

## Recognition for OK Organics Kiama

**Kiama Council's OK Organics Kiama service won the Local Government NSW Community Waste Services Award, announced in October at the NSW Local Government Awards.**

Waste Management Officer, Josephine St John, said the award (for populations up to 30,000 people) proved smaller councils could deliver outstanding services.

"We're proud of the service and are thrilled with how the community has taken it up," Ms St John said.

"OK Organics Kiama was the result of Kiama losing its last landfill site in 2006. The significant expense of paying other councils to use their landfill sites forced us to look at ways to reduce our waste."

OK Organics Kiama, the municipality's current waste service of weekly organics (green bin) and recycling (yellow bin), and fortnightly garbage (red bin) collection service, began in 2012 as a trial and was rolled



out in stages.

With the rollout completed in mid-2016, the municipality's percentage of waste being recycled has increased from 60 per cent to 75 per cent recycled or composted.

The NSW Government provided A Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Collection Systems grant that allowed the OK Organics Kiama service to be established. ■

## Health & Sustainability Grants 2018

**FREE INFORMATION SESSIONS**  
**9 January 2018**  
**10am-12noon & 3-5pm**

Kiama Council is offering grants up to \$1000 to community groups who implement programs that have positive health & sustainability outcomes. Find out more at our Eventbrite listing: <http://bit.ly/2mNPZdM>



## Upcoming awards

**In late November, Kiama Council's Australia Day judging panel met to decide on who would be Kiama's Australia Day 2018 award winners.**

Thank you to the five independent local judges who volunteered their time to sift through the impressive range of nominations.

Thank you also to those who took the time to nominate individuals and groups in our community who are worthy of recognition.

Council has made changes to the format of the awards for 2018.

Winners of the Australia Day Citizen, Young Citizen, Senior Citizen and Community Group of the Year

Awards, and their families, will be invited to attend a combined



**AUSTRALIA DAY**  
IN KIAMA

Awards & Citizenship Ceremony at Jamberoo School of Arts on 26 January. Names will be publicly announced prior to Australia Day.

Kiama Council's Achievement Awards, recognised on Australia Day in previous years, will be announced at other significant events throughout the year:

Nominations for the Achievement Awards will be made available closer to their dates. ■

## Inside this issue



- Special rate variation Q&A
- Your lift-out Summer Events Guide for NYE, Australia Day and more
- Health & Sustainability grants

**Rates Due!**

**FEBRUARY**

**28**





# Special Rate Variation

## 2018-19 to 2020-21

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is a Special Rate Variation?**

A Special Rate Variation (SRV) allows a Council to increase its general income above the rate peg.

#### **What is rate pegging?**

The NSW Government (through IPART) sets a limit (peg) that determines how much councils can increase rates overall each year.

The rate peg for 2017-18 is 1.5%. Over the last three years, rate pegging increases have averaged 2%.

#### **What is IPART?**

IPART is the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. It sets water, electricity, gas and transport prices as well as the rate peg limit for local councils.

#### **What is the proposed SRV?**

- 6% in 2018-19 (including the rate peg of 2.3%).
- 6% in 2019-20 (including an estimated rate peg of 2.5%).
- 6% in 2020-21 (including an estimated rate peg of 2.5%).

The total increase in rates at the end of the three years will be 19.1%, made up of 7.47% in normal rate pegging and 11.63% of SRV.

If the actual rate peg differs from the estimated 2.5%, the SRV will vary to ensure the combined figure is still 6% per annum.

#### **When will rates rise?**

If approved, rates will rise from 1 July 2018.

#### **Why does Council need an SRV?**

The SRV is part of the Long Term Financial Plan developed to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future requirements and remain independent.

To be Fit for the Future councils need (among other things) be able to 'effectively manage infrastructure.'

The Long Term Financial Plan includes asset management plans which ensure Council has sufficient money to renew and maintain public assets such as libraries, pools and cycleways.

The Kiama Municipality has a significant range of assets and infrastructure. In fact, Council provides 25% more infrastructure per property than Shellharbour City Council.

The community expects these assets and facilities to be maintained at a high standard, especially roads, footpaths, toilets, parks and playing fields.

Developing the asset management plans for the Long Term Financial Plan showed a need for additional revenue to fund maintenance and renewal.

The SRV is being sought to fund that need.

Another significant reason for the SRV is the long term decline in revenue from major income sources such as Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).

FAGs have been provided by the Australian Government to councils since 1974 to help fund local projects, especially for maintaining local roads.

However, the level of grants has been frozen since 2014, meaning councils across Australia have missed out on an estimated \$1 billion in extra funding, and Kiama Council missed out on approximately \$750,000.

Further, the NSW Government through IPART has set a rate peg in recent years that has prevented councils from meeting annual increases in costs.

For example, the 2017-18 rate peg is 1.5%, which is below Council's general cost increases.

#### **Are there alternatives to an SRV?**

Council has spent two years considering and implementing a range of ways to fund its asset management plans. These have reduced the size of the SRV required, but an SRV is still required to meet the ongoing costs of asset renewal and maintenance.

Council has set an efficiency target of 2.5% each year to reduce costs

**CONTINUED ON P.7** ▶





• YOUR •  
LIFT OUT  
*Summer*  
EVENTS  
GUIDE



**31 DECEMBER**  
**NYE SKY SHOW**  
See next page for full program

**4-12 JANUARY**  
**WSL JEEP WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

**JEEP WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Bombo Beach, Bombo**  
▪ Witness the world's best surfers 18 years and under compete for the prestigious World Junior Title.  
[www.worldsurfleague.com](http://www.worldsurfleague.com)



**8 JANUARY**  
**ANNUAL RUBBER DUCK DERBY**

**11am approximate to pending tide**  
**Crooked River Footbridge, Gerroa**  
▪ Gerringong Men's Shed annual Rubber Duck Derby fundraiser for all the family.  
▪ Cash prizes, best dressed duckling contest, BBQ



**20-21 JANUARY**  
**27TH ANNUAL ROTARY ANTIQUES & RETRO FAIR**

**9.30am-5pm Saturday**  
**10.30am-3pm Sunday**  
**Kiama Leisure Centre**  
▪ Collectibles, furniture, books, jewellery and more.  
▪ \$10 adults, \$7 concession, under 16 free



**25 JANUARY**  
**OUTDOOR MOVIE**  
**RED DOG TRUE BLUE (PG)**

**From 8pm**  
**Black Beach, Kiama Harbour**  
▪ Red Dog True Blue is the story of family, friendship and adventure between a young boy and a unique dog.



**SEE CENTRE SPREAD FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND PAGE 6 FOR AUSTRALIA DAY AND MORE**



**PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

[www.kiama.com.au](http://www.kiama.com.au) #KIAMA #NYEKIAMA17

4.00 – 10.30pm	Eat Street @ Hindmarsh Park & Black Beach
5.00 – 10.45pm	Live Music @ Hindmarsh Park
5.00 – 10pm	Carnival Rides
9.00 – 9.12pm	Fireworks at Kiama Harbour
9.15 – 9.30pm	Laser Sky Show (1) at Kiama Harbour
10.00 – 10.12pm	Laser Sky Show (2) at Kiama Harbour



**Food Vendors @ Black Beach**  
 Zoe's Children's Home, Crescent Star Food, Le Caffina, Mary's Pastries, Summerlife Kiama, Steve's Mobile Pizza, Kiama Rotary, Popping Mad Popcorn, JJ's Indian Restaurant, JetExpresso & Chinese Dumplings.



**Food Vendors @ Hindmarsh Park**  
 Ola Chola, Norma's Burger Bar, Inner Cupcakes, Twist Potato, The Fix coffee van & Family Gozleme.

**Illuminated Buildings**  
**Old Council Chambers** – 15 Dec until 31 Dec 2017, when a new projection will begin until 2 January 2018

**96.5 Wave FM**  
 Tune in to **96.5 Wave FM** to listen to the 9pm Fireworks simulcast digitally synched soundtrack. The audio for the two Laser shows can be heard via the speakers located around the Kiama Harbour

Proudly presented by



**In the interest of keeping this beautiful town clean and tidy, please use the bins provided.** It is important that you place all recyclable material in the yellow lidded bins and other waste in the red lidded bins. On behalf of Kiama Municipal Council, we thank you for your assistance and hope you enjoy the event!

[www.sydneytrains.info/timetables/](http://www.sydneytrains.info/timetables/)





### Accessibility

Kiama Municipal Council is committed to **improving access and support for people with disability**. In line with the recent implementation of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan, an area will be designated for clear NYE entertainment viewing. This space will be clearly marked and self-policed for the sole use of people with disability. People planning to use the area are encouraged to contact Council before Friday 22 December and check Council's website for further information [www.kiama.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au)

## ENTERTAINMENT @ HINDMARSH PARK

5.00 – 5.45pm	Pearl Essence Band
15 min	Interval
6.00 – 6.45pm	Pearl Essence Band
15 min	Interval
7.00 – 7.45pm	Giles Robinson
15 min	Interval
8.00 – 8.45pm	Kevin Sullivan
15 min	Interval
9.00 – 9.12pm	<b>FIREWORKS</b>
9.15 – 9.27pm	<b>LASER SHOW 1</b>
9.30 – 10.00pm	The Benn Gunn Band
10.00 – 10.12pm	<b>LASER SHOW 2</b>
10.15 – 10.45pm	The Benn Gunn Band



Kevin Sullivan



Giles Robinson



Pearl Essence Band



The Benn Gunn Band

### Remember:

- Arrive early for best viewing – consider wider area vantage points
- Avoid taking your car
- Secure your pets & livestock before you leave

### Bring with you:

- A rug to sit on
- Refillable water vessel
- Sun protection
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Hunger for some good food and coffee
- Sense of good fun



We've partnered with Sydney Water to provide **water stations in Hindmarsh Park and Black Beach** so we can help reduce plastic waste! Use your own water bottle to refill all night long and keep hydrated.



Where to Park

### This is a smoke free event

Please be mindful that specialised equipment to supply pyrotechnic and laser light displays will be on site. We ask you to please adhere to isolation areas and keep children under constant supervision at all times. Fireworks will be used as part of the **Kiama New Year's Eve Sky Show** at Kiama Boat Harbour Sunday, 31st December 2017. There will be noise associated with the fireworks and we thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration for your pets and livestock.

## 26 JANUARY AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFASTS

### Jones Beach, Kiama Downs | 7am

- Selection of children's activities and address from Kiama's Australia Day Ambassador
- Presented by the Kiama Downs Surf Life Saving Club



### Coronation Park, Kiama | 7am

- Jumping castle, face painting, live music and a mini nippers carnival
- Presented by Kiama Rotary & Kiama Surf Life Saving Club

### Kevin Walsh Oval, Jamberoo | 8am

- Children's activities and touch football game
- Presented by Jamberoo Red Cross, Jamberoo Fire Brigade and Jamberoo P&C

### South Werri Reserve, Gerringong | 7.30am

- Children's activities
- Presented by Gerringong Surf Club, Gerringong Lions and Gerringong Sunrise Rotary Club

## 26 JANUARY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS & NEW CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

From 11am

### Jamberoo School of Arts

- Presentation of Kiama's Citizen, Young Citizen, Senior Citizen, and Community Group of the Year Awards and Citizenship Ceremony.
- Featuring an address by Kiama's Australia Day Ambassador.
- Entertainment by Jamberoo School Choir singing the National Anthem in Dharawal language, musician Brontë Guggisberg, didgeridoo player Dale Wright, and local choirs.



## 26-27 JANUARY 170TH ANNUAL KIAMA SHOW

### Gates open 10am daily Kiama Showground

Bong Bong Street  
(near Surf Beach)

- Adults \$15 each day,  
5-15 years \$5 each day,  
family \$35 each day (2 adults/  
2 children aged 5-15 years,  
concession \$10 each day

[www.kiamashow.com.au](http://www.kiamashow.com.au)



## 28 JANUARY AUSTRALIA DAY CONCERT IN THE PARK

1-3pm

### Hindmarsh Park, Kiama

- Live music  
for all the family



## 5 FEBRUARY QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

Begins 12.58pm from  
Kiama Leisure Centre

- Arrives 1.40pm at Kiama Showground and departs 2pm
  - Free entry
- [www.gc2018.com/qbr](http://www.gc2018.com/qbr)



## 24 FEBRUARY KIAMA RUGBY 7S

- \$10 gate entry
- [www.kiamarugby.com/kiama-sevens](http://www.kiamarugby.com/kiama-sevens)



## 9-11 MARCH JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

### Various locations

- Combination of free and ticketed events
- [www.kiamajazz.com/Festival-2018](http://www.kiamajazz.com/Festival-2018)



## 14 APRIL RED HOT SUMMER TOUR

Gates open 1pm  
Kiama Showground

- Performances by Boom Crash Opera, Pseudo Echo, Shannon Noll, The Black Sorrows with Vika & Linda Bull, Mark Seymour, Baby Animals, Icehouse

[www.redhotsummertour.com.au](http://www.redhotsummertour.com.au)





◀ **CONTINUED FROM P.2**

and improve efficiencies. It met this target in 2016-17, and is on track to meet the target again this financial year. This has been made possible by improvements in procurement, streamlining of processes and reviewing the way services are delivered.

Council did consider increasing user pay fees. However, many of our customers are pensioners and community organisations with limited ability to afford price increases.

Other services and facilities have limited demand.

Council will continue to look at other sources of revenue, including land development.

**Where will the money from a rate increase be spent?**

The funds raised by the SRV will be restricted to maintaining or renewing current assets and infrastructure.

**What options are available if I can't pay a rate increase?**

Council can help ratepayers with payment schedules that make paying their rates more manageable. Ratepayers are encouraged to contact Council to discuss these options.

**What is Council doing to reduce the effect of the SRV on pensioners?**

There will be an additional pensioner rebate of \$10 which will increase over the three years of the SRV to \$25, and remain in place afterwards.

This will be funded from the SRV. Based on current pensioner numbers in the residential category, the cost of the rebate will be \$16,570 (2018-19), \$28,169 (2019-20) and then \$41,425 from each year forward.

**What else is Council doing to minimise the impact of the SRV on ratepayers?**

Council is limiting increases in the Domestic Waste Management Charges (DWM) to 2.5% over the three years of the SRV. Normally the DWM increases 5% each year, but the success of the OK Organics Kiama program has resulted in efficiencies that will allow Council to temporarily restrict the DWM increase.

**What will the actual weekly impact be on me?**

The majority of residential ratepayers (63%) will pay less than \$5.19 a week in additional rates by the end of the third year.

A majority (61%) of rural residential ratepayers will pay less than \$9.99 a week extra.

The vast majority of business/commercial/industrial ratepayers (91%) will pay less than \$788 a week extra, while 78% of business ordinary ratepayers will pay less than \$3.40 a week more. Finally, 55% of farm ratepayers will pay less than \$8.98 a week more.

**How do my rates compare to other Councils?**

If we use the average residential land value in Kiama of \$418,274, residential rates remain lower than nearby councils (Wingecarribee, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven).

For the full comparison go to [www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/srv](http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/srv)

For businesses, using the average commercial land value of \$429,798, rates will remain substantially lower than other nearby councils.

**Why don't developers contribute?**

Developers contribute to new infrastructure or the upgrade of existing infrastructure that is required as a result of their development. However, the funds generated cannot be spent on unrelated assets or infrastructure.

**What happens if Council's application is unsuccessful?**

The condition of facilities will decline over time. Assets will deteriorate, making the eventual maintenance costs even higher. Service levels may be cut.

Importantly, Council will be unable to meet several Fit for the Future financial benchmarks, and put the long term future of the Council and community at risk.

To access the Rates Estimator and for detailed comparison tables go to [www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/srv](http://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/srv)

Council welcomes public submissions on the SRV.

Submissions close 4pm Friday 19 January 2018.





## Extended recycling facility hours

Don't forget Council's Waste and Recycling Facility at Minnamurra is currently trialling extended opening hours on Saturdays from 8am to 4pm.

The longer opening hours will be available until Saturday 24 February 2018.

The Minnamurra Waste and Recycling Facility is at 446 Riverside Drive, Minnamurra. ■



## Paws 'n' Tales starts 2018

Paws 'n' Tales is an innovative and free literacy initiative for children 4-8 years of age who may be experiencing reading difficulties or lack motivation.

The program will start in 2018 and is dedicated to helping children reach their full literacy potential, to find a love of books and a passion for reading.

Paws 'n' Tales volunteers and registered pet therapy dogs help to get children excited about reading in a non-judgemental and friendly environment.

The program is proudly sponsored by Friends of Kiama Library.



FRIENDS OF KIAMA LIBRARY

If you know a young person who would benefit from this great program contact Kiama Library on (02) 4233 1133 or email [library@kiama.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@kiama.nsw.gov.au) ■



**Starting this month, you'll be able to earn 10c on most empty glass, cans, plastic and paperboard drink containers when returned to approved collection points.**

The NSW Government's Return and Earn scheme started on 1 December.

It aims to reduce the 160 million drink containers littered in the NSW environment each year.

Most 150-millilitre to three litre beverage containers are eligible and should be returned empty, uncrushed, unbroken and with the original label attached.

There are over 500 collection points across NSW, including reverse vending machines (RVMs) in local shopping centres or shops, over the counter sites, and existing recycling centres.

Kiama Vinnies is an over the counter collection point, with more local points expected to be announced soon.

Discover your nearest collection point and more information on eligible container types at [www.returnandearn.org.au](http://www.returnandearn.org.au)

The 10c refund provided at RVMs are provided as a voucher for in store redemption, electronic transfer, cash or may be donated to a community group. ■

## Contact Council

### Mayor

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 Kiama Municipal Council

 @KiamaCouncil

