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COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

Attachment 22

**Your Council Working for You**

# Community Urged to Make Voice Heard

Ratepayers are being urged to voice their opinions on a proposed rate rise of approximately 5% from 2014/2015 to help maintain community services at their current levels.

A short survey on the issue has been available online and at Council's libraries and its main office since early December – but it will close on January 24 – and anyone who has not yet completed the poll is being urged to take part.

"We're looking to raise additional funds so that we can continue to provide the services the community wants at the present levels. Earlier consultation with residents has made clear that they want to keep the current levels of services," said Steve McGrath, Council's General Manager.

"We look after around \$2 billion worth of public assets for the community – such as 800 kilometres of roads, 300 buildings, 55 playgrounds and 200 kilometres of stormwater pipes. Over many years, rate-pegging by the NSW Government and cost-shifting by both the State and Federal

governments has forced us to divert money – that could have been used to maintain and renew this infrastructure – to other necessary works and programmes.

"As a result, we can't keep the community's assets in a useable condition unless we can generate additional rate revenue and, if the infrastructure isn't useable, we can't continue to provide the services the public wants.

"So Council is very keen to hear the community's views on a proposal to ask the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to approve a rate increase above the statewide Rate Peg increase, which would generate an additional \$6.2 million in rate revenue after the first three years."

By the third year, this would mean that the average residential ratepayer – based on a land valuation of \$183,700 – would be paying approximately \$165.29 per year, or \$3.18 per week, more than if just the Rate Peg increase was applied over the same period.



Proposed Works Programme	Funds Raised Year 1	Funds Raised Year 2	Funds Raised Year 3+
Road maintenance & renewal	0.85M	1.70M	2.6M
Other transport assets	0.19M	0.39M	0.6M
Building renewals & maintenance	0.64M	1.31M	2M
Recreation services renewals	0.26M	0.52M	0.8M
Asset management	0.06M	0.13M	0.2M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2M</b>	<b>\$4.05M</b>	<b>\$6.2M</b>

Go to [www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/financialsustainability](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/financialsustainability) to participate in the survey.

Hard copies of the survey are also available at local libraries and in the foyer of Council's Main Administrative Centre.

# Celebrating Australia Day 2014

Coffs Harbour's Australia Day 2014 is, once again, going to be a community festival event featuring music, family fun games, Aussie barbecue, tasty international treats, face-painting, body art and dance in the beautiful surroundings of the Regional Botanic Garden – thanks to the hard work of the Australia Day Committee volunteers.



The day will begin with 2Air FM offering breakfast to the sounds of Coffs Coast Pipes and Drums before the raising of the Australian flag at 10am, followed by the presentation of Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremonies featuring Coffs Harbour's newest Australians.

The keynote speaker will be Andrew Rendoth, John Paul College 2013 Captain, who will share his vision for Australia from an adolescent perspective.

Then the emphasis is firmly on family fun – all activities for kids are FREE – including the Girl Guides Aussie Games kicking off with an egg and spoon race, sack race, sponge chucking (at live targets!), plus Aussie gumboot throwing, craft-making and heaps more.

Also on offer is the 'Debra Lee Kidz Biz Concert' to entertain the young and young

at heart, along with 'The Smileys Characters Concert' performing action songs and musical games for the kids, as well as the ever-popular Coffs Harbour Library Storytime story-tellers.

There will be Body Art and Face Painting by Trudy Smith – whose talented family will be making sure that every face that wants one will get an iconic Aussie Day logo – and a Balloon Artist to add even more fun.

Australia Day will also see the culmination of a special Young Writer's Competition and the crowd will have the chance to hear talented local kids recite their patriotic winning creations.

Everyone will also get the chance to win prizes by coming along in their best 'Aussie Hat' on the day.

Both adults and kids will enjoy the sounds of 'Deblea Top Shelf' playing a selection of classic, rock and modern hits and the Rafiki Drumming Band and their authentic African sounds.

To add to the mix, the very talented Julie Ross Dancers will be performing their popular and high-energy jazz dance routines.

You are welcome to bring your own picnic or enjoy the food on offer – Aussie barbecue or international treats to tempt your tastebuds.

Last, but not least, Coffs Harbour's Dolphin Marine Magic have donated a Lucky Door Prize for the day (entry by donation) – a Private Shallow Dolphin Experience for four valued at \$800.



Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision making processes. The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) requires Council to provide public access to information held unless there are overriding public interest considerations against disclosure. Any submissions received will be made publicly available unless the writer can demonstrate that the release of part or all of the information would not be in the public interest. However, Council is obliged to release any document by court order or other specific law.

## POSITIONS VACANT

### INSPECTOR – ONSITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Salary range \$55,443.43 to \$60,840.36 pa + Super + RDO

For more information about this position and to apply online please visit our website at [www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au)

### PROPERTY OFFICER (LEASING & LICENCING)

Salary range \$61,668.60 to \$67,713.46 pa + Super + RDO

For more information about this position and to apply online please visit our website at [www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au)

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COUNCIL'S BUSINESS HOURS ARE FROM 8.30AM TO 4.30PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY. THIS INFORMATION IS AUTHORISED BY STEVE MCGRATH, GENERAL MANAGER.