



**Special Rate Variation Survey – Please Return by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

Council intends to *apply* to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a variation to the existing special rates variation (SRV) which will result in a cumulative increase to rates of 62.6 percent over five years (please see tables in the Fact Sheet for details of the average increase to each category over this period).

The purpose of the SRV *is to try to assure financial sustainability, with a view to maintaining service levels wherever possible, in response to very significant cost pressures imposed by the May 2016 forced amalgamation and subsequent rate path freeze.*

Survey Questions – please tick  the most appropriate option

1. How satisfied are you with the standard of maintenance of Council infrastructure (for example roads, footpaths, bridges, buildings, parks)?  
 Very satisfied;  Satisfied;  Neutral;  Dissatisfied;  Very dissatisfied
2. How satisfied are you with the standard of Council services (for example rubbish collection, nuisance animal control, customer service)?  
 Very satisfied;  Satisfied;  Neutral;  Dissatisfied;  Very dissatisfied
3. How satisfied are you with the outcomes from amalgamation?  
 Very satisfied;  Satisfied;  Neutral;  Dissatisfied;  Very dissatisfied

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

4. How do you feel Cootamundra-Gundagai average current rates compare to the average current rates of other similar Councils (Table 6 in the Fact Sheet)?  
 Current Cootamundra-Gundagai rates seem less than similar Councils.  
 Current Cootamundra-Gundagai rates seem about the same as similar Councils.  
 Current Cootamundra-Gundagai rates seem too high relative to similar Councils.
5. After reading the Fact Sheet are you now aware of the effect that the proposed special rate variation will have on the average rates paid by each category of ratepayer at Cootamundra-Gundagai over the five year period up to 2025/26?  
 Yes, I am now aware of the proposed SRV and its effect on average rates.  
 No, I am not aware of the SRV and its effect on average rates.
6. After reading the Fact Sheet are you now aware that the proposed special rate variation is needed so that Council has sufficient funds to conduct its regular business, including payment of staff wages?  
 Yes, I am aware that the purpose of the SRV is to allow Council to fund current operations.  
 No, I am not aware that the proposed SRV is required to fund Council operations.
7. Are you aware of the options available to obtain further information commencing January, 2021?  
 Yes, I am aware of meetings, videos, listening posts, and citizen jury options which I can use to obtain further information as outlined in the Fact Sheet.  
 No, I am not aware of the options outlined in the Fact Sheet.

8. Given the need for additional revenue to balance the budget and ultimately avoid solvency problems – a proposition held by both Professor Drew and Deloitte – which of the three options do you prefer?

I prefer the status quo (no new variation to the SRV with existing Gundagai SRV expiring at the end of 2023/24) and acknowledge that two external parties believe that this may well raise questions regarding Council’s solvency.

I would prefer the status quo and to reduce staff by 25%, capital expenditure by 30% or a combination of the two. I acknowledge that cuts of this kind would result in a very significant decline to local government services and local employment.

I accept the need for the proposed additional SRV.

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

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

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

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local-Government/Reviews/Special-Variations-Minimum-Rates/Special-Variations-Minimum-Rates-2021-22>.

Further information on the CGRC Special Rate Variation can be located at <https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/special-rate-variation-srv/>.