

Have your say on the SRV

What would you like to do?

Make a submission on the proposed SRV

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

I see no need to increase our rates to cover your Miscalculations' in your budget blowout.

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As a home owner and ELECTOR of the Blayney LGA I absolutely oppose this SRV. Council needs to adjust and do better with the resources they already have, just as our families have had to do in recent times. Ask the community how to save a few dollars, I'm sure they have plenty of advice knowledge and wisdom to share with you.

SRV Submission

Name: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Phone Call: 16/11/23 12:51pm

Wanted to put name as being totally against SRV as Farming rates will go up by \$30 per week. Council do not care about the farmers. Previously enquired to Council about subdividing was told cannot do as Council does not want farmers making money out of selling of land around Barry but yet Millthorpe can. Times are already hard for farmers and everything is going up, eg housing crisis with rents going up, Why can't Council absorb some of these costs instead of putting onto rate payers. Will try and attend a meeting. How much money did Council waste on the 2 x reports done.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 26 November 2023 10:46 AM
To: SRV
Subject: objection

Hi there
I am just emailing to register my objection to the SRV.
Thank you
Regards [REDACTED]

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Hi there, I would like to vote no for SRV.

Thank you.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern,

Whilst I know the cost of everything is going up at the moment, people's wages are not. To increase our rates by 33% (yes I know it's over 3 years, but even so) is disregarding the fact that people are already struggling, living pay-check to pay-check, trying to keep up with all the other bills and expenses we already have. This added cost could mean a parent has to cancel their child's dance classes or swimming lessons, or other extracurricular activities just to pay these extra fees. It could mean missing out on school excursions. It could mean missing out on that family dinner in town, so small businesses miss out as well. And for what? To line the pockets of the council? The letter we were sent said that the rate increase was needed to continue the services the council provides, such as the upkeep of our roads, sewage, parks etc. Not sure if you've driven on any roads around here recently, but they are atrocious. We live near heritage park, and it is beautifully maintained. I often see the grass being mown, quite often actually, but I don't think it warrants a 33% increase in our rates to make sure the grass at the park is pristine.

When considering this proposed rate increase please consider the average Blayney resident. We are hard working people who are just trying to get by, to raise our families.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

No thanks to the SRV AT all. Unaffordable rate increase that doesn't benefit locals.

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I do not support the introduction of the proposed SRV. I don't believe Lyndhurst gets fair representation for the rates that we pay, and to find out that services have already been reduced is disappointing. There was no indication that these reduced maintenance services would be reinstated if the SRV was introduced. How many of your residents are expecting a 10% increase to their income for the next 3 years? I'd think the answer is none.

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Unfortunately I could not make the sessions council had organised.. what I can't understand, council is receiving \$4.87 million from the mine, money council hasn't had in the past & yet council still want to put our rates up. Families are stretch to the limit now...I also would have liked to have a community meeting not just pop in question & answers as I'm sure the community as a whole would have liked to hear the answers to all questions asked.

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Address

[REDACTED]

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I would like to note that I do NOT support the SRV.

All households and businesses are already struggling in the current financial environment. I do not believe that Blayney Shire Council should put even more financial pressure on their residents and businesses. We have to make do. I believe that Blayney Shire should make do with the current peg rate, like the rest of us.

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Name

[REDACTED]

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Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

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I object to the proposed Rate increase

Have your say on the SRV

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Mr Mayor & Councilors

I support Council's preference is for a 10% per annum. increase, to all rate categories for 3 consecutive years. As a primary producer, the maintenance of our councils road network is essential. This has not been happening, we have watched the continued deterioration of our roads, to the point whereby they became impassable after last years flooding and then Council needed to request special grants from state government for repairs. This cap in hand, ad hoc funding model for repair and maintenance does not work. Our roads need far more maintenance sealing, drain rehabilitation Etc to make them more resilient. The local government funding model constrained by rate pegging is out dated and needs review. Your proposal for a SRV is a welcome step forward.

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[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern,

I live with my father who owns a property in Mandurama. I make this submission on his behalf.

We have received information from Council regarding the proposed SRV increases.

My family have lived in Mandurama for the better part of 10 years. Over the last 4 years or so, we have seen a decrease in the services provided and rendered to residents of the community of Mandurama.

We would not be opposed to the SRV rates increases to the Blayney Shire, if the community of Mandurama were actually supported by Blayney Shire Council and the proposals Blayney Shire Council intend to make.

The local oval in Mandurama is rarely mowed or maintained by Council. This is the local ground that we use for sporting activities, dog walking, parties, fishing etc. We have not been able to use the oval for the last 3 months because it has not been mowed or maintained. This is a huge safety risk to our residents because of snakes and spiders in our area.

Our roads are not maintained at the same upkeep or level as other areas of Blayney Shire Council either. On the Canowindra Road, as you turn right from the main highway, there is a massive hole in the road that has been filled in by Council staff a number of times over the last 4 years but has never actually been fixed by Council. Now there is a huge lump on the road that every one of our cars hits every time we turn onto that road. It is a massive safety risk, particularly for the nearby houses as it is going to take one car to hit that bump wrong and a car will go careening into one of the nearby houses.

Our footpaths are atrocious and are never upkept by Council. Our walkways and side roads are hardly ever maintained by Council either.

I also note that the main street of Mandurama floods every time we have heavy rain as the drains near the main post office and pub are blocked from tonnes of rubble and dirt from works over the years.

If the community of Mandurama were actually to benefit from the SRV increases, we would be happy to oblige and agree to the rate rises however, Council needs to provide further information and review the current works and maintenance that our town is actually provided by Blayney Shire Council before our homeowners are forced to pay more money towards Council without actually receiving any benefit.

Yours faithfully,



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Address

[REDACTED]

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A rate rise of any kind will put even more pressure on house holds. The council has been able to get grants in the pass for road works. So why cant they do this again to raise needed funds. On roads, they are a disaster, specially thru Millthorpe and Church St in Blayney.

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ATTN: Blayney Shire Council, Blayney councillors, Mark Dicker

I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed rate rise.

These are difficult times and people, myself especially, can't handle rate increases of this size.

Where do you think the money is to come from?

Rural rate payers seem to be rated at a much higher rating level than towns and villages also.

Rural rate payers pay enough rates already and we get basically nothing for our money, especially if you live on a gravel road. We have to endure dust and in the case of snow and wet conditions you have to added problem of a dangerous and slippery roads and large potholes. Also very wet windy conditions are likely to bring trees down over the road completely closing the road.

Maybe Blayney Councillors should learn to budget and/or spend less in Blayney.

Maybe the council is "top heavy" and needs to look at their staffing levels.

Could the wind turbine company that is destroying our landscape be approached to help with council coffers?

There is also Cadia who could be approached.

Surely there are other options rather than slug the ratepayers

Definitely NO RATE RISE.

I would like my letter tabled at the next council meeting and my objection noted.

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[REDACTED]

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Has council done performance assessments on departments? I know of two people who have contracts at Orange City Council, both have only started working there earlier this year for 3 days a week after working for themselves. Both are constantly looking for work to do, and at times bored out of their minds and one has a contract until June 2024. Does Blayney Shire Council have any such employees??

How confident are Council in the 'Consultation' Recommendation process?? Bathurst was \$120 000, presume that Blayney was similar?

Why doesn't Centrepont Generate any income?? or is the figure on the document the Net loss? Since YMCA have taken over a local private swim instructor has taken her lessons elsewhere, along with many small children in our area. It will be interesting if these children actually graduate through to squads like our kids did simply because ours did all their lessons at the Blayney pool.

Councillor Ipads etc Device replacement each new council term? I am still using my daughters iPad from when she started high school 7 years ago and it is perfectly fine, so is changing devices every term really necessary?. Does Council have an IT department and if so does it really need one? Can it be better done by out sourcing this service?

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[REDACTED]

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Dear Councillors, I have listened to both sides of this discussion for the past few weeks.

What seems to be the base of the problem is that Council is spending more than it earns to maintain the Shire in to the standard it has been. Raising rates does not fix the underlying problem but rather kicks it down the road to make a bigger problem for a future population to deal with. I appreciate the rates system is outdated and needs overhauling. Raising rates will most likely see the pressure taken off so they will increase spending and we will be back in the same position.

What seemed to aggrieve the rate payers most is that Council has gone straight to a rate rise before it cut all possible costs and took on the harder job of fixing a broken system. I don't think the timing is right to seek a rate rise. I haven't seen any structural attempts at the council becoming financially viable with their current income. Spending \$200k on a feasibility study to raise rates is a lot of money. If that amount of effort was put into cutting costs it would have been appreciated.

Council says it can't maintain its current standards on the present rates , citing increased wages, maintenance of new infrastructure and general inflationary pressures. This is the same predicament all businesses are in. Farmers have seen their incomes slashed from between 50%-70% this financial year.

We are one of the few councils who has a mine which pays 50% of our rates, it's not a good barometer of our financial diligence when the other councils are living within their means without a gold mine.

Raising rates seems like they are taking the easy route, hitting the soft targets, the 5% increase should be enough.

[REDACTED]

From: Blayney Shire Council
Sent: Tuesday, 12 December 2023 9:39 AM
To: SRV
Subject: FW: Rate Variation

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 5:42 PM
To: Blayney Shire Council <council@blayney.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate Variation

I am writing this letter to oppose the large increase in rates Blayney Council is trying to impose.

-- They complain about rising costs which is exactly what every business is now facing, but, don't have the perceived luxury of being able to increase our income by 33.1% to cover these costs. We are totally opposed to this increase. Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

I support the rate rise as proposed. It is important that the Council has sufficient funds to provide its vital services. During a cost of living crisis, it is better to ensure that public sector workers and services are supported. These groups are typically underpaid and, as locals in our community, are more likely to spend money that supports local businesses. I see the rate rise as being necessary, justified and important to support our strong communities. I think that spreading the rate rise over 3 years is likely to be minimally impacting for the vast majority of the community and I would like to register my support to the council in seeking this change is the most reasonable way.

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[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

I strongly oppose the srv. Personally, are stretched to the limit. We are working full time (plus doing overtime). We haven't had a pay rise in years, and the utility costs are killing us.

We simply cannot afford this hike. You cannot get blood from a stone.

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[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

The srV should be no greater than the proposed 10% compound per annum limited to 3 years.

An primary producer or land zone according to rural agriculture should be 30% over 5 years. Special rates for quarry/mining and other industry should fall within the 3 year period.

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[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

These fees are outrageously high and are well over the annual CPI.

I am totally against this proposal because it will add extreme financial pressure to each rate payer.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 December 2023 10:21 AM
To: SRV
Subject: FW: Submission SRV

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Blayney Shire Council <council@blayney.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission SRV

Dear General Manager,

I am Making the following submission on the Special Rate Variation.

The council information sheets handed out at the community meeting state that the SRV increase would be applied equally across all rate categories. Will the SRV be applied equally within the categories? Councillor Renolds told me at the community meeting that it will be 10% on the base amount and 10% on the ad valorem. Councillor Somerville said he wants to increase the base rate in the Farmland category by more than the 10%. This would result in the ratepayers with the lower land values in farmland having to pay more than the SRV or rate-peg and gives a reduction to those with the higher land values. Council states that it uses the base amount in recognition of the fact that there are basic services provided by Council and general administrative and over head costs that benefit all properties regardless of rateable value, which in equity should be borne equally by all ratepayers. In the residential ordinary category there are rate payers whose base rate of \$370 plus the ad valorem are less than the farmland base rate \$600. There is no justification to increase the base rate in the farmland by more than the SRV 10% for the proposed 3 years or the rate peg in any financial year. Rates are a tax based on the principle that the higher the land value the more the ratepayer pays.

Projects such as the Design for Blayney & Millthorpe Mainstreet Precincts should not go ahead. Theses areas are functional and money should only be spent where it is needed to maintain these and other areas.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

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Historically BSC farmers have been paying above average rates, supporting residential rate payers who are paying below average rates when compared to surrounding Central West shires. BSC average farm rates are already \$3,110 compared to Bathurst - \$1,540, Cowra - \$2,000 and Orange \$1,952. It is unfair that we have already been paying the highest rates for so long. I understand it is calculated on land value, but that is unfair for farmers, as most are not planning to sell unless they are forced to. Farmers are at the bottom of the food chain everyone else is able to put their wages and prices up etc. However, we only get what we are given and during drought times and increasing expenses for everything it doesn't cover costs. BSC should be supporting farmers for food sustainability not push them out because of land values / rates rises makes unsustainable to farm. Hence some farmers cashing in as its easier to sell then to continue with agriculture.

If anything, raise residential rates so that their average is in line with surrounding shire. Blayney average resident rates \$700, Bathurst \$1,175, Orange \$1,500 etc.

They should start paying their share as they get most of the benefits from rates. We already pay \$18,000 a year, we have no connection to sewerage, or water, no garbage collection, no curb and guttering etc and we are not even on a BSC road (on RTA road), which has a dangerous turn in. So really we are not getting any benefit from our \$18,000. Thats \$6000 per person for our house with no services. The rise would make it an extra \$6,000 per year. Thats an extra \$30,000 over 5 years. Please be considerate of farmers as this is not sustainable. I think BSC needs to look where they can cut their own costs or make income in other ways such as the local gold rich resource mines. Also continue to apply for grant funding for any necessary road works etc. As farmers are not a bottomless pit for funding. Thanks for opportunity to comment.

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[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Please provide your input, comments, and feedback on the proposed SRV here

I strongly disagree with the special rate variation proposed by the Blayney Shire Council. After sitting in on two meetings with councillors, it is clear to see that no consideration has been sought for any other option to offset the deficit going forward. This is an issue that has been creeping up on Council over the past few years and should have been looked at prior to now. This is clearly a management issue and therefore Council should take that into consideration and look at the management of the council in regards to why we are living beyond our means.

As a rural ratepayer, we already bear the burden of rates in the Shire and do the heavy lifting on behalf of Council in terms of what we pay each year as ratepayers.

Council and councillors need to take responsibility and stop the community having to pay for their mistakes and lack of foresight, as well as mismanagement. Make changes within the council management and stop making the community pay.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

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It seems absurd to want to the rates by such a huge percentage when we live in shire that now has 2 mines and an ore processing plant along with 2 wind farms.

These industries have created much opposition in our communities because of the scale and impacts on residents. Let them cover your budget shortfalls. Rate payers are already slugged enough for limited services.

We all have to budget to survive so maybe council should be looking at their budgets a lot differently.

Cadia mine alone pay huge royalties to state government one would think that there would be some flow back to the local council. The wind farmers should be now be charged commercial rates as they are the ones who have allowed our area to be burdened with the impacts of. such useless monstrosities .

Look elsewhere for you budget inadequacies.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 1:06 PM
To: SRV
Subject: FW: Blayney Shire Rate Rise

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:13 PM
To: Blayney Shire Council <council@blayney.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Blayney Shire Rate Rise

----- Original Message -----

To General Manager

I am a ratepayer in Blayney and am deeply opposed to Blayney Councils rate rise. I do not agree with the justification of the rate rise and query how the council got into this financial position.

-Council invested one million dollars in September 2023 knowing the council are around \$1.5 million short for financial year 2024 to 2025.

-NSW government have given permission for councils to charge 5.7% to rate payers .

-I believe the \$1 million that was invest and the rise given to councils of 5.7% would cover the councils short fall and would have a less impact on low wage earners pensioners and unemployed that pay rates in this shire.

-The Dominio effect for renters they will be made pay more for rent

- Council should look at cost cutting within the council.

- one instance is [REDACTED] driving our council supplied car to Lithgow and return to Blayney around 1000 kilometers a week. I know in wage package cars are offered to workers as salary package . The amount of kilometers travelled to work and return on rate payers funded car is not a way of cutting costs i know of other employees of shire drive out of shire to there homes at expense to Blayney rate payers.

- This cost should be stopped.

As Mr Dicker said to [REDACTED] and myself at the community consultation in Blayney, if mine does not start at Kings Plains, the council will be short again in 3 years time and will have to ask for a top up again on rates .

The bottom line is, Blaney Sire Council has not got enough ratable sites in the shire to stay variable and stand alone as a council.At some time this council will have to be amalgamated with another council being Orange.

I would like to again ask why does Blayneys swimming pool loose so much money around \$1000 a day. Please tell me why and were does the money go and can the loss be brought under control.

Why do many of council's costings go over budget and large amounts of money have to go to finish the projects? that was not budgeted for.

To finish i can not see how council can ask the rate payers for more money when we can use \$1million invested in September and use the 5.7% rate increase okayed by nsw gov for coming year.

I will be passing on my conerns to the relevant State and federal Ministers and their offices.

Thanks

To: Mark Dicker
Subject: RE: Blayney council proposed rate increase

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:20 PM
To: Mark Dicker [REDACTED]
Subject: Blayney council proposed rate increase

The Blayney branch of the NSW Farmers Association held its last meeting on November 30th 2023 at which the President of the NSW Farmers Association, Xavier Martin was present
Also present was Graham Brown representing the Cabonne Rural Fire Service, the Mayor, Scott Ferguson, Cr. Bruce Reynolds, Cr. John Newstead and yourself as General Manager of the Blayney Shire Council.
It was more of an information night rather than a formal meeting with more than 50 farmers of the Blayney district present in the Blayney Uniting church hall.
Xavier Martin said that the NSW Farmers Association had met with the NSW Minister for Local Government and the Premier on the issue of local council applications for a Special Rate Increase.
It is Association policy that no Council should be granted an increase above the 5.7% allowed.
That the State Government should undertake a review of any council that applies for a SRV.
Seek a review of local government funding and projects by the state government.
That any SRV variations allowed be exclusive of farming land.
The Mayor, Scott Ferguson outlined the reasons the Blayney Council is applying for a Special Rate Variation of 10% for each of the next three years which would mean a 33.5% rate increase in the third year compared to the present case.
He also said that the Blayney Council would make a final decision to apply to IPART in January 2024.
Many farmers voiced their disapproval of the Blayney Council ignoring the sharp decrease in primary producer incomes in the 2023 calendar year.
[REDACTED] put it this way " The Council is creating a certain future for them and an uncertain future for us".
Another farmer pointed out that his rates per hectare were 56% higher for his land in Blayney Council area compared to his neighbouring land in Bathurst Council area.
Another farmer made the point that they were expected to live within their means why should that not also apply to Blayney Council.
Another farmer made the point that rate revenue for Councils is a broken system, and should not keep asking for SRV and that one day Cadia Mine will close.
The Chairman of the meeting, Dominic Burden, proposed that the Blayney branch put in a submission opposing the 3 rate increases of 10% each year.
A vote was taken and was unanimous that this submission be forwarded to Council, and the Councillors, opposing the application for a Special Rate Variation.
While the rate increases are relatively small for house owners they are huge for farmers. In my own case, council rates are now [REDACTED] per year.
I am asking Council and Councillors to consider the negative ramifications of this SRV for farmers before they create a certain future for them and an uncertain future for us.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Blayney branch NSW Farmers Association.