

PUBLIC NOTICES

Roads Funding Proposal - Special Rate Variation

Bland Shire Council is currently seeking feedback from the community on a proposal to improve our local road network through a special rate variation. Council is proposing a special rate variation (SRV) of 10 per cent per year for the next five years over and above the rate pegging limit (2.4 per cent in 2015-16) set by the State Government. The proposal will raise an estimated cumulative \$11,254,898 over the next five years, including an additional \$614,835 in 2016-2017 and an extra \$4.12 million per year by 2020-2021 which will be spent exclusively on the local road network. Council is experiencing a growing gap between the cost of providing services and facilities and the available funding to meet those costs. Faced with the task of maintaining the second longest road network of any Council in NSW (3237 kilometres), frozen Federal grant funding and a long term "cap" set by the State Government - known as rate pegging - on Council's ability to increase income from rates to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Council is underfunded to be able to meet service levels or community expectations on rural roads in particular. The SRV will enable Council to meet service levels on all roads. Prior to formally considering making any formal application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), Council has put forward two options for the community to consider in relation to an SRV. Option 1 proposes a rates increase above the rate pegging limit of 10 per cent per year over five years to improve the local road network. This would enable Council services to be maintained and current road infrastructure renewed to a satisfactory level and maintained in that condition. This increase includes the estimated 2.5 per cent rate peg. Option 2 is to increase rates only by the rate pegging limit set by the State Government each year (approximately 2.5 per cent) which will result in a reduction in service levels and deterioration of Council and community assets. More detailed information about the proposal is available in the "Options to Improve Our Road Network" guide which will be posted to every ratepayer in the Bland Shire and is currently available at Council's Shire Street offices and for download at Council's website at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au. Community members are invited to make a submission in writing to Council regarding the proposal. Written submissions should be signed and addressed to The General Manager, Bland Shire Council, PO Box 21, West Wyalong, NSW, 2671. Submissions close at 4pm on 12 November 2015. All feedback from the community relating to the SRV proposal will be presented to Council for consideration before it formally considers whether to apply to IPART for a SRV in December. Any enquiries regarding the proposal should be directed to Council during business hours on 69722266.

You may receive a call... About Bland Shire Council's future



Bland Shire Council has engaged Micromex Research to conduct a customer satisfaction telephone survey of 300 randomly selected Bland Shire residents seeking feedback from the community about the importance of and satisfaction levels with Council's current services and facilities

The survey will also seek community opinion on a Council proposal for a special rate variation

Starting from next week, local residents may be contacted by a Micromex representative and asked to participate in a 15 minute telephone survey

Your feedback will help Council to plan for its short, medium and long term future and people who are contacted are encouraged to participate and provide honest feedback

For further information people are encouraged to phone Council on 6972 2266



Bland Shire Australia Day awards



Nominate a Mate NOW

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Bland Shire Australia Day awards. Nominations forms are available online at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au or at Council's Shire Street offices

For more information or to arrange for a form to be sent to you please phone Council's Community Relations Officer, Craig Sutton on 6972 2266

Bland Shire Library Baby Bounce

For babies 12 months and under. Every second Friday from 10.30 am - 11 am

Introduce your baby to reading and literacy through rhyme, song, books and props

For information contact the Library on 6979 0272



Storytime

For preschool age children

Every Thursday from 10 am - 11 am @ Library

Parents are asked to bring a piece of fruit for morning tea

Storytelling, song, music, dance, games and craft

For further information contact the library on 6979 0272



HACC Ladies Social Group

The ladies social group brings people together to engage in a variety of social activities, establish friendships and find companionship with women in a similar situation.

The group is open to all Home and Community Care (HACC) eligible women who live in the Bland Shire and is a great chance to come together for a cuppa and a chat.

The Ladies Social Group meets every Thursday morning from 9.30am-11.30am at the Community Care Centre on Ungarie Road, West Wyalong (adjacent to the Hospital).

For more information phone Bland Shire Council's Community Care co-ordinator, Debbie Hardwick, on 6979 0287.



Bland Blokes

Want to meet new people? Get out of the house? Experience new things?

The Bland Blokes is a social group for men.

Weekly meetings are held at the Community Care Centre (near the Hospital) on Thursday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am.

Men's business is discussed, activities held, friendships formed and regular social activities and trips away planned by consensus.

For more information phone Bland Shire Council's Community Care co-ordinator, Debbie Hardwick, on 6979 0287.



Office Hours: 8.30am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Library Hours: 10am-5pm Monday to Friday & 8.30am - 12noon Saturday

Phone: 026972 2266 Email: council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au

EMERGENCY NUMBERS - Council 0418 402 350, Goldenfields Water 1800 800 917, Fire 000

