



Council to Proceed with Special Rate Variation Application

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Blayney Shire Council at the ordinary council meeting held on the 23 January 2024 has resolved to submit an application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 10% per annum for 3 consecutive years to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

At the meeting, Council was presented with a Community Awareness and Engagement Report following the 35 days of community engagement over November – December 2023.

The report summarises the community engagement process, with Council receiving 28 submissions on the proposed SRV; 25 against, 1 neutral, 2 supportive.

The key themes and issues raised throughout the engagement were; affordability, hardship and cost of living pressures, financial impact on farmers, Council efficiencies and cost savings, extent of proposed SRV amount, importance of Council services and the importance of continuing current Council service levels.

Blayney Shire Mayor Scott Ferguson acknowledged that it was not an easy decision to make, but unfortunately a necessary one.

‘This has been a very difficult decision for Councillors who are being proactive in seeking to address Council’s forecast deficits as early as possible.’

‘The increase will ensure Council has ability to continue providing services at the current standard to the community and be able to fund renewal and maintenance on Councils assets, particularly the road network and is in response to significant cost pressures borne by Council recently.’ Mayor Ferguson continued,

