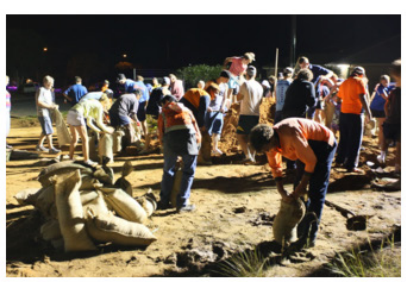


Online presence (website, rates calculator, videos, social media)



Funding the flood levee upgrade



To help protect Wagga Wagga from flooding of the Murrumbidgee River and to safeguard the City's future prosperity, Wagga Wagga Council is upgrading the Main City Levee to a 1 in 100 hundred year level of protection.

In addition to this, the full impact of potentially upgrading the North Wagga Levee will be considered in a review of the Floodplain Risk Management Study.

The Main City Levee Upgrade and a potential upgrade of the North Wagga Levee to a 1 in 20 year level of protection is expected to cost a total of \$23.3M.



CLICK HERE for rates calculator

Enter your property details to find out what your contribution to the levee upgrade would be



This cost estimate is based on design estimates by NSW Public Works.

Providing it can secure Federal and State Government funding Council is committed to funding one-third (\$7.75M) of the cost of the project.

Council is proposing to fund its share via a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

The one off increase would be maintained for five years only, and this revenue would only be able to be used to fund the levee upgrade project.

Under the proposed increase, property owners in the Farmland rate category will pay an additional 1.91% above the

rate peg. Assuming a rate peg of 3% **the total increase for Farmland properties would be 4.91%.**

All other properties will see an increase of 4.1% above the rate peg. Assuming a rate peg of 3% **the total increase for all rateable properties not in the Farmland category would be 7.1%.**

This website contains information about the proposed rate increase as well as tools to demonstrate how it would impact you.

Find the answers to some [frequently asked questions](#) and ask a question in the public [Q&A forum](#) below, or call Council on 1300 292 442.

You can also provide feedback or ask a question by [sending an email](#).

The proposed increase for all **rateable properties not in the Farmland category** is as follows:

Assumed rate peg	+	Additional increase	=	Total rate increase
3%		4.1%		7.1%

The proposed increase for **Farmland** properties is as follows:

Assumed rate peg	+	Additional increase	=	Total rate increase
3%		1.91%		4.91%

Ask a question **Updates**

Ask your questions about the proposed special rate variation here and Wagga Wagga City Council will provide an answer.

All questions and answers are able to be viewed by the general public.

Ask a specific question...

FAQ ▾

What is a Special Rate Variation?

How much does Council want to raise rates by?

What will the Special Rate Variation pay for?

How much will the Special Rate Variation increase my rates in dollar terms?

more...

Community Forum

You're invited to a community forum discussing the proposed Special Rate Variation.

6pm, Wednesday 18 November

Council Meeting Room, Civic Centre cnr Baylis & Morrow Sts

Come and have a chat ▾

Information stall - Wagga Wagga Marketplace 10am-6pm
29 October 2015

Information stall - South City Shopping Centre 10am-6pm
05 November 2015

Information stall - Sprout & About, Civic Centre Precinct 8am-1pm
14 November 2015

Search

Q If Council is Fit for the Future on the basis of a proposed rate rise, it seems to show Council has a level of presumption about implementing an SRV and it doesn't seem right to say you are Fit. What will happen to Council's Fit for the Future standing if Council does not go ahead with the SRV? What were the results of the community consultation on the Fit for the Future submission created by Council that included the presumption of a successful SRV? When does this consultation period close?

asked, 29 days ago

Wagga Wagga City Council has been independently assessed by IPART as being Fit for the Future. The Improvement Proposal submitted to IPART makes it clear that a SRV is proposed for 2016/17 along with a number of cost savings and revenue increases.

The IPART assessment on Wagga Wagga makes specific reference to this in their published document. The approach taken in including the SRV in the Improvement Proposal is consistent with the advice provided by the Office of Local Government in various forums leading up to Council making its submission.

The question "What will happen to Council's Fit for the Future standing if Council does not go ahead with the SRV" is academic because the process required Councils to make a number of assumptions in developing their improvement proposals. Council will continue to review its financial performance and report on the seven ratios through the preparation of the audited financial statements.

The IPART Guidelines did not require Councils that were not recommended for merger to undertake community consultation. Despite this, Council did place its Improvement Proposal on public exhibition including detailed coverage in Council News which received very little community comment.

Q Hi, I have comments more than questions. I find it disappointing that we are asked to have a conversation about funding the levee upgrade through a one off rate rise for a project that was always on the Long Term Financial Plan rather than talking about a rise for provision of Council services in general. Given the interim General Manager's comments on ABC Riverina news yesterday morning (http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-10/srv-wagga/6926146) advising that a review is underway to determine what exactly the previous SRV was spent on and of all Council's major projects it warrants concern from the community that Council is looking to apply for a special rate rise before being able to identify what the previous SRV was spent on or showing evidence of finding efficiencies elsewhere. The lack of detail on what service cuts may actually occur for the alternative to an SRV makes it impossible for participants to evaluate the options fairly and provide informed opinions. It has been identified in previous answers below that the elected body make that decision (hopefully on advice of expert staff) and perhaps it is worthwhile to ask Councillors to indicate what might be cut. This concern is further compounded by the fact that the current elected body had documented serious concerns about the financial management by the previous General Manager. I note in answer to a question below about Council's financial management that WWCC was recently deemed 'Fit For The Future' but do not see this determination or label as any endorsement that Council does anything more than adequate financial management. I run my own Company and the fact that our accountant says we are solvent and are likely to continue to be for the foreseeable future doesn't give me a free pass to put my feet up on the desk and raise my hourly fees. I would think Council's 'pass' as Fit For The Future has more to do with Wagga being a regional centre with a large rate payer base rather than Council's financial or asset management. Another concern I have is that the 2006/7 SRV included funding towards a major community facility (MCF) which was then shifted to a Multi Purpose Stadium (MPS) in 2012, both of which are now mothballed causes further concern and creates a perception that funds aren't always used for what the community are told they are being asked to pay for. As the levee project has been underway and on the long term financial plan for many years and the community are only now being asked to consider a Levee Levy, I do wonder if it is just an easier sell for Council to get a much needed rate rise. My concerns identified above are more about the overall management of Council's finances, it's changing priorities and information to the community. I support the upgrading of both levees, I understand the rate capping imposed by the state government often doesn't even keep up with CPI forcing Councils to constantly apply for "Special" Rate Variations but I hope the Council is more forthcoming to the community in its reasons for needing the rise and that all best efforts really have been undertaken to seek out alternatives. The information presented to date doesn't give that impression and makes me wonder if the Council are in tune with the community at all or see this as the closest it can get to a 'quick fix' to increase revenue to an acceptable level. I look forward to seeing what the previous SRV was spent on and the outcomes of the major projects review identified by the interim General Manager. Thanks

asked, about 1 month ago

Hi

Thank you for your comments on this important proposal. All of your comments and feedback will be taken on board as Council proceeds with this process.

If you have any questions or further comments please don't hesitate to let us know.

Q I have two questions: 1) Who, exactly and legally, is currently committed to financing the levee upgrade? 2) what does "potentially" mean in terms of the WWCC plan? From the wording, it reads that Council is implementing the SRV without any guarantee at all that this will attract the other essential contributions (from either or both Federal and State Governments) for the project. If either - or neither - of these parties commit to the project then ratepayers are sinking money into a well from which no-one will draw. The money will - presumably - just sit there. Is that correct? That sounds faintly ludicrous to me. Since the money can only be used for one purpose, it just sits there if the purpose is not realised - the interest going to whom? Wouldn't it be common sense to have a commitment in writing (from all other parties) before using the SRV to raise the funds for our end of a deal that might not exist? How committed are the other essential governmental parties? Is that commitment in writing? As a second point, I'd ask about the northern levee. It's described here as "potentially upgrading" and merely a "potential upgrade". I'd thus assume that it has nothing to do with any funds from the SRV being mooted - for instance, building a levee on the moon is also just "potential". If the North Wagga Levee is not part of the plan then it is not part of the plan - the word "potential" seems to have all the qualities of a weasel-word here; anything labelled "potential" is actually not just "potential" but is, in all probability, the main beneficiary of the plan. Is that correct? My suspicion is that the SRV for the CBD levee, when it is ignored by both State and Federal funds, will go solely to a North Wagga levee upgrade. Surprisingly, I have nothing against that per se: but I despise double-talkers who assume that I'm a fool. The best example of double-talk for anyone to see is to call a set of five year increases "one off" - what's "one off" about five times? If we said to our employees - the WWCC - that we were going to make a "one off" cancellation of their councillor fees (for the next five years) how quickly do you think they'd twig to the salient point about what "one-off" means? My guess is less than one second. Good grief, what simpletons they take us for.

Robert Walker asked, about 1 month ago

Community Forum
18 November 2015

Information stall - Sturt Mall 10am-6pm
26 November 2015

Wagga Wagga Mayor answers proposed Special Rate Variation questions



Document Library

- Wagga Council information
- Documents relating to 2007-2012 special rate variation
- IPART Guidelines
- Media articles
- more..



Important Links

- IPART - Special Rate Variations
- Flood Futures website

Want to know more?

Contact Lauren Fitzgerald
Role: Community Engagement Officer
Organisation: Wagga Wagga City Council
Phone: 1300 292 442
Email: srv@wagga.nsw.gov.au



Life Cycle

- Be informed: This consultation is open for discussion.
- Under Review: Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The Project team will report back on key outcomes.
- Final report: Contributions to this consultation were detailed in a report to the December Council Meeting. Details of the feedback received are in this attachment.
- Application to IPART: The application to IPART for the SRV is due in February 2016.
- Determination

Appendix 5(D)

less than one second. Good grief, what simpletons they take us for. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] asked, about 1 month ago

Hi Robert,

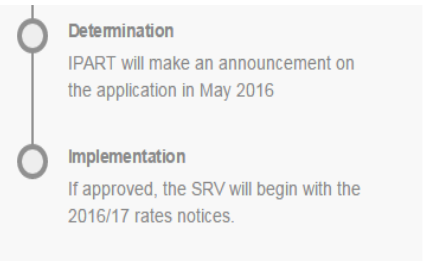
Thank you for your questions. Please find answers to your questions below.

1) Who, exactly and legally, is currently committed to financing the levee upgrade?

Wagga Wagga City Council is committed to funding one-third of the Levee Upgrade Project on the condition the State and Federal Governments fund the remaining two-thirds share. Council has made an application for grant funding in April this year and is waiting to hear if that application was successful. While Council has applied for the full amount of the two-thirds share, the grant funding is likely to be distributed in stages. It is likely the outcome of the grant application will be announced before the Special Rate Variation is implemented.

2) what does "potentially" mean in terms of the WWCC plan? From the wording, it reads that Council is implementing the SRV without any guarantee at all that this will attract the other essential contributions (from either or both Federal and State Governments) for the project. If either - or neither - of these parties commit to the project then ratepayers are sinking money into a well from which no-one will draw. The money will - presumably - just sit there. Is that correct? That sounds faintly ludicrous to me. Since the money can only be used for one purpose, it just sits there if the purpose is not realised - the interest going to whom? Wouldn't it be common sense to have a contract (Q&A forum continues) SRV to raise the funds for our end of a deal that mental parties? Is that commitment in writing?

Council recently resolved to proceed with a 1 in 100 year upgrade of the Main City Levee, however no decision has been



Documents

Wagga Council information

- [Media Release 14.10.15 Funding the Flood Levee Upgrade: Campaign Launch](#)
- [Media Release 3.12.15 Mayor expresses disappointment over lack of flood protection funding](#)
- [Media Release 16.12.15 Council cements its commitment to levee upgrade project](#)
- [Key Points](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Anticipated rate increases for average properties](#)
- [Report to Council: Wednesday 13 October 215](#)
- [Report to Council: Monday 14 December 2015](#)
- [Summary of feedback](#)

Documents relating to 2007-2012 special rate variation

- [Application for special rate variation - commencing 2006/2007](#)
- [Ministers Approval for SRV commencing 2006/2007](#)
- [Outcomes of special rate variation commencing in 2006/2007](#)

IPART Guidelines

- [Guidelines for the Preparation of an Application for a Special Variation to General Income for 2015/2016](#)

Media articles

- [15 December "Rates Rise" \(starts at 2.25 min\) Prime News Wagga](#)
- [15 December 2015 "Council to apply for rate rise to fund levee upgrade" The Daily Advertiser](#)
- [15 December 2015 ABC Riverina News bulletin: ABC News](#)
- [14 December 2015 "Levee levy losing support" The Daily Advertiser](#)
- [13 December 2015 "Don't support increase" Letters to the Editor: Daily Advertiser](#)
- [11 December 2015 ABC Riverina News Bulletin, ABC News](#)
- [10 December 2015 "Tighten the belt" Letter to the Editor: Daily Advertiser](#)

Appendix 5(D)

-  7 December 2015 "Council still looking to proceed with rate hike" ABC News
-  7 December 2015 - ABC Riverina News Bulletin, ABC News
-  4 December 2015 "Council urged to back rate rise" The Daily Advertiser
-  4 December 2015 "Levee upgrade program...comes to a halt in Wagga" ABC News
-  3 December 2015 "Rates rise still on" Prime News Wagga
-  1 December 2015 "Out to dry" The Daily Advertiser
-  1 December 2015 "Wagga MP lobbying Premier to release more money for levee bank upgrades" ABC News
-  30 November 2015 "Wagga City Council wanted to break the bank" The Daily Advertiser
-  27 November 2015 "Levee funding left high and dry" The Daily Advertiser
-  27 November 2015 "Wagga misses out on levee funding" Prime News Wagga
-  19 November 2015 "Levee debate" (starts at 5.15) Prime News Wagga
-  19 November 2015 "Forum calls for unity" The Daily Advertiser
-  18 November 2015 "Levee rate rise 'unfair'" The Riverina Leader
-  16 November 2015 "Levee Funding" (starts at 5.50min) Prime News Wagga
-  14 November 2015 "No equity in funding" Letters to the Editor: The Daily Advertiser
-  12 November 2015 "Levee rate rise 'unfair'" The Daily Advertiser
-  12 November 2015 "We need your help in return" The Daily Advertiser
-  10 November 2015 "WWCC reviews old rate hike benefits ahead of application for new rate increase" ABC Riverina
-  7 November 2015: "We want evidence" Letters to the Editor - Daily Advertiser
-  31 October 2015 "Levee bank a priority" Letters to the Editor: The Daily Advertiser
-  30 October 2015 "Decision makers back a rate rise" The Daily Advertiser
-  26 October 2015 "Upgrade uproar puzzles" Letters to the Editor: The Daily Advertiser
-  24 October 2015 "Better options to fund the levee" The Daily Advertiser
-  22 October 2015 "Levee levy not right" Letters to the Editor: The Daily Advertiser
-  20 October 2015 "What is Council thinking" Letters to the Editor: The Daily Advertiser
-  18 October 2015: "Blanket rate rise 'not fair'" Daily Advertiser
-  16 October 2015 "Businesses to cop brunt of rate rise" Daily Advertiser
-  15 October 2015 "Council seeks rate raise for flood protection" Prime News Wagga
-  15 October 2015 "Pay to protect yourselves" Daily Advertiser
-  18 June 2015: "Wagga council eyes rate rise to become Fit for the Future" - The Daily Advertiser
-  16 June 2015: "WWCC Fit for the Future submissions flags two potential special rate variations over next six years" - ABC
-  17 June 2014: "Extra funding scenario to ensure levee commitment" - The Daily Advertiser
-  28 May 2014: "Wagga levee upgrade debate continues" - The Daily Advertiser
-  21 May 2014: "Proposed Levee Funding Changes Challenged At Forum" - Committee4Wagga
-  17 May 2014: "The \$6.7 million dollar levee bank question" - The Daily Advertiser
-  14 April 2014: "Changes to help Wagga City Council's financial future" - The Daily Advertiser
-  11 April 2013: "Councillors cold on rate variation" - The Daily Advertiser

Shopping Cart

Example of online rates calculator (available by entering your property details or address into online property search) includes prompt to call Council if more detailed information is desired.

\$294.00
\$1,085.46
\$453.50
\$25.00

Application Maps

Development Fee Estimator

Section 94/94a Contributions Calculator

NSW ePlanning

Electronic Housing Code

Proposed Special Rate Variation

Pending the outcome of grant applications for State and Federal funding, Council is proposing to fund its one-third (\$7.75M) share of an upgrade of the flood levee system with a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

If approved, the additional increase to cover the levee upgrade for all rateable properties that are not in the Farmland rate category would be a one off increase of 4.1% on top of the rate peg maintained for five years. Assuming the rate peg is set at 3% the total increase would be 7.1%.

Rate payers in the Farmland rate category will pay an additional 1.91% above the rate peg. Assuming a rate peg of 3% the total increase for Farmland properties would be 4.91%.

If the SRV is approved your 2016/17 rates will go up by the following amounts compared to 2015/16 rates:

Description	Amount
Levee upgrade component only	\$44.48*
Full increase (including rate peg)	\$77.05*

*Indicative increase only and subject to change. Variables include the per rate peg set by IPART each year and land values subject to General Valuations.

For more information on how the proposed SRV will impact your rates each year call 1300 292 442.

Waste Collection



Collection Day	Tuesday, Week 2
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Related Applications



Application ID	Group Description	Category Description	Description	Decision
DA03/0282	Development Application	Dwellings (New)	Proposed New Dwelling & Garage	Approved
CC03/0248	Construction Certificate	Council Domestic	Proposed New Dwelling & Garage	Approved

LEP Zone



LEP Zone	R1 General Residential
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ONLINE VIDEOS

The Wagga Zone (week 10), Wagga TV <https://vimeo.com/146980590>



Wagga Wagga Mayor answers proposed Special Rate Variation questions
wagga.nsw.gov.au/srv



Selection of tweets posted to promote information relating to the proposed SRV. The Campaign banner also featured as the Twitter feed banner for the duration of the campaign (Twitter handle @waggacouncil)

Home Notifications Messages Search Twitter Tweet

funding the levee upgrade.
community

WAGGA WAGGA City of Wagga Wagga

TWEETS 4,595 FOLLOWING 122 FOLLOWERS 1,998 LIKES 206 Edit profile

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos Your Tweet activity

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Dec 16 Your Tweets earned 6,159 impressions

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 22

Missed the Community Forum on Council's plan to fund the #flood levee upgrade? Catch up & ask your questions online wagga.nsw.gov.au/srv

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 5

Questions or comments on the proposed increase in rates to fund the levee upgrade? Find us at South City today!



Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 28

Find out about funding the levee upgrade with Mayor Kendall on @WaggaWaggaTV >> bit.ly/1PRuno5

View media

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 18

Want to know more about funding the levee upgrade? Community forum tonight at 6pm in the Council meeting room: bit.ly/1j4BZVM

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 14

Drop down to #Sprout&About to learn more about the proposal to fund the #flood levee upgrade!



Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 20

Want to know what the proposal to fund the #Wagga #flood levee upgrade would mean for you? All details online: bit.ly/1NfeUhh

Wagga City Council @WaggaCouncil · Nov 17

Learn about funding the levee upgrade at tomorrow night's community forum at 6pm in the Council meeting room: wagga.nsw.gov.au/srv