

This flyer provides information on a proposed permanent increase to general rates, which has been submitted to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) by Council for assessment.

Council encourages you to read this information carefully and engage with Council on this matter should you have any queries.

Continue to engage with us

Your feedback is important to us. We encourage you to stay informed about the SRV proposal.

How to make a submission to IPART

Once IPART displays all of the Councils SRVs on their website, they will call for formal submissions. Council expects this to be during March and will communicate this opportunity when it is known.

Understanding the proposal

Council has applied to IPART for a permanent 69.94% increase to general rates over two years, commencing 1 July 2025. This increase effectively incorporates the temporary 19% increase applied in 2023/24 and the temporary 17% increase applied in 2024/25, to make those permanent, and a further 19% for 25/26 and 11.8% for 26/27.

How to find out more

Federation Council Website:

 www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au

For detailed information about the SRV application, including supporting documents, videos, independent reports and FAQs.

IPART Website:

 www.ipart.nsw.gov.au



Learn more about IPART's role, application review and their separate engagement/submissions process. Or scan the QR code.

Contact Council:

Our team is available to answer your questions.

 (02) 6033 8999

 council@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au

Attend a Pop Up Session:

Ask questions and find out more about the proposed increase:

Monday 3 March:

- Corowa Memorial Arcade: 10am - 11:30am
- Mulwala Bakery: 1pm - 2.30pm

Tuesday 4 March:

- Howlong Bakery: 10am - 11.30am
- Urana Takeaway: 1pm - 2.30pm

Proposed Permanent Special Rate Variation Update

A message from Federation Council
regarding the proposed
Special Rate Variation

What this means for residents?

Here's how the proposed permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) will impact average residential rates:

Financial Year	Average Residential Rates	Change from Previous Year
2024/25 (Current)	\$961	-
2025/26 (Proposed)	\$1,144	+19% (+\$183)
2026/27 (Proposed)	\$1,279	+11.8% (+135)

What happens to general rates if the SRV is NOT approved?

If IPART does not approve the proposed SRV, average residential rates would reduce as follows:

Financial Year	Average Residential Rates	Change from Previous Year
2024/25 (Current)	\$961	-
2025/26 (SRV not approved)	\$809	-16% (-\$152)
2026/27 (SRV not approved)	\$846	+4.5%* (+38)

*Based on an estimated rate peg.

In addition to approval in full or refusal, IPART also have discretion to approve an amount different to what was applied so Council is only providing the above two scenarios for simplicity.

Why is Council increasing rates?

Council has modelled the requirement for a significant increase to rates for over four years, to allow Council to continue to deliver valued and required services to the community including providing additional funding for the maintenance of assets such as roads.

Years of insufficient funding have led to a decline in the condition of Council assets, particularly our road network. This has resulted in a growing backlog of maintenance, leading to situations such as Council having to undertake expensive rebuilds rather than preventative maintenance. For example, road rebuilds cost approximately 10 times more per kilometre than regular maintenance. The same principle applies to varying degrees for the unsealed road network, stormwater drainage, and footpaths.

Rising costs and funding challenges

Council faces significant cost pressures, with increases in essential items like diesel, electricity, and bitumen far outpacing rate increases. Furthermore, State and Federal grants for road maintenance are often not indexed, meaning their value has remained stagnant for many years. This makes it increasingly difficult to fund essential infrastructure and services.

What is Council doing to manage the costs?

Federation Council has implemented numerous cost-saving and efficiency measures, saving over \$800,000 per year for the past five years. While these results are significant, and Council continues to seek cost containment, they are not enough to address the substantial backlog of asset maintenance and the increasing costs of materials and services.

Impact on residents & Hardship Support

Council is aware that rate rises have impacts on residents. A "Capacity to Pay" report, independently conducted for the Federation Council area, as part of the SRV application has shown the community has capacity to pay the proposed increase. You can view the report here:

www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Living-Here/Rates/Special-Rate-Variation-Project-24-25/View-Professor-Drews-final-reports

Or scan the QR code:



Council also recognises that some residents may be experiencing financial hardship. We encourage residents facing financial hardship to contact Council on (02) 6033 8999 or review Council's Hardship Policy to assess supports available: www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Living-Here/Rates/Debt-Management-and-Hardship

Or scan the QR code:



Pensioners will continue to receive the pensioner subsidy.

Assess your individual impact

To help you understand the impact of the proposed SRV on your rates, Council has developed a general rates estimator calculator. You can access the calculator on our website:

www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Living-Here/Rates/Special-Rate-Variation-Project-24-25/General-Rates-Estimator

Or scan the QR code:

