**Richmond Valley Council**

**2013 Community Survey – Special Rates Variation**

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from Micromex Research and we are conducting a survey on behalf of Council. The survey will take about 10 minutes.

Thank you for agreeing to assist us with this survey, which is being conducted for Council and asks local residents their opinions about Councils plans for New Infrastructure and services the community has asked for in its Community Plan.

**QA. Before we start, I would like to check whether you or an immediate family member works for Council?**

Yes O No O **(If yes, terminate survey)**

**Q1. Where do you live?**

**Q2. How long have you lived in the Council area? (PROMPT)**

 Less than 6 months O

 6 months – 2 years O

 3 – 5 years O

 6 – 10 years O

 11 – 20 years O

 More than 20 years O

**.**

**Q3. How important do you believe it is for Council to implement programs that will provide better infrastructure and service? (PROMPT)**

 Very important O

 Important O

 Somewhat important O

 Not very important O

 Not at all important O

**Q4. Read Concept statement:**

**Rates are Council’s main source of income for delivering services and are capped by the State government. This is usually set to increase at around 3% per annum.**

**When developing the Community Strategic Plan Richmond Valley Council recognised that it would not be able to maintain existing service levels to the community without an increase in the General rate. This is as a result of having to spend more maintaining new assets at a higher standard to meet the needs of our growing community.**

**As such in Councils 10 year financial plan it factored in a General rate variation that was in excess of the standard 3% rate peg.**

**Council is proposing to apply to IPART for a permanent General rate only increase of 12.5% next year and 5.5% per year for the next 4 years after that. This would account for an annual increase of $1.73 per week or $90 a year next year and 85 cents per week or $44.20 (extra per year for the next four years) for the average residential household. Note this is not applicable to water, sewer or garbage rates.**

**Projects this increase will fund include programs are summarised as follows:**

**New skate park in Woodburn and extensions in Casino, and Evans Head . $ 430,000**

**The backlog in road, parks, drainage, public toilets and playgrounds renewals. $6,260,000**

**Improving the Casino, Coraki and Woodburn riverfronts. $1,875,000**

**Providing Council traineeships for school leavers. $ 300,000**

**WiFi for Towns, develop Industrial land, job generation initiatives. $1,260,000**

**Major car parking improvements in Casino and Evans Head CBD $1,080,000**

**Better technology and improved communication to residents. $ 440,000**

**Better maintenance on drainage, playground equipment and toilet cleaning. $ 400,000**

**New Casino Riverbank Amphitheatre Civic Pride, Cultural and Art facilities. $ 870,000**

**The purpose of this increase is to ensure the future financial sustainability of the Council and to ensure that Richmond Valley remains a great place to live.**

**Q4a.       How supportive are you with Council proceeding with this application?**

 Very supportive O

 Supportive O

 Somewhat supportive O

 Not very supportive O

 Not at all supportive O

**Q4b. Why do you say that? (Ask all participants)**

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**Q5. How much per week would you be prepared to pay to realise the benefits of this proposal over the next 4 years?**

Less than $1 per week. O

$1 to $2 per week. O

$2 to $3 per week. O

$3 to $4 per week O

Above $4 per week. O

**Q5a. Prior to this call where you aware that Council is potentially seeking to make application for a special rate variation?**

 Yes O

 No O

 Nor sure O

**Q5b How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation?**

 Mail out

 Newspaper advertisements

 Radio broadcasting

 Public information sessions

 Face to face consultation

**Q6a. Based on what you have been told, how important do you believe it is that Council is allowed to introduce this special rates variation? (PROMPT)**

 Very important O

 Important O

 Somewhat important O

 Not very important O

 Not at all important O

**Demographics**

**The following information is used for demographic purposes only.**

**Q7. Please stop me when I read out your age bracket: (PROMPT)**

 18–34 O

 35–49 O

 50-64 O

 65+ O

**Q8. Which of the following best describes the house where you are currently living?**

 I/We own/are currently buying this property O

 I/We currently rent this property O

**Q9. Do you live in a:**

 Free standing house O

 Duplex/semi detached O

 Villa/townhouse O

 Unit/Apartment O

 Granny flat O

 Other (please specify) O ………………………………………………..

 Not applicable O

**Q10 Which of the following best describes your current employment status? (PROMPT)**

 Work full time in the LGA O

 Work full time outside the LGA O

 Work part time in the LGA O

 Work part time outside the LGA O

 Home duties O

 Student O

 Retired O

 Unemployed/Pensioner O

 Not applicable O

**Q11. Gender by voice:** Male O Female O

**If you have any further question regarding this proposed rate variation you can find details on Council’s website** [**www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au**](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au) **or by contacting Council on 02 6660 0300. Thank you very much for your time. Enjoy the rest of your evening.**