

Our Community Our Future 2018-21



Fact Sheet

Our Community Our Future is Randwick City Council's plan for the future to continue providing the community with high quality services, fund important new projects and to address some significant challenges.

What will it cost?

Council is proposing a rate increase for the next three years commencing July 2018. The rate increase application was submitted to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in February 2018 for their approval.

The total proposed increase to Council's rate base over a three year cumulative period is 19.85%. However the actual impact to ratepayers is less.

Rates rise by a minimum of 2.3% each year under the State Government set rate peg – which is on average \$28 extra per year for the average Randwick City residential ratepayer. Council is proposing to add another 3.22% or about \$40 a year for the average residential ratepayer to maintain high quality services and fund new projects.

So in total, for the average residential ratepayer, rates will increase by 5.52%pa or about \$68 a year.

What will it fund?

- Anti-terrorism measures to make public places safer as required by the Federal Government
- Upgrade to the La Perouse Museum
- Addressing domestic violence by building or supporting existing women's refuges
- Undergrounding powerlines to increase street tree planting opportunities
- Building an arts and cultural centre
- Upgrading the Randwick Literary Institute
- Building a new indoor sports centre and gymnastics centre at Heffron Park, Maroubra
- Implementing Council's digital strategy
- Various park, community building and public toilet upgrades

Community consultation

Council consulted with the community between 1 December 2017 and 1 February 2018. This timing was determined by IPART to meet their requirements. A letter, information pack and survey was sent to 51,349 ratepayers in January 2018. In addition, Council placed full page advertisements in The Southern Courier, ran two information sessions, two workshop, conducted a telephone survey, put posters on bus stops and used Council's social media and email newsletters to inform residents and ratepayers.

Community feedback

Ratepayer survey

A letter, information pack and a reply-paid survey was sent to 51,349 ratepayers in January 2018. 5,713 responses were received by the closing date of 1 February 2018. The survey was conducted by two separate independent research agencies.

- 78% supported a rate increase (option 2 or option 3) above the minimum rate cap
- 49% supported option 3 – being a 5.52%pa rate increase for residential ratepayers

Telephone survey

An independent research firm was engaged to conduct a random and representative telephone survey of the local community.

- 85% supported a rate increase (option 2 or option 3) above the minimum rate cap
- 57% supported option 3 (5.52%pa rate increase) as their first preference

More information

A comprehensive summary of the community consultation results and background documents can be found on www.yoursayrandwick.com.au/OurCommunityOurFuture. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal is publicly exhibiting council proposals for rate variations on their website until 12 March 2018 www.ipart.nsw.gov.au