



BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE FOR HORNSBY SHIRE

PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION AND DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN
ON EXHIBITION UNTIL 8 NOVEMBER 2022

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY**



The people of Hornsby Shire have been clear and consistent in expressing their vision for our beautiful Shire. We know you want to secure a positive future for our coming generations that is liveable, sustainable, productive and collaborative. To do this, it is essential that we have sound financial foundations and as responsible stewards, we must continue to spend only within our means.

We recently reviewed our Long Term Financial Plan, which identified that we need to take a number of actions to secure long term financial stability, maintain our assets and fund the high priority initiatives you have told us are important. Among the high priority actions we identified is a need to consider applying to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV).

We are consulting you, the community, about this rise in rates which will allow us to maintain the high levels of service that you have come to expect and resource projects to address what you have told us are your long-term priorities.

WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD US IS IMPORTANT



Long term financial sustainability

Ensure that we have sufficient funding to deliver the services you have come to expect and have capacity to respond to unknown shocks, such as natural disasters



Connected walking and cycling paths – \$17,982,370

- Shared paths – footpaths and cycleways
- Track and trail upgrade for accessibility
- Track and trail maintenance



Sustainable and resilient community – \$6,035,096

- Community Resilience Program – climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Bushfire risk mitigation
- Community Development Programs (e.g. social isolation – Hello Hornsby)



Upgrading your community infrastructure – \$30,807,000

- Renew our public amenities
- Community centre access and use upgrades
- Prioritised stormwater upgrades
- Improve sportsgrounds change rooms



Maintaining our assets

Ensure we maintain our buildings, open spaces, roads and drainage at a standard which meets the needs of our community



Planning for our future – \$1,000,000

- Improve strategic planning, including developing the Pennant Hills Town Centre Master Plan and Place Plan



Protecting bushland and improving open space – \$10,283,419

- Bushland asset management
- Playground upgrades



Improving our technology – \$1,150,000

- Providing better customer service, including enhanced cyber security

WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN FOR ME?

IPART determines a percentage by which councils can increase their rates each year. This is known as a 'rate peg'. Our forecasted calculations show that even with this annual rate peg increase, it will not be sufficient to achieve our collective objectives.

We are looking to apply for an increase of 28% staged over four years (**31.05%** cumulative) – including the forecasted rate peg – as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Aggregate	Cumulative
Proposed HSC Rating Increase	8.50%	7.50%	6.50%	5.50%	28%	31.05%
Forecasted Rate Peg	3.70%	3.50%*	3.00%*	2.50%*	12.70%	13.31%

* subject to IPART advice confirming future rate pegs

For residents currently paying our average rate, this would mean an increase of \$2.07 a week in the first year. For business ratepayers, the weekly increase on the average rate would be \$3.97 in the first year.

The table below gives an indication of the average annual rates likely to be experienced by residential and business ratepayers with and without the SRV.

Rating category	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Residential – with SRV	NA	\$1,380.98	\$1,484.55	\$1,581.05	\$1,668.00
Residential – without SRV	\$1,272.79	\$1,319.88	\$1,366.08	\$1,407.06	\$1,442.24
Business – with SRV	NA	\$2,644.15	\$2,842.46	\$3,027.22	\$3,193.71
Business – without SRV	\$2,437.00	\$2,527.17	\$2,615.62	\$2,694.09	\$2,761.44

Residents in the Hornsby Shire local government area traditionally pay lower rates than the average rates of other councils in the Northern Sydney region and than NSW councils in the same category as ours.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Engaging and working with our community underpins all that we do. So, there are several ways you can hear more about these changes, learn what they mean for you and tell us your thoughts:

yoursay.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/srv

Visit our project page to find out more, take a short survey or provide a formal submission.



Information available on the project page includes:

- Draft Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- SRV Background Report
- Capacity to Pay Report
- Community Engagement Action Plan
- Comparison tables to NSROC councils and category 7 councils in NSW
- Frequently Asked Questions, including Council's Hardship Policy
- Timeline and next steps

You can also register to attend a community forum to hear more and ask questions about the SRV:

<p>Business Ratepayers Forum 10 October, 6-8pm Hornsby RSL</p>	<p>Community Ratepayers Forum 17 October, 6-8pm Hornsby RSL</p>	<p>Open Community Forum 25 October, 6-8pm Online</p>	<p>Drop-in Session 27 October, 1-8pm Hornsby Library (Korean, Mandarin and Farsi interpreters available until 6pm)</p>
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