ratepayers to submit feedback and questions. Web page to include Rates Estimator for ratepayers to assess the impact of the SRV on their respective properties .

Informational flyers

- Informational flyer to be mailed to all ratepayers of Griffith and available at community consultation sessions. The flyer will provide information on the Special Rate Variation, its benefits, and how ratepayers can provide feedback.

Council Newsletters

- Council Catch Up, Council Capers (staff newsletter).

Advertisements

- Radio advertisements during consultation phase and regular interviews with Mayor
- Local Newspaper advertisements

Community meetings/information sessions

- Hold a series of community meetings (Community Opinion Group (COG), Council Cafe and other) to inform ratepayers about the Special Rate Variation, answer questions, and gather feedback. The meetings should be held at various times and locations to ensure maximum participation.
- In addition to COG Meetings and Council Café/Information Sessions, Mayor, Councillors and General Manager available to present SRV proposal to community organisations on request.

Social Media

- Use social media channels, such as Facebook and Instagram, to promote the community meetings and encourage ratepayers to provide feedback. Social media should also be used to share updates on the progress of the consultation process.
- Online presentation of SRV proposal.

Council Meetings & Workshops

- Provide regular updates on the consultation process at Council meetings and workshops to ensure that Councillors are informed and can respond to any questions or concerns raised by the community.

Electronic Direct Mail

- (EDM) marketing to advise subscribers of information and updates.
- Internal email to Councillors and staff to inform them of the proposed SRV process.

Consultation summary report:

- Develop a Summary Report that outlines the feedback received from the community during the consultation process. The report should be made available to the public and be transparent about how the feedback was used to inform the final decision.

8 We will have community information sessions

Date	Time	Venue	Consultation type
Tuesday 6 June 2023	7pm	Yoogali Club	COG Meeting
Thursday 15 June 2023	10am - 12noon	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
Thursday 27 June 2023	5pm	Council Chambers	SRV Meeting
Thursday 6 July 2023	11.30am - 1.30pm	Griffith Central	Council Cafe
Thursday 20 July 2023	10am - 12noon	Kooyoo Street Kiosk	Council Cafe
Tuesday 1 August 2023	7pm	Hanwood Catholic Club	COG Meeting
Friday 4 August 2023	10am - 12noon	Griffith Central	Council Cafe

In addition to the above forums, the Mayor and GM will be available to address individual community organisations. Emails to be sent to stakeholder groups.

9 Reporting back and closing the loop

After the community engagement is completed, Council will:

- Collate and analyse what the community told us
- Compile a summary report to present to Council and the community
- Report to Council, including seeking endorsement to apply to IPART for a SRV.
- Inform the community of the Council decision
- Explain how the decision was made and the influence of community input
- Evaluate the engagement process.

The outcome of the community engagement and subsequent relevant decisions will be communicated through a variety of methods including:

- Councillor briefings/workshop
- Council Report and Council Meeting
- Facebook updates and information posted on Council's social media
- Website updates
- Media Releases.

10 Evaluation

To ensure the Community Engagement Strategy – Special Rate Variation is effective in achieving its objectives, a number of indicators will be used to measure success. Council will assess the following:

- Number of people who participated in each engagement pop-up and activity
- Number of enquiries and submissions received (online and otherwise)
- Social media engagement
- Website visits
- Traditional media coverage.

Appendix 2 - Submissions Received

Email Received 19 May 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 May 2023 7:02 PM
To: Brett Stonestreet <Brett.Stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Budget Q & A Response

Dear Mr. Stonestreet,

I listened to your Q & A with Doug Curran this morning and found a number of items that caused me much concern.

Obviously the main concern is the proposed huge rate rise over the next 3 years. For people on fixed income (Pension etc.) this is prohibitive. The Pension goes up by CPI increase and usually the Rates follow. We are prepared for this amount of increase but not an extra 7.5% on top.

You said the iPad rate increase is too low at 3%. I would agree since this is below the CPI. I personally would be OK with a CPI increase of the rates.

You talked about "restructuring" but what does this mean? This means neither saving or spending more money. It is an empty phrase but sounds good. If you mean it as a saving of money please advise the community where you are making such savings.

I understand the regulated process Council must follow before you are allowed to implement such a huge rate increase, and I look forward to Council holding "lengthy and detailed Community Consultation". As a ratepayer, I cannot believe the people of this community will allow you to let this increase become a reality.

You spoke of SRV savings.....what is SRV?

You tried to placate us by comparing us to both Wagga and Albury council ratings. We are Griffith and not interested in those cities, both of which are so much bigger than Griffith. There is no comparison to be made here.

You mentioned the new Stadium costing us 3 wages now instead of the 1 we paid prior to the new works being completed. This particular facility should be paying its own way. The Stadium is something Griffith can be very proud of but every person using it pays a fee. The regular sporting events every weekend, not to mention the area's events/competitions now being held, should ensure that the stadium is self-sufficient. Certainly when the track needs upgrading every 3 years, Council may have to help fund this if required.

The Saleyards and Airport are both income earners for Council. I'm unsure if the Showgrounds Caravan Park actually makes money but it certainly has the potential to do so.

You mentioned that the main sources of Council income are from Rates and DA applications. Also the sale of water in dry years. Surely these income areas should be enough to fund the regular works of Council.

A way of "saving" ratepayers money would be for works such as the "mess" Kooyoo Street is still in, would be to have all such works done by Contractors where they would be held to account

for lateness or they would be penalized. No Contractor wants to be in a position where they are late and hence it costs them money.

One thing you failed to mention is that the Council wishes to build a bigger and better Art Gallery. Is this the main reason for the huge increase in rates? If so, then I would argue against it. Firstly the Art Gallery does not bring any income into Council coffers. It is nice to have such a Gallery but it is seldom used. Often I find I am the only person visiting the Gallery. It is poorly utilized by our community and must be a drain on Council (ratepayers) funds. The art exhibitions displayed are good but our people don't appear to be very interested. Such a Gallery is a "feel good" proposition for those very few who are asking for it. A new building will not entice more people to visit the exhibitions.

In general, I would commend our Council and all it does to promote tourism. Without this we would be just another country town "out west".. As it is, we have become a place people want to visit. Our festivals bring people to Griffith.

However, on a sad note, I have heard folk mention taking visitors to the Lake Wyangan picnic park and how disappointed they have been. Council keeps it well mown but there is nothing there for us to have visitors or children to enjoy. I'm not sure what can be done about this area, but it is a lovely parkland which needs extensive planning to make it more attractive for both townspeople and visitors. If Council is looking for a project perhaps Council could look at this area. We already own it but it needs some clever planning to make it a great tourist place.

Thank you for taking time to read my very long answer to your Q & A with the Mayor.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Subject:ATTENTION: Doug Curran re Q&A

Date:Fri, 19 May 2023 11:22:28 +1000

From [REDACTED]

To:admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Dear Doug,

I have grown up in Griffith and have returned after 25yrs away living in various places around the country. I do not align myself with a political party as I take things on merit and logic and observation. So please don't read this thinking I have an agenda beyond making Griffith a better and more prosperous town. I come from a family of town living farmers. I lived and worked in cities and regional communities before coming back to Griffith.

Thank you for streaming the Q&A on the budget trying to justify the rate increases. I am writing this as you asked for feedback or concerns....

A few points/questions:

1. The GM mentioned overtime requirements for the Council Workers to meet targets. - Why? From what I've witnessed the Council Workers have not been motivated or pushed with any urgency to actually work quickly during the week. The amateurish skills of the workers shows in the quality of the work completed. The lack of accountability or proper management of the labourers/staff on the ground is where I see the town failing. (This is a generalisation as I know that you do have some staff that work hards but the majority take their time)

eg. **Situation 1:** the waste on time and money on Lavender Bend.

Solution 1: Why not use Contracting companies and hold them to account for targets set. This takes the responsibility off the council workers and if the project goes over schedule OR over budget OR has defects it falls to the contractor to either absorb all additional costs. From the contractors point of view they can not afford to have slow and unprofessional workers as they will be the ones punished for a poor performance.

Situation 2: The maintenance of the arbours in the main street - on many occasions there have been a team of 4 men around the arbour out the front of the store with one man trimming the vines while 3 others stand around and talk for an hour.....

Solution 2: Have a dedicated team of two to do the trimming and maintain the main street so the other team of two can go and look after another park somewhere else.

I'm sure I could come up with more but you examples but these are the easiest to explain of late.

2. If the budget has been subsidised by the sell of of water for years, how can anyone be surprised that the lake is in such poor health. In any natural hydro-system the key to keeping down the existence of algae is to oxygenate the water and the natural way to do this is a variety of plants. The plants clean the water from toxins which will include any fuel or pollution from the boat club usage(I'm sure you've already know this). The Lake used to be a beautiful place to be but the entire area is so neglected.

Question : Has there been any research into increasing the variety of plants in the lake to try and keep the water healthier? I acknowledge that the Speed Boat club is there and need area to play and

fish but the lake is plenty big enough for them to play. They can't swim in the water anyway due to the toxicity warnings so any argument from the Clubs should be minimised with logic.

3. The GM says he has done "re-structuring in the council to save money " but he never actually mentioned what/how?

4. As the population in all areas (farmers losing crops, retail being very slow due to less discretionary funds, everyone else is struggling with the essentials of food and fuel costs) are hitting hard times. How does the council exec's expect the public to be able to handle such a cash grab? I think the council should have a close look at what the community NEEDS versus WANTS at this stage as the next couple of years are going to be very tough financially for the majority of people. eg. the festivals are a necessity as they are a big part of the Griffith Identity but things like a new art gallery in not a necessity (maybe an upgrade or extension of the existing build would be sufficient)

The inflation and interest rates are going to bite hard and take some time to settle down. It will also take time for the farming community to recover from the natural damage done through 2022-23.

I ask that you remember "that without water, there is no life" we need both, we do not need unmotivated staff or frivolous luxuries. When times are good, yeah no problem we can afford to but we are NOT headed for good times!

I look forward to hearing your feedback. Feel free to give me a call if you prefer.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](https://www.paperform.com.au)
To: admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Griffith Community Feedback - 647b314fc1c48a5f0405edcc
Date: Saturday, 3 June 2023 10:26:08 PM

Griffith City Council - Community Feedback

Submitted At

2023-06-03 12:25:51

Name

[REDACTED]

What is your address?

[REDACTED]

What is your email?

[REDACTED]

What is your telephone number

[REDACTED]

Please provide your comments or feedback

I wish to provide comment on Griffith City Council's draft Operation Plan (budget) for 2023/24 financial year. I wish for the below to be a formal submission in response to CLO1 agenda item.

I congratulate Council on managing the Operational Plan and Delivery plan over the last three years. During this time there has been significant infrastructure projects to oversee, the impacts of covid, increased building materials costs and budget constraints.

It is ironic that council cites cost shifting by the State Government for impacting the deterioration of the general fund, yet through the Special Rate Variation proposal, Council will be doing just that to its community.

Make no mistake, every person who lives in Griffith will be impacted by this decision, if approved by IPART. Some of our most vulnerable members of our community such as pensioners (6,145 people in the Griffith LGA), First Nations (1,436 – 674 dwellings) and people on Jobseeker (839). Griffith has a low unemployment rate, however Profile ID (2021 figures) show that there are 5,847 people were not in the labour force, with 249 looking for full time work and 177 people looking for part-time work, these people will also be impacted.

A recent study commissioned by GCC highlighted that 10% of Griffith's residents were homeless and more than 10% were living marginally. I am concerned that the SRV proposal will see a marked rise in homelessness in Griffith and families pushed out of the rental market.

The SEIFA Index for Griffith LGA (2021) shows Lake Wyangan and Nericon had the lowest level of disadvantage with a score of 1,049, followed closely by Yoogali, Bilbul and Widgelli. Will Council make special allowances for these people and our most vulnerable? A payment plan is not really a targeted plan for those who are struggling on a daily basis to live.

Profile id states that 10.8% of Griffith's households with a mortgage were making high loan repayments of \$2,600 per month (2021 data), and 192 households making mortgage payments of \$3,000 up to \$5,000 per month. The SRV will place huge pressure on these families and we could see people default on their mortgages and lose their homes.

Given the current cost of living crises where cost increases are beyond everyone's control, including ten consecutive rate rises since June 30, the SRV will be another imposed cost that will have an impact on every person in Griffith, rate payers, renters, commercial and farmland will all be impacted and be paying more.

The recent announcement by the Australian Government that 2.5m Australian will be awarded a 5.74% pay increase and those on an award wage will increase to 8.6%, is welcome news for those people on minimal wages. Spare a thought, however for local businesses who like Council, are constrained by increased costs and customers who are not prepared to pay more for their goods and services. How will they absorb this as well as a SRV rental increase?

I am concerned that the special rate variation will place too much strain on households, this will filter through every part of our community with people reigning in their spending. The citrus and wine grape growers have been in a depressed state for a number of years. Last year's La Nina weather events decimated many of these primary producers crops and they will struggle to make any money over the next few years. It is these land owners that will be impacted most by the SRV, the increase will see Griffith's rates surpass that of its regional city neighbours Wagga and Albury.

Commercial property rates are set to double. This will likely be passed on and will threaten the retail and wholesale sectors, pushing many businesses to the brink and forcing businesses to close. This is not the way forward in creating a fair, prosperous and economically viable regional centre.

How will this assist in attracting new industries and businesses to Griffith or land developers? This proposal is an anti-economic development strategy.

The proposed SRV of 10.5% over three years (34.92%) is not viable and unrealistic in this high cost of living environment. Council will need to seriously consider the infrastructure projects it is set to deliver and potentially have to make some tough decisions on the "good to have projects" over "essential infrastructure projects".

I would hate to see a staff restructure impact council jobs and services and feel the new recreational infrastructure projects, whilst brilliant facilities, have placed an enormous burden on Council and now the community.

I realise that Council only wanted to hear feedback regarding the Operational Plan, but how can you separate the SRV from the Operational Plan given that the proposal forms the basis of the Operational Plan and a plan to bolster the General Fund?

I can understand the situation that Council is in, however the cost shifting by the state government has been creeping in for the past ten years, covid has obviously had an impact that was unforeseen, as well as last years' La Nina rain events on our roads. Council has surely known the General Fund has been vulnerable for the past few years, this cannot come as a shock. Why then, this aggressive proposal, when Council could have been implementing small incremental

changes over the past few years. I strongly urge Council to reconsider the proposal options to enable the community to be able to meet the financial changes at a pace that is sustainable for all.

Submission ID

647b314fc1c48a5f0405edcc

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 00:25:44

Your Name



Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I don't agree with the proposal.

Submission ID

648120086ee94e03390cb237

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 00:46:05

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I agree with the proposed rate increases as I think it is important that Council remain viable. I do think that cost saving initiatives should be researched and implemented as a priority though. Eg. Further reduction to Councillor numbers from 9 to 7. All Councillors and council staff would to be lead by example.

Submission ID

648124cd93fa7169d80276ea

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 01:16:38

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Do not recommend a rate increase at this time given cost of living expenses

Submission ID

64812bf6f4c367f45808fd85

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 01:20:56

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I do not support the rate increase councils proposing.

Submission ID

64812cf84d244f14a80f7d9f

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 01:21:07

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

i do not support the rate increase the council are proposing.

Submission ID

64812d03b2020977c0055e39

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 01:57:19

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Do not implement this SRV, cost of living has increased enough recently and we don't need this extra cost.

Submission ID

6481357f34acf3bd990fdaf0

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 05:57:54

Your Name**Your email?****Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?**

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I am in support for this application

Submission ID

64816de2a66f0b9b5a03c158

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-08 23:31:26

Your Name**Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?**

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Submission ID

648264cec81e96d942073845

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-09 02:01:24

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I do not agree with the rate rises. There is already way too much pressure on households financially and these rate rises are extreme. Better utilisation of the council workforce to perform other tasks during wet weather instead of sitting in trucks would be a great start

Submission ID

648287f49bfc1b327207a09b

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-09 05:18:35

Your Name

Shane Scott

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The community as a whole is struggling to live comfortably with increased interest rates and cost of living. To ask for 10.5% increase in rates for 3 years running is absolutely ridiculous. The flow on effect will be crippling to many. This will all need to be passed on from businesses, land owners and in my case to my rental tennant on top of all the other increasing bills. The only suggestion I have, Start spending OUR money more wisely in future.

Submission ID

6482b62b7948b005b40524ae

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-09 06:35:13

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I do not agree with the rate increase, there is far too much money wasted by council now

Submission ID

6482c821c404393f210cbfb2

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-09 10:37:16

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I disagree with the special rate variation increase

Submission ID

648300dc4e25459a7808ad82

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-13 01:38:51

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Yes, if and when inflation drops 30% are you going to drop our rates back? I don't think so..

Submission ID

6487c8ab298bc0377a0f9e60

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-13 01:54:05

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I understand that Council is reviewing services with a view to finding additional savings and efficiencies. Overall, I think the SRV is a sensible approach in that Council is not waiting until the situation is worse and would require having to impose even greater rate rises on ratepayers.

Submission ID

6487cc3d028945df8e00d7ca

Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-13 22:31:46

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Submission ID

6488ee52e2e795f9a80d5c85

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-14 09:10:43

Your Name

Carl Chirgwin

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

With all our gardens in our city and this rate rise, surely we could have 'Green Sulo' bins put in place? We claim to be the Festival of the Gardens hot spot but our council does not do any green waste management

Submission ID

64898413c19e5ae593045934

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-14 10:02:20

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I find this proposal ridiculous, if the council is struggling financially, maybe you should consider other options first and put forward other options to the rate payers. We are all struggling at the moment and decreasing the council spending rather than increasing rates should be your priority not making the community struggle more.

Submission ID

6489902c1103681766083cf5

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:33:21

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Understand that it is necessary.

Submission ID

648a7871758d64e9b50baadb

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:34:41

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Never want to pay more, but understand the need with rising costs.

Submission ID

648a78c162d5d82c8a0604ec

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:35:36

Your Name**Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?**

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

No

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I suppose if everything is going up - rates will have to as well.

Submission ID

648a78f8aaca3a2b49075f2b

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:36:11

Your Name**Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?**

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I think its a decent idea to keep things going.

Submission ID

648a791b8295e8382f0739f5

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:37:31

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Understand an SRV is necessary, everything else is going up.

Submission ID

648a796b2da79f123d03c06a

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:38:30

Your Name

Katie Dean

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

A smaller increase would be better. A lot of families are struggling. 5% would be more reasonable instead of 7.5%.

Submission ID

648a79a6a46277c4610530f4

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:40:23

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I'm not in agreeance with the proposed rate rises.

Submission ID

648a7a17d5cad8776304ad1e

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:41:45

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Look at Senior Management Wages before rate rises. Community Can not afford more increases. More new homes - 250 / year plus will solve rate budget. Essential services - road, rate, rubbish & water before niceties - art gallery etc.

Submission ID

648a7a69aaca3a2b49075f3d

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:42:21

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

No rate rise.

Submission ID

648a7a8d54301501e20560a5

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:43:11

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

No rate rise. Need Council Manager that understands on how to run Council for the benefit of both Council and the ratepayers.

Submission ID

648a7abf6d83ef83ce089db3

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-15 02:43:40

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Keep the rates as they are.

Submission ID

648a7adc60f6bd32a801baf1

From: [REDACTED]
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Subject: Rate objection
Date: Friday, 16 June 2023 7:27:34 PM

Just sending my objection to a rate rise and my reasons are...I live 5kms from Griffith close to yoogali. I have no tar road, I have no guttering, I have no town water, I have a septic tank and I have to take my bin in the back of a ute 1km to tar road to be picked up.
Thanks [REDACTED]

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-19 11:31:16

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Voting no, residents are already facing significant cost of living restraints

Submission ID

64903c8452f930345607a163

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-22 23:39:56

Your Name

Bill Lancaster

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

In 2008 Council faced the same dilemma, that is that expenses were threatening to overtake income. At that time Council commissioned a review of its staff and found that it was top heavy , that is there were too many senior positions and middle management staff. In addition Council was undertaking Community projects that were the responsibility of other levels of Government. As a result , over a period of time, one of the 5 Directors positions was abolished, some middle management positions

abolished and other initiatives taken to reduce administration costs. On the face of it since that time staff numbers have crept up again, senior positions have been created and there appears to be excessive numbers of middle management persons, and insufficient workers, gardeners, compliance officers etc. Other savings could be made if Council would desist from awarding Councillors extra payments over the base rate for their Councillor allowance. Each year the Tribunal sets a base rate for payment of a Councillors allowance. But it allows individual Council to set a higher rate where Council considers it suitable. Griffith Council consistently determines that its Councillors should be paid more than the base rate that applies to all Councillors in similar Councils across the state. In fact normally determines that they be paid the maximum amount, but never gives a reason why, so far as I am aware there has never been any attempt made by Council to determine if Griffith should pay extra, and if so how much extra. . This is only 2 instances where responsible administration would save excessive spending, A full review would undoubtedly show more.

Submission ID

6494dbccd978b01c7706035d

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-25 08:53:18

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The information given shows Griffith City Council saving one million give or take annually from the work the it performs. This does not justify increasing rates by 30% over three years. As a rate payer, I have not been shown any financial information to indicate GCC is at risk of needing to lower services. Furthermore,What guarantees will the Council offer IN WRITING to the ratepayer regarding exactly how this increase will be used. You have indicated roads, infrastructure and local services would need

reduction if the rate is not introduced, so what increases will we see if the rates are? What roads are going to be maintained? What maintenance plan does the council plan to show the public for this increase? The reality is that council have pet projects they want to see started. At the detriment of infrastructure that is poorly maintained. Will they guarantee no money from the rate hike will be used for these projects? Overall this is completely ludicrous. Absolutely zero transparency and expecting community support? No.

Submission ID

6498007e04e31a0cb403ae23

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-25 09:12:20

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Generally I am not in support of the huge rate rise. It is still unclear what the extra money is to be used for and why the Council is unable to generate the funds. With interest rate rises and cost of living pressures, the timing is incredibly challenging for many households. It would be appreciated if clear information was given on what the funds will be spent on, as council funds projects that don't have broad community support or involve limited consultation. It's also hard to see why Council needs it with

its current profits and savings, and that there is no guarantee it will be spent on maintenance and not pet projects.

Submission ID

649804f429ff433c6f022328

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-26 01:20:20

Your Name

Kirst

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Do not increase. We already pay high levies for nothing. The roads are shit

Submission ID

6498e7d495c2e786cb0ccdf3

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-26 02:13:11

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Why I don't understand with all that's is happening at the moment

Submission ID

6498f437dd96a3b28d016747

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-27 05:46:38

Your Name

Concerned Council Staff Member

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

It's quite disappointing that certain Councillors would rather a group of Council staff lose their jobs than to share the burden across the whole community. From all information that I have viewed it seems that the average increase will be \$2.50 a week. If Council services are cut families could be losing their entire incomes. If a private enterprise business was cutting 20 to 30 jobs the community would be outraged and Council would be called on to help in some way. Council staff are also a part of the community and rate payers!

Submission ID

649a77bec385980c2a04302a

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-27 08:44:45

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I totally disagree with the proposed rule are variation. It's disgraceful poor financial management by the council who requires that type of increase. Council needs to tighten its expenditure and have better financialManagement. Everyone is feeling the inflation cost pressure, but do like the rest of the community and tighten your expenditure.

Submission ID

649aa17d61c09a144e06d4a6

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-06-27 12:41:20

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Council needs to have an independent reveiw on the councils current personal spending, legal matters , staff turnover , project blow outs , water trading before asking us rate payers to contribute to councils failures . Untill this time I can not support any increase.

Submission ID

649ad8f0554807fc39059a54

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-03 19:34:46

Your Name

Milt MacFarlane

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

No

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Submission ID

64a29636adb704b5b0058670

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-03 09:50:13

Your Name

Milt MacFarlane

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

No

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

As per your Q&A here you've said "If a SRV is approved the current level of services will be maintained. If a SRV is not approved, examples of community facilities that may have reduced hours are the Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre," with that threat looming you still seem fit enough to raise entry prices 40% this financial year to \$7 this is despicable and as such your Special Rate Variation should be thrown out

Submission ID

64a299d57e4d3217500e8cba

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-04 06:28:07

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I strongly opposed to rate variation and know there are many avenues for cost cutting and revenue rising. staff cutting, cut back on councillors wishes like cycling track from griffith to handwood (i have not seen mant walking or cycling on it, rose garden near to information centre, art gallery. council need to take a hard stand to not only to pleased their councillors wish and waste rate payers money.)

Submission ID

64a3bbf739c66f1c6b078c75

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-06 06:20:33

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Please do not raise our rates. Desparate times at present times, because everything is going up. Don't join the bandwagon.

Submission ID

64a65d315d2f11e1b402345f

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-06 06:21:20

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I prefer instalment method over 3 years.

Submission ID

64a65d60fd29ba0f52056456

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-06 06:26:50

Your Name

Mark Dal Bon

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

"No" Don't agree with it. People are doing it hard enough without extra "costs" eg farmers and pensioners.

Submission ID

64a65eaab6c630de60062f40

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-06 06:27:46

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

i don't want to see this SRV proposal go ahead - too much strain, especially for pensioners.

Submission ID

64a65ee28a61a40c48069350

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-06 06:28:27

Your Name

Kevin Pittavino

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Efficiencies should be sought but not service cuts.

Submission ID

64a65f0b89699347ee096afb

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-09 23:39:46

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The community facilities identified as requiring reduced hours if the SRV is not implemented are renowned for costing council (rate payers) money. Reduce their hours and service delivery regardless. Perhaps then the SRV increase won't need to be so much. Justifying facilities and positions like these won't get rate payers on side. With the current cost of living crisis - the last thing I'm worried about is if Pioneer Park has to close earlier than usual.

Submission ID

64ab454203a06974d602012d

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-10 19:24:21

Your Name

Griffith Business Chamber

Your email?

president@griffithbusinesschamber.com.au

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

No

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Due to the size of our submission, we have separately emailed it to Mayor Doug Curran and General Manager Brett Stonestreet. Please confirm whether there is another way for us to lodge our submission.

Submission ID

64ac5ae5edd3ccab8605a9a2

Griffith Business Chamber
PO BOX 93

Griffith NSW 2680

info@griffithbusinesschamber.com.au

www.griffithbusinesschamber.com.au

6 July 2023

Mr Doug Curran
Griffith City Council
1 Benerembah Street
Griffith NSW 2680
CC: Brett Stonestreet

By email: dcurran@griffith.com.au;
Brett.Stonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor Curran,

Proposed Special Rate Variation

We refer to Griffith City Council's proposed application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (**IPART**) for a special rate variation (**SRV**).

At the outset, the Chamber affirms the importance of the Council generating a sufficient surplus in order to maintain local government services, which is a key ingredient for social and economic wellbeing, as well as business confidence. However, the Chamber considers that the proposed SRV also has the potential to diminish economic activity at a time of reduced business confidence. The Chamber submits that:

- a) Council should consider alternatives in combination with the proposed SRV, including measures to reduce operational costs and further revenue streams; and
- b) If Council does determine to apply for the SRV, that a substantially lower increase be introduced (supported by reduced operational costs and further revenue streams) and over a single year rather than compounded over three years.

Council resolution

At its Ordinary Meeting on 9 May 2023, Council proposed that an SRV of 7.5 percent per year be introduced over three years, commencing in FY 2024/25.¹ Assuming an IPART-pegged increase of 3 percent per year, the proposed SRV would amount to a 10.5 percent

¹ Griffith City Council, Ordinary Meeting Business Paper, 9 May 2023, Clause CL01, Recommendation (c) (adopting Scenario 3), page 16: https://businesspapers.griffith.nsw.gov.au/Open/2023/05/CO_09052023_AGN_2760_AT.PDF (accessed 29 June 2023) (**Council Business Paper**).

increase to rates per year over three years,² or a cumulative increase of 34.92 percent.³ In adopting that proposal, Council declined to endorse alternatives of an increase over a single year (of 23 percent increase in FY 2024/25) or increases over two years (of 14 percent in FY 2024/25 and 13 percent in FY 2025/26) (both inclusive of the rate-pegged increase of three percent).⁴

SRV rationale

As detailed in Council's Business Paper,⁵ the rationale for the SRV is the deterioration of the operational budget for the General Fund (excluding the Waste Fund) which is forecast to be in deficit by \$4.94 million in FY 2023/24. Council explains that this deterioration was caused by:

- a) Increased costs, largely due to inflation (noting the Consumer Price Index increase of 7 percent over twelve months to March 2023)⁶ and cost-shifting by the NSW government; and
- b) Decreased / constrained revenue, arising from the decreased real value of federal untied grants over time, rate-pegging by IPART (which the Council has described as 'unsustainable'),⁷ and precipitated by the recent decrease in the value of temporary water sales by Council of town water (due to unseasonably wet weather over the past two years).

Importance of maintaining local government services

The Chamber accepts that Council is being expected to deliver increased services over time, with decreased revenue. As noted above, the Chamber also considers that local government services contribute significantly to the social and economic health of Griffith, and thereby assist with worker attraction, retention and business confidence. It also enables Council to maintain a nimble outlook and take advantage of federal and state funding opportunities, which often require co-contributions from local government.

Business confidence

Nevertheless, the SRV proposed is significant and would be imposed in the context of other increases to the cost of doing business, including sustained increases in interest rates, wage growth, increases in insurance and workers compensation premiums, energy price spikes

² Council Business Paper, page 24.

³ Griffith City Council, Media Release, 'Griffith City Council Seeks Support For Special Rate Variation', 2 June 2023; <https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/griffith-city-council-seeks-support-for-special-rate-variation> (accessed 28 June 2023).

⁴ Scenarios 1 and 2; Council Business Paper, page 24.

⁵ Council Business Paper, page 19.

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Consumer Price Index, March 2023; <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release> (accessed 5 July 2023).

⁷ Council Business Paper, page 21.

(with electricity costs for small businesses increasing by between approximately 20 to 25 percent from 1 July 2023)⁸ and increased freight costs.

The June 2023 Business Confidence Report prepared by Business NSW⁹ indicates that the 'Business Confidence Index has slipped to a level near its all-time low' of -70.8 as 'businesses are hampered by the high cost of doing business and waning customer demand'.¹⁰ That low is significant, given that previous similar lows occurred during COVID-19 lockdowns.¹¹ The Report also indicates that the Riverina and agriculture is expecting a short-term deterioration of business confidence (although manufacturing is expecting a rebound,¹² and Griffith usually outperforms other areas of the Riverina).¹³ The timing of the proposed SRV increase (for FY 2024/25) is also critical – it may coincide with a further deterioration in business confidence and economic activity.

We note that the Chamber will be running a Business Survey in conjunction with Council from October to December 2023, which will be open to all local businesses and will provide a further indication of business confidence, among other matters.

Alternatives to be considered in combination with the SRV

In the context of the above, the Chamber submits that Council should consider revenue raising alternatives in combination with the proposed SRV, as well as ways to reduce operational costs. Most businesses and other organisations are currently considering ways to reduce operational costs (particularly by adopting renewable energy settings). We submit that Council is also well positioned to cautiously monetise some of the services which it currently provides.

Chamber has received feedback from members proposing the following ways in which it could reduce operational costs and raise further operational revenue:

- a) Introducing renewable energy infrastructure, e.g. solar panels on government-owned buildings, carparks etc, solar-powered light-poles etc;
- b) Increasing rent for leases and licences of Crown land to commercial rates (if possible);
- c) Increasing rent for leases and licences for Council-owned land to commercial rates, considering more commercial uses of such land, and the sale of land which is not required for current or future Council services;

⁸ Australian Energy Regulator, Media Release, 'AER Releases Final Determination for 2023-24 Default Market Offer'; <https://www.aer.gov.au/news-release/aer-releases-final-determination-for-2023%E2%80%9324-default-market-offer> (accessed 5 July 2023).

⁹ Business NSW, Business Conditions Report, June 2023; <https://www.businessnsw.com/advocacy/surveys/business-conditions-surveys/june-2023-business-conditions-survey> (accessed 29 June 2023) (**Business Conditions Report**).

¹⁰ Business Conditions Report, page 3.

¹¹ Business Conditions Report, page 5.

¹² Business Conditions Report, pages 7 and 8.

¹³ The 2022 Murray-Darling Basin Social and Economic Conditions Report detailed that Griffith had the highest level of confidence within the Basin, at 4.78 out of 7: Murray Darling Basin Social and Economic Conditions Report, page 19 (<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/mdba-reports/murray-darling-basin-social-economic-conditions-report> (accessed 29 June 2023)).

- d) Harnessing Council's skilled workforce to provide services to other councils on a fee-for-service basis, including civil, plumbing and electrical services; and
- e) Introducing paid parking for the Griffith City Airport.

We note that Council has already shown leadership in this space, e.g. by lobbying for and implementing the temporary trading of town water. The Chamber submits that Council should go further: it should emulate the entrepreneurial spirit of the city and region it represents. While Council may not be able to completely off-set its revenue losses by adopting measures such as the above, as the saying goes: 'if you can't make one-hundred dollars, then make one dollar in one-hundred ways'.

We understand that Council has also already undertaken to find \$1 million in efficiency measures, but that those measures have not yet been publicised. While being mindful not to reduce Council services, the Chamber encourages Council to review its operations on a departmental basis to consider where efficiencies could be obtained, noting that, while the Chamber does not have a fixed view about restructuring or outsourcing, it should be considered. The Chamber would also encourage Council to approach other councils for further examples of how to reduce costs and introduce alternative revenue streams.

Government loans and reasons for optimism

The Chamber also considers that there are reasons for Council to be more optimistic in its budgetary outlook, noting the likely increases in revenue from temporary water sales (an El Nino event is now predicted as being 70 percent likely),¹⁴ increases in revenue arising from the release of new rateable lots, and possible increases in pegged rates, as well as untied federal grants, noting the change in federal government.

The Chamber also considers that it is not unusual for government (and businesses) to experience periodic budgetary deficits, and understands that it is usually possible for government to access loans at below-market interest rates to buttress such periods. For example, the Chamber would encourage the Council to consider accessing loans to invest in infrastructure that might enable a decrease in operational costs (such as renewable energy infrastructure) or to take out loans to cover for likely temporary decreases in revenue (such as revenue from water sale). By accessing such loans, Council may also be able to be more flexible in terms of the timing of any SRV increase – e.g. if there was a severe deterioration in economic conditions in FY 2024/25, a loan could be considered in lieu of the immediate implementation of SRV, which could be postponed to a later date.

Chamber's proposal

If the above cost-cutting and revenue raising measures are planned for and implemented, the Chamber considers that a significantly lower SRV would be feasible, which would be less likely to negatively impact on business confidence. The Chamber also encourages Council to

¹⁴ Bureau of Meteorology, ENSO Outlook, 4 July 2023; <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/outlook/> (accessed 5 July 2023).

introduce a single (lower) increase, similar to Scenario 1 in its Business Paper,¹⁵ rather than the proposed increase over three years.

By introducing a single increase, Council will receive the benefit of the rate increase sooner, which could also justify a lower SRV in of itself (in addition to cost-saving and revenue-raising measures). In Chamber's opinion, a single increase is preferable for business, as the proposed SRV over three years will lead to an overall higher SRV (due to compounding) and will prolong the impacts of the increase in rates, potentially diminishing or delaying any rebound in business confidence.

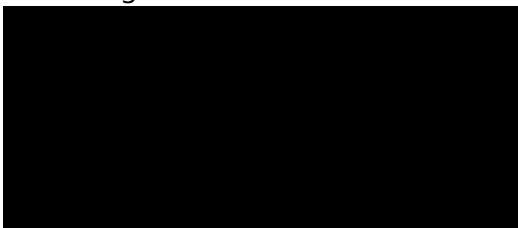
Next steps

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to discuss the SRV with the Mayor and General Manager at the Chamber meeting on 25 May 2023, and to provide this submission.

The Chamber requests that Council model a single lower SRV, accounting for the impact of the immediate receipt of higher rates, and for potential cost saving and revenue-raising opportunities, as detailed above. The Chamber also requests that the Chamber be provided with that modelling, as well as any long-term forecasts that it has already prepared.

The Chamber would welcome a further discussion about the issues raised above.

Kind regards,



John Nikolić

President

Griffith Business Chamber

president@griffithbusinesschamber.com.au

0413 978 387

¹⁵ Council Business Paper, Scenario 1, page 24.

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-11 05:14:26

Your Name

Helen Dalton MP

Your email?

murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Attachments to your submission

- [230710 HD8080 Special Rates Variation.pdf](#)

Submission ID

64ace5323943a7f7fb07505b



Helen Dalton MP

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MURRAY



10th July 2023

Ref: HD8080

Griffith City Council
1 Benerembah Street
Griffith NSW 2680

Dear Mayor Curran

I am writing to you regarding Griffith City Council's proposed application for a Special Rates Variation. Several constituents along with the Griffith Progress Association have contacted me expressing concerns about the extent of proposed rate increases at this time, and the need for a Special Rates Variation given the overall financial position of the Council, which I am advised is positive.

From the correspondence to, and conversations with my office, it is apparent to me that the application for a Special Rates Variation should be a measure of the last resort for any financial challenges the Council is experiencing.

Rather it appears to be now, a measure by the Council of the first resort.

The Griffith Progress Association (GPA) has corresponded with me on this issue, and it believes the case made by the Council for a rate rise is disproportionate, given the Council's financial position.

Further the GPA has stated that the level of financial stress in this local government area, as it is across the nation, is already well above average levels and the imposition of rate rises at this time will cause further stress, which many people and the community will find difficult to bear.

The GPA are concerned that over a three-year period rates could increase in the region of 40%, which is well in excess of the current and projected rates of inflation. Such an increase would need to be justified and explained to the community in detail. This will allow the residents and ratepayers to have a full understanding of the Council's proposals and have their voices and concerns properly heard and their opinions expressed.

The need for rate rises at this time have been questioned by the GPA and it contends the Council is in a sound financial situation with healthy levels of financial reserves. It believes and I am persuaded by their assertion, that with sound quality management of its daily affairs, there is no reason for the Council's healthy financial position to change in the foreseeable future.

As I said at the start of my letter, I remain to be convinced that the Council's proposed rate rises should be the first resort for any financial concerns of the Council.

Accordingly, I urge the Council to firstly conduct an independent review of its commercial viability before applying for any Special Rates Variation. Such a review should consider the following areas of the Council's financial model and operations:

- The increase of Council's Senior Management team from 5 to 6 Directors,
- The quantum and extent of wage increases across all managerial roles,
- The management of Lake Wyangan and associated financial issues
- The levels of transparency and accountability in water trading
- The water levy on developers and its impacts
- The meeting of housing demands and housing needs in the Council's area with an emphasis on affordability and the associated growing of the Rate Base; homelessness; and assisting with the workforce shortage by the provision of plentiful and affordable housing
- Cost blowouts on infrastructure developments
- The management and budgets for increased infrastructure spending on facilities such as the sports precinct and pool
- An overall assessment of Council's budget forecasts and key performance indicators such as Gross Regional Product.

I would then hope such a review to provide a comprehensive list of alternatives to the sharp rate increases proposed by Council along with alternatives to any proposal to cut services to meet the Council's financial goals.

It has come to my attention and our constituents that the Council vote on applying for the Special Rate Variation and rate increases saw 5 of 12 councillors vote against the application. I believe the vote reflects the level of concern and the division in the community that Council's proposed rate rises will cause.

I reiterate that financial stress in the community is already at levels not seen for many decades. I therefore urge the Council to reconsider its application for a Special Rate Variation and implement an independent review of its operations to assess what alternatives exist to increasing rates.

In this way I believe the Council will be best representing the wishes of the local community and assisting residents at a very difficult financial time for many people.



Yours sincerely
Helen Dalton MP

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-12 23:43:13

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I understand that Council is making this decision in the best interests of Griffith. I would hate to see services cut. Please ensure you have looked at all cost saving measures properly before making this submission to IPART.

Submission ID

64af3a9129921574630f2115

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 13 July 2023 5:13:37 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-13 07:13:30

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Conditions of the roads and gardens are already appearing to have been neglected. Maybe need to review the amount of contractors & hire vehicles that council have at present

Submission ID

64afa41af2c2e143d004aabd

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Saturday, 15 July 2023 8:46:31 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-14 22:46:21

Your Name

Terry McFarlane

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Good morning. I just watched Brett's video presentation which was very comprehensive and informative. I really feel if most rate payers in our Council Area saw this presentation they would have a much better understanding of the situation GCC finds itself in. Is there an opportunity to have this on our local WIN TV station at a prime time? As a farmer we will bear the greatest increase which will be very difficult for some farming industries that are currently struggling (Grapes and Citrus). Is there wiggle room for for a lesser increase for them? \$1461 increase compared to \$386 for residential,business in the middle \$1037. the age old question returns,regarding what sevicees we receive for this rate.Very good info on the comparative rates of like cities in the Riverina.All said and done I strongly endorse the SRV. The alternative would be a difficult road to navigate. You/We have created an amazing city and surrounds,I hope we can continue with this growth,it helps attract people including much needed professionals to our community. Regards Terry McFarlane.

Submission ID

64b1d03dd68443ff1a00abf0

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 20 July 2023 10:25:40 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-20 00:25:30

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The whole community is going through financial crisis and for many, this rate increase will add financial strain and possibly lead them to losing their housing or not being able to afford to put food on the table. It is important to look at this community as a whole - and particularly this community's most vulnerable - when making descisions like these.

Submission ID

64b87efa59ae2904e508c5cb

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 20 July 2023 11:52:17 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-20 01:52:06

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

There has to be a better way to acquire funding for the town other than making residents payments increase to fund the town. A lot of families are in hardship already from the current state Australia is in and increasing costs to these families will only make matters worse.

Submission ID

64b89345af313aeae0026a9e

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 20 July 2023 6:25:04 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-20 08:24:55

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The services that GCC are currently offering the rate payers are already very poor. Islands are full of weeds and hedges are overgrown in the islands again obstructing visibility of incoming traffic. Roads are in disrepair. GCC need to look at their spend all the hire/lease equipment/vehicles, a lot of them just driving around not exactly sure of a purpose as I have seen them just look at work to be done and leave. This really should only take 1 or 2 people at the most not 6 people and 4 vehicles a bit of over kill money wasting. But we keep throwing money into wages but see little improvement around town and we are expected to pay more for rates. STOP the wastage of our current rate money. Clean up some of these areas before asking for more money.. get rid of all the hire vehicles and get the staff back working in the roles they are employed to do instead of driving around town for their wage

Submission ID

64b8ef57e97bfc92f202f68b

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 24 July 2023 1:03:56 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-24 03:03:47

Your Name

Graeme Bell

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Council can save money by not outsourcing for over due notices. By not contracting for a parking officer and by selling the Clock Cafe building. Is ownership of the Clock cafe building even in accordance with S24 of the Local Govt Act? Further if the pool is not fully utilised then it can operate on reduced hours as could the Pioneer Park museum and any other that is not fully utilised. As for Council having to tighten the belt, many are doing it tough and have to tighten the belt and council should also do so. I am also a firm believer that councillors should be full time and paid accordingly and believe this is better value for money than part time councillors having to juggle council obligations with also working full time and if the rate rise goes ahead it ought to be looked into to making council positions full time.

Submission ID

64bdea134788a00d2c0a42fa

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 24 July 2023 1:23:15 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-24 03:23:06

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I am unable to work fulltime due to caring for a disabled child. These proposed increases will push me closer towards poverty. I do not support them

Submission ID

64bdee9a24cc9bf5fe08f5d1

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 24 July 2023 1:48:22 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-24 03:48:13

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I think its very high compared to other cities. I believe they should look at the wage amount thay are paying staff to save money.

Submission ID

64bdf47db298e1a28e07a041

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 24 July 2023 2:06:31 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-24 04:06:24

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

There has to be a better middle ground. I don't support this rate increase.

Submission ID

64bdf8c086987ed64c00183c

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr](#)
[Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 24 July 2023 2:20:04 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-24 04:19:55

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Submission ID

64bdfbebef924e34710cab9a

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 10:15:36 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-25 00:15:27

Your Name

Troy Yerbury

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

While everyone is struggling you decide to increase our rates . I couldn't care less about the library , the aquatic centre or any other excuse you want to use . I'm trying to keep my head above water like everyone else .

This council has wasted enough of the ratepayers money already with their idiotic decisions, Yambil street being the prime example, and in Richards street Beelbangera you decided to dig up the gutters , left them like that for 7 months , (i have emails and dates) then when you eventually finished your mess you made it worse

Whichever councillors vote For this , their names should be published so the ratepayers can kick them out I. The next election

Submission ID

64bf141ff5915741cb0946ee

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 7:58:57 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-25 09:58:49

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I decline the proposal and do not agree for it to go ahead.

Submission ID

64bf9cd96b7d50ebf7029eb6

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 7:59:28 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-25 09:59:19

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I decline the proposal and do not agree for it to go ahead.

Submission ID

64bf9cf7a39cf8c0c0bce35

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 7:59:58 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-25 09:59:49

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I decline the proposal and do not agree for it to go ahead.

Submission ID

64bf9d15d2ca67957f068d32

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 8:00:34 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-25 10:00:12

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I decline the proposal and do not agree for it to go ahead.

Submission ID

64bf9d2c31d86dd20d0ff63b

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023 3:17:02 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-27 05:16:52

Your Name

Chris Miller

Your email?

cmiller@colliermiller.com.au

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

While I understand the cost pressures being currently placed on council, I believe the proposed SRV is excessive.

There has been a massive increase in land values for rating purposes from last year, and I think council needs to take into account the impact this will have on rates revenue before proposing the SRV.

For our business, Collier & Miller, our land values as per the 2023/24 rates notices have increased by 62% from last year, and our total annual rates amounts have increased by 19.8% as a result.

From a residential perspective, the rates values of my house as per the 2023/24 rates notice has increased by 72% over last year, and the annual rates amount has increased by 5%.

These are massive increases to happen in one year, without any additional proposed changes. The last 12 months has seen unprecedented cost increases across Australia as a whole, which are not sustainable. I believe council should wait for these changes to settle down, before any rates increases are proposed.

Submission ID

64c1fdc427cab72846062407

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Friday, 28 July 2023 2:36:17 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-28 04:36:08

Your Name

Mel Nardi

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

A firm no, to have this SRV passed.

Submission ID

64c345b8f92ac25de5050e59

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Friday, 28 July 2023 3:08:35 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-28 05:08:26

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

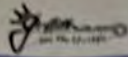
How are the average rates at \$1,000!!!! stop lying because my rates have been going up for the last 5 years ,in all seriousness the people will March

Attachments to your submission

- [20230728_145858.jpg](#)
- [20230728_145849.jpg](#)

Submission ID

64c34d4acfaa21aee001a1ca



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



admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au

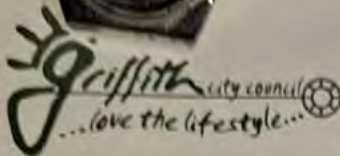


www.griffith.nsw.gov.au



1300 176 077

NSW F



RATE NOTICE Tax Invoice

Assessment No. [REDACTED]

1 Benarambah Street, Griffith NSW 2680
PO Box 485, Griffith NSW 2680
Phone: 1300 176 077
Email: admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.griffith.nsw.gov.au

ABN 81 274 100 792

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned land has been rated
by the Griffith City Council as shown hereunder, under the Section
560/561 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

If address is incorrect please advise council in writing

Assessment No: [REDACTED]
Rating Year: 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024
Issue Date: 19/07/2023
Land Category: RESIDENTIAL
Land Value: 292000
Value Base Date: 1/07/2022

Description and Location of Property Rated

[REDACTED]

1st Instalment

Amount Payable	\$488.51
Due Date	31/08/2023

No further notice will be sent for 1st instalment.

This notice includes payments to the 14 July 2023.
All overdue rates & charges must be paid immediately.

Levy Details	Value/No	Rate/Charge	Levy
Ordinary Residential	292,000.00	0.00387160	\$1,130.51
Domestic Waste - Occupied	1.00	249.00	\$249.00
Residential Base Amount	1.00	297.00	\$297.00
Urban Stormwater Charge	1.00	25.00	\$25.00
Domestic Recycling	1.00	124.00	\$124.00
Dom Waste Capital/Landfills Levy	1.00	127.00	\$127.00
Totals			\$1,952.51

Levy Summary

Current Levy	\$1,952.51
Total Transactions Posted	\$0.00
Total Payable	\$1,952.51

Overdue amounts attract 9.00% per annum interest calculated daily.

An Instalment notice will be issued before the 2nd, 3rd and 4th instalments.

1st Instalment	2nd Instalment	3rd Instalment	4th Instalment	Total Payable
Due 31/08/2023	Due 30/11/2023	Due 28/02/2024	Due 31/05/2024	
\$488.51	\$488.00	\$488.00	\$488.00	\$1,952.51

GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL RATES NOTICE

Ratepayer: [REDACTED]

Property Address: [REDACTED]

Assessment No: [REDACTED]

Total Due: \$1,952.51

Instalment Amount Due: \$488.51

Due Date: 31/08/2023



For emailed notices:
griffith.enotices.com.au
Reference No: [REDACTED]

Amount Paid: [REDACTED]

For methods of payment and other information, see the reverse of this notice

BPAY this payment via internet or phone banking.
BPAY View and pay this bill using internet banking.
BPAY View Registration No. Please enter the BPAY
Reference number. (Next to the BPAY Logo on your notice)

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Saturday, 29 July 2023 1:15:13 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-28 15:15:05

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

No

Submission ID

64c3db795dbf20bdab00728b

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 30 July 2023 11:36:08 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-30 01:35:59

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Look at staffing levels and reduce the number of councillors in office. Too many council staff standing around work sites.

Submission ID

64c5be7fc27dce7a9801e5d2

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 30 July 2023 2:13:10 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-30 04:13:00

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

In comparison to towns like Albury and Wagga, for residential rates, Griffith appears to track similar to those bigger cities, which offer far more services than Griffith. Fair enough, no argument.

However, the comparison of business rates between these two other cities and Griffith seem completely out of whack! There's clear daylight between the higher rates that Albury and Wagga businesses pay in comparison to the mediocre rates Griffith businesses pay.

If it can be justified that residential rates are equal to these other cities, then so should the business rates. To increase local business rates to near on \$3000 per business to align with Albury and Wagga, considerable income is sourced. Currently, it would appear that our businesses are getting it cheap and out residents are picking up the slack.

Submission ID

64c5e34c5c87cd01320dda98

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 30 July 2023 8:18:26 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-30 10:18:16

Your Name

Trevor Doven

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I agree in principal with the increase, but suggest that there is great opportunity for council income to be boosted, by streamlining the DA/CC process. This is a great money making income stream for councils and many people report negative experiences when dealing with councils in this area.

In a neighbouring council a few years ago ,I was involved with a council employee who passed our DA/CC in a few days, and when discussing this with him he explained that he earned his council a lot of income by passing the DA/CCs quickly, and people were doing developments in this neighbouring council area as the Griffith council was slow and difficult to deal with.

If more land was opened up in both residential and industrial areas, and approvals were granted quickly, Griffith would win in many ways.

- 1) Housing would be more available.
- 2) Businesses would expand and others would move here.
- 3) Council would receive ongoing rate income.
- 4) Council would be more appreciated by the general population.
- 5) Council would recieve more DA/CC income.
- 6) Council would not lose as much work to private certifiers.

There is surely only a few hours of actual work in processing a DA/CC.

There is a way to get them out the door fast.

No doubt there are constraints that everyone has to work within, and I am not closely involved with the council from day to day, but I trust the above is constructive.

Submission ID

64c638e87b285eae970eda6b

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 31 July 2023 7:20:36 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-30 21:20:27

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Its about time Council started looking at their costs within the business like most business are currently doing.

For a start why do two people drive around all day in one vehicle.

The Management should be responsible for their decisions and work within budget constraints and not try and pass onto ratepayers.

All businesses are doing it tuff but have to make the necessary decision to make staff redundant or cut some costs or projects.

I think Council need to take a long hard look at how they operate and their staffing levels as it seems top heavy. I dont agree with the rate rise at all.

Submission ID

64c6d41b5be27bcc520d4b4c

From: [REDACTED]
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Subject: SRV
Date: Sunday, 30 July 2023 12:02:18 PM

I am a little confused so far as your stated reasons for a more than normal increase to our Rates. You have just increased my rates by the amount you are seeking and I am led to believe that the extra increase of around 7% is due to the increase to my land values, so here is my point, I live in what can be described as the poorer end of town so therefore if my increase on land values in this lower level area is 7% then I would believe that the average increase is that amount you are seeking if not more so you do not need to increase the Rates over and above that amount prescribed at 3%.

In my short stay in Griffith I have not seen a lot of progress outside the new Sporting facility, what I have seen is the continued re taring of roads that within weeks are again damaged by the trucks, and what about the bypass, I see no progress there to finish the job and remove a substantial amount of truck traffic off our inner city roads also our two main Caravan Parks they are a disgrace along with what you call a Show Ground , additionally my Nature Strip , I believe that to be council land yet I maintain it , so from my observation I do not see you spending my Rate money all that well you may have to look at your priorities a little better before you ask for more money which as I said you are now getting from the increased land values.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Griffith.

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 31 July 2023 1:01:28 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-31 03:01:18

Your Name

Catherine Bottcher

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Absolutely disagree to this proposal! Instead of cutting services perhaps review council workers practices- attitudes and work efficiency should be reveiwed!

Submission ID

64c723fe4fbfaa31c60b89ca

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 31 July 2023 1:24:41 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-31 03:24:32

Your Name

Helen Joy Wylie

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Yes

Attachments to your submission

- [Objection to SRV.pdf](#)

Submission ID

64c72970f6af50c6cf033834

Helen Joy Wylie

Griffith NSW 2680

Email

31 July 2023

The General Manager
Griffith City Council
PO Box 485
Griffith NSW 2680

Dear Sir

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

I object to the special rate variation proposed for the following reasons:

1. The IPART rate pegging limit has been in place for many years and has provided Council with sufficient funds in which to successfully maintain services and renew assets as required. Why is it that these annual increases are not sufficient to cover these costs?
2. Council has in recent years significantly increased all fees associated with building homes and lodging any form of Development Application. Even to put up a simple shed requires a significant outlay in Council fees, these people are currently paying rates. Council is double dipping. If Council is successful in their attempt to increase rates with this special rate variation there should be a decrease in the fees associated with lodging any form of Development Application particularly for those who currently pay rates.
3. If this special rate variation is successful there should be a significant increase to the pensioner rebate. These people do not have the earning capacity to cover such an increase. Many currently leave their air conditioners off in the summer months and their heating units off during the winter months. The proposed increase to the rates they pay to remain in their own homes will impact this group the most.
4. The cost of living has increased for everyone, young families who have purchased their first home and struggle to juggle mortgage repayments, the middle aged who are trying to save for retirement and the pensioners who I have already mentioned in 3 above.
5. There is already significant stress amongst those in the community who rent not only residential premises but commercial premises. Landlords will pass on any increases in rates to their tenants. Do we want to see an increase in our homeless numbers? Do we want to see more empty shop fronts?
6. Griffith is already known for being one of the most expensive rural towns to purchase a residential property. Will this special rate increase be a deterrent to those wishing to settle here and is this what we want?
7. Currently there are a number of homes being built in our town generating revenue for Council. Yes, these people will also require services. These people will spend their money in our town and pay to use the facilities that Council operate.

The proposed Special Rate Variation over three years is extreme and will impact current and future ratepayers. I strongly object to what is proposed.

Yours faithfully

Helen Wylie

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 31 July 2023 3:45:30 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-31 05:45:14

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

You are pushing people too far. One more thing to add to the hardship that is being experienced at the moment. I think you stop for a minute and have a think about the people that live in your town.

Submission ID

64c74a6aa463ec117c0582d0

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 31 July 2023 10:30:47 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-07-31 12:30:16

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Should not go ahead

Submission ID

64c7a9586c1a3e233a04f7a9

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 1:23:03 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-01 03:22:56

Your Name

██████████

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

There is a cost of living crisis right now. You're barely doing the things you list on your services provided. I am against the SRV.

Submission ID

64c87a90b60d7bf6e90de774

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 4:16:11 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-01 06:16:03

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The 35% proposed increase over 3 years is way too sharp for most people considering the current economic climate. I understand the need for a raise but it needs to be a lot more gradual. Council needs to stop wasting money on works that take years to complete and redirect to essential services.

Submission ID

64c8a32312dd03d6a20995a6

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:18:21 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-02 01:18:11

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Nobody likes a price increase and hence feedback will probably not be supportive of the SRV - but the realities are :
The Council must stay financially viable and not become indebted with its resulting oncosts
Griffith must grow and build infrastructures needed for the future
More infrastructures result in more maintenance costs unless services are reduced to unsatisfactory standards
Future living standards will require the best affordable facilities which Griffith should have to remain a vibrant, forward thinking community which will attract more business and residents
Councils should have a healthy finance reserve to cope with unforeseen circumstances
I fully support the SRV proposal

Submission ID

64c9aed3ce1fa7ab50021db9

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 4:11:10 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-02 06:01:00

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

To increase the rates is a stupid idea. We can't keep up with the cost of living as it is ! Bloody ridiculous to want to do this. I'm sure there is plenty of other ways to cut costs. Maybe look at the rate of pay for your top level employees and their bonuses. Maybe start there !

Submission ID

64c9f11c09c68cafec0e4e7e

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 6:49:58 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-02 08:49:49

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I object to the proposal of the Council applying for a SRV. Cost of living pressures are already having a huge financial impact on my household, progressive rate increases would add further strain.

Submission ID

64ca18ada532077b8b06e5c3

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 3 August 2023 8:18:17 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-02 22:18:09

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

While I supported the Yambil Street upgrade as it was necessary I consider the upgrade of Kooyoo Street to be a complete waste of ratepayer money, with little to no benefit to the majority of ratepayers other than aesthetics. Council is now demanding that Ratepayers supply extra funds for everyday services that could have been supported with these funds. This is a poor decision at a time of extreme household stress for many residents, both homeowners and renters. I do not agree with the SRV.

Submission ID

64cad62158df9f2b6302125c

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 3 August 2023 6:22:48 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-03 08:22:38

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I DO NOT want the SRV and would rather see services cut. Ratepayers are already dealing with interest rate rises, massive energy price hikes ... financial stress in just about every area. We don't need higher rates putting further pressure on households. Few of us are likely to enjoy a 34.9% payrise over the next three years. I practically never use public sporting venues or arts facilities, so would not be negatively affected at all were these to close down, though understand others may feel differently depending on their own household demographics. Cuts could be made to other expenses like the odd ratepayer-funded "fact finding mission" or sister city programs - I question whether these add much wealth or any other significant benefits to the average Griffith working family. There are many local households in much tougher financial situations than mine, so for their sake, go with Option 2 - NO SRV!

P.S. Even the name stinks - makes me think of Putin's "special military operation"...

Submission ID

64cb63ce99eea6b871077481

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 6 August 2023 8:09:01 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-05 22:08:52

Your Name

Greg Haak

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Go ahead and actually do something that will benefit the city.
Fix the awful potholes. Clean up the weeds and mess on the entrance from Yenda along Burley Griffin Way. Ensure the unused land ie. between Red Rooster and Woolies petrol station is kept mowed. Install more footpaths like the well used path around Griffith Base Hospital. Reinstate the speed limit between Griffith and Hanwood to 80k/hr. Install street lights on the 3 way intersection of Wyanga Ave, Mallinson Rd and Abattoir Rd.

Submission ID

64cec874be4875aa8404f6dc

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 6 August 2023 3:17:16 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-06 05:17:05

Your Name

Kerrie Davis

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Yes. Please see attached letter

Attachments to your submission

- [Letter to Council SRV.docx](#)

Submission ID

64cf2cd1daea75c0e60c42ff

To all Griffith City Councillors,

I wish to express my serious concerns regarding the special rate rise that you intend to apply for, particularly in this current economic climate. I would like you to consider the impact on the less well off and vulnerable members of our community when making this decision.

As you are aware Griffith is facing a housing and homelessness crisis. I think this decision will make that problem worse. I'm **certain** that landlords or real estate agents in our town will pass this cost onto renters so they will not be bearing the cost of the rise. It will be the tenants bearing more increases in a town where rents are already unaffordable for more and more of our community.

For many in our community, who consider themselves fortunate enough to have a mortgage, this will be just another blow. They are already struggling with higher interest rates and soaring cost of living. I'm certain businesses will add to this by raising costs to their customers. Once again, these increases have the greatest impact lower income families, and they are the ones more likely to lose their homes.

I do understand we need money to maintain facilities in Griffith. Could the rate rise be less? Can we come up with some more creative ideas that are more equitable and socially just? Maybe we will have to spend less on some of our facilities. I fear we are creating a bigger and bigger gap between "the haves" and "the have nots" in our community and this will lead to increased social problems in our community in future years.

Finally, I found the pamphlet Securing our future a little translucent or mildly misleading. I consider my rates to be the amount owed on my rates notice. I have an average (888 square metre) residential block. Rates this year \$1952, which confused me for a while. So, I did work out that your printout for assumed rate cost 2024/2025 of \$1,222 is only part of Rate Notice. Now I need to add the extra \$822 for sewerage, garbage etc. to get the real picture. By the way, are they going up 10% as well? So, 24/25 more like \$2,044. I wonder how many people like me make the same assumption.

Once again, I do ask for some consideration for the vulnerable and low economic groups in our community who are most impacted by your decisions.

Yours respectfully

Kerrie Davis

6 August 2023

General Manager, Mayor, All Councillors
GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

Dear Mr Stonestreet, Mr Curran and Councillors,

I write in relation to the recent shocking notice from GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL advising that you intend to impose a Special Rate Variation cumulatively over the next three years, while retaining the base rate increase permanently.

I would like to state my objection to this horrendous increase. It is almost three times the current rate. This will undoubtedly assist in sending families and businesses to the wall, particularly given the recent steep increase in bank mortgage interest rates and general cost of living.

Rather than destroy the livelihood of people, surely there are other ways Griffith City Council can maintain financial stability and which ratepayers would prefer. Perhaps reduce events and sponsorships, call for community involvement in maintaining parks, sporting grounds and playgrounds, spend less time interfering with progress and enforcing unreasonable conditions on local businesses, review staff salaries, numbers and performance/productivity. Often a smaller team, with less distractions, will result in a more productive and efficient staff.

I implore you to reconsider this proposed exorbitant rate increase and find another way to handle this situation.

Please advise the current base rate and the proposed increase to the base rate?

Please provide the details of current annual salaries of senior and non senior council staff positions including councillors?

Please provide any current or non-current communications from any of the following entities or any of their agencies, in relation to the implementation of these, or any, proposed rate increases, including related policy making documents?

- *United Nations
- *World Economic Forum
- *Australian Federal Government
- *NSW State Government

I believe that I am entitled to the above mentioned requested information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and I look forward to receiving it.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 August 2023 10:03 AM
To: GCC Admin Mailbox
Subject: Fwd: Rates

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 2 August 2023 at 2:21:12 pm AEST
To: admin@griffith.nsw.au
Subject: Rates

To Whom This Concerns ,

I'm concerned about the Ordinary Rate rises. I feel better management of finances in councils should be looked at first to maintain existing services, as it's hard times for all.

Council has significantly cut services for some parks in the past 10yrs .

This is not the first time myself & neighbours have brought this to the attention of Council. No repair or maintenance has been done to the Dei Agnoli Playground for Years . So cutting cost in these areas would be the same as we have had for the past 10 years. The proposed SRV can't impact this park anymore .

Yours faithfully [REDACTED]















Sent from my iPhone

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 9 August 2023 1:04:23 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-09 03:04:14

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I am confused as I have not seen any alternate fundraising proposals, or justifications for a 40% rate increase. It also seems strange that we must accept this or have services removed with no alternate option- it's like we are being punished if we do not accept.

The cost of living is quite difficult and I am a young home owner, this would make life a whole other level of difficult as I am still paying off the house and am already on a strict budget and watching my expenditure very closely.

I would be happy to hear of alternate fund raising strategy proposals from council to help take pressure off the current SRV proposal, as a 40% rate rise would really burden the town home owners and businesses- we are already seeing business closures from rent rises. This cost could also be passed on to renters from investment home owners, again creating significant impact on the market that is already struggling with stock and affordability for both renters and home buyers or owners.

Thank you

Submission ID

64d3022e58c25c80db0d7f40

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 9 August 2023 6:36:27 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-09 08:35:57

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Although as a born and bred Griffith resident, I understand the cost of keeping up and running our public amenities and services continues to increase, I cannot agree with the SRV increase. Most households, ours included are struggling with huge increases in every sector of our lives, from insurance premiums to utility bills to petrol and groceries. We would struggle with a large rates increase. There's only so much we can continue to absorb and it must stop somewhere. Great amenities and services are useless, if we residents are unable to afford to get out and use them. Thank you.

Submission ID

64d34fedc459df5c76012a06

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 10 August 2023 11:09:12 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-10 01:09:02

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Would like to see improvement in current services delivered, especially road maintenance and town entrances.

Submission ID

64d438ae2f92464d9f0e9501

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Saturday, 12 August 2023 12:37:23 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-12 02:37:13

Your Name

LISA LOWES

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Yes I do. I strongly object to a Special Rate Variation due to the already increased and continuing increase of mortgage rates and the increased cost of living. People are already struggling to make ends meet and the Special Rate Variation if approved will only put more pressure on those already struggling. People will have to cut costs within the community which will then impact businesses who will also be struggling. These businesses may end up having to close as they will also have the Special Variation Rate rise but will have less customers shopping as their customers won't be able to afford to shop. The parents who are struggling to make ends meet may have to cut out their childrens extracurricular activities such as sports as they won't be able to afford food as well as outside school activities. This will then impact the community recreation facilities. Our community won't be able to afford to do anything and therefore we will become a ghost town. People will either leave and move to somewhere more affordable to live or they will stay and cut costs where they can. If the Special Rate Variation Rise is approved Landlords will have to increase their rent to help pay for the extra rate rise and the tenants will either have to cut costs also or move out, leaving houses empty and putting more pressure on the housing shortage we are already experiencing. People won't be able to afford to rent. This will be a domino effect where the whole community will feel the struggle. These are my obvious reasons as to why I am strongly against the councils proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation.

Submission ID

64d6f059219f51b5e20b0989

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 14 August 2023 11:35:27 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-14 01:35:19

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I think that we need to increase the rates to keep up with inflation and other coats, but at a smaller rate increase of 4 % to 5%

Submission ID

64d984d722e8068e2a06d20f

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 15 August 2023 10:14:24 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-15 00:04:15

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

As a large area farmer who already pays a large rate bill I feel I would be subsidising residential property owners as I have never received any services such as garbage collection, water , sewerage etc . Will consideration be given to large area farmers with regards to this rate rise ?

Submission ID

64dac0ffc665c0a6e50892c6

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 16 August 2023 12:26:09 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-16 02:26:00

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Cost shifting from NSW government to local government over the years has led to this situation. I know it won't be easy for many, but we do need to pay more to ensure we have the services we require.

Submission ID

64dc33b886a040dc7d05cb5b

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 17 August 2023 10:00:35 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-17 00:00:16

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I do not agree with Option 1.

Suggestion to conduct full internal audit of current services and facilities, including capability of staff members to ensure fit for role, in order to reduce overspend on wages and time to complete projects.

Review the cost / benefit to community for patron paid services. Reduction to operational hours and a price increase.

Submission ID

64dd6310d79f6f435a0656a4

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 17 August 2023 12:00:12 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-17 02:00:02

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

This rate rise is ridiculous. Along with all the other cost of living expenses increasing, as a young family we will struggle more with the rate increases. I do not agree with the rate increases and hope they do not go ahead

Submission ID

64dd7f22f458beb7e30467e2

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 17 August 2023 3:35:42 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-17 05:35:33

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I don't agree with the proposal. We pay rates on 3 properties and are in the grape growing industry. As this industry is suffering and with the cost of living increasing at an alarming rate the proposal would only place further burden on us and community members financially. I say Option 2 - without SRV. I believe Council could implement a lot of changes in their operations to save money as all business needs to do when things are tough. You mention that facilities would be impacted. Not all residents of Griffith pay rates but use these facilities. A fairer system is user/pay so everyone in the community contributes so if you need to increase costs for residents to use the facilities, I would be happy to pay that fee instead of increasing my rates.

Submission ID

64ddb1a541ed9d5914075d96

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 17 August 2023 7:58:29 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-17 09:58:29

Your Name

Mark Favero

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

With the current situation of everything at the moment it's just not right unfortunately, cost of living, rates, electricity, gas, fuel have most people stretching their already tight budget with kids or parents going without! I am not in favour of increasing our rates.

Thank you

Mark Favero

Submission ID

64ddef45277899b528094f26

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Friday, 18 August 2023 10:10:16 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-18 00:10:14

Your Name

Peter Little

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I am not in favour of a SRV. It is an easy solution just to raise a tax or reduce services rather than seek efficiencies. The culture within the council needs to be more proactive towards efficiency in all areas of works programs, building / project approvals and other progressive business opportunities which are consistently stifled unreasonably internally by procedural protocol or interpretation of requirements.

Losses through the above mentioned including the loss of investment in business in the Griffith shire could be reversed meaning substantial savings to council operations and increase in revenue from business investment would become more substantial.

Submission ID

64deb6e632f0600d5e0df52a

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Friday, 18 August 2023 10:22:35 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-18 00:22:35

Your Name

Kimberlee Brigini

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

This rate rise if approved will be crippling with already increasingly high cost of living. Please do not do this, it may be enough to drown me and my family.

Submission ID

64deb9cbf14e23129602fe7e

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 20 August 2023 12:42:14 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-20 02:42:04

Your Name

Michelle Poscoliero

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I disagree with Council increasing the rates by 34.9% over the next 3 years as proposed.

I believe an independent body should review the spendings and decisions of the Griffith City Council.

The rate increase proposal makes me think that appropriate business decisions aren't being made as you cannot operate efficiently within the modelling you currently have.

The rate payers of Griffith are feeling the burden of rising cost of living and interest rates.

Unsure what analysis work the council currently conducts on traffic at these said facilities (that will be impacted) since the increase pressure on cost of living, however, you may find that increasing the rates will not improve traffic to these facilities and it may even warrant a smaller opening hour time window as of the current day.

Submission ID

64e17d7c5b8ce1a0b301f8e0

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 20 August 2023 7:31:14 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-20 09:31:06

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

With the current cost of living a rate rise would impact the average income family greatly. You say there will be savings for pensioners which they deserve however there is never savings for the middle income earner struggling every week. Local businesses are already paying too much and Griffith city council can't even be bothered to support local. Give us all a break, or you'll be seeing more and more homeless on your streets!! We don't need a rate rise and certainly can't afford one!

Submission ID

64e1dd5a82c6374698068d4c

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 20 August 2023 11:07:52 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-20 13:07:44

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Submission ID

64e21020569996000209c22b

[REDACTED]
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

21st August 2023

The CEO
Griffith City Council
Council Chambers
Neville Place
GRIFFITH NSW 2680



Dear Sir,

I have been away a lot this year but I am aware that the Council proposes to put rates up by 34.9% over the next three years.

As someone who has had contact with many constituents over the years I believe I can give some positive feedback from what people have told me during that time.

Our business, in the past, paid rates in four Shires – Temora, Leeton, Narrandera and Griffith. Over the years of development in these Shires all were co-operative, except Griffith. Griffith has a reputation for being obstructionistic. Many businesses have opted to go to other areas to develop because of the difficulty of getting past Griffith's "red tape", or, they just give up on it. If you were to add up the lost revenue from developments that have moved to other areas, it would be more than significant.

During the last drought many young farmers got work locally, whether at Bartters (as it was then), or a winery or the Council. Those I have spoken to could not persevere with Council work because they could finish a job in two hours which the bosses expected to last all day – so they went elsewhere.

Others have discussed the reason as to why the CEO is not the top authority in the Council set-up. It appears that some person seems to control the staff who should not have the power and influence to do so.

Is it true that a member of a local builder's family works in the Council which could be construed as a conflict of interest?

Does the Council become involved in political agendas outside its charter?

Does the Council endorse changing Australia Day, or promote The Voice, or become involved in issues not relevant to promoting the town?

The job of local government is to look after local roads, water, garbage collection and parks and gardens etc. It has no charter to be involved in political affairs. The members of the Council should leave their political hats at home and concentrate on what's good for Griffith, and how to promote the fantastic town that it is. This is not to say that Griffith has not got great facilities and benefits. It's just that efficiencies can be improved.

It would be of interest to know what percentage of the current rates goes to administrative costs, wages, entertainment, superannuation, motor vehicle expenses, seminars etc.

Could it be that Griffith has grown and developed because it is a free enterprise town and the energy and enthusiasm of the "movers and shakers" has done the heavy lifting in spite of an obstructionistic local government.

It would be interesting to know as well, how many of the elected councillors have read the Local Government Act so they can make informed judgements rather than relying on a bureaucrat's decision. If they don't know the Act they are directed by the bureaucrat, which means they are not needed.

Yours sincerely,



From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 21 August 2023 3:26:30 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-21 05:26:20

Your Name

██████████

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

We do NOT agree with these increases for both residential and business

Submission ID

64e2f57c349ba6bbfb08a5eb

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Monday, 21 August 2023 10:32:59 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-21 12:32:50

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I oppose the special rate variation. How do you expect ratepayers to pay an extra 10.5% per annum when average income increases are under 3%. Not to mention high inflation generally. Find efficiency gains or cut services. But an increase of this magnitude over 3 years is not sustainable for rate payers

Submission ID

64e35972343059843b0d5d7e

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2023 8:34:52 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-21 22:34:42

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

As a business owner, the proposed rates rise will be very detrimental to alot of businesses, with the increased interest rate rise over the past 18 months and the cost fo supplies, wage rises and the high cost of living, a rate rise would be a wrong decision. sometimes common sense should prevail over councils ability to change things.

Submission ID

64e3e6822fcd3eaf2b0f49fb

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2023 9:14:15 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-21 23:14:07

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Unwarranted Stonestreet bad management.

Submission ID

64e3efbf3caa2b340e0d6106

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 22 August 2023 10:56:19 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-22 00:56:11

Your Name

Sally Bamblett

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The special rate variation is not equitable in the current economic climate. There are many homeowners struggling with increased mortgage payments due to recent unprecedented interest rate rises. Coupled with rising utility prices, homeowners would welcome a reprieve from council's proposal.

Additionally, rental properties are already scarce and expensive in Griffith., creating difficulties for those wishing to relocate here for employment. The extra rate rise will most likely be passed on by landlords in the form of raised rents, further exacerbating rental affordability and potentially discouraging new arrivals to the town.

I think this proposal should be postponed until after interest rates have stabilised allowing homeowners and landlords to adjust to the current economic cycle. Unfortunately council may have to proceed, along with the community, to trim excess expenditure, employ thriftiness and prioritise programmes.

Submission ID

64e407ab95b165f92e0a1399

To Whom it may Concern,

I would like to register my opposition to Councils proposed Special Rate Variation.

It is not needed and will just create hardship on ratepayers. With Council having \$66 million dollars in the bank and a forecast \$190 million in 2033 there is no need to create hardship. The people who will suffer are people renting homes when the rate rises are passed onto them.

It is ridiculous to propose an increase of that magnitude when things are so tough. Electricity, Gas prices have doubled along with the cost of living and Council want to create more hardship.

Please reconsider.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Yenda. 2681

[REDACTED]

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023 8:51:19 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-23 22:51:10

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I don't agree with the variation, it is a big jump in our rates surely you can cut costs elsewhere & recoup more dollars there! Please reconsider. Council is a business & these are tough times we're in, all of us have had to deal with fuel costs & our energy prices rising, business rents & food have gone up . I think you need to reconsider & look at other options.

Submission ID

64e68d5e647339df440a6f6e

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023 11:23:09 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-24 01:23:00

Your Name

██████

Your email?

██

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Agree that we need to increase ratea to match economic pressures. However, feel that with financial pressures already on families, a lesser amount should be looked at.

Submission ID

64e6b0f475251db0f10e7784

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023 11:38:12 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-24 01:38:04

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The following submission was received by email: Are you taking a poll and if we all say "NO!...you're being too greedy!!"... will you still increase it to 34.9% over three years?

The town has the same old unsightly issues for the 20years I've been back in town and I highly doubt that any SRV would change one issue let alone the probable half dozen that need attention.

Noorla St

Footpaths from three ways to kookora st

Median strips with dust bowl

Banna Ave street trees borders

Canal St

Service NSW car parking

Abattoir Rd

GHS roundabout

Submission ID

64e6b47c2d00841cf2095007

From: [REDACTED]
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Subject: special rate variation
Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023 11:51:27 AM

I am the owner of [REDACTED] and wish to record my vote against the

Special rate variation. Mrs [REDACTED] Griffith

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 24 August 2023 1:13:15 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-24 03:13:07

Your Name

Stephen Moore

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Whist I suspect all Griffith residents wish to retain existing service levels, I also suspect residents wish to see improved productivity from Council. By way of example: the time taken to upgrade Yambil and Kooyoo Streets is beyond a joke. The rework of these sites to allow for reasonable services that were not considered at the outset is extensive. The lack of work activity (a couple or no labourers, one or no machines operating) one on any particular day over the past couple of years is poor management. Yet the impact has been and continues to be felt by the adjoining businesses. In very broad terms, we will build a brand new multi story hospital in roughly the same time it takes to improve drainage, pave a walkway and resurface only several hundred metres of an urban street!!!! This is type of capital delivery is simply unacceptable by any measure. If you cannot run these types of works more efficiently, then a SRV should not be supported.

Submission ID

64e6cac36c6d97181900ab31

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Friday, 25 August 2023 12:28:42 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-25 12:28:31

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I object to proposed rate variation as not due diligence and adequate efforts made to find saving where its obvious and visible to the community that council wasting money on various items that are not on priority but to fulfil wish of councillors or certain prominent groups.

Submission ID

64e811cfba4e74dcd2098f95

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Saturday, 26 August 2023 8:35:41 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-26 08:35:32

Your Name

Will Mead

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Having read all the information supplied and attending the COG meeting at Hanwood I think if Griffith is to thrive rather than survive we need the SRV proposed by Council.

Submission ID

64e92cb4e0a4ce77670de105

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 27 August 2023 12:14:48 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-27 12:14:39

Your Name

Iva Quarisa

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I oppose the SRV. I receive very few services for my rates at the moment so do not support an increase- i do not get town water, sewage or garbage collection. You should look at cost savings- it may be time to rethink the number of councillors, as a start.

Submission ID

64eab18fdb3c0397a40e0040

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Sunday, 27 August 2023 12:27:44 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-27 12:27:34

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

No I do not agree with Griffith council having their own agenda leave to the govt.

Submission ID

64eab49697e3bca9c2042bfd

From: [REDACTED]
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Subject: Rates increase
Date: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 5:37:07 AM

Sent from my iPhone I totally disagree with the rates increase, I live at [REDACTED] Tharbogang NSW 2680 and what has Griffith city council done for us out here to even warrant a rates increase, how about you spend so money out here to finish the curb and <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fgutters.how&c=E.1.8XsYk8hXa3bSCoGtHRg0RSwMUzzc5ICHvr7ekt04BuumRySPE9BNo3n4JFRUY0KT-Ld8UQ3DoiljxQb0qZYtP6YPzPhiIq3UyMSw8pgTpPcSqCf7q72WSOVWQ...&typo=1> about the park , we have lost confidence in gcc especially after being done over with the lies about the sewage the additional cost to our electricity bill,,if you would like to contact me about this email please feel free to do so,

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 10:26:16 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-29 10:25:11

Your Name

Yvonne Wilson

Your email?

ceo@lcn.org.au

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

As CEO of a community organisation this proposal is going to cause a negative flow on affect in the community, and should be reconsidered.

Attachments to your submission

- [SRV letter.docx](#)

Submission ID

64ed3ae7acd7556c320d0a39

Griffith City Council
1 Benerembah Street
Griffith NSW 2680

29th August 2023

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter to express concerns over the Special Rate Variation proposed by Griffith City Council. I believe that such a rate increase would have detrimental effects on our community and its residents.

Linking Communities Network Ltd is the lead agency for Homelessness and Domestic Violence Services in Western Murrumbidgee. As such we cover the Griffith Local Government area and have a special interest in factors that contribute to homelessness and domestic violence.

While I understand the need for adequate funding to support essential services and initiatives within our city, I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences of implementing a special rate variation. Below are some of the reasons why I firmly oppose this proposal:

1. **Financial Burden on Residents:** Many residents in our community are already facing financial challenges, especially after the recent economic uncertainties. Implementing a special rate variation could impose an additional burden on individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. As you are aware the country is in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis and our organisation has seen an increase of clients due to the poverty they are experiencing due to factors out of their control, including increased costs of food, petrol and everyday living essentials, along with increased interest rates and rental costs.
2. **Impact on Local Businesses:** Small businesses are the backbone of our community, and any increase in rates could negatively impact their ability to operate and thrive. Higher costs might lead to decreased consumer spending, layoffs, or even closures, further affecting the overall economic health of our city.
3. **Fixed-Income Individuals:** There are numerous individuals, especially retirees, who are on fixed incomes and may find it difficult to accommodate sudden increases in their expenses. Such rate variations could force them to make tough choices between essential needs like medication, groceries, and utility bills.
4. **Affordability of Housing:** Housing affordability is already a significant concern in our area. An increase in utility rates could potentially lead to higher rents or property management fees, making it even harder for residents to afford suitable housing.

Office: 177 Yambil St, Griffith NSW 2680
Phone: 02 6964 4804 **Fax:** 02 6962 9091 **Email:** lcn@lcn.org.au

Incorporating the following Services:

Youth Links, Links For Women, Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services, Targeted Early Intervention Program, Sustaining Tenancies in Social Housing, Staying Home Leaving Violence, Crisis Accommodation Services for Women and Youth, Community Housing Provider, Men's services provided by partner Agency - Salvation Army

Auspecting Organisation for Griffith Local Domestic Violence Committee

-
5. Transparency and Accountability: It's essential for the local government to maintain transparency and accountability when making financial decisions. Proper consultation with the community and a clear explanation of the reasons for the proposed rate variation are necessary to maintain public trust. Although you have consulted, the reasoning remains unclear and people are not trusting of what they are being told.
 6. Exploration of Alternatives: Before considering a rate increase, I urge you to explore alternative avenues for revenue generation and cost reduction. This might involve re-evaluating existing budget allocations, seeking grants or partnerships, or finding innovative solutions to address the funding gap, or looking within council to see if there are avenues for cost cutting.

You also need to consider the flow on effect a decision like this makes on community organisations that support the most vulnerable within the community. This decision will cause an increase of people looking for assistance as they need to choose between paying rates and feeding themselves and/or their family. This is something that already stretched community organisations cannot afford.

Of course, there are also farming communities that will have a massive increase in rates costs with no added benefits of service provision. Many of them do not even receive basic garbage services and lack of road repair and maintenance on a regular basis. These people can be asset rich and cash poor (and Australia is heading into a dry period) so you are going to add to their inability to provide for their families due to increased costs with little return.

I kindly request that you consider the concerns of the residents, farming communities and businesses that make up our community before making a decision regarding the special rate variation. Our collective well-being should be at the forefront of any decision-making process.

Kind Regards



Yvonne Wilson
CEO – Linking Communities Network Ltd

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 11:16:49 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-29 11:16:40

Your Name

Sherene Blumer

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The SRV seems high, but if some of the maintenance work is completed and budgeted for that has not been completed to date after several requests to do so, I can accept the increase; if not I do not support it.

Submission ID

64ed46f85d9af678280ae19f

Subject: srv proposal OPTION

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 29/08/2023, 12:08 pm

To: "admin@griffith.nsw.gov.au" <admin@griffith.nsw.au>

* Address
would not accept this email

DEAR SIR /MADAM,

As you have asked for our reply to the proposed S.R.V. I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT MY OBJECTIONS.

I will support option 2 , as in this present financial times an increase of rates of 34.9% is a cost one cannot afford particularly when income is a fixed one at GOV . determination. All basic costs have greatly risen for insurances ,health , basic living expenses . I have had to cut my cloth accordingly ,some areas quite drastically and I strongly feel council should be doing the same in this present uncertain financial world outlook.

Many of the services you provide are not used by older people ,I only use 2 of your services 3 to 5 times yrly , would not user pay be the better options?

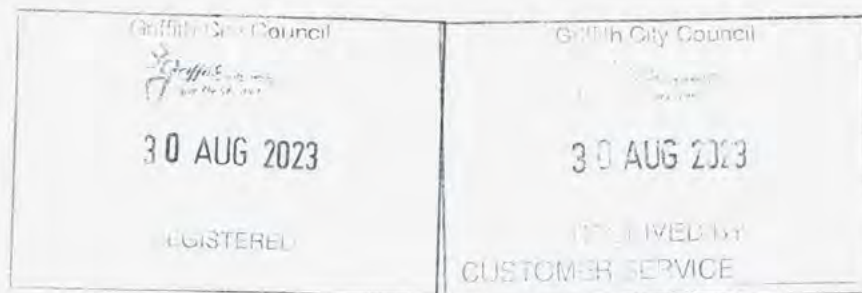
The land I own was referred to as a farm- irrigable ,but now is just considered as residential,which attracts more rates , but have little to show for that, being only a tar road put in 10 yrs ago and garbage collection, of which I am grateful for and have no wish for more.

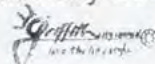
When rates are increased they generally remain and increases happen on those increases, an observation that happens over time.

If council cannot afford to action within their budget then the service should be reduced , one feels like there are a ton of bricks on top of them.

I remain your sincerely ,

[REDACTED]



Griffith City Council


30 AUG 2023

RECEIVED BY
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 12:39:13 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-29 12:38:21

Your Name

Kay Scobie

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

It should not go ahead

Attachments to your submission

- [Submission re Council proposal to apply for SRV.docx](#)

Submission ID

64ed5a1d25c9d4e44a04ccce

Submission re Council proposal to apply for SRV

I am against the proposed rate increase at this time of uncertain financial circumstances for so many.

If I am not wrong the SRV increase over three years to 2026/27 will be permanent and the annual rate base as from the 2027/28 will increased by the annual rate pegging as set by IPART. Meaning another rate increase in three years time. ??

The rate increase is not the end of it as water and other charges will also be increasing.

In very recent times there has been a dramatic change in our main street the result of landlords already increasing their rents. Banna Avenue is no longer the vibrant shopping street it was. Would this proposed increase of rates close more doors in Banna Avenue and other businesses, as there will be flow on effect.

I think of people renting their accommodation – do you not think that landlords will pass on these increases to already cash strapped renters. With the cost of living that keeps on going up some will not be able to manage and they do not need this extra burden. If they can't afford the increase where do they go?

Hardship support and pensioner rebates are mentioned to help with the rate increase I would like to comment on pensioner rebate that has been the same amount for?? how long - needs to be looked at.

Council should hold back on any future unnecessary programs and spending just complete projects such as Kooyoo Street and I think Yambil Street is not completed? (two projects that must be well over budget due to the fact it is taking so very long to complete) A waste of money which must be corrected.

I think council has to get their priorities right - repairing weather-damaged roads must be high on the list as is the upkeep of our town and surrounds so that it is welcoming to our many visitors.

Thank you for all the work you do but I must say Ulong St has been a terrible mistake in my mind I don't drive down Banna Avenue anymore as it is usually a traffic jam nightmare.

Kay Scobie

29th August 2023



From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 9:07:45 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-29 21:07:36

Your Name

Matthew Lodding

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Dont want it.

I believe you can better implement alot of cost saving measures throughout council. Like for one get the road crews who are carrying out repairs to finish a repair before moving onto to another job. How much money is wasted in shifting all the equipment from 1 job to the next. For one a few months ago the crew was out Yenda doing works hadn't completed said works then 2 days later was out Widgelli starting more jobs although work in Yenda hadnt been completed. Now thats a total waste of time and money and yes it was the same crew and machines. Ive noticed this has happened many times.

Submission ID

64edd178b8f67d148f031ce8

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Tuesday, 29 August 2023 9:19:17 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-29 21:19:06

Your Name

Ben Broadbent

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Piss it off. Don't need it

Submission ID

64edd42ade452ac77c0b0309

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 6:46:51 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 06:46:42

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The impact this will cause will only cause frustration and anger among the community, The prices of living, food, medical bills are already having a negative effect on families, taking away such things like , " the dump for free dates" is concerning for families and community members, may not seem like a big issue but it's the tip of the ice berg. What is next? Housing issues alone is one of Australia's problems , why raise the rates, to make it harder for anyone, that just wants to reach their dream or goal of owning their own home ! Hard working Aussies need a break!

Submission ID

64ee593215a9bf02c30a32df

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 10:23:17 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 10:23:08

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I do not support Council's proposal to apply to IPART for a Special Rate Variation for a three year period. Ratepayers are experiencing intense cost-of-living pressures and the increase being considered will intensify this pressure. Council needs to do what ratepayers have to do ie make savings to live within the means available. I acknowledge Council is proposing a level of savings but I suggest it needs to go further so a Special Rate Variation is not required. I understand this may require cutbacks in some of the services Council provides and accept this. I believe Council has gone much too far in provision of services and needs to refocus on essential Local Government services which I believe include roads, rubbish, the library, sporting grounds and parks/playgrounds. All other services/facilities should be operated on a full cost recovery basis so the users of the facility bear the cost.

Submission ID

64ee8bec74767a5fef0c6427

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 10:25:28 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 10:24:29

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Forget The SRV, I suggest you look at staff efficiency and effectiveness.

Attachments to your submission

- [SRV REJECTION .docx](#)

Submission ID

64ee8c3d0362cfc72b031b2a

Dear Griffith Council,

As a local rate payer, I believe that the proposed SRV is unwarranted and unnecessary.

I believe that lots of money is being consumed on ineffective labor. I suggest looking at efficiency and time wasted by your men on the ground.

I'm sure that lots of money could be saved in time wasted by replacing ineffective staff, de staffing and putting all gardening jobs out for tender to landscaping contractors.

This would ensure the jobs would be done well and in half the time as they will have tendered the works not paid buy the hour.

I feel like I'm already paying premium rates with little to show for it. Sides of roads are unkept and the roads are dangerous, damaged and never get properly repaired. Wasting more money with small patches everywhere this does not fix the lumps and bumps that can throw a car around on the road.

I will be very unhappy if the SRV goes ahead, think outside the square guys. You could have millions in excess and still blow it if it isn't managed in a professional manner.

Kind Regards

[Redacted Signature]

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 11:40:58 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 11:40:50

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I think it is a bad time to implement this rate hike as to many people in the community are struggling with other price increases.

Submission ID

64ee9e22058ff8540f0a575d

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 12:20:18 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 12:20:09

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Looking at the proposed rate increase, pensioners have no more to give. While a cultural precinct and future strategic planning may benefit some in the community, I recommend that Council wait until a more prosperous time. While people are struggling to make ends meet, I believe Council should concentrate on core activities plus parks and gardens at this time.

Submission ID

64eea7592c3447c46104fffe

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 12:55:37 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 12:55:26

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

With how hard families are doing it with the cost of living crisis, I do not agree with such aggressive rate rises, these rate rises, will cripple many families to breaking point myself included.

Submission ID

64eeaf9e2f8b1b1e0102ce17

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 5:11:42 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 17:11:42

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

this variation is a 32% hike over 3 years.

Submission ID

64eeebae4b1c6d409702b7f5

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr](#)
[Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 8:57:29 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 20:57:28

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Submission ID

64ef2098b64cb342a2012877

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 8:57:52 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 20:57:52

Your Name

Jason Bartlett

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Why would we agree to a SRV? Council separated the water and sewer from the rates and said it would make our rates cheaper now we pay double if not more than what we paid before the separation. Council have removed the roadside pickup of bulky waste. However, we do get two dump for free weekends a year that just happen to fall on long weekends when most people are busy or away. Council are promising a reduction of 1 million in spending per year. How will Council achieve this, by not replacing staff when they leave or retire, a reduction in maintenance schedules? So, what happens if you can't deliver this promise of reduced spending, does this mean Council won't pass on the SRV for that year?

Submission ID

64ef20b0994e109b540ddea6

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 9:21:57 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-30 21:21:57

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

As a irrigation farmer with 2 properties I will NOT be happy to pay the cumulative total of rates at the end of 3 years. The SRV would mean an extra 8k per year, and I struggle to see where the value for money is even now. Perhaps council could look at the efficiencies of all their operations and in some areas the use of contractors could be a cost saving, as the machinery capital costs and labour would be greatly reduced.

Submission ID

64ef2655847f0a7c64026217

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 6:01:23 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 06:01:22

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I am opposed to the significant rate increase as I believe that savings could be made by making council employees more accountable for their time. Not all, but a lot of employees misuse time and savings could definitely be made if their utilisation rates were monitored as in other normal businesses. Also, where there are employees in a role they should be doing the job rather than paying contractors to do the work-another way to a save on costs. In the current environment with cost of living already increasing it is frustrating to see the wastage of council funds but not reviewing these simple points.

Submission ID

64efa01266bedac2de0cc076

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 6:06:34 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 06:06:33

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I do not agree with the SRV, the services listed as services I do not use and to increase the rates so excessively will put a huge undue burden on my household. If the rates came in to affect to save things like the theatre and the pool I would be undoubtably be able to afford to attend these places as any extra money I had for pleasure would have to be redirected to paying rates

Submission ID

64efa1497c4ecafdee0c1899

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 8:33:19 AM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 08:33:18

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

We do not support Griffith City Council's proposed Special Rate Variation.

We are concerned with the affordability of the proposed rate rise for the community.

We encourage Council to seek alternatives and to consider possible alternate revenue sources and saving opportunities.

Submission ID

64efc3aedec17a1bb00247d6

From: [Multicultural Council of Griffith](#)
To: [Brett Stonestreet](#); [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Cc: [Cr Doug Curran](#); [Cr Glen Andreazza](#); [Cr Shari Blumer](#); [Cr Simon Croce](#); [Cr Jenny Ellis](#); [Cr Manjit Singh Lally](#); [Cr Chris Sutton](#); [Cr Dino Zappacosta](#); [Cr Laurie Testoni](#); [Cr Christine Stead](#); [Cr Anne Napoli](#); [Cr Melissa Marin](#)
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) submission
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 11:10:29 AM
Attachments: [SUBMISSION - GRIFFITH COUNCIL- \(SRV\) Special rate variation proposal.pdf](#)

Please find submission from MCOG
thanking you

--

Multicultural Council of Griffith Inc

Furthermore, the proposed rate rise could force many residents to make difficult choices between paying their bills and covering other basic necessities. Families may find themselves struggling to afford essential services such as healthcare, education, and groceries due to the increased financial strain. Additionally, the burden of bank charges, rental increases, energy increases (additional to the SRV), due to missed payments, could further exacerbate the financial hardships faced by the community.

For many residents, especially those who have to commute to work or school, the increase in transportation costs, including petrol prices, to reach essential places becomes an additional concern. The proposed rate rise could further strain household budgets as individuals grapple with the increased cost of daily travel.

The multicultural community, are particularly concerned about the potential the disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups. Many families from diverse backgrounds have chosen to make Griffith their home, and contribute to the cultural richness of our area while providing crucial labour to the agricultural, manufacturing and skilled areas of employment.

Implementing such a steep rate rise without considering its implications on these communities is **both unfair and unjust** and may see a drain from the workforce.

One crucial aspect that should be highlighted is the potential ripple effect on rental costs. An increase in property rates would translates to an increase in costs for property owners, which could be passed down to tenants in the form of higher rents. This could lead to a domino effect, where families and individuals who are already struggling to make ends meet face even greater financial difficulties due to rising rental expenses.

Instead of relying solely on rate increases to address any budgetary needs, we urge the Griffith Council to explore alternative solutions. Efficient budget management, cost-cutting measures, and exploring new revenue streams should be considered before placing an undue burden on the residents.

The community of Griffith is currently:

- **Predominantly made up of a high diverse multicultural community.**
- **The community overall is largely on a low to medium yearly income.**
- **This impost of a proposed exuberant (SRV) special rate variation on the Griffith community will be devastating and will impose an unnecessary burden on the already distressed community who is struggling to make ends meet with day to day living expense.**
- **Struggling with high weekly rental prices, high petrol prices, inflation, bank rates increase, Council fees on sewer, water and landfill and other service charges, agricultural fertilizers, irrigation water and pest/disease management, rising food costs and general living expenses such as energy and petrol.**
- **Coupled with increased land valuation rates, the addition of a proposed SRV will increase and compound the already increasing homeless community, overcrowding in accommodation, domestic violence and other community issues.**

- The SRV will affect the farmers who are at a stressed level due to the low return on their agricultural products and increased irrigation water charges, financial institution borrowing rates, with particular focus on citrus and grapes industries.

The available information suggests that the financial position of the Griffith Council seems robust:

- Council is in a sound financial situation
- Healthy reserves, which is further bolstered by investments, ongoing water trading, ongoing development contributions and costs, grants and government contributions
- Adopting a sound, quality management of its daily affairs, there is no foreseeable reason for this strong and stable financial situation to change in the distant future and no need to impose such a proposed SRV
- Using an example based on a \$1100.00 rate example and what would the total amount be with the rate variation is both disingenuous, wrong and an attempt to mislead the rate payer

Council would be well served by:

- Engaging with and have a present understanding of their local community
- Engaging in a culture of wellness and caring for their community
- Desist from comparing Griffith with Wagga and Albury, since they are not in any way similar to Griffith
- Should instead adopt a sound, high quality, management culture before imposing unnecessary financial impost on an already struggling community

Some further points for you to consider:

The impact of a multicultural community facing a proposed high special rate variation **can be profound, and there might be reasons to consider not implementing it:**

1. **Financial Strain:**
A proposed high special rate variation can exacerbate the financial challenges already faced by the Griffith collective community and inclusive of the diverse communities, making it even harder for residents to afford basic necessities.
2. **Housing Affordability:**
The increased financial burden from a proposed extraordinary special rate variation can further contribute to housing affordability issues, making it difficult for families to cover rent or mortgage payments.
3. **Reduced Disposable Income:**
With limited disposable income, members of the multicultural community would have to cut back on spending, affecting their quality of life and participation in local businesses, which in turn will affect their viability.

4. **Healthcare Access:**

The financial strain caused by the high special rate can potentially impact the community's ability to access quality healthcare services, leading to health inequalities and consequences.

5. **Community Disruption:**

The strain of a proposed high special rate variation might lead to community instabilities, social tensions, and reduced community cohesion.

Building upon previous statements:

1. **Economic Vulnerability:**

Implementing a high special rate variation could disproportionately affect economically vulnerable residents within the multicultural community, worsening their financial situation.

2. **Unintended Consequences:**

A proposed high special rate variation (SRV) could lead to unintended consequences such as decreased consumer spending, business closures, negative impacts on the local economy. With many people leaving Griffith altogether, an already visible trend already.

3. **Lack of Public Support:**

There is inadequate community support and strong opposition to the proposed (SRV) special rate variation, and it might not be politically viable or fair to implement it.

4. **Equity Concerns:**

Introducing a proposed high special rate variation, without considering its impact on already marginalized communities, could further exacerbate existing inequalities.

5. **Alternative Solutions:**

Exploring alternative solutions, such as targeted grants, or development programs, might be more effective for the Griffith Council instead of burdening the community, with the current economic struggles being experienced, both in the Griffith and the wider economy.

6. **Transparency and Communication:**

If there's a lack of transparent communication about the purpose and potential impacts of the high special rate variation, it would lead to further mistrust.

7. **Long-Term Sustainability:**

Councillors might consider whether the high special rate variation is a sustainable solution on the community without causing undue financial strain.

8. **Collaborative Approach:**

A high special rate variation might not be the best approach if a collaborative effort involving community input and engagement is lacking.

Ultimately, the decision to implement a high special rate variation should be made with careful consideration of the potential impacts on the Griffith multicultural community already struggling in the unstable economy and a thoughtful assessment of whether it is the most appropriate solution.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the Griffith Council reconsider the proposed 39.92% rate rise. The community believes that a collaborative approach, involving exploring alternative solutions, would result in a fairer and more sustainable outcome for all residents

Thank you for considering our concerns. Look forward to hearing about the council's decision on this matter.

From: [Carmel La Rocca](#)
To: bstonestreet@griffith.nsw.gov.au; [GCC Admin Mailbox](#)
Cc: [Cr Doug Curran](#); [Cr Glen Andreazza](#); [Cr Shari Blumer](#); [Cr Simon Croce](#); [Cr Jenny Ellis](#); [Cr Manjit Singh Lally](#); [Cr Chris Sutton](#); [Cr Dino Zappacosta](#); [Cr Laurie Testoni](#); [Cr Christine Stead](#); [Cr Anne Napoli](#); [Cr Melissa Marin](#)
Subject: Submission re: special rate variation proposal
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 11:17:44 AM
Attachments: [SUBMISSION TO GRIFFITH COUNCIL RE SRV.pdf](#)

please find submission attached for the proposed SRV - special rate variation
thanking you



SUBMISSION

Attention of the Griffith City Council General manager and Griffith City Council Councillors

Griffith Progress Association Incorporated since 2009, is a not-for-profit Community association, representing the interests of Griffith Rate Payers. Since its incorporation, many submissions have been presented to Council, with successful outcomes.

RE: Strong Opposition to Special Rate Variation: Protecting the Interests of Our Community

On behalf of concerned members of our community, we are writing to express firm opposition to the proposed special rate variation and **urge** the Griffith City Council in its entirety, to reconsider its proposed impact on the community of Griffith with the implementation push by some councillors.

Such a rate increase would have far-reaching negative consequences and place an undue burden on the residents, the rental market, businesses and farmers, who Griffith City Council must strive to support and foster consideration for the wellness of the Griffith community.

Adequate funding to sustain and enhance, essential services, is of course required and it is clear Griffith Council has a comfortable financial position, which can address those. Griffith City Council level of financial security will only increase naturally due to the ongoing future construction and development of Griffith; therefore, it is essential to **carefully evaluate** the impact of any rate variation of this proportion will have on our community.

Here are several key reasons why the strong opposition the proposed increase:

1. **Hidden costs the Council has left out of their calculations which would be con-currently additional to the proposed SRV:**

Council currently increased charges on:

- water access, waste (rubbish) removal, development costs

Additional to economic rise of:

- inflation
- borrowing rates
- costs of everyday living such as food
- insurance
- increase in financial institutions borrowing rates for housing and domestic goods
- increased business rates
- farmers on farm costs to grow crops such as fertilizer, water, pests and disease products, all the while, the return produce is at all-time low.

SUBMISSION RE: SRV PROPOSAL BY GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL

Yearly LAND re-evaluations across our LGA have created massive increases in earnings for Griffith City Council in 2023 and will continue to increase yearly, with some commercial property Rate increases by 31%. The community does not believe that this huge increase in Council revenue and investments has been correctly disclosed or forecast in Councils SRV presentations or budgets.

1. Lack of Accountability and Transparency:

The current proposal lacks the necessary transparency and accountability.

As stakeholders, we deserve a detailed breakdown of how the proposed SRV additional funds will be utilised and what specific benefits we can expect in return.

Without a clear explanation of the intended outcomes and a thorough assessment of the financial implications, it is unreasonable to expect the community to accept such a substantial rate hike.

Sample

			Rate
Now		\$ 2,088.00	
yr 1	\$ 73.08	\$ 2,165.26	3.700%
yr2	227.35188	\$ 2,392.61	10.500%
yr3	251.22383	\$ 2,643.83	10.500%
yr4	277.60233	\$ 2,921.43	10.500%
			\$ 833.43
		39.9152%	

Giving the Ratepayers an ultimatum to either pay approximate a conservative 39.92% compounded SRV hike, or cut services is a misleading form of pressure, when Council is well aware of many other options available, instead of imposing such a severe proposed SRV to an already struggling community.

2. Financial Hardship on Residents:

Financial difficulties across the community, as a result of the COVID-19 years and the current economic landscape, and additional unforeseen circumstances, a proposed threat of implementation of a high SRV would place an undue burden of hardship on the residents of our community.

Individuals and families in the Griffith community, are already facing ongoing financial challenges, and an additional impost of financial strain in the form of a concurrent, increased special rate variation in addition to other Griffith Council charges would only exacerbate their difficulties.

It is the duty of Council to ensure the economic stability and well-being of our community members, particularly those who are most vulnerable or on fixed to low incomes.

3. Economic Impact on Local Businesses:

Our local businesses play a vital role in our community's prosperity. They have already have had a huge increase in their in-business rates before any proposed SRV by some Griffith City Councillors. These increases are already giving the Griffith Council unprecedented funds increase.

Introducing a significant special rate variation increase at this time, of 39.9152%, compounded implementation over 3 years, and excluding the additional, massive 70% spike in land values in 2023, especially, amidst existing economic challenges, from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, where businesses and economies were impacted, would hinder their ability to further employ and continue to recover and thrive.

By imposing additional financial constraints, the risk of stifling economic growth, job creation, and innovation would be imminent, thereby diminishing the very frame that makes our community vibrant and prosperous.

4. **Exploring Alternatives:** Before resorting to a rate variation, it is imperative to explore alternative solutions that can achieve the desired outcomes without imposing such a substantial burden on ratepayers and the community.

Conducting a thorough assessment of existing resources, streamlining operational processes, and identifying potential cost-saving measures can help alleviate the need for an immediate proposed SRV rate increase.

By adopting a proactive approach and seeking creative alternatives, we can strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and community well-being.

5. **Increased financial burden:** The special rate variation would result in higher property taxes or rates for businesses, farmers. It would increase their operating costs and create additional financial burden. This can be particularly challenging for struggling farmers and those operating on tight profit margins.
6. **Unequal distribution of costs:** A proposed (SRV) special rate variation by some Griffith Councillors, will impact heavily on the local struggling farmers. Farmers may feel that the burden fall disproportionately on rural or agricultural areas compared to urban regions. This perception can result in strained relationships between farmers and the council.
7. **Limited to no benefits for farmers:** Farmers question the push from some Griffith City Councillors for a proposed special rate variation. Farmers are finding it difficult to keep up with rising farm costs for their agricultural needs, high interest rates, poor return for their produce sales, mental health issues from all these pressures and this coupled with having to endure broken road networks and poor services from Griffith City Council.

This proposal is unfair, and unwarranted at the present time, additional to the unpredictable economic environment our local community is are living with and trying to live in.

The proposed implementation supported by some 58.3% of Griffith Councillors, would potentially impact on the already existing crisis in the mental healthy environment.

It is a crucial for these decision makers to thoroughly evaluate the consequences from a proposed implementation of such a high SRV on the community of Griffith.

8. **In conclusion,** we strongly oppose the proposed special rate variation due to:
 - the lack of transparency,
 - the potential financial hardships it imposes on our residents,
 - the negative impact on local businesses, and
 - the need to explore alternative solutions.

It would be a prudent approach for the Griffith City Council to reconsider the current Special Rate Variation (SRV) proposal. If the Council finds itself in need of a SRV, it is still crucial to be transparent, involve the community in the decision-making process. Engaging in a meaningful dialogue with the community can help identify a balanced solution that takes into account the interest al all stakeholder from the Griffith local government area. Open communication and collaboration are key during such decisions.

The community requests Griffith Council to reconsider the current proposal of a SRV, and engage in a meaningful dialogue with the community to find a balanced approach that aligns with the best interests of all stakeholders.

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 12:02:16 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 12:02:15

Your Name

Jason moore

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

No

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

We pay enough all ready leave it be. I like maney people in town are struggling to pay it and make ends meet now. Also I can't see council spending the money wisely.

Submission ID

64eff4a7084316e09107dbe2

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 12:26:11 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 12:26:11

Your Name

Kristy Wilson

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I absolutely oppose this rate variation. Any rise will not only increase costs to homeowners but also to those that rent. The cost of living pressures are already unsustainable for many of those in our community and this variation will only increase this stress for the vulnerable and those already only just keeping their heads above water in our community. It will place undue further stress on households which will also flow over to businesses as households tighten their spending even further. I believe the local council is completely out of touch with the community it has been elected to represent if they believe the community can withstand this rate rise.

I believe instead you need to redirect the current income streams to where they are most needed at this point and look at where the community are not receiving value from your spending and wind this spending back.

In the current economic climate I believe council needs to look at raising revenue from alternate means rather than disadvantaging the community with untenable increases to their already challenging cost of living.

Submission ID

64effa438d6d37365d07a5f6

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 1:30:06 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 13:30:06

Your Name

Denis aramini

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Council must supply ratepayers a full list of costs that have increased significantly which has caused this proposal

Council to provide any upcoming foreseen substantial legal costs

Council to provide details of all legal costs and associated costs last 3 years

Council to justify that after these substantial increase the current Managers position -

Council to undergo a full Forensic independent audit on its books to substantiate its need for such an increase

Submission ID

64f0093e609275f6b008911c

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 1:34:31 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 13:34:30

Your Name

Mary

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I would say that there is poor management in the financing department! Wasted tax payers money on things that have no significant impact on the town. The maintenance on the services we pay our rates on are appalling. Disappointed in the management overall of this town. No beautification done over the years, no incentives to intice people to move here, nothing for the children in the community. It's a very sad town. Maybe look at other country towns like Armidale, Inverell, to find some inspiration. What happened to our Lake? We need people who are forward thinking & creative on our Council, not money waters & then ask people to pay more for Councils mistakes.

Submission ID

64f00a462617e4266502376f

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 1:58:05 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 13:58:05

Your Name

Sue

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I don't want to pay more for anything if I can help it, but I understand the need. As long as council - that includes councillors take a good look at the way things are done to save money.

Submission ID

64f00fcd80f1af4a33035ebc

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 2:07:04 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 14:07:04

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Definitely do not apply this to the community! We are paying enough now and with interest rates where they are you'll crucify rate payers!

Submission ID

64f011e8873d2c61d80407b5

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 2:08:20 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 14:08:20

Your Name



Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

No

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

I am a renter, and although I do not pay rates, my rental amount could be affected by this SRV. In saying that, as a mother of young children I appreciate what Griffith has to offer, and that things that are on offer attract a cost to Council. The cost of living has risen exponentially over the last few years, and I'm sure Council (as a business) is also feeling the pinch. However, I am sure that just like every other household and business, Council can find savings and efficiency through this process.

It is a huge asset to our town that it offers free events for families during the cost of living crisis, such as;

- Rhyme and story time at the library
- Christmas in the park
- Street Scapes
- Skate Park
- Parks in general

All of these free events and facilities are complemented by other amazing facilities that draws large crowds to Griffith. For example, Regional Sports Centre and the Pool who have hosted large sporting events.

In conclusion, I would like to see efficiencies and cost saving efforts, but it would be a real shame for Griffith to loose it's liveability if the SRV wasn't adopted.

Submission ID

64f0123441ec2baa08063d8a

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 2:50:02 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 14:49:53

Your Name

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

Yes

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

Don't do it mate

Submission ID

64f01bf15abe71b37b02fe0d

From: no-reply=paperform.co@mg.paperform.co on behalf of [Paperform](#)
To: [GCC Admin Mailbox](#); [Steve Saffioti](#); [Communications](#); [Brett Stonestreet](#); [Cr Doug Curran](#)
Subject: SRV - Have your say
Date: Thursday, 31 August 2023 2:53:16 PM

Griffith City Council - Special Rate Variation (SRV) - Have Your Say

Submitted At

2023-08-31 14:52:06

Your Name

Lynda Franks

Your email?

[REDACTED]

Would you like your details withheld from the Business Paper?

No

Are you a ratepayer to Griffith City Council

Yes

Have you received or read information from Griffith City Council about a proposal to apply for a special rate variation to IPART for an increase in general rates above the rate peg?

Yes

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposal to apply for a Special Rate Variation?

The Griffith council have threatened to reduce services if the SRV is not approved on their website. They have already defunded the Griffith Community Centre, a life line to disadvantaged people in the community. The Griffith Community Centre is staffed by volunteers and paid staff which receives donations from the rate payers and farmers. Instead of delivering food aid, their time and resources have been changed to fundraising. They have already lost talented staff. The Centre had a great self funding model, and the Council destroyed it. A totally unjustifiable act.

The Griffith city council have missed opportunities to purchase badly needed community space at 60% under the market value. Griffith has twice the cultural diversity than the rest of the Riverina. Those spaces for multicultural communities have been defunded.

By their own figures on the long term financial plan, there is not one year where the Council will be in deficit. In fact without the SRV, Griffith City will have healthy profits through to 2032. They have \$190 million in cash, yet are claiming at the community meetings, they will be in deficit by the same amount. The council have just spent \$11 million on flood mitigation, which I understand is coming to completion. In the time I have been a resident in Griffith, the council have been obstructive to developers and those developers have moved on to other nearby towns. We have a massive housing shortage.

Griffith is in the bottom 37% for developments and the bottom 13% for quality housing in NSW. Griffith is on the bottom 39% for housing affordability and the

bottom 2% for unit rental affordability. We have a homeless rate of 10%.

[https://www.microburbs.com.au/Real-Estate/Griffith-\(NSW\)](https://www.microburbs.com.au/Real-Estate/Griffith-(NSW))

If the Griffith city council had been more proactive in attracting and retaining developers, we would be in a lot stronger position for our housing, and they would have more rate payers paying rates. The SRV is not justifiable at any level. They need to deliver the goals set out in their strategy housing plan as a matter of urgency.

Attachments to your submission

- [final adopted long term financial plan annual review 2023 24.pdf](#)

Submission ID

64f01c76f1db8b2fdb00d792

Note that Council's Long Term Financial Plan was attached to this submission. The LTFP is available on Council's website.

Submission Against Special Rate Variation Proposed By Griffith City Council

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed special rate variation.

While I understand the importance of funding for community projects and programs, I believe there are significant issues that need to be addressed before considering any increase in a special rates variation (SRV).

Firstly, it has become evident that a substantial number of people within our community are facing financial hardships. Given this scenario, it's imperative that Griffith Council carefully assesses their current funds and how they are allocated and ensure they are utilised judiciously and efficiently, before even considering imposing an impost of a special rate variation on the Griffith community.

One pressing issue is the perceived wastage of ratepayer money on projects and programs that do not seem to yield satisfactory results. A lack of transparency in expenditure has led to concerns about the allocation of funds to projects that might not align with the immediate needs of the community.

For instance, the proposed construction of a new big art gallery.

The newly completed stadium raises questions when considering the absence of sustainable initiatives like solar panels, resulting in unnecessary huge electricity expenses.

Furthermore, the state of roads and public spaces is a growing concern. The deterioration of these essential assets affects the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. It is crucial that funds are appropriately directed towards maintaining and improving these vital infrastructures for our community.

Accountability is paramount in ensuring that current rates are being spent responsibly. There is a pressing need for increased transparency regarding how funds are allocated and expended. This includes:

- addressing the excessive employment of casual workers at the tourist information centre, which appears to produce limited community results.
- Additionally, the tourist information centre should prioritise promoting local major events over those in other towns to stimulate the local economy and foster community engagement.

To truly benefit the community, the council must focus on becoming more efficient in delivering services and maintaining crucial infrastructure. Facilities such as the regional theatre, swimming pool, sports stadium, and library should be maintained at a high standard and with energy efficient management so as to enrich the lives of residents.

At Griffith airport, the Council should have agreements with businesses such as the, Hire Cars, so they are charged correctly for using the facility, instead of the ratepayer having to contribute.

Cars that park at the airport should pay parking fees, however, the dirt area should be improved and upgraded.

In conclusion, I urge you to carefully consider these concerns before proceeding with the proposed special rate variation. A transparent allocation of funds, efficient service delivery, and a genuine focus on community needs will go a long way in ensuring the prosperity and well-being of our town. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature



Hanwood, NSW 2680

31. 8. 2023



To Griffith City Council.

Re: Proposed Rate Increases.

I am putting pen to paper to record my objection to Council's proposed huge increase in Shire Rates over the coming 3 years. Viz., 34% (approx.).

Earlier in 2023 the unimproved capital value of my Hanwood property was increased from "\$117,000 to \$177,000" reflecting some 34% (approximately) increase.

Now You Need More.

Times are Tough.

We all have needs. To increase rates, to such an extent, in the near future would only add to the burden of inflation for all citizens and rate payers alike.

After 85 years of Life, coping with multiple health issues and making out on a fixed income, I consider this proposal to be most unfair to all.

Regarding Shire Finances, "Heed the Old Adage,"

"Cut Your Cloth To Suit Your Suit."

Please show more empathy towards your citizens and "Ditch the Proposal."

Regards
Alia

