

Our CM Ref: 21/49856  
Contact: [REDACTED]

25 February 2021

Mr Tim Hurst  
Deputy Secretary  
Local Government, Planning & Policy  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
Locked Bag 3015  
NOWRA NSW 2541

Dear Mr Hurst

### **Application to Harmonise Minimum Ordinary Rate on 1 July 2021**

Bayside Council constitutes the former Rockdale City Council and former City of Botany Bay local government areas. It is required (under current legislation) that the first elected Council undertake a review of its current rating structure with the objective of establishing one rating structure to be implemented across the Bayside LGA by 1 July 2021.

There are 2 methods available to Council in order to harmonise to a new Bayside minimum ordinary rate.

#### **1. IPART minimum rate application process**

Section 548 of the Act allows a council to specify a minimum rate to be levied on each parcel of land. Where a council is proposing to increase the minimum rate above the statutory limit or by more than the rate pegging limit, an application needs to be submitted to IPART for the minimum rate increase.

IPART has the delegation to approve a council to increase the minimum rate on a transitional basis over a number of years.

#### **2. Special Guidelines for The Deputy Secretary to approve minimum rate applications for amalgamated Councils (subject to Exposure Draft of the Local Government Amendment (Rating) Bill 2020 being legislated)**

On 18 November 2020, the Minister issued a letter to Council detailing the Special Guidelines for new councils that are required to harmonise minimum rates on 1 July 2021.

It is important to note that this method does not allow Council to transition to a higher minimum ordinary rate over a number of years and only permits an immediate transition at the start of the 2021/22 financial year.

#### **Postal address**

PO Box 21, Rockdale NSW 2216  
ABN 80 690 785 443

#### **Bayside Customer Service Centres**

Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway, Rockdale  
Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens

**E** [council@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bayside.nsw.gov.au)

**W** [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

**T** 1300 581 299 | 02 9562 1666

The Special Guidelines outline that The Deputy Secretary has been granted a temporary delegation by the Minister for Local Government under section 548 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) to also determine minimum rates applications only for new councils established in 2016 for the 2021-22 financial year.

These Special Guidelines only apply if a new council is seeking to set a harmonised minimum ordinary rate across its new council area that is higher than the current statutory limit of \$554, but no higher than the highest minimum ordinary rate of any one of the former councils or part of a former council area that was previously approved by IPART (plus the 2021-22 rate peg).

### **Council's Course of Action to Harmonise Minimum Rates**

The IPART minimum application method is considered the preferred approach for Council, as, if approved by IPART, Council's ability to transition the minimum rate over a number of years is not reliant on the Exposure Draft of the Local Government Amendment (Rating) Bill 2020 (the Draft Bill) being passed by the NSW Parliament.

With regard to the minimum rate application process using the Special Guidelines for The Deputy Secretary, it has limitations, as if approved by The Deputy Secretary, Council will only be able to transition to the new minimum rates over a number of years if the Draft Bill is passed by the NSW Parliament.

As such, on advice from the Office of Local Government (OLG), Council has resolved to submit an application utilising both methods to ensure all available options remain active for Council as part of the rates harmonisation process. This approach will allow Council the greatest opportunity to be able to harmonise rates gradually over multiple years (4 years straight lined).

**In this regard, (based on advice from the OLG) Council requests that the Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Planning & Policy, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment only issue a decision (instrument) for this application after the outcome of Council's IPART minimum rate application is known, and only if that application is unsuccessful.**

### **The Application to Deputy Secretary**

Council, as per the adopted resolution below, is applying to set a new harmonised minimum ordinary rate at a maximum of \$768.52 (plus approved IPART rate peg limit of 2%) effective from 1 July 2021. This amount of \$768.52 (plus approved IPART rate peg limit of 2%) is equivalent to the current ordinary minimum rate of the former Rockdale City Council.

At the Council meeting of 10 February 2021, Council adopted the following resolution in order to submit this application to The Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Planning and Policy, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

## Council Resolution

Following is an extract of the Council resolution with part 2b that approves making this application.

### **8 Reports**

#### **8.1 Rates Harmonisation - Outcomes of Community Engagement, Approval to Submit an Application to Set the Minimum Rates and Gradual Harmonisation of Rates**

##### RESOLUTION

Minute 2021/015

Resolved on the motion of Councillors Tsounis and Barlow

- 1 That Council receives and notes the report including the feedback received from the community engagement process around rate harmonisation.
- 2 That Bayside Council does not agree with the mandatory rate harmonisation, imposed by the State Government, that will result in a rate increase for some of our residents. However, given the current legislative requirements, Council resolves the following:
  - a. That Council submits an application immediately to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under section 548 of the Local Government Act 1993 for IPART to consider approving an instrument to be issued to set a transitional minimum ordinary rate from 1 July 2021 for all rating categories which is equivalent to the current minimum ordinary rate for ratepayers in the former Rockdale City Council side of the Bayside Local Government Area (LGA) at \$768.52 (plus the approved IPART rate peg limit in all years during the 4 year transition period). The transitional path to be applied for is to be based on a straight lined 4-year transition as set out in TABLE 1 of this report.
  - b. That Council also submits an application in accordance with current legislation to the Office of Local Government (OLG), before 26 February 2021, under section 548 of the Local Government Act 1993 for The Deputy Secretary to consider approving an instrument to be issued to set a new

*(Council resolution continued on the next page)*

minimum ordinary rate for all rating categories which is equivalent to the current minimum rate for ratepayers in the former Rockdale City Council side of the Bayside Local Government Area (LGA) at \$768.52 (plus approved IPART rate peg limit of 2%) effective from 1 July 2021, subject to the following:

- i. The implementation of this application is dependent on the provisions included in the NSW State Government Draft Local Government Amendment (Rates) Bill 2021 for gradual rate harmonisation being legislated by the NSW Parliament before 1 July 2021 and on this basis Council only implement the new minimum rate on a transitional basis as set out in TABLE 1 of this report.
- ii. That as part of the application to be submitted (for reasons outlined in this report) Council request that The Deputy Secretary of the Office of Local Government only issue a decision on Councils application after the outcome of the IPART minimum application (as per recommendation 2 of this report) is known, and only if that is unsuccessful.

- c. That Council notes that the draft 2021/22 Operational Plan and budget (including the revenue policy) to be considered by Council in April 2021 for Public Exhibition will, to meet the legislative uncertainty and ratepayer equity, reflect 2 draft rating structures based on:
  - i. a multi-year rate harmonisation path based on provisions included in the NSW State Government Draft Local Government Amendment (Rates) Bill 2021 (Draft Rates Bill 2021) utilising the straight lined approach shown in TABLE 2 of this report; and
  - ii. a single-year rate harmonisation path as per the current legislation.

## DIVISION

Division called by Councillors Tsounis and Barlow

For: Councillors Sedrak, Nagi, Kalligas, Tsounis, Barlow, Bezic, Macdonald and Poulos

Against: Councillors Curry, Morrissey, Rapisardi, Saravinovski, McDougall and Awada

The division was declared carried

Link to full resolution (page number 8 & 9)

[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/02/CO\\_10022021\\_MIN\\_3469.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/02/CO_10022021_MIN_3469.PDF)

### Assumptions Made

- Due to existing legislation and special guidance for new councils we are only able to apply & implement an improved harmonised ordinary minimum rate as of 1 July 2021 over a period of 1 year.
- Due to extensive community feedback and representations made by Councillors in recent months, Council has also applied to IPART for a 4-year implementation period for the new harmonised minimum ordinary rate of \$768.52 (plus approved IPART rate peg limit of 2%)
- If the IPART application is unsuccessful and this application is approved, and if the new legislation is passed, the new harmonised minimum ordinary rate instrument for Bayside Council will allow a 4-year implementation period.

- Council request that the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Local Government only issue a decision on Councils application after the outcome of the IPART minimum application is known, and only if that application is unsuccessful.

### Proposed Rating Structure and Harmonised Minimum Ordinary Rate

The following table shows the current and proposed rating structure that forms the basis of this application to set the new minimum ordinary rate from 1 July 2021.

<b>Minimum Ordinary Rate Increase on Rating Categories &amp; Sub-categories</b>					
The tables below set out the increase in dollar and percentage terms for each category and subcategory of ratepayers affected by the proposed minimum ordinary rate increase.					
<b>Former City of Botany Bay Council   Minimum Rates - with proposed minimum rate increase application</b>					
Category	Sub-category	Current Minimum Rate	Proposed Minimum Rate	Increase to Minimum ordinary rates (\$)	Increase to Minimum ordinary rates (%)
<b>Botany Bay</b>		<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
Residential		\$ 553.62	\$ 783.89	\$ 230.27	42%
Business	Business A	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Business B	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Business C	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Business A Mascot	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Business B Mascot	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Industrial A	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Industrial B	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Industrial A North	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Industrial B North	\$ 553.62	\$ -	\$ -	.
Business	Port Botany	\$ 553.62	\$ 783.89	\$ 230.27	42%
Business	Business	\$ 553.62	\$ 783.89	\$ 230.27	42%
Business	Industrial	\$ 553.62	\$ 783.89	\$ 230.27	42%
Business	Mall	\$ 553.62	\$ 783.89	\$ 230.27	42%
<b>Former Rockdale City Council   Minimum Rates - with proposed minimum rate increase application</b>					
Category	Sub-category	Current Minimum Rate	Proposed Minimum Rate	Increase to Minimum ordinary rates (\$)	Increase to Minimum ordinary rates (%)
<b>Rockdale</b>		<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
Residential	n/a	\$ 768.52	\$ 783.89	\$ 15.37	2%
Business	n/a	\$ 768.52	\$ 783.89	\$ 15.37	2%
Farmland	n/a	\$ 768.52	\$ 783.89	\$ 15.37	2%
<b>Notes</b>					
(A)	These business sub-categories of the former City of Botany Bay Council (A) will be reclassified in the new business subcategories (B) under the new rating structure to be implemented from 1 July 2021.				
(B)	These are the new business subcategories that will be implemented at 1 July 2021 under the new harmonised rating structure.				



## Consultation Process on Rate Harmonisation

On 14 October 2020, Council resolved to undertake community engagement until 30 November 2020. The engagement period was subsequently extended to 31 December 2020.

The objective of the engagement process was to provide a widespread awareness program so that all Bayside ratepayers would have the opportunity to have their say.

The community engagement process involved the following elements:

- Standalone Rates Harmonisation webpage including FAQ's
- Simple Community Survey
- Online rates calculator
- All ratepayers, both residential and business, received an individual letter with the specific proposed changes to their rates for their property
- Local MP Briefings
- Media releases from council
- Facebook media campaign (see attached Facebook statistics)
- Incoming correspondence from residents
- Print media coverage
- Council meeting & associated documents
- State Government lower house coverage
- TV coverage on local news outlets
- Rate Harmonisation Customer Service

The overall objective of our rates harmonisation website was to provide every rate payer the opportunity to input their property details and then view the impact of this minimum rate change on their general rate they currently pay. We did this by showing their total rates bill for the current financial year (2020/2021) compared to what is being proposed as at 1 July 2021.

Attached to this application is the summary of the community consultation elements and outcomes.

## Outcomes of Consultation Process

In total we had 4,047 unique visitors accessed the rates harmonisation Web Page since 15 October 2020, with 5,623 page views. That's an average of around 52 people per day and it was the 10th most popular page on our site over that period.



## Rates Calculator

The rates calculator has had 2,546 unique visitors and had been used 5,253 times since it was launched.

## Have Your Say Form/Survey

In total 1,673 unique visitors accessed the consultation page, with a total of 2,121 page views. We received 1,086 responses, of which 72% were in favour of a staged (multi-year) implementation.

### Facebook Posts Insights

In total there were 5 Facebook posts that reached a total of 49,801 people from 26 October 2020 to 22 January 2021. Details & links to these posts are contained in Attachment 4. Council also paid for further boosting of our posts to reach a broader audience. The reach and insights of each post are detailed below.

Post	Date	People Reached	Engagements	Boosted	Link Clicks	Comments	Shares
1	26 Oct 20	7,608	1,559	No	1,582	54	9
2	6 Nov 20	3,067	1,282	No	545	26	1
3	19 Nov 20	16,408	3,158	Yes	227	92	11
4	7 Dec 20	10,902	636	Yes	302	39	9
5	22 Jan 21	11,816	2,029	Yes	1,200	11	4

### Further feedback and inquiries

We received 56 telephone calls via Council's call centre along with a high number of phone calls directly to Councillors. We also received 145 written submissions, of which 83 were from owners of parking spaces at the "Park n Fly" car park at the time of finalising this report.

### Data Integrity and Multiple Surveys

From the IP address data:

- 871 unique IP addresses made a single submission;
- 70 people made 2 submissions
- 9 people made 3 submissions
- 5 people made 4 submissions
- 1 people made 5 submissions
- 1 people made 7 submissions
- 2 people made 8 submissions

### Engagement Themes

Out of 1,086 survey responses 857 came from former Botany Council residents and 202 from former Rockdale Council residents. There were 27 responses that did not include a 'former' council. The below table shows the options that each category of responses chose.

Former Council Area	One off change in 2020-21	Staged implementation	No option chosen	Total responses
Botany	54	683	120	<b>857</b>
Rockdale	108	88	6	<b>202</b>
Not provided	0	13	14	<b>27</b>

Residential ratepayer engagement in the consultation process was far greater than that of business ratepayers. There was minimal response from business ratepayers.

In conclusion, there were 2 overarching themes coming out of the engagement process, these are:

- The increase is deemed too large for the former Botany Council residential ratepayers, especially in this time of COVID and existing financial stress; and
- That any increase should be staged over a number of years and that this would soften the impact of the proposed increase for all ratepayers. Council undertook to advocate on behalf of ratepayers on a staged implementation of the rates harmonisation process.

## **Conclusion**


Council is applying for a new harmonised minimum ordinary rate of \$768.52 (plus approved IPART rate peg limit of 2%) effective from 1 July 2021. Council has resolved to move to the existing former Rockdale City Council minimum ordinary rate. The existing minimum ordinary rate for the former City of Botany Bay Council will be brought up to the new harmonised minimum ordinary rate of \$768.52 (plus approved IPART rate peg limit of 2%) from the commencement of financial year 2021/22 as set out in this application.


If the proposed rating reform legislation is passed, Council prefers for the instrument to be issued under this application to be structured in such a way that allows Council to implement the new minimum ordinary rate over a 4-year period.

To reiterate, as per advice from the OLG, Council requests that the Deputy Secretary Local Government, Planning & Policy, Department of Planning, Industry & Environment only issue a decision (instrument) for this application after the outcome of Council's IPART minimum rate application is known, and only if that is unsuccessful.

Should you require further information or clarification regarding this application please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

  
Meredith Wallace  
**General Manager**

  
Matthew Walker  
**Responsible Accounting Officer**

### *Attachments:*

1. Previous Rockdale City Council Instrument
2. Example of ratepayers letters (residential & business)
3. Web links to Council reports and website
4. Facebook media campaign media statistics and insights
5. Online rates calculator
6. Media releases and newsletter



**ATTACHMENTS**

**1. Previous Rockdale City Council Instrument**

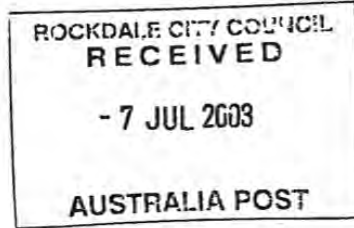


Department of Local Government  
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541  
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

FILE No.	R11/0004
DOCUMENT NUMBER	21493
ACTIONING OFFICER	SM/RC

FF: 96/0559  
OUR REFERENCE DTS: 79384  
YOUR REFERENCE CONTACT  
Scott Wallace  
02 4428 4141

Mr Kevin Casey  
General Manager  
Rockdale City Council  
PO Box 21  
ROCKDALE NSW 2216



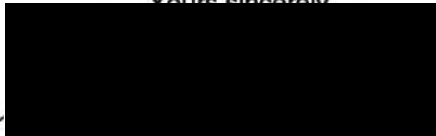
- 1 JUL 2003

Dear Mr Casey

I refer to Council's application of 18 June 2003 seeking Ministerial approval to increase its minimum ordinary rates to \$518.01 for 2003/2004.

The Minister has approved of the Council making and levying the minimum ordinary rates for 2003/2004 as per the attached instrument.

Yours sincerely



Garry Payne  
Director General

*Noted  
21/7/03*



30/06 2003 16:40 FAX 61 2 9223 6649

TONY KELLY MIN OFFICE  
LOCAL GOVT CO-OP

005  
003

07/08 '03 11:25 FAX 61 2 8793 0699

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993**  
**SECTION 548 (3) (a) INSTRUMENT**

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I, **TONY KELLY MLC**, Minister for Local Government in pursuance of section 548 (3) (a) of the Local Government Act, 1993, determine that Rockdale City Council may make and levy the following minimum ordinary rates for 2003/2004.

Residential Rate.....	\$518.01
Business Rate.....	\$518.01

Dated this 30th day of June, 2003

  
The Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Local Government

FF96/0559  
SYDNEY

## 2. Example of Ratepayers Letters – Residential and Business

**Rate Harmonisation**  **COMING IN 2021**

  
 [REDACTED]  
 ROCKDALE NSW 2216

 012 900001 81.10

13 November 2020

Dear Ratepayer,

As mandated by the NSW State Government, Bayside Council is required to harmonise its current rating structures into one single structure in readiness for the 2021/22 financial year.

**What does that mean?**

In 2016 when the NSW State Government merged a number of councils across Sydney, including Bayside, they imposed a four-year rate freeze on the newly formed Council.

This means, your rates, over the past four years have been calculated using the same formula devised by either the former Rockdale or Botany Councils depending on where your property is located.

Rate harmonisation means Council is now legally required to develop and introduce a single 'fair and equitable' system for all Bayside Ratepayers by 1 July 2021.

PLEASE TURN OVER ►►

**Rate Harmonisation**  **COMING IN 2021**

  
 [REDACTED]  
 KOGARAH NSW 2217

 012 900001 81.10

28 October 2020

Dear Ratepayer,

As mandated by the NSW State Government, Bayside Council is required to harmonise its current rating structures into one single structure in readiness for the 2021/22 financial year.

**What does that mean?**

In 2016 when the NSW State Government merged a number of councils across Sydney, including Bayside, they imposed a four-year rate freeze on the newly formed council. This means, your rates, over the past four years have been calculated using the same formula devised by either the former Rockdale or Botany Councils depending on where your property is located.

Rate harmonisation means Council is now legally required to develop and introduce a single 'fair and equitable' system for all Bayside ratepayers by 1 July 2021.

This process does not allow Council to increase the amount of revenue collected from rates. It simply means that from 1 July 2021 all rates will be assessed using the same formula. For example, when rates are harmonised, a property with an unimproved land value of \$750,000, regardless of what suburb it is located in, will be assessed using the same formula and pay the same rates.

PLEASE TURN OVER ►►

Property Address:	[REDACTED] BEXLEY NSW 2207
Unimproved Land Value:	\$401,000
Former Council Area:	Rockdale City Council

	CURRENT RATES 2020/21	IMPROVED FOR 2021/22
Rating Category	Business	Business - Ordinary
Ordinary Rate	\$995.48	\$1,015.00
Special Levies*	\$349.11	\$299.77
Local Area Rate	\$332.06	\$338.70
Stormwater Levy	\$50.00	\$50.00
Commercial Waste	\$848.25	\$865.22
Pensioner Rebate	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,573.90</b>	<b>\$2,568.69</b>

Includes the BART approved Rate Pig increase of 2% for 2021/22.  
 \* Special Levies apply to former Rockdale City Council properties, such as Community Safety and Infrastructure Levies.

Property Address:	[REDACTED] SANS SOUCI NSW 2219
Unimproved Land Value:	\$1,120,000
Former Council Area:	Rockdale City Council

	CURRENT RATES 2020/21	IMPROVED FOR 2021/22
Rating Category	Residential	Residential
Ordinary Rate	\$1,877.45	\$1,354.58
Special Levies*	\$450.15	\$469.96
Stormwater Charge	\$25.00	\$25.00
Domestic Waste	\$495.45	\$505.36
Pensioner Rebate	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,648.05</b>	<b>\$2,354.90</b>

Includes the BART approved Rate Pig increase of 2% for 2021/22.  
 \* Special Levies apply to former Rockdale City Council properties, such as Community Safety and Infrastructure Levies.


### 3. Web-links

- Council Report 9 Sep 2020  
[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/09/CO\\_09092020\\_AGN\\_3246\\_AT.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/09/CO_09092020_AGN_3246_AT.PDF)
- Council Report Minutes 9 Sep 2020  
[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/09/CO\\_09092020\\_MIN\\_3246.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/09/CO_09092020_MIN_3246.PDF)
- Council Report 14 Oct 2020  
[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/10/CO\\_14102020\\_AGN\\_3247\\_AT.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/10/CO_14102020_AGN_3247_AT.PDF)
- Council Report Minutes 14 Oct 2020  
[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/10/CO\\_14102020\\_MIN\\_3247.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2020/10/CO_14102020_MIN_3247.PDF)
- Council Report 10 Feb 2021  
[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/02/CO\\_10022021\\_AGN\\_3469\\_AT.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/02/CO_10022021_AGN_3469_AT.PDF)
- Council Report Minutes 10 Feb 2021  
[https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/02/CO\\_10022021\\_MIN\\_3469.PDF](https://infoweb.bayside.nsw.gov.au/Open/2021/02/CO_10022021_MIN_3469.PDF)
- Council Rates Harmonisation Website  
<https://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/services/rates/changes-your-rates>
- Rockdale City Council – IPART Special Rate Variation Determination  
[https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/website/trimholdingbay/lg\\_determination\\_-\\_rockdale\\_city\\_councils\\_application\\_for\\_a\\_special\\_variation\\_for\\_2014-15.pdf](https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/website/trimholdingbay/lg_determination_-_rockdale_city_councils_application_for_a_special_variation_for_2014-15.pdf)

#### 4. Facebook Media Campaign Statistics & Insights

Post 5

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/posts/2727398700908770>



**Bayside Council**  
Published by Dale Morrison | 22 January · 🌐

You've given us your feedback on rate harmonisation (thank you 🙏🙏).  
Now we need you to let the Minister at the Office of Local Government know that you want her to make it happen.

The NSW Government is looking for public comment on a draft Bill which looks at creating a "Fairer Rating System".


■ One of the key changes will allow amalgamated Councils to harmonise rates over a period of up to four years ■

There are several other important changes up for consideration as well that will directly affect you, the ratepayer. We all need to work together to move towards a fairer rating system.

It won't happen without your support. Please get behind this draft Bill and have your say 🗣️.

For more information ⓘ about this and to submit your feedback, check the link in the comments.

The deadline for public comment is Friday 5 February 2021.



OLG.NSW.GOV.AU  
Consultation on Local Government Rating Reform - Office of Local Government NSW

[Learn More](#)

**11,816**  
People reached

**1,559**  
Engagements

Boosted on 25 Jan 2021  
By Dale Morrison

Completed

People reached **10.2K**

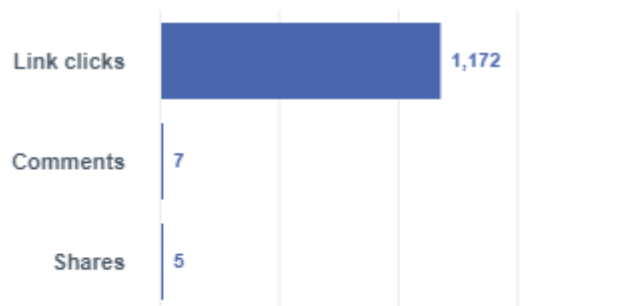
Link clicks **1.2K**

[View results](#)

This was boosted over 11 days and we spent \$300.

### Activity

#### Engagement on Facebook



### Audience

...

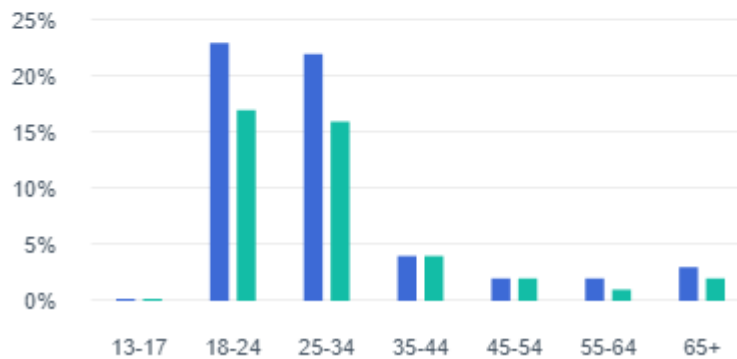
This ad reached **10,219** people in your audience.

#### People

Placements

Locations

**57.3% Women**   **42.7% Men**



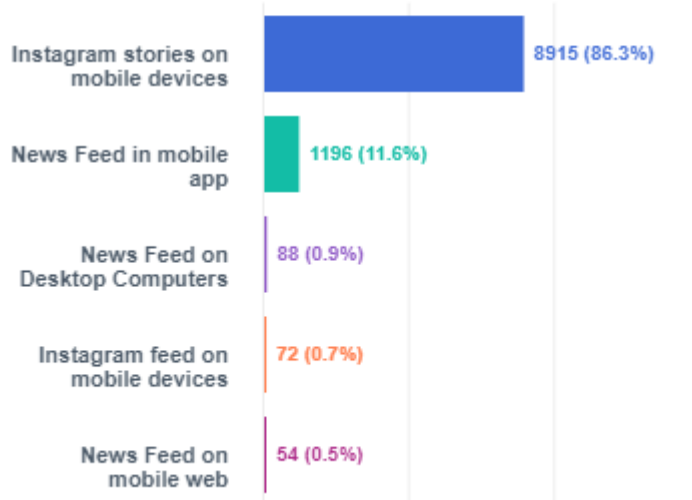


## Audience



This ad reached **10,219** people in your audience.

People **Placements** Locations



## Performance for your post

**11,816** People Reached

**34** Likes, Comments & Shares *i*

<b>17</b> Likes	<b>16</b> On Post	<b>1</b> On Shares
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<b>13</b> Comments	<b>13</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
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<b>4</b> Shares	<b>4</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
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**1,525** Post Clicks

<b>2</b> Photo views	<b>1,175</b> Link clicks <i>i</i>	<b>348</b> Other Clicks <i>i</i>
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### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

**1** Hide post **1** Hide all posts


**0** Report as spam **0** Unlike Page

Anne-Marie Hofman, Maureen Burnett and 14 others

11 Comments 4 shares

Post 4

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/posts/2691230447858929>


 **Bayside Council**  
Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 7 December 2020 · 🌐

Feedback is important. And none more so than that submitted via our rate harmonisation survey.

So far we've received 962 survey responses - and we know there are more than 962 residential rate payers in Bayside. Where's everyone else? 🧑🏻‍🦱🧑🏻‍🦱

Check the link in the comments about the current rate harmonisation process and use the rates calculator to compare this financial year to next.

The deadline for feedback has been extended to New Year's Eve 2020 🎉  
Please take the time to send yours in.



BAYSIDE.NSW.GOV.AU

**Changes to your rates | Bayside Council** [Learn More](#)

This will redistribute the way we collect revenue from...

**10,902**

People reached

**1,282**

Engagements

Boosted on 9 Dec 2020  
By Dale Morrison

Completed

People reached

**9.2K**

Link clicks

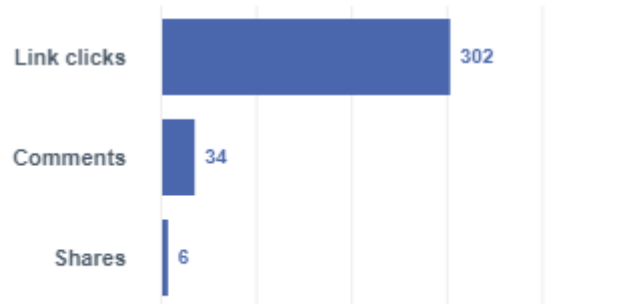
**302**

[View results](#)

This was boosted over 22 days and we spend \$300.

## Activity

### Engagement on Facebook



## Audience

...

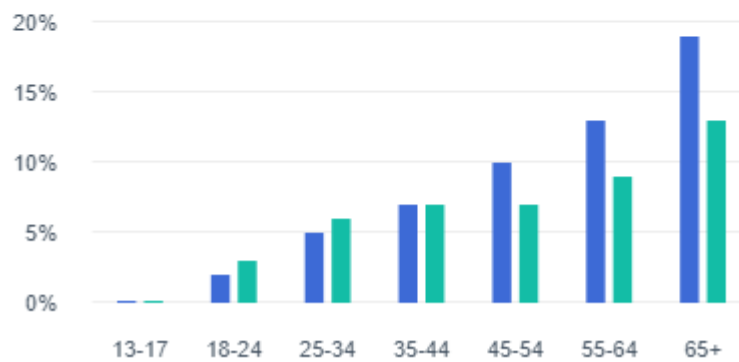
This ad reached **9,162** people in your audience.

### People

Placements

Locations

**54.7% Women**   **45.3% Men**



## Audience

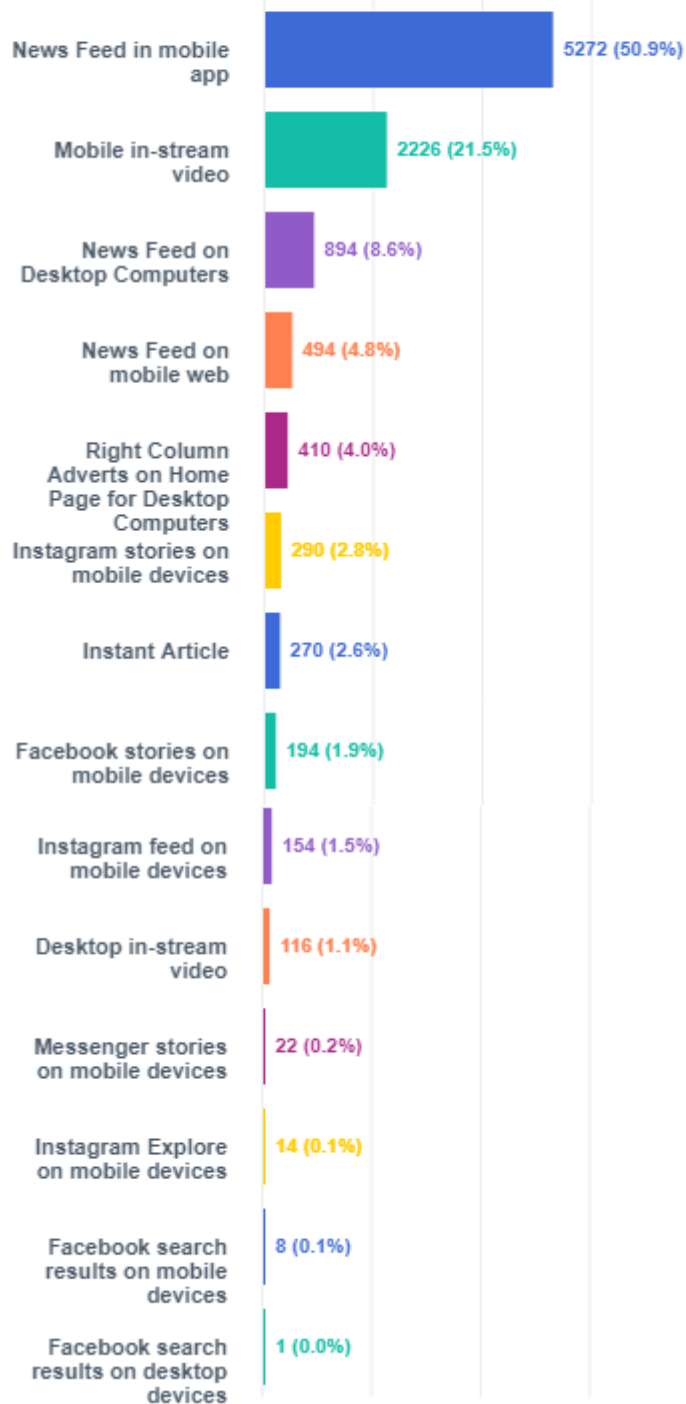


This ad reached **9,162** people in your audience.

People

**Placements**

Locations





## Performance for your post


**10,902** People Reached

**135** Reactions, comments & shares *i*

<b>27</b>  Like	<b>25</b> On post	<b>2</b> On shares
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<b>1</b>  Wow	<b>1</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
---	---------------------	-----------------------

<b>3</b>  Sad	<b>3</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
---	---------------------	-----------------------

<b>12</b>  Angry	<b>12</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
--	----------------------	-----------------------

<b>83</b> Comments	<b>74</b> On Post	<b>9</b> On Shares
-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------

<b>9</b> Shares	<b>9</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares
--------------------	---------------------	-----------------------

**1,147** Post Clicks

<b>2</b> Photo views	<b>306</b> Link clicks <i>i</i>	<b>839</b> Other Clicks <i>i</i>
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### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

<b>0</b> Hide post	<b>0</b> Hide all posts
<b>0</b> Report as spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

 Mimma Tisi, Susan Joy Fleming and 36 others

39 Comments 9 shares

Post 3

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/posts/2676119449370029>

 **Bayside Council** Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 19 November 2020 · 

We want all 66,663 residential rate payers to tell us  their views on the proposed 2021 changes to our rates.

Jump online via the link  in the comments and complete the survey. And use our rates calculator (at the same link).

Don't miss out on having your say.



**Notice**  **Bayside Council**  
Save your community

Property Details

Estimated payment due

Total Amount Due

[www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/pay-the-rates](https://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/pay-the-rates)

BAYSIDE.NSW.GOV.AU 

**Changes to your rates | Bayside Council** [Learn More](#)

This will redistribute the way we collect revenue from...



**16,408**  
People reached

**3,158**  
Engagements

Boosted on 20 Nov 2020  
By Dale Morrison

Completed

People reached **9.9K**

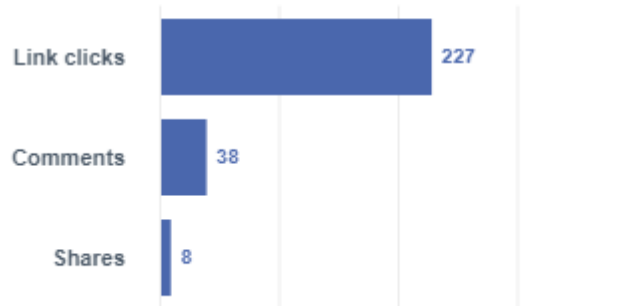
Link clicks **227**

[View results](#)

The post was boosted over 4 days and we spent \$200.

### Activity

#### Engagement on Facebook



### Audience

...

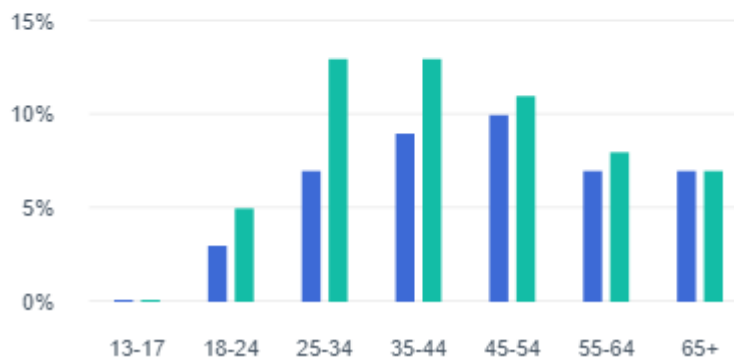
This ad reached **9,940** people in your audience.

#### People

Placements

Locations

**42.2% Women**   **57.8% Men**



## Audience

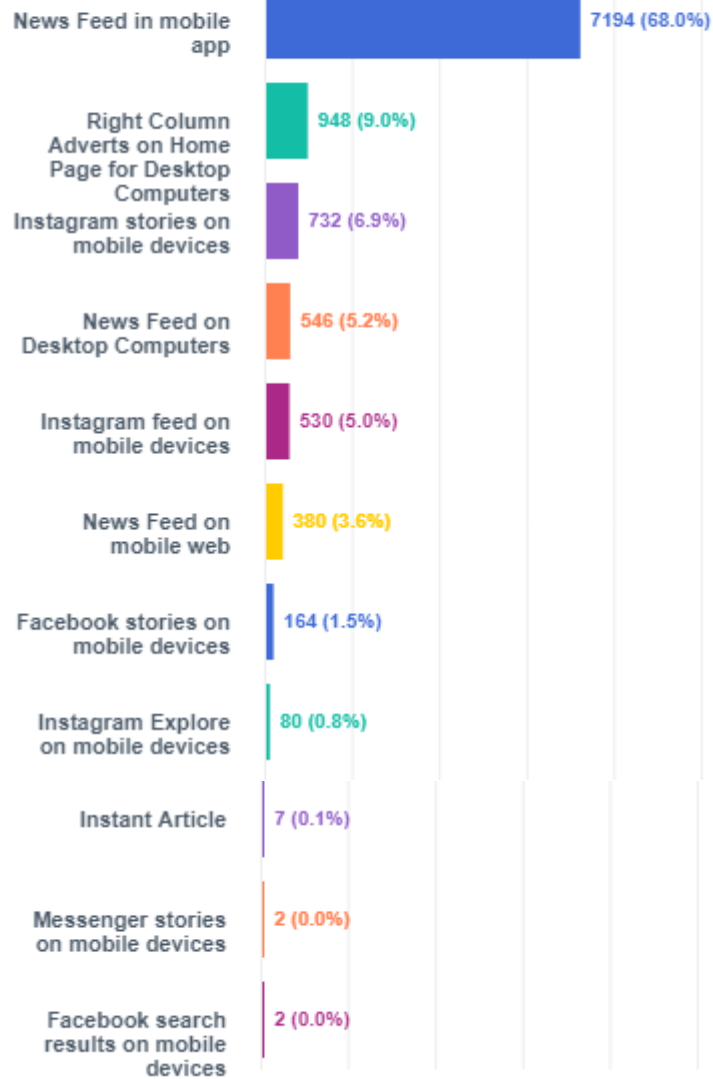
...

This ad reached **9,940** people in your audience.

People

**Placements**







Locations



## Performance for your post

**16,408** People Reached

**319** Reactions, comments & shares 

<b>48</b>  Like	<b>17</b> On post	<b>31</b> On shares
<b>3</b>  Love	<b>3</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>4</b>  Haha	<b>4</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>1</b>  Wow	<b>1</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>2</b>  Sad	<b>1</b> On post	<b>1</b> On shares
<b>16</b>  Angry	<b>15</b> On post	<b>1</b> On shares
<b>234</b> Comments	<b>172</b> On Post	<b>62</b> On Shares
<b>11</b> Shares	<b>11</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**2,839** Post Clicks

<b>23</b> Photo views	<b>280</b> Link clicks 	<b>2,536</b> Other Clicks 
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### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

<b>1</b> Hide post	<b>4</b> Hide all posts
<b>0</b> Report as spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

   Alexander Pearce, Gina Scerri and 37 others

92 Comments 11 shares

Post 2

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/photos/a.1657557184559599/2664232637225377>



**Bayside Council**  
Published by Dale Morrison [?] · 6 November 2020 · 🌐

We have sent out a letter 📧 to each and every Bayside rate payer explaining rate harmonisation.

Also included with the letter is a table comparing your current rates with the proposed new rates for 2021/22. As per current legislation, this is shown as a change over one year only.

However we are definitely advocating 🗣️ on your behalf for a multi-year implementation and we are optimistic that the Minister for Local Government will introduce legislative change before the end of this year that will allow for a slower harmonisation, achieved over a number of years.

For more information ⓘ about rate harmonisation and to stay up-to-date with the process. see the link 🔗 in the comments.



👍 Get more likes, comments and shares  
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

3,067  
People reached





636  
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

## Performance for your post

**3,067** People Reached

**65** Reactions, comments & shares ⓘ

<b>13</b>  Like	<b>11</b> On post	<b>2</b> On shares
<b>1</b>  Wow	<b>1</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>2</b>  Sad	<b>2</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>4</b>  Angry	<b>4</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>44</b> Comments	<b>41</b> On Post	<b>3</b> On Shares
<b>1</b> Shares	<b>1</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**571** Post Clicks

<b>26</b> Photo views	<b>0</b> Link clicks ⓘ	<b>545</b> Other Clicks ⓘ
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### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

<b>1</b> Hide post	<b>0</b> Hide all posts
<b>0</b> Report as spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

   Nick Dowsethill, James Moon and 16 others

26 Comments 1 share

Post 1

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/BaysideNSW/photos/a.1657557184559599/2654079721574002>

**Bayside Council**  
Published by Dale Morrison (?) · 26 October 2020 · 

**Rate Harmonisation**

There. We said it.

Do you want to know how Rate Harmonisation affects your property? Our website's Rates Calculator  (link is in the comments) will tell you.

It's fast, easy to use and tells you the facts based on real information 🙌

Note: you will need to use the address as listed on your rates notice 

And don't forget to fill in our online survey  which asks about your preference for a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 year transition to harmonisation and please leave us your comments



 **Get more likes, comments and shares**  
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

**7,608**  
People reached

**2,029**  
Engagements






**Boost Post**



## Performance for your post

**7,608** People Reached

**246** Reactions, comments & shares

<b>28</b>  Like	<b>10</b> On post	<b>18</b> On shares
<b>2</b>  Love	<b>2</b> On post	<b>0</b> On shares
<b>1</b>  Haha	<b>0</b> On post	<b>1</b> On shares
<b>4</b>  Sad	<b>1</b> On post	<b>3</b> On shares
<b>41</b>  Angry	<b>26</b> On post	<b>15</b> On shares
<b>162</b> Comments	<b>91</b> On Post	<b>71</b> On Shares
<b>9</b> Shares	<b>9</b> On Post	<b>0</b> On Shares

**1,783** Post Clicks

<b>144</b> Photo views	<b>57</b> Link clicks	<b>1,582</b> Other Clicks
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### NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

<b>2</b> Hide post	<b>0</b> Hide all posts
<b>0</b> Report as spam	<b>0</b> Unlike Page

   Oli Kitchingman, Christine Stamper and 32 others    54 Comments    9 shares

## 5. Online Rates Calculator

Example 1: 1 year change for a former Rockdale City Council Rate Payer

Your property  
[REDACTED] SANS SOUCI NSW 2219

Current category: Residential  
New harmonised category: Residential  
Land value: \$739,000

[Back](#)

### Your harmonised rates

Charges	Current 2020/21	Harmonised 2021/22
General rates	\$1,106.82	\$893.78
Local area rates	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stormwater Levy	\$25.00	\$25.00
Waste fees	\$495.45	\$505.36
Special Levies	\$324.10	\$338.65
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,951.37</b>	<b>\$1,762.79</b>

Example 2: 1 year change for a former City of Botany Bay Rate Payer

Your property  
[REDACTED] MASCOT NSW 2020

Current category: Residential  
New harmonised category: Residential  
Land value: \$999,000

[Back](#)

### Your harmonised rates

Charges	Current 2020/21	Harmonised 2021/22
General rates	\$913.53	\$1,208.24
Local area rates	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stormwater Levy	\$25.00	\$25.00
Waste fees	\$538.70	\$549.47
Special Levies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,477.23</b>	<b>\$1,782.71</b>

We then also provided a calculator that residents could use to calculate the proposed change in their rates over a number of years, in this case here was a maximum of 5 years. This also allowed the rate payer to adjust the % change for each year. An example of this can be seen below using the Harmonised rate of \$1782.71.

This calculator will help you understand the impact of a phased implementation on your rates.

You can adjust the percentage of change that gets implemented each year by typing into the percentage column. The total amount across 5 years should equal 100%:

Year	Percentage	Total amount
2021/22	<input type="text" value="25%"/>	\$1,561.68
2022/23	<input type="text" value="25%"/>	\$1,635.36
2023/24	<input type="text" value="25%"/>	\$1,709.03
2024/25	<input type="text" value="25%"/>	\$1,782.71
2025/26	<input type="text" value="0%"/>	\$1,782.71

## 6. Media Releases

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 10 September 2020

## **Bayside Council Implementing State Government Rates Mandate**

The State Government has given all amalgamated councils, including Bayside, until July 2021 to harmonise their rate structures ensuring ratepayers are charged under one formula that redistributes the current rates revenue fairly across all ratepayers.

The State Government's imposed rates freeze on amalgamated councils in 2016 ensured residents paid no more than they would have under their old council until 2021.

Rates paid by Bayside Council ratepayers are currently calculated using the formulas devised by the former Rockdale and Botany Councils.

Bayside Council is required to develop and introduce a single "fair and equitable" system by 1 July 2021 as the current legislation makes no provision for a deferred or staged implementation.

The State Government requires all councils to comply with this legislative requirement regardless of how significant the change is on rates to be paid by individual ratepayers.

Bayside Council resolved to move forward with consulting the community on rate harmonisation as currently mandated by the State Government, but left the door open for a gradual (multi-year) implementation should the current legislation be amended prior to July 2021.

The process of harmonising rates across Bayside does not increase the total rate revenue collected by Council.

Rate harmonisation simply redistributes the current rate income equally across all ratepayers based on the unimproved land value of their property. For example, when harmonised a \$750,000 property, regardless of what former council it is located in, will pay the same amount of rates.

This is currently not the case. The average residential rate for Rockdale is \$1,164, compared to Botany's average of \$709.

The current minimum rates are \$768 for Rockdale and \$553 for Botany.

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### **For more information:**

Communications & Events  
Bayside Council  
02 9562 1662  
[communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au)

Once implemented, all Bayside ratepayers will pay the same for their rates depending on the value of their land.

In the coming weeks more information about the process and what it means will be made available and Council will engage extensively with ratepayers and the community to ensure they are fully informed.

Council will also write to all ratepayers regarding the changes, and all the information, as well as a rates calculator, will be available on Council's website.

\*\*\*

To stay informed sign up for Council's e-news, follow Bayside on Facebook and visit the website [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

To understand rates pick up a copy of Council's "Rates Explained" brochure from the Rockdale or Eastgardens Customer Services Centre or read it online at [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

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**For more information:**

Communications & Events  
Bayside Council  
02 9562 1662  
[communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au)





# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 15 October 2020

## **Mayor Lobbies For Rates Harmonisation Changes**

---

Bayside Mayor Joe Awada recently met with the Minister for Local Government to discuss legislative changes to the rates harmonisation process and tabled a Mayoral Minute at last night's Council Meeting to report back on those discussions.

"I had a very productive meeting with the Hon Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government to discuss the legislated requirements for rates harmonisation and the difficult process ahead for Council and our ratepayers," Joe Awada said in his Mayoral Minute.

"Minister Hancock acknowledged the difficult pathway Bayside must now navigate to ensure equity for residents without causing bill shock in July 2021.

"The Minister indicated her intention to introduce draft legislation to Parliament by the end of 2020.

"While a time limited rates freeze may have seemed appropriate at amalgamation, the world has changed significantly, with COVID-19 current unemployment levels unforeseen a mere nine months ago, and certainly not anticipated in 2016.

"To implement huge rate increases in a single year as required under current legislation will be difficult for our ratepayers. I am seeking a more flexible transition to rate harmonisation.

"We will continue to lobby the Minister for Local Government and the Office for Local Government, with the support of our Members of Parliament, to enact legislative change to the Rates Harmonisation process, through the NSW Parliament so that it can be gazetted before 1 July 2021," Joe Awada said.

More information: [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

---

**For more information:**

Communications & Events  
Bayside Council  
02 9562 1662  
[communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au)

# MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 30 October 2020

## **Rates Calculator For New Rates System**

---

Bayside Council has launched a new online rates calculator showing ratepayers how their rates will change when a new Council-wide system is introduced in July 2021.

Bayside Council is also actively working with the State Government to ensure the changes can be implemented over a number of years rather than in one hit on 1 July 2021.

Bayside Council rates are currently calculated using formulas devised by the former Rockdale and Botany Councils.

This new calculator lets ratepayers see how their rates will change under a new single system where everyone's rates is calculated using the same formula based on the unimproved land value of the property.

For example the owner of a property whose land value is \$750,000 will pay the same amount of rates regardless of what former council it is located in.

Bayside Council's web page has information about the processes required under the State Government's Legislation, as well as the online rates calculator and a short survey. All feedback is important

Council is urging all ratepayers to go online and use the calculator and provide feedback through the online survey.

More information: [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

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### **For more information:**

Communications & Events  
Bayside Council  
02 9562 1662  
[communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au)



**Bayside Council**  
Serving Our Community

# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 30 November 2020

## **Rates Consultation Extended**

---

Bayside ratepayers have until the end of December to have their say on rate harmonisation following advice from the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shelley Hancock that she will have draft legislation proposing a staggered implementation ready for Councils to review before Christmas.

Bayside Council has been working with the Minister for Local Government on a draft bill to hopefully change the current legislation to allow rate increases to be staggered over a number of years.

Bayside Council is currently consulting with all ratepayers on the proposed rate changes.

“It is important ratepayers have input into the process and we would like to hear from all 66,663 ratepayers. We are here and we are listening. All comments will be taken on board,” a Council spokesperson said.

Every ratepayer has been mailed a letter detailing the changes and how it will impact them.

Ratepayers can have their say by visiting the Council’s website and clicking on the Changes to Your Rates box on the home page.

Ratepayers are urged to complete the online survey and provide their comments by the end of December.

A final report will be prepared for Council for consideration in February 2021.

More information: [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

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### **For more information:**

Communications & Events  
Bayside Council  
02 9562 1662  
[communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au)

# Bayside NEWS Council



DECEMBER 2020

## Mayor's Message



It was an honour to welcome Auditor General, Ms Margaret Crawford and the Audit Director Ms Karen Taylor from the Audit Office of NSW to our November Council Meeting when they presented the Auditor's Report on Council's financial position in person.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by Council staff to deliver a clear audit opinion on the 2019/2020 Annual Financial Statements.

This historic milestone would not have been possible without the work done by Council's Finance, Assets, City Projects and Human Resources teams. It has been a significant journey since amalgamation in 2016, presenting many unique challenges for this new Council.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Council will not be holding any of our popular community Christmas events and there will be no New Year's Eve firework display at Brighton Le Sands. But we are working hard to ensure our beaches, parks and open spaces can be enjoyed safely by all.

When you are out doing your Christmas shopping please take a moment to think of the many people who rely on charity at this time of the year – and if possible consider donating to a local charity to help bring a smile to a young child's face or a family on Christmas morning.

Finally as 2020 draws to a close, on behalf of my fellow Councillors and staff at Bayside, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may you have a happy, safe and prosperous new year.

I am looking forward to working with my fellow Councillors and Council staff during 2021.

Have a safe and peaceful holiday season.

**Cr Joe Awada, Mayor**

## Auditor General Congratulates Bayside

Bayside Council is in a strong financial position and its audited accounts for 2019/2020 received the independent tick of approval from the Auditor General, Ms Margaret Crawford (pictured below) from the Audit Office of NSW at the November Council Meeting.

The Auditor General and the Audit Director Ms Karen Taylor from the Audit Office of NSW both attended the Council Meeting to present the Auditor's Report on Council's financial position in person to acknowledge the work done by the staff to deliver a clear audit opinion on the 2019/2020 Annual Financial Statements.



"It has been a challenging year for us all. Councils have faced many operational challenges in the face of COVID-19 and this Council had the added challenge of addressing issues from previous disclaimers of audit opinions," she said.

"So, tonight I am really pleased to be here to talk to you about our unqualified audit. I have chosen to do it in person, which is a little unusual, but I would like to thank you for the way you have managed and supported this audit process."

For the past 12 months Bayside staff have worked closely with the Audit Office of NSW, the appointed external auditor for Bayside Council, to address numerous audit issues inherited by the new Council as part of the amalgamation.

Bayside has been successful in now addressing all of those issues.



# Summer Safety Program



Council's Summer Safe Plan includes additional messaging about physical distancing and increased hygiene while enjoying our parks and beaches.

"As the weather warms up and more people start enjoying our outdoor areas I encourage everyone to do their bit to help stop the spread of COV ID-19 when visiting our foreshore and beaches," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"Our beaches are unpatrolled and there are no lifeguards, but we can all help limit large outdoor gatherings in our parks and beaches."

Council is urging residents and visitors to remain mindful of crowds, heed the advice of beach signs and take note of Government health alerts.

Beach signs provide a reminder to:

- ▶ Stay at least 1.5m away from other families;
- ▶ Avoid crowded areas where you cannot stay 1.5 meters away from others;
- ▶ Wear a mask if possible; and
- ▶ Use the bins provided.

## Summer For eShore eAmbassadors

Bayside Council has provided redeployment opportunities as Summer Foreshore Ambassadors to local QANTAS staff grounded during COV ID-19.

As part of the Council's Summer Foreshore Program the ambassadors will be patrolling the foreshore to provide public safety education and announcements, monitor crowds and help raise public awareness about COV ID-19 restrictions.

## More Police

Council is working closely with NSW Health and the Police, other agencies, as well as neighbouring Councils on our foreshore management measures.

There will be additional NSW Police patrolling popular areas on the foreshore.



## Timed Parking

Timed parking is being trialled in all Cook Park foreshore car parks and the Brighton Le Sands town centre this summer.

"This trial will see three hour timed parking introduced to deal with the increased demand for parking over the summer months," Bayside Mayor Joe Awada said.

Foreshore parking demand is seasonal and peaks during spring and summer resulting in insufficient parking supply and overspill occurring in surrounding streets.

Residents also have less access to parking as the lack of time restricted parking encourages visitors to stay longer in peak season.

Results from this trial will be used to help Council develop a Parking Management Plan for the area.

## beach cleaning

Additional cleansing services and bins with red (general waste) and yellow (recycling) lids are placed throughout Cook Park and along the foreshore as part of our Summer Foreshore Program.

Council is working hard to keep our foreshore clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy, so if the bins near you are full please find another one or take your rubbish home with you.

## no nYe Fir ewor ks

Council has cancelled all major events for the rest of the year due to ongoing COV ID-19 safety concerns including:

- ▶ Carols in the Park
- ▶ Carols by the Sea
- ▶ NYE Fireworks display

There are no official Council activities along the foreshore on NYE and no fireworks.

Local Police have advised they will have a strong presence on NYE along the foreshore to monitor physical distancing and ensure COV ID-19 restrictions are being observed.

Fireworks are illegal and carry penalties of \$27,500.

Any illegal vendors/stallholders seen selling goods will be removed and will be issued with a fine.



## hoT coal bins

Picnics including BBQs are allowed subject to public health orders and total fire bans in place. Please check beach signage as some locations do not allow BBQs. Use the hot coal bins to dispose of charcoal debris.

# Minister a pplauds bayside



L-R: Bayside Deputy Mayor James Macdonald, Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock MP and Bayside Mayor Joe Awada visiting the brand new state-of-the-art Arncliffe Youth Centre.

Bayside Mayor Joe Awada welcomed the Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock MP to Bayside on Monday 23 November 2020.

Mrs Hancock took the opportunity to inspect the recently completed Arncliffe Youth Centre with Mayor Joe Awada and Deputy Mayor James Macdonald.

“This soon to be opened state-of-the-art centre is a great example of Council working with the local community to provide much-needed services,” Mrs Hancock said.

“Council engaged closely with the local community in the area and identified a strong need for youth and recreational services in Arncliffe and suburbs nearby.”

The Arncliffe Youth Centre due to open in 2021 will house two sports courts suitable for futsal, basketball, table tennis, volley ball and netball.

The Centre will also have a dedicated area for the delivery of youth services including a ‘drop-in’ chill zone, visual arts and music rooms.

There will also be offices to provide referral services such as employment, health and drug and alcohol counselling.

A multi-purpose room with commercial kitchen will be able to cater for larger events.

“Initially Council looked at outsourcing the management of the Centre, but following the recent tender process, I believe Council is best placed to manage the Centre and provide the local youth with the facilities, services and support they need,” Mayor Joe Awada said.

## STr eeT Fl ag co MP

Council’s Christmas flags have a unique Australian theme this year following the announcement of the winners in the inaugural street flag design competition.

Bayside Council’s 112 banner poles will see the two different designs (the native birds and the wattle) flown across the region until mid January 2021.

Kristi Archer from Bexley who designed the native birds flag and Aniko Rowley from Botany who created the wattle flag, were the winners of the 2020 Christmas Flag Competition.



Pictured L-R: Deputy Mayor James Macdonald, Kristi Archer, Aniko Rowley and Mayor Joe Awada with the winning flags.

## Shao quett re cognised

Bayside Council held a small civic reception to acknowledge The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC on his 10 years in State Government.

Shaoquett is a local who represented residents of the former Rockdale City Council.

He was first elected to Local Government in 1995 and served four times as Mayor and a number of times as Deputy Mayor before becoming a Member of the Legislative Council in the NSW Parliament in 2010.



L-R: Bill Fahs, Mayor Joe Awada, The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane MLC and Councillor Bill Saravinovski.



# COUNCILLORS **ouT & abouT**



**child care centres**  
The Arncliffe Youth Centre and the Garrarrang Child Care Centre are two community facilities that will open in 2021. Bayside Councillors recently took the opportunity to tour these nearly completed facilities.



## For Mer council l or VISITS baYSide

Former Councillor Brian Peacock visited Bayside recently and presented Mayor Joe Awada with an old handwritten note book from 1918 that records the beginnings of the Sans Souci Literary Institute.

“It is wonderful that we are able to preserve bits of our history like this,” said Mayor Joe Awada

“This notebook makes a useful and interesting addition to our local history collection in the Library.”

## r eMeMbr an ce daY

Mayor Joe Awada attended a Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at the Brighton Sub Branch where he also presented local resident and WWII veteran Patrick Driscoll with a 75th Anniversary Second World War Commemorative Medallion.

“It is a wonderful honour to present this medallion to local resident Patrick Driscoll,” Mayor Joe Awada said.

“It is important that we continue to recognise and honour those who fought for our nation and freedom.”



## council l or l iz bar l ow r ecog n is ed

Councillor Liz Barlow was recognised on the anniversary of her 25 years of service as a local Council representative at the November Council Meeting.

Councillor Liz Barlow was first elected to the former Rockdale City Council at the local government elections held on 9 September 1995, with September 2020 marking her 25th anniversary in Local Government.

Councillor Barlow twice served as Deputy Mayor:

- ▶ As the first female Deputy Mayor of Rockdale City Council in the 2002/2004 mayoral term.
- ▶ As Deputy Mayor from 2012/2013.

Liz has always been a true independent focused solely on the community. Over the years, she has continued to be a passionate advocate for issues affecting her local ward residents and the wider community.





### naidoc week

Council marked NAIDOC Week with two COVID-Safe events: a flag raising ceremony in Rockdale on Monday 9 November and a function at Westfield Eastgardens on Tuesday 10 November. Pictured above are the winners of the 'Always Was, Always Will Be' school art competition at Westfield Eastgardens.

### Nepalese book collection

Mayor Joe Awada, who launched the new Nepalese collection at Rockdale Library, was joined by Mr Rishi Acharya and his family. "This Nepalese collection adds to our broad range of library resources in different languages that reflects diverse cultural backgrounds and interests of our community," Mayor Joe Awada said.

Bayside Library used a State Library NSW Local Priority Grant to establish its own Nepalese collection to cater for the growing Nepalese community who are making their home in Bayside.



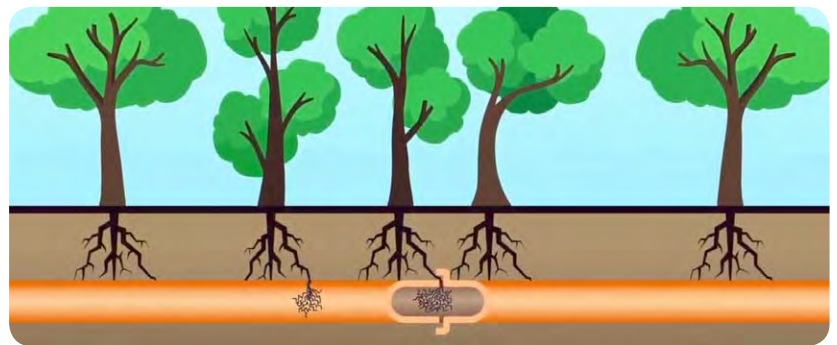
# Council's awards

## Claims Management Award

Bayside Council won the *Les Emerson Claims Management Award* for its recent 'Trees, Pipes & Property' video.

The risk of tree root damage to property owner's pipes is one faced by all home owners. This video educates residents about their responsibilities and could help reduce exposure to risk.

Watch the video at:  
<https://bit.ly/treesandpipes>



## Finalist for COVID-19 Award

Bayside Council was short-listed as a finalist in the *National Council of the Year* category.

Mayor Joe Awada presented a Mayoral Minute at the November Council Meeting acknowledging the exceptional service delivered by Bayside staff.

"I am so proud of Bayside, we are only four years young and we continue to achieve and deliver on so many levels. Congratulations, General Manager and staff on this wonderful recognition," Mayor Awada said.

The video is available on Council's website at:  
[www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/your-council](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/your-council)

## Sustainable Cities Award

Bayside was awarded two Highly Commended Awards and a Finalist Award for the 2020 *Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards*.

Pictured below, Mayor Joe Awada and Deputy Mayor James Macdonald accepted the Awards in the presence of her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, Governor of New South Wales.



# Changes to Your Rates

NEW RATE SYSTEM COMING IN 2021



**Council is required to plan for a new rating system from 1 July 2021 to ensure we comply with the NSW Government requirement for one rating system across the whole of Bayside.**

Bayside Council is one of several New South Wales amalgamated Councils working with the Office of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government on new legislation which will allow for the gradual (multi-year) implementation of rates harmonisation.

The Office of Local Government has met with Bayside Council and a number of other Councils across NSW regarding the State Government making changes to the current legislation. These changes will provide greater flexibility for amalgamated Councils in how they create a single, fair and equitable rating system across the newly amalgamated Councils.

This type of change, if legislated, will allow Bayside Council to determine the fairest way to implement a new rating structure having regard for current financial pressures being experienced by all ratepayers.

## What's changing

Bayside will move from calculating rates using two different formulas, to using one formula that will be applied across the whole local government area.

This change does not increase the total rate revenue received by Bayside Council.

It simply redistributes how the rates are currently paid so they are paid equally across all ratepayers based on the unimproved land value of their property.

Once implemented, regardless of what former Council your property is located in, all Bayside ratepayers will pay the same for their rates depending on the value of their land.

## Why we are making this change

The NSW State Government imposed a rates freeze on amalgamated Councils in 2016, ensuring ratepayers paid no more than they would have under their old Council until 2021.

Your rates are currently calculated using the formulas devised by former Rockdale City Council and former City of Botany Bay Council.

This means if the NSW valuer General has valued your property at \$750,000 in Arncliffe, you pay a different amount to the owner of a property valued at \$750,000 in Mascot, despite receiving the same services.

We are required to introduce a single 'fair and equitable' system by 1 July 2021. It is anticipated that new legislation will guide the implementation of the 'one rating' system and allow for a gradual change over a number of years.







## When will it happen



## The changes in detail

### One

#### Harmonise the former Botany (11) and Rockdale (3) rate categories into six new Bayside categories

The rating categories and sub-categories to be established are:

- ▶ Residential – Ordinary
- ▶ Business – Ordinary
- ▶ Business – Industrial
- ▶ Business – Port Botany
- ▶ Business – Mall
- ▶ Farmland

### Two

#### Determine the minimum rate to be applied across all categories

A minimum rate will be applied across all rating categories and sub-categories.

The current proposal is \$768.52 (plus the IPART rate pegging limit for the 2021/22 financial year).

### Three

#### Special Rate Levy

The existing special rates (approximately \$13 million) levied across the former Rockdale City Council will remain unchanged and will not be levied across the former City of Botany Bay Council area.

## if you need more information...

#### How can I find out about the rating system and how rates are calculated?

Our website contains detailed information, a rates calculator and FAQs.

Find out how this will affect you by visiting Council's website.

#### What if I can't pay my rates or the increase?

Council has a range of measures to assist individuals who have difficulty paying their rates. Visit Council's website below.

[www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)

### Have Your Say

You can have your say on the new rate system **by 31 December** by visiting Council's website and completing the online survey.

You can leave a comment or write to Council via email to [council@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bayside.nsw.gov.au)



**GO GREEN.  
GO ELECTRONIC.**

Receive your rates notices via email

Sign up for >  eNotices

<https://bayside.enotices.com.au>





# COUNCIL'S PROJECTS

## Arthur Park Upgrade

New pathways and play equipment are being installed in Arthur Park, Botany.

A new memorial avenue of 27 trees along a new path alignment will replace the remnant ailing memorial trees which have been dying off over the last few years. The number of trees correlates with the number of service personnel names included on a refurbished memorial plinth associated with the new avenue of trees.

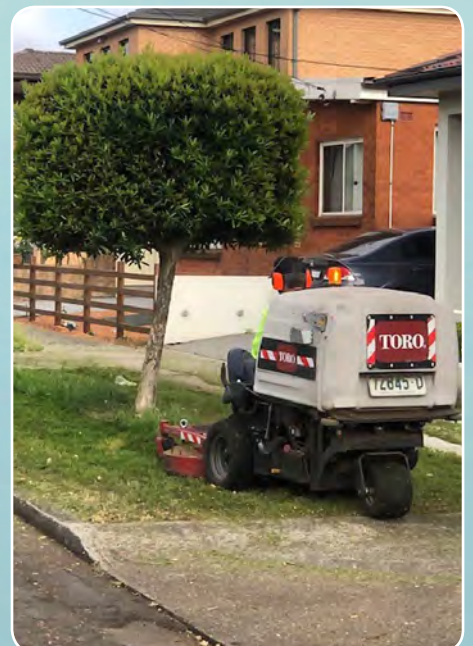
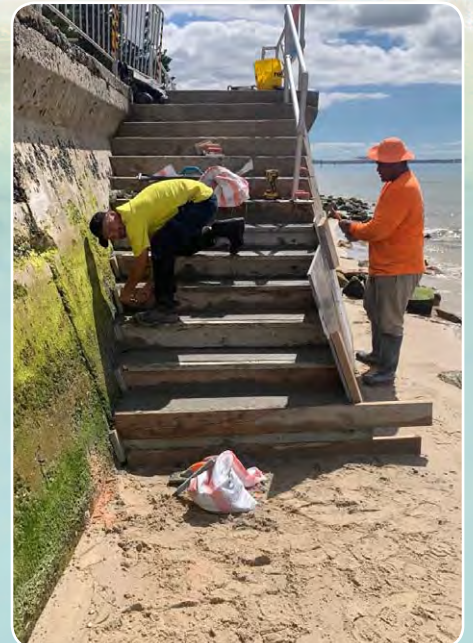
New lighting along this path is also planned.



## Council's Outdoor Workers



From fixing retaining walls in Banksmeadow, repairing swimming enclosures at Monterey Baths and beach stairs at Sandringham, Council staff are continually working to maintain and improve Council assets.





# ANTI HOONING c a M P a i g n

Mayor Joe Awada recently outlined the work Council is undertaking with the St George Police Area Command to ensure the safety of Bayside's streets.

St George Police have set up *Operation Overhaul* during the summer period, bringing together Police from various units to tackle hooning and anti-social behaviour.

Highway Patrol Officers have been tasked to this area to tackle hooning issues on The Grand Parade as well as anti-social behaviour in our carparks.



## Keep QANTAS in Mascot



Bayside Council will lobby the State Government for higher incentives to keep Qantas in Mascot.

"Qantas has announced that it may consider moving its headquarters out of Mascot, in a bid to reduce office rental expenses. I am advised that Qantas has opened up the location of their HQ to the highest bid from a state government," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"The airline has held the Mascot office space since the 1990s. It would be economically beneficial for our local area and Sydney more generally, if Qantas would reconsider this move and instead entertain the idea of bringing some or all of their facilities together in Sydney, close to the Eastern Economic Corridor."

"Qantas HQ is already here, their flight training centres are already here. It would be a real coup for our local area if Qantas were to re-house their Jetstar HQ from Collingwood in Victoria and while they are at it, relocate their

Brisbane based heavy maintenance facility to Sydney, along with potentially 750+ jobs."

"To make this happen, we need to lobby the State Government to provide higher incentives to Qantas to stay in Mascot and grow their investment here in NSW. Not only is it in our best interest to retain Qantas HQ for the benefit of our residents who are employees of Qantas, but also those employees in associated industries.

"The opportunity to potentially relocate all of the Qantas facilities together in Sydney is very attractive to Bayside. I understand that as a result of the global pandemic, all businesses are looking at ways to reduce expenditure and create revenue to survive this economic downturn."

Mayor Joe Awada urged all Councillors to do what it takes to ensure Qantas stays with us and grows its business facilities in Bayside.

## HILLSDALE QUALITY CHILD CARE CENTRE

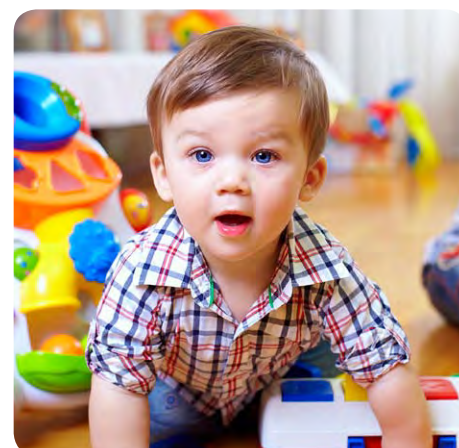
Bayside Council's Hillsdale Childcare Centre was rated as 'exceeding' the National Quality Standards during a recent assessment by the Department of Education.

"I am very proud of the whole team for achieving this rating. The Hillsdale Childcare Centre does an amazing job providing high quality education and care for the community," Mayor Joe Awada said.

Bayside Council owns and manages two child care centres, one in Mascot and one in Hillsdale as well as running a Family Day Care Service.

A new child care centre, the Garrigarrang Early Education and Care Centre, located on the former Darrell Lea site in Kogarah is due to open early next year and will also be owned and managed by Bayside Council.

More information on child care services can be found on Council's website at [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au)





# FOOTWAY TRADING

Bayside Council's new Footway Trading Policy harmonises footway trading across Bayside.

Council will defer all fees and charges associated with footway trading until January 2021 to help local business impacted by COV ID-19.

"Footway trading will be permitted for all eligible businesses until January 2021 when Council will start processing permits," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"This will give business owners time to assess their footway trading requirements and decide whether to renew or apply for a permit."

Council will also work to help ensure local businesses are aware of the new policy and are ready to benefit from footway trading once the Federal Government lifts COV ID-19 restrictions on food shops and businesses.

Council Officers will continue to visit trading areas, talking to shop owners and promoting the new policy.

Council will also write to current permit holders advising them of the changes.

Business owners still need to apply and provide a certificate of currency (insurance). Council will continue to issue stickers and place markers for the designated trading areas.

The new Footway Trading Policy and Guidelines can be found on Council's website.



## WWI Patriotic Flag

One of the many treasures at historic Lydham Hall is a WWI Patriotic Flag embroidered to raise money for the war effort.

Councillor Liz Barlow was working with members of the St George Historical Society and the Lydham Hall Committee to pack up the items held upstairs at Lydham Hall prior to the roof being replaced.

"The flag is in quite good condition apart from a few holes," said Councillor Barlow. "It is a wonderful part of our history and I would like to thank the Lydham Hall Committee for keeping it safe."

The Lydham Hall Museum (at 18 Lydham Avenue, Bexley) is owned by Bayside Council and it is managed by the Lydham Hall Committee and the St George Historical Society.

## Driving Sustainability

Bayside Council is part of a local Council consortium paving the way to recycle 100 million glass containers into local roads each year.

"I am proud Bayside Council is part of this initiative that will stimulate our economic recovery, create local jobs and protect the environment," Mayor Joe Awada said.

"It is also an opportunity for residents to see how separating their waste helps turn recyclable material into a valuable resource."

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) released a request for tender on behalf of its member Councils in what could be one of the largest local government-led recycling initiatives in NSW history.

The SSROC Paving the Way initiative is expected to create a market for over 20,000 tonnes of recycled glass per year while supporting local jobs and the development of essential recycling infrastructure.

The use of recycled crushed glass (RCG) as a substitute for natural sand in roads and footpaths is in line with Transport for NSW and AUS-SPEC specifications.

The process is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding the transport of sand from distant quarries. Tracking emissions and the amount of recycled materials will also help councils report on sustainability targets.

Bayside Council successfully trialled a similar system last year when the Bexley Depot was resurfaced with almost 400 tonnes of Reconophalt that incorporated waste materials like soft plastic, glass, printer toner and reclaimed road base in the asphalt mix.

In addition to Bayside, participating Councils include Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, City of Sydney, Fairfield, Georges River, Hornsby, Inner West, Northern Beaches, Randwick, Ryde, Sutherland, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra.

For more information visit:  
[ssroc.nsw.gov.au](http://ssroc.nsw.gov.au)





# Summer Reading Club

BAYSIDE LIBRARIES 20/21

Prizes to be won! Join at your local library from Tuesday 1 December 2020.

## Arncliffe Library

11 Firth Street  
Ph: 02 9562 1816

## Bexley North Library

24 Shaw Street  
Ph: 02 9562 1814

## Brighton Le Sands Library

1 Moate Avenue  
Ph: 02 9562 1812

## Eastgardens Library

152 Bunnerong Road  
Ph: 02 9366 3888

## Mascot Library

2 Hatfield Street  
Ph: 02 8338 0313

## Rockdale Library

444-446 Princes Highway  
Ph: 02 9562 1821

## Sans Souci Library

104 Russell Avenue  
Ph: 02 9562 1817



## First Nations Art Competition

Bayside Council is proud to announce a new art competition for First Nations artists with a connection to the Bayside Local Government Area.

There are three categories: Wall Work, Emerging Artists and Young Artists (U18). Closing: Monday 8 February 2021. Entry is free with great prizes.

Winning entries will be displayed in Council facilities and images will be used in Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan.

visit: <https://bayside.eventsair.com/firstnations-art>



Botany  
Aquatic  
Centre

# WE ARE OPEN



**We are open for recreational swimming but require your assistance to make the pool a happy place for everyone.**

- Patrons must sign in using the NSW Service App & QR Code.
- Cashless Eftpos, visa, MasterCard.
- Open from 10am daily for recreational use. Lap swimming as per normal business hours.
- Pool patrons capped at 200. No bookings required but once this number is reached there will be no more people allowed to enter until others have left.
- **Toddlers Pool** will have a maximum number of 20 patrons at any one time.
- **Training Pool** will have a maximum number of 40 patrons using at one time.
- **Main Pool** will have two lanes allocated to recreational use. Max 60 patrons at one time.
- **Main Pool** will have six lanes for lap swimming. Max 7 swimmers per lane.
- Grass area will be open for sitting. Physical distancing guidelines must be maintained.
- No parties or running around.
- No BBQs.
- No ball games.
- No boogie boards and/or inflatables.

### Botany Aquatic Centre

Corner Myrtle and Jasmine Streets  
Tel (02) 9316 6218



# Local Representatives

## COUNCILLORS WARD 1



**Christina Curry**  
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**Scott Morrissey**  
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**Paul Sedrak**  
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## COUNCILLORS WARD 2



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**Dorothy Rapisardi**  
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## COUNCILLORS WARD 3



**Petros Kalligas**  
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**Bill Saravinovski**  
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**Andrew Tsounis**  
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## COUNCILLORS WARD 4



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T 0438 223 600  
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**Liz Barlow**  
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**Ron Bezic**  
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## COUNCILLORS WARD 5



**James Macdonald**  
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T 0434 140 530  
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**Ed McDougall**  
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**Vicki Poulos**  
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E vicki.poulos@bayside.nsw.gov.au

## STATE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



**Michael Daley MP**  
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E maroubra@parliament.nsw.gov.au



**Ron Hoenig MP**  
Member for Heffron  
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E heffron@parliament.nsw.gov.au



**Steve Kamper MP**  
Member for Rockdale  
T 9597 1414  
E rockdale@parliament.nsw.gov.au



**Christopher Minns MP**  
Member for Kogarah  
T 9587 9684  
E kogarah@parliament.nsw.gov.au



## Events Cancelled

Council has cancelled all major events for the rest of the year due to ongoing COVID-19 safety concerns.

This includes Carols in the Park, Carols by the Sea and the New Year's Eve Fireworks display.



## Libraries and Customer Service HOLIDAY HOURS

<b>Thursday 24 december</b>	<b>8:30am - 1:00pm</b>
<b>Friday 25 december</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
<b>Saturday 26 december</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
<b>Sunday 27 december</b>	<b>closed</b>
<b>Monday 28 december</b>	<b>closed</b>
<b>Friday 1 January</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
<b>Saturday 2 January</b>	<b>closed</b>
<b>Sunday 3 January</b>	<b>closed</b>

Arncliffe, Bexley North, Brighton Le Sands, Mascot and Sans Souci Libraries will be closed from 1pm Thursday 24 December 2020 and reopen on Monday 4 January 2021. Library returns can be made through the 24/7 chutes at Eastgardens and Rockdale Libraries.

## Bayside Customer Service Centres

**Eastgardens** Westfield Eastgardens, 152 Bunnerong Road  
**Rockdale** Rockdale Library, 444-446 Princes Highway

Open from Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm and Saturday 9am - 1pm.  
Check Council's website at [www.bayside.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au) for latest updates.



Register for our regular e-news at [bit.ly/Bayside-eNews](https://bit.ly/Bayside-eNews)

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 4 February 2021

## **Council supports gradual rates harmonisation**

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Bayside Council scheduled an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday 3 February to endorse its official response to the State Government's draft changes to rates legislation.

"Council has always advocated for a gradual rates harmonisation process that supports all residents during this change. We are all one Bayside and our submission will ensure a fair and balanced approach," Mayor Joe Awada said.

Council's submission endorses rate harmonisation over a minimum four-year transition period for both residents and businesses.

IPART undertook a review of the local government rating system in 2019 and made a number of recommendations to the NSW Office of Local Government.

These recommendations have been under review and in November 2020 all NSW Councils were asked to provide feedback on draft changes relating to the rating system by Friday 5 February.

Council's submission supports a staged rates harmonisation process over a minimum four-year transition period for both residents and businesses. This is for both the minimum rate change as well as the ad valorem amounts.

Council does not support different residential rates in contiguous urban areas as this could lead to the creation of different communities of interest within one local government area and perceptions in inequity in the way rates are levied and services are delivered.

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**For more information:**

Communications & Events  
Bayside Council  
02 9562 1662  
[communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bayside.nsw.gov.au)