

**BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during November 2015 in the Council Chambers, Shire Street West Wyalong:

**Extraordinary Council Meeting - Tuesday 10 November commencing at 6.30pm**

An Extraordinary Council meeting will be held to consider the Bland Shire Council submission in response to the IPART Assessment of the Fit for the Future submissions.

Business Papers may be inspected at Council's Office and in the Library for the Extraordinary Council meeting from Friday 6 November 2015. A copy of the Business Paper will also be available on Council's website - [www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au)

This Extraordinary Council Meeting is open to the public and members of the public are invited to address the Council on this issue during the Public Forum Session. Those members of the community wishing to address Council are to be in the meeting room 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting and must convey to the Executive Assistant their wish to address the Council. For the purpose of this meeting the time limitations of the Public Forum Guidelines will be dispensed with. Refer to Council's website for a full copy of the Public Forum Guidelines.

**Ordinary Council Meeting - Tuesday 17 November commencing at 6.30pm**

Business Papers may be inspected at Council's Office and in the Library for the Ordinary Council meeting from Friday 13 November 2015. A copy of the Business Paper will also be available on Council's website - [www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au)

The Council Meetings are open to the public and members of the public are invited to address the Council on any Local Government issue. Persons interested in addressing Council during the Public Forum Session are to be in the meeting room 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting and must convey to the General Manager their wish to address the Council and of the particular issue before the meeting begins. Each address is to be for a maximum of three (3) minutes in length with the total time allowed for the Public Forum session being fifteen (15) minutes. Refer to Council's website for a full copy of the Public Forum Guidelines.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**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](http://www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au).

Any enquiries regarding the proposal should be directed to Council during business hours on 69722266.

**How to have your say?**

- Write to The General Manager, Bland Shire Council, PO Box 21, West Wyalong, NSW, 2671 or email [council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au)
- All ratepayers should have by now received the "Options to Improve our Road Network" handout in the mail. Fill in the reply paid sheet on the back and return.



**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.



**Bland Shire  
Australia Day**



**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](http://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



The Southern Phone Grant Scheme will provide up to \$25,000 to fund community-based projects within the Bland Shire. Southern Phone Grants are to be distributed to community groups via Bland Shire Council.

Applications OPEN on 2 November and

CLOSE on 1 December 2015 and are available online at [www.southernphone.com.au/grants](http://www.southernphone.com.au/grants) or <https://southernphone.smartgrants.com.au/bland>

**The objective of the Southern Phone Grants Scheme is to provide funding for projects which:**

- Provide a direct benefit to the community within the Council area
  - Would not usually be funded by Council in its normal course of business
- Funding will generally only be extended to legally constituted, not-for-profit, non-political and non-advocacy community groups or organisations. Funding will only be provided to beneficiaries for projects:
- Which meet the objectives of the grant guidelines, and
  - Provide a physical asset for, or service to, the community

Projects must be completed by 30 March 2016.

For further enquiries or assistance completing the application form please phone Craig Sutton or Rebecca McDonnell at Bland Shire Council on 6972 2266.

Southern Phone is owned entirely by 41 local Council shareholders, including Bland Shire Council. No individuals are permitted to own shares and profits are returned to local communities via an annual dividend and the \$1,000,000 Southern Phone Grants Scheme. Southern Phone is providing all grant applicants the opportunity to become Southern Phone Partners. Each community partner would receive a 'spotter's fee' of up to \$50 for each new service they bring to Southern Phone. The fee would be paid directly to the community group. Further details of this program can be found on the Southern Phone website [www.southernphone.com.au/grants](http://www.southernphone.com.au/grants)

**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](mailto:council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au)**

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS - Council 0418 402 350,**

**Goldenfields Water 1800 800 917, Fire 000**

