

Our Ref: 117/42 (1004767)

Phone Enquiries: 4934 9700
Treicia Shore

24 February 2014

Mr Hugo Harmstorf
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Mr Harmstorf

Re: Application for a Section 508A Special Rate Variation

Maitland City Council, at its meeting of 11 February 2014, resolved unanimously to submit an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a multi-year variation for seven years under Section 508A of the NSW Local Government Act, commencing in the 2014/15 financial year.

The variation would see total rates revenue increase by 7.25% each year for seven years, securing the financial sustainability of Council. The variation would allow existing services to be maintained and see services enhanced in areas of community priority in one of the fastest growing local government areas in New South Wales.

Under the proposal, adjustments to apportionment in rating will be made. Factoring in this movement, average residential (urban) rates would increase by \$71 in 2014/15. Council's average annual increases for residential (urban) and farmland ratepayers would be under \$100 per annum, while average business rating would increase by \$388 per year.

Council's proposal comes after extensive and broad community engagement targeting every resident, and is lodged with demonstrated community support (verified by two statistically valid, independently conducted surveys).

Council also adopted its Delivery Program 2013-17 (Revised), Operational Plan 2014/15 and Resourcing Strategy at its meeting of 11 February 2014.

Council's supporting revenue strategy (as outlined in its Resourcing Strategy) is well considered, and broadens its revenue streams. Council has set a productivity target of \$500,000 per annum, commencing in 2015/16. Council has increased its borrowings for asset renewal, whilst remaining within Division of Local Government thresholds, and has modelled increasing grant success, targeting \$13 million over the next ten years. Council is also selling and/or developing appropriate land holdings.

Council remains committed to its service sustainability program, and thorough and regular review of all fees and charges.

Please find attached Council's detailed application.

Should you have any queries or require additional information, please contact Ms Leah Flint, Executive Manager Corporate Planning and Engagement on (02) 4934 9794 or leahf@maitland.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Evans', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

David Evans
General Manager