

Strictly Embargoed until 12:01 AM Friday the 10th of February

Media Release

10 February 2023

NSW councils apply for rate increases

Thirteen councils across NSW have applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special variation to increase their income from rates above the rate peg (details in table below).

"We will assess applications against the criteria established by the Office of Local Government, which require councils to demonstrate the need for the additional revenue, evidence of community consultation and an assessment of the impact on affected ratepayers," said IPART Tribunal Chair Carmel Donnelly.

Every year IPART decides a rate peg for each council in NSW which sets the maximum amount councils can increase the revenue they collect from rates. Councils must seek IPART approval to increase their rates revenue by more than the rate peg. To do this they apply to IPART for a special variation.

IPART has set the rate peg for 2023-24 at 3.7%. There is also an allowance for the level of population growth, meaning some councils will have rate pegs up to 6.8%.

"This year some councils have applied for large increases in rates above the rate peg through special variations. We always conduct a feedback process where the community can have its say on the applications, IPART welcomes all input from residents about a council's application for a special variation and IPART is accepting submissions on the councils' applications until 3 March," said Ms Donnelly.

We will release our final decision on the councils' special variation applications in May 2023.

The councils' applications are available for review on our [website](#). The website also has information about how to lodge a submission.

We have granted an additional four councils a one-month extension to the special variation application deadline.

Bellingen Shire council, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional council, Strathfield council and Tweed Shire council's applications will be published and open for public submission in April.

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Table 1 Proposed special variations

Council	Cumulative increase	Annual increases
Armidale Regional council	58.8% over 3 years	16.67% in 2023-24, 16.67% in 2024-25 and 16.66% in 2025-26
Bega Valley Shire council	48.3% over 2 years	24.0% in 2023-24 and 19.6% in 2024-25
City of Canada Bay council	32.53% over 4 years	15.49% in 2023-24, 4.81% in 2024-25, 4.69% in 2025-26 and 4.58% in 2026-27
Federation council	74.59% over 4 years	19.0% in 2023-24, 17.0% in 2024-25, 14.0% in 2025-26 and 10.0% in 2026-27.
Hornsby Shire council	31.05% over 4 years	8.5% in 2023-24, 7.5% in 2024-25, 6.5% in 2025-26 and 5.5% in 2026-27
Junee Shire council	32.19% over 2 years	17.5% in 2023-24 and 12.50% in 2024-25
Lithgow City council	45.78% over 1 year	45.7% in 2023-24
Liverpool Plains Shire council	18.1% over 1 year	18.1% in 2023-24
Port Stephens council	31.3% over 3 years	9.5% per year in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26
Snowy Monaro Regional council	53.0% over 1 year	53.0% in 2023-24
Tenterfield Shire council	104.5% over 2 years	43.0% per year in 2023-24 and 2024-25
Walcha council	57.74% over 3 years	36.5% in 2023-24, 8.0% in 2024-25 and 7.0% in 2025-26
Woollahra Municipal council	22.23% over 2 years	13.7% in 2023-24 and 7.5% in 2024-25

Note: All proposed special variations are permanent, and all stated increases are inclusive of the actual 2023-24 rate peg and an assumed rate peg of 2.5% for all other years.