

Richmond Valley Council

SRV Community Research

Prepared by: Micromex Research

Date: February 2019

Why Use Micromex?

- ✓ Albury City Council
- ✓ Armidale Regional Council
- ✓ Ashfield Council
- ✓ Auburn City Council
- ✓ Ballina Shire Council
- ✓ Bankstown City Council
- ✓ Bayside City Council (VIC)
- ✓ Bega Valley Shire Council
- ✓ Blacktown City Council
- ✓ Bland Shire Council
- ✓ Broken Hill Shire Council
- ✓ Burwood Council
- ✓ Byron Shire Council
- ✓ Camden Council
- ✓ Campbelltown City Council
- ✓ Campbelltown City Council (SA)
- ✓ Central Coast Council
- ✓ Cessnock Council
- ✓ City of Canada Bay
- ✓ City of Melbourne (VIC)
- ✓ City of Ryde
- ✓ City of Sydney
- ✓ Cumberland Council
- ✓ Devonport Council (TAS)
- ✓ Dubbo City Council
- ✓ Eurobodalla Shire Council
- ✓ Fairfield City Council
- ✓ Forbes Shire Council
- ✓ Georges River Council
- ✓ Gloucester Shire Council
- ✓ Gosford City Council
- ✓ Great Lakes Shire Council
- ✓ Hawkesbury Council
- ✓ Holroyd City Council
- ✓ Hunters Hill Council
- ✓ Inner West Council
- ✓ Kempsey Shire Council
- ✓ Kingston City Council (VIC)
- ✓ Kogarah City Council
- ✓ Ku-ring-gai Council
- ✓ Lachlan Shire Council
- ✓ Lake Macquarie City Council
- ✓ Lane Cove Council
- ✓ Leichhardt Municipal Council
- ✓ Lismore City Council
- ✓ Lithgow City Council
- ✓ Liverpool City Council
- ✓ Liverpool Plains Council
- ✓ Maitland Council
- ✓ Marrickville City Council
- ✓ Mid-Western Regional Council
- ✓ Moorabool Shire Council (VIC)
- ✓ Moree Shire Council
- ✓ Mosman Council
- ✓ Murray Shire Council
- ✓ Murrumbidgee Shire Council
- ✓ Narrandera Shire Council
- ✓ Newcastle City Council
- ✓ Northern Beaches Council
- ✓ Parkes Shire Council
- ✓ Parramatta City Council
- ✓ Penrith City Council
- ✓ Pittwater Council
- ✓ Playford Council (SA)
- ✓ Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
- ✓ Queanbeyan City Council
- ✓ Randwick City Council
- ✓ Richmond Valley Council
- ✓ Rockdale City Council
- ✓ Shoalhaven City Council
- ✓ Singleton City Council
- ✓ Snowy Rivers Shire Council
- ✓ Strathfield Council
- ✓ Sutherland Shire Council
- ✓ Tamworth Regional Council
- ✓ Tenterfield Shire Council
- ✓ The Hills Shire Council
- ✓ Upper Hunter Shire Council
- ✓ Wagga Wagga City Council
- ✓ Warringah Council
- ✓ Waverley Municipal Council
- ✓ Wingecarribee Council
- ✓ Wollondilly Shire Council
- ✓ Woollahra Municipal Council
- ✓ Wyong Shire Council
- ✓ Yass Valley Council

Community research experience – 86 Councils since 2010.

More than 40 SRV since 2010



Background



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Methodology & Sample - Summary

Why?

- Measure awareness levels and sources of information about a Special Rate Variation
- Measure levels of support and preference for different SRV options
- Community attitude towards a number of key projects
- Measure community satisfaction with the performance of Council and the quality of local infrastructure

How?

- Telephone survey (landline and mobile) to N=404 respondents
- 25 acquired through number harvesting
- We use a 5 point scale (1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied)
- Greatest margin of error +/- 4.9%

When?

- Implementation 23rd – 31st January 2019



Sample Profile

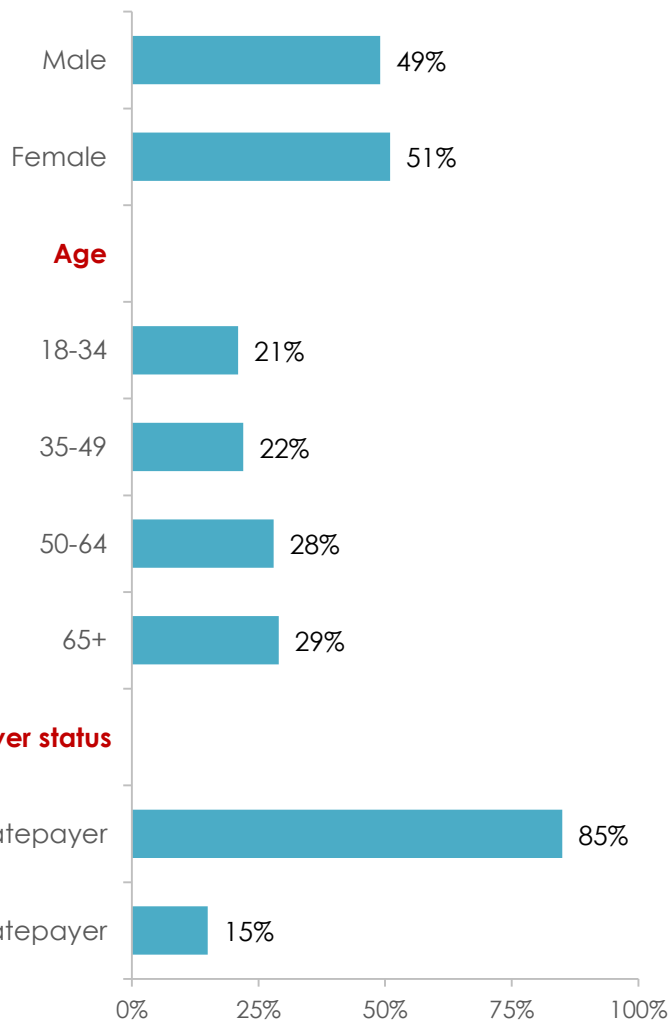


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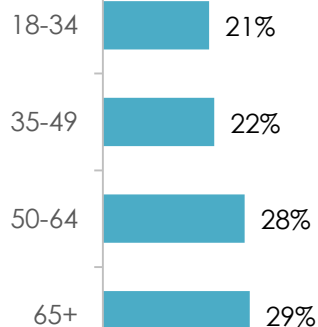
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Sample Profile

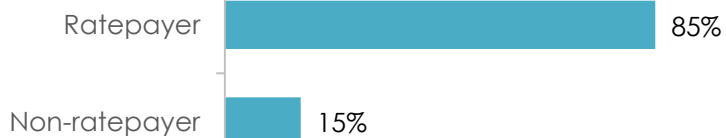
Gender



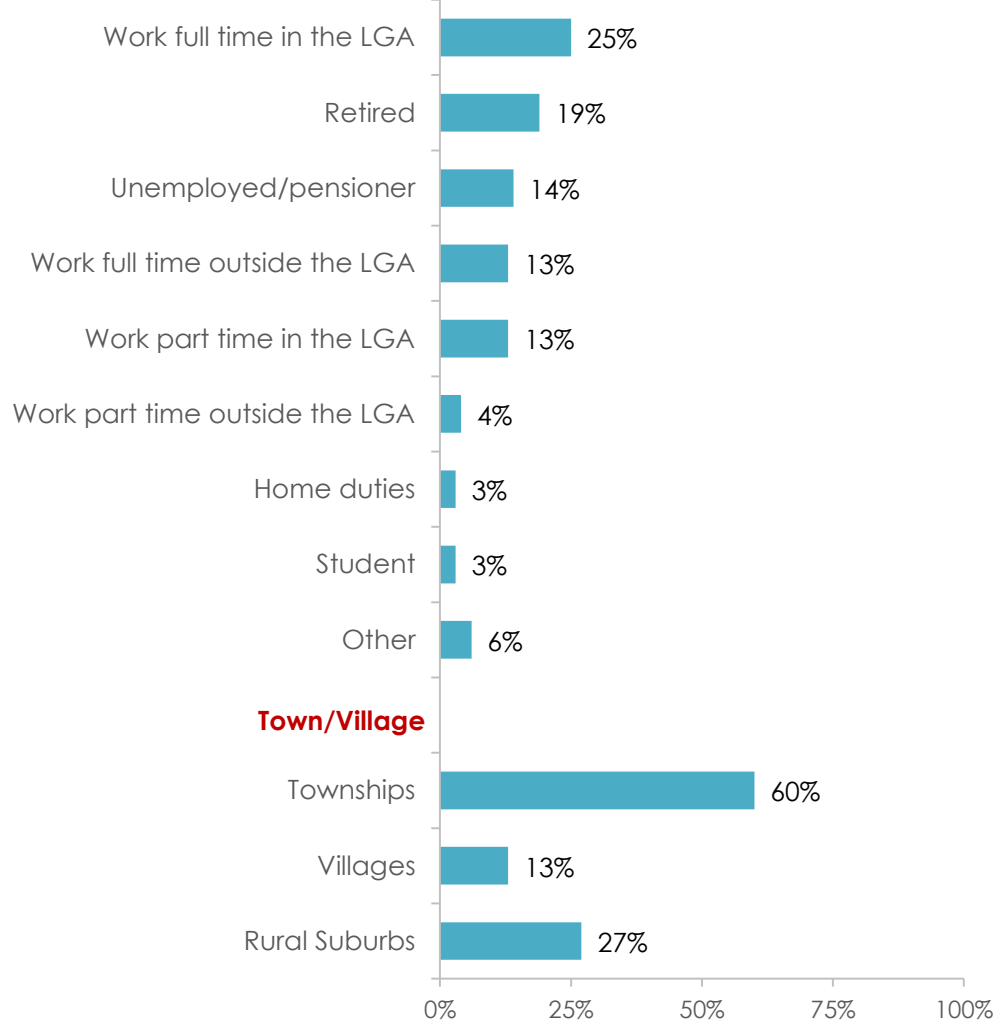
Age



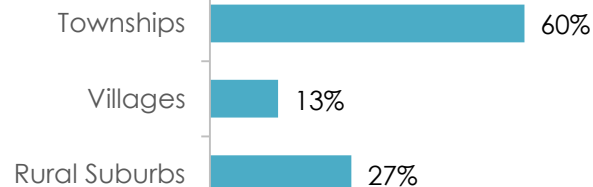
Ratepayer status



Employment status



Town/Village



Base: N = 404

Please see the Appendix for 'other specified' and breakdown of 'town/village'

The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2016 ABS community profile of Richmond Valley Council.

Key Findings



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Key Findings

- 88% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with Council's performance and 83% were at least somewhat satisfied with the current quality of local infrastructure and facilities
- Prior to contact, 29% of residents were already aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a potential special rate variation
- Option 2 (Stabilise Assets) received the highest level of support, with 66% of residents indicating they were at least somewhat supportive
- 53% of residents were at least somewhat supportive of Option 1 (Rate Peg Only) and 52% were at least somewhat supportive of Option 3 (Improve Assets)
- Community preference was towards Option 2/3 i.e. an SRV of some type to either stabilise/improve the quality of local assets:
 - ⇒ 62% of residents selected a rate variation increase above rate peg indicating either **Option 2/3** as a preferred option
 - ⇒ 38% of residents nominated **Option 1** as a preferred outcome



Results



Awareness of a Special Rate Variation



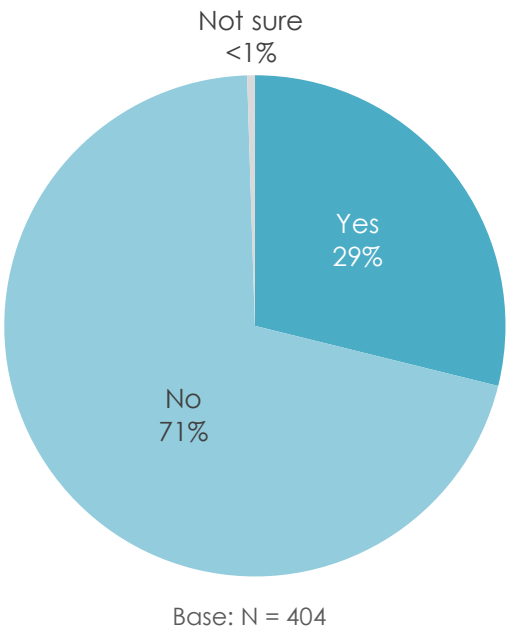
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Awareness of the Special Rate Variation


Q4a. Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation?

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Yes	29%	33%	24%	18%	30%	24%	39%▲	32%▲	9%
No/not sure	71%	67%	76%	82%	70%	76%	61%	68%	91%
Base	404	199	205	84	89	112	119	342	62



	Township	Village	Rural Suburb
Yes	35%▲	16%▼	21%
No/not sure	65%	84%	79%
Base	243	51	110

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of awareness (by group)



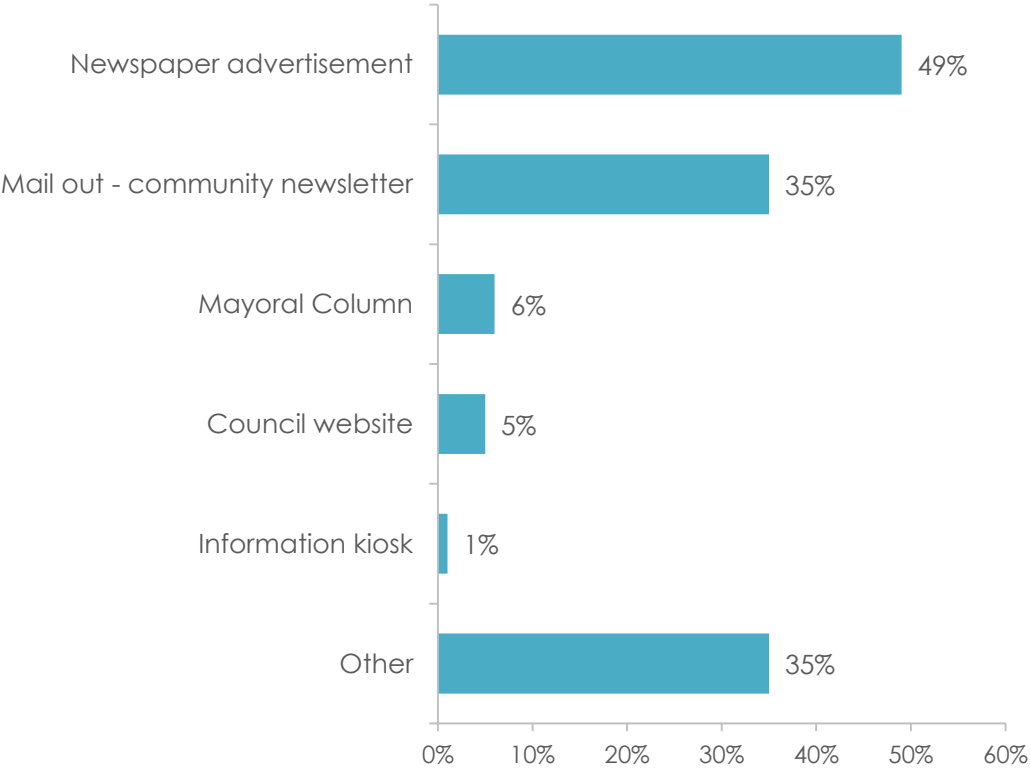
29% of residents stated they were aware of Council exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation prior to the call.

Residents aged 65+, ratepayers and those located in a township were significantly more likely to be aware, whilst those located in a village were significantly less likely.

Source of Information on a Special Rate Variation

- Q4a. Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation?
- Q4b. How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation?

Of those aware of the SRV



Other (specified)	N = 116
Word of mouth	17%
Social media e.g. Facebook	10%
Radio	6%
Council email	1%
Council meeting/Councillor	1%
Expected that the rates go up annually	1%
TV	1%

Base: N = 116

See the Appendix for results by demographics

Of those that were aware of the SRV prior to the call, almost half (49%) became aware via a newspaper advertisement and 35% were informed via mail out.

Support for a Special Rate Variation



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Concept Statement

Residents were read the following concept statement prior to being asked to rate their support:

Richmond Valley residents have consistently told Council that assets such as roads, public spaces, parks and footpaths are important to them, and Council needs to improve their condition.

Council spends around \$15.7 million on the maintenance and renewal of local assets and infrastructure each year, however, it should be investing at least an additional \$1 million a year to keep them safe and functioning. This doesn't include extra money needed to fund the depreciation, maintenance and renewal of new assets.

Despite its best efforts, Council recognises available funding is not enough to keep community assets in an acceptable condition.

There is no easy solution to addressing this funding gap. Put simply, if the gap is not addressed now the community assets which Council manages will deteriorate and become unusable.

The NSW Government sets the amount that Councils can increase their rates by each year. At the moment, that amount, known as the rate peg, is an annual increase of 2.7%, however, the NSW Government can also approve additional rate increases to fund particular projects – these are known as Special Rate Variations. A proposed special rate variation will be necessary in our Shire to maintain and manage our assets to ensure Council delivers services in line with community expectations and remains financially sustainable into the future.



Concept Statement (Continued)

Council acknowledges that any rate increase may adversely impact some community members. Council has a Hardship Policy and alternative payment options to assist ratepayers should they have difficulty keeping up with their rate payments. Please contact Council for further information regarding this.

There are three options which I would like you to consider. Each option will have varying impacts on local assets and service quality.

Option 1 – Rate Peg Only. Our assets would decline with more assets in poor condition. The focus would be on managing risk, including the possible closure and removal of unsafe assets and reduction of services.

Option 2 - Stabilise Assets. We would stabilise the decline of our community assets and be able to fund the required renewal and maintenance of our assets into the future.

Option 3 - Improve Assets. Council would improve the quality of our community assets and have a greater capacity to fund asset upgrades and new works.

Let's look at the options in more detail:



**The concept statement was read to participants.
Option exposure was randomised to nullify order effect.**

Option 1: Rate peg – 2.7% Increase Only

No Special Rate Variation. Rates would increase by the annual projected rate peg amount of 2.7% next year and 2.5% per year for the following 3 years. Over the four-year period, this is a cumulative increase of just over 10.5%. Residential ratepayers who are currently paying around \$970 per year would pay, on average, just over \$1,070 by 2022/23.

This option would generate \$1.3 million over 4 years, which is simply the rate peg increase allowed for by the State Government.

Under this option the impact would be further deterioration of assets, including the worsening of:

- Roads
- Town centres and public spaces
- Community buildings
- Public toilets
- Footpaths
- Stormwater drainage; and
- Parks and open spaces, including playgrounds

Council would also have virtually no capacity for new capital works, meaning it would have difficulty funding new assets such as footpaths, shared pathways, and community facilities. It would also be unable to undertake works like upgrading the state of the gravel road network, or the progressive rehabilitation of the local sealed road network.

In order to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future financial benchmarks, Council would be required to reduce or close some services.

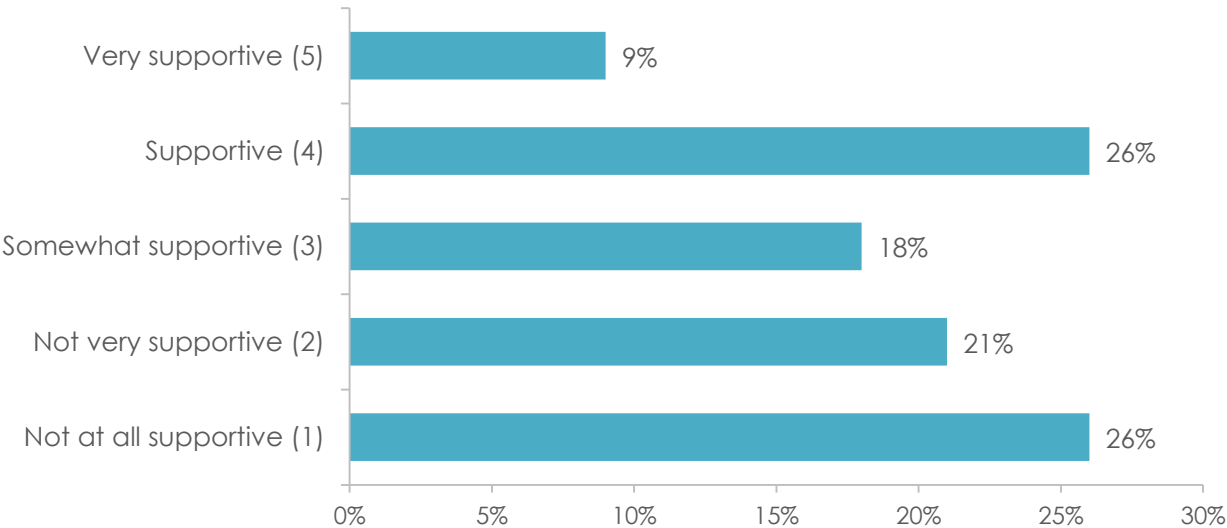


Support for Option 1: Rate peg – 2.7% Increase Only

Q2a. How supportive are you of Council proceeding with Option 1?

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean support rating	2.71	2.76	2.66	2.55	2.76	2.55	2.93▲	2.77	2.40
Base	404	199	205	84	89	112	119	342	62

	Township	Village	Rural Suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	Not aware/not sure
Mean support rating	2.76	3.22▲	2.36▼	2.97▲	2.61
Base	243	51	110	116	288



Base: N = 404

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)

53% of residents were at least somewhat supportive of Option 1, remaining with a rate peg only.
Residents aged 65+, those located in a village and those that were aware of the SRV were significantly more supportive, whilst those located in a rural suburb were significantly less supportive.

Option 2: Stabilise Assets – 5.5% Increase

An annual increase of 5.5% for four years, consisting of the rate peg amount of 2.7% and an additional special rate variation amount of 2.8%. Over the four-year period this is a cumulative increase of just under 24%. At the end of the four-year period the Special Rate Variation increase would be built into the rate base. Residential ratepayers who are currently paying around \$970 per year would pay, just over \$1,200 by 2022/23. Based on what the average residential ratepayer will pay on top of the projected rate peg this equates to an extra \$0.47 per week next year, \$0.63 per week in year two, \$0.66 per week in year three and \$0.73 per week in year four.

This option would generate \$3 million over 4 years which is \$ 1.7 million more than under the rate peg.

Council would be able to continue with the its current preventative maintenance and renewal program to stabilise the condition of priority assets.

This would also help Council be able to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future financial benchmarks and maintain current service levels.

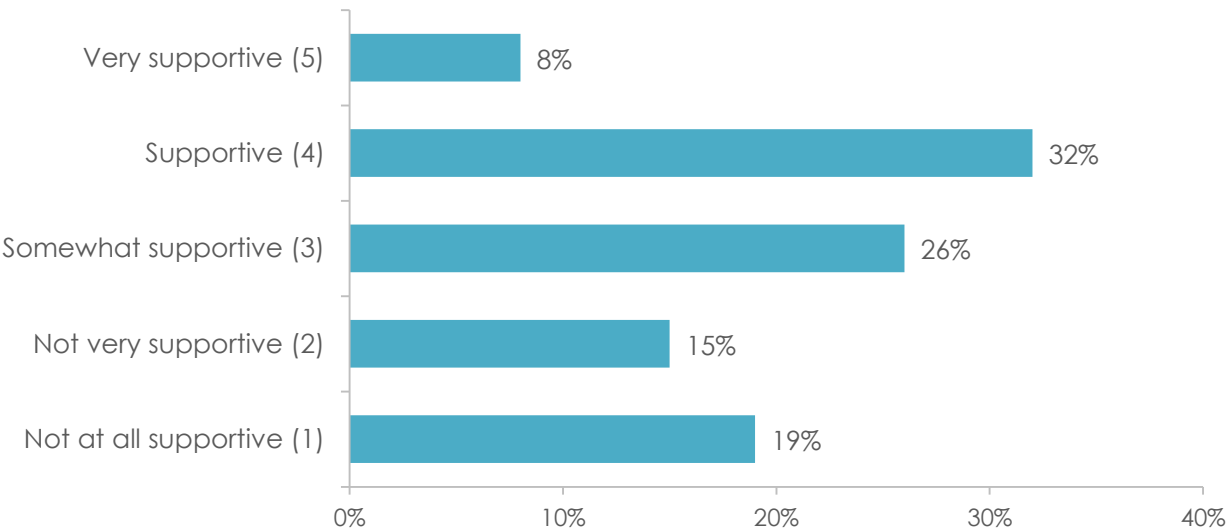


Support for Option 2: Stabilise Assets – 5.5% Increase

Q2b. How supportive are you of Council proceeding with Option 2?

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean support rating	2.95	2.89	3.00	3.31▲	2.88	2.86	2.83	2.88	3.32▲
Base	404	199	205	84	89	112	119	342	62

	Township	Village	Rural Suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	Not aware/ not sure
Mean support rating	2.95	2.71	3.06	2.88	2.98
Base	243	51	110	116	288



Base: N = 404

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)



66% of residents were at least somewhat supportive of option 2.
Residents aged 18-34 and non-ratepayers were significantly more supportive of this option.

Option 3: Improve Assets – 7% Increase

An annual increase of 7% for four years, consisting of the annual 2.7% rate peg and an additional special rate variation amount of 4.3%. Over the four-year period this is a cumulative increase of 31%. At the end of the four-year period the Special Rate Variation increase would be built into the rate base. Residential ratepayers who are paying around \$970 per year would pay approximately \$1,270 by 2022/23. Based on what the average residential ratepayer will pay on top of the projected rate peg this equates to an extra \$0.77 per week next year, \$0.91 per week in year two, \$0.96 per week in year three and \$1.15 per week in year four.

This option would generate \$3.9 million over four years, which is \$2.6 million more than under the rate peg.

This option would stabilise the deterioration of our assets and gradually improve their condition over time.

It would enable Council to fund a more extensive program of gravel road upgrades, the rehabilitation of sealed roads and the renewal of town centres and public spaces.

It would be able to deliver these improvements sooner and bring forward much-needed maintenance.

Council would also be able to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future financial benchmarks a lot earlier and maintain current service levels with some capacity to invest in new or expanded services.

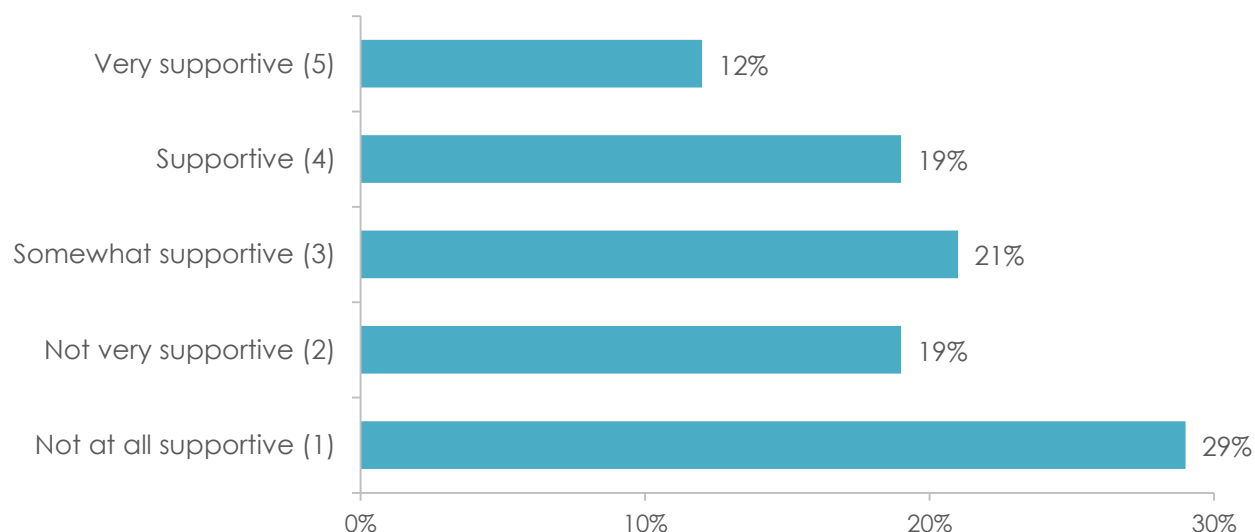


Support for Option 3: Improve Assets – 7% Increase

Q2c. How supportive are you of Council proceeding with Option 3?

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean support rating	2.65	2.60	2.70	2.90	2.57	2.62	2.55	2.50	3.47▲
Base	404	199	205	84	89	112	119	342	62

	Townships	Villages	Rural Suburbs	Aware of the SRV prior to call	Not aware/not sure
Mean support rating	2.70	2.43	2.65	2.47	2.72
Base	243	51	110	116	288



Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)

Base: N = 404

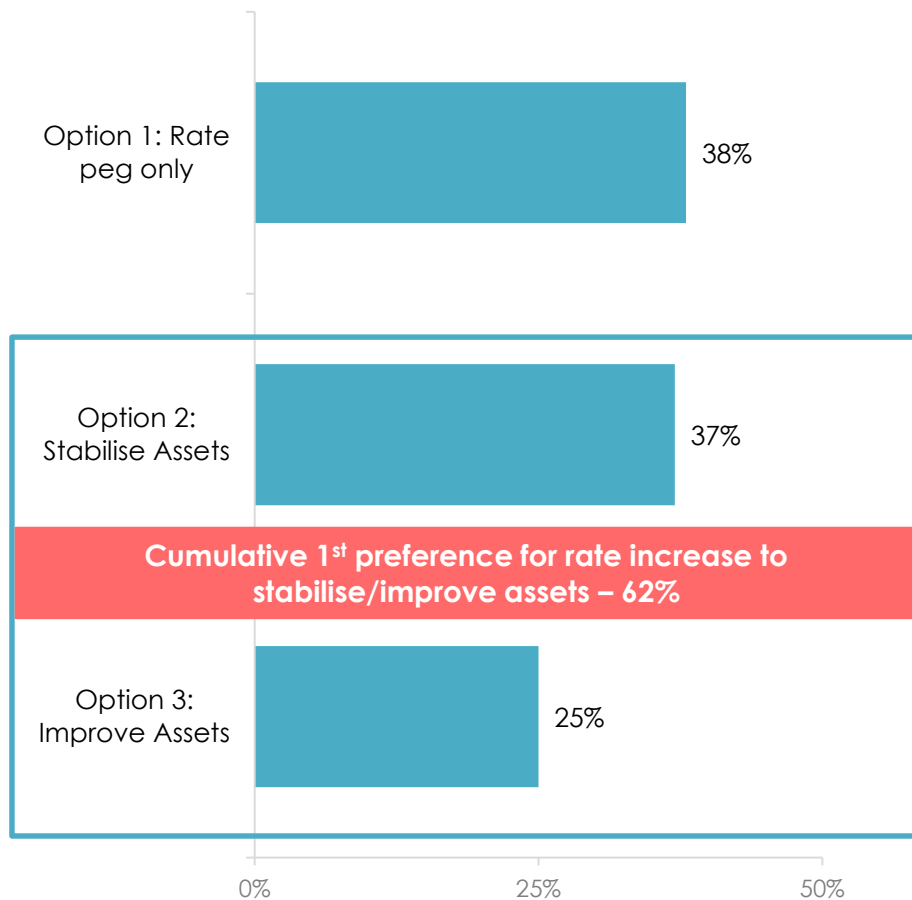
Just over half (52%) of residents were at least somewhat supportive of Option 3 – Improve Assets.

Non-ratepayers were significantly more supportive of this option.

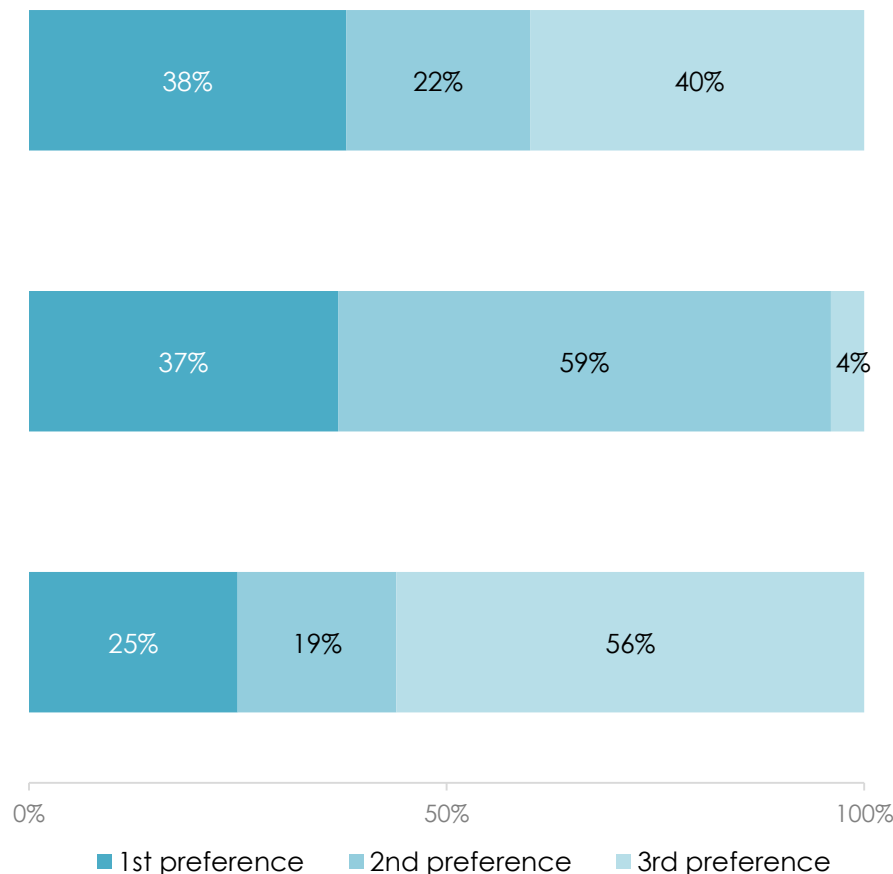
Preferences for Special Rate Variation Options

Q3a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

First Preference



Combined Preferences



Base: N = 401

3 respondents refused to provide their preference

Note: see the Appendix for data cross analysed by demographics and satisfaction

Preference for option 1 (38%) and Option 2 (37%) were almost identical and a quarter (25%) of residents were in preference of Option 3. By combining Options 2 and 3, 62% see the need for an SRV of some sort.

Residents in preference of Option 1 (Rate Peg Only) were more likely to have a lower level of satisfaction with the performance of Council and with the quality of infrastructure and facilities.

Reasons for Preferring Option 1: Rate Peg Only (38%)

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

- "A lot of farmers in our area are going to struggle to pay rates this year"*

"We shouldn't have to pay more than what we are paying already"

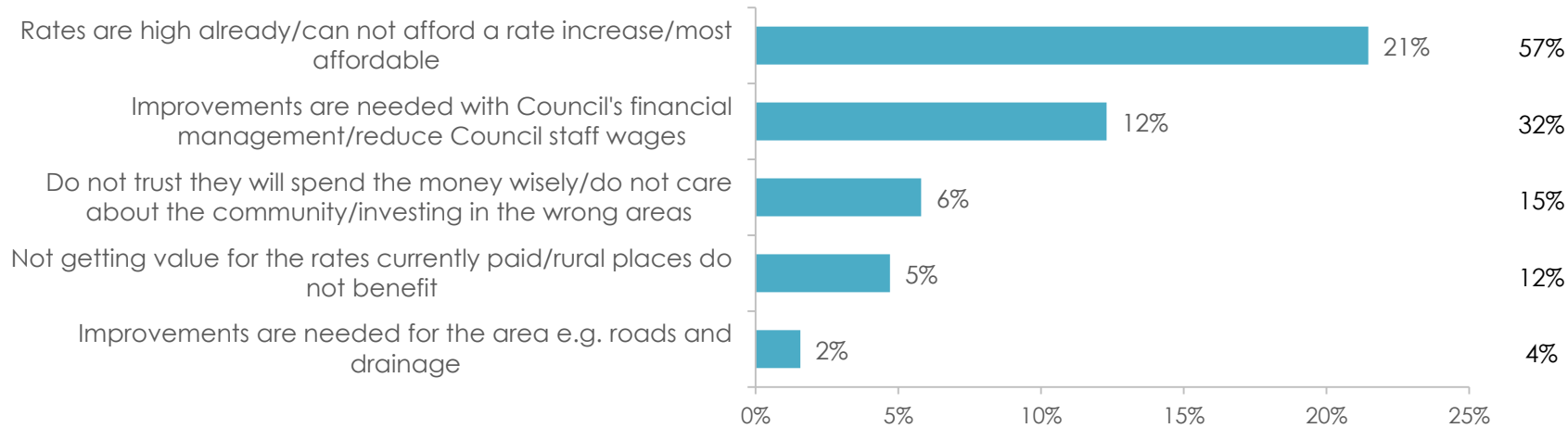
"As a pensioner I would struggle to afford higher rates"
- "Funding is not balanced out to the community where it is required"*

"Council needs to reduce the wages they pay their workers"

"Shouldn't be asked to pay more rates due to lack of services"
- "Council is mismanaging funds"*

Option 1: Rate Peg Only
% of total sample (N = 401)

% of respondents preferring Option 1 (N = 152)



See the Appendix for the complete list

Reasons for Preferring Option 2: Stabilise Assets (37%)

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

- “More affordable for the community but also getting something out of it”*

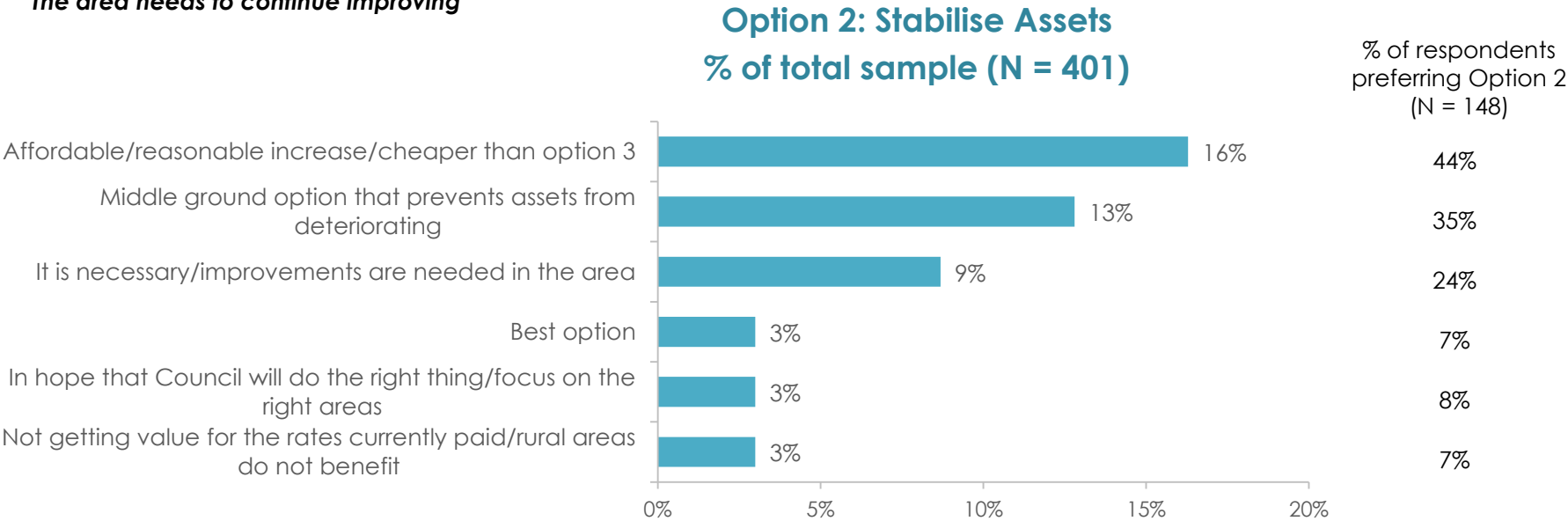
“Realise that money is required to improve infrastructure”

“Willing to pay a small additional amount if more assets could be provided in the Broadwater area”
- “Middle ground and easing into rate increase”*

“Don’t want services to deteriorate”

“Rural roads desperately need to be maintained to help out the farmers”
- “The area needs to continue improving”*

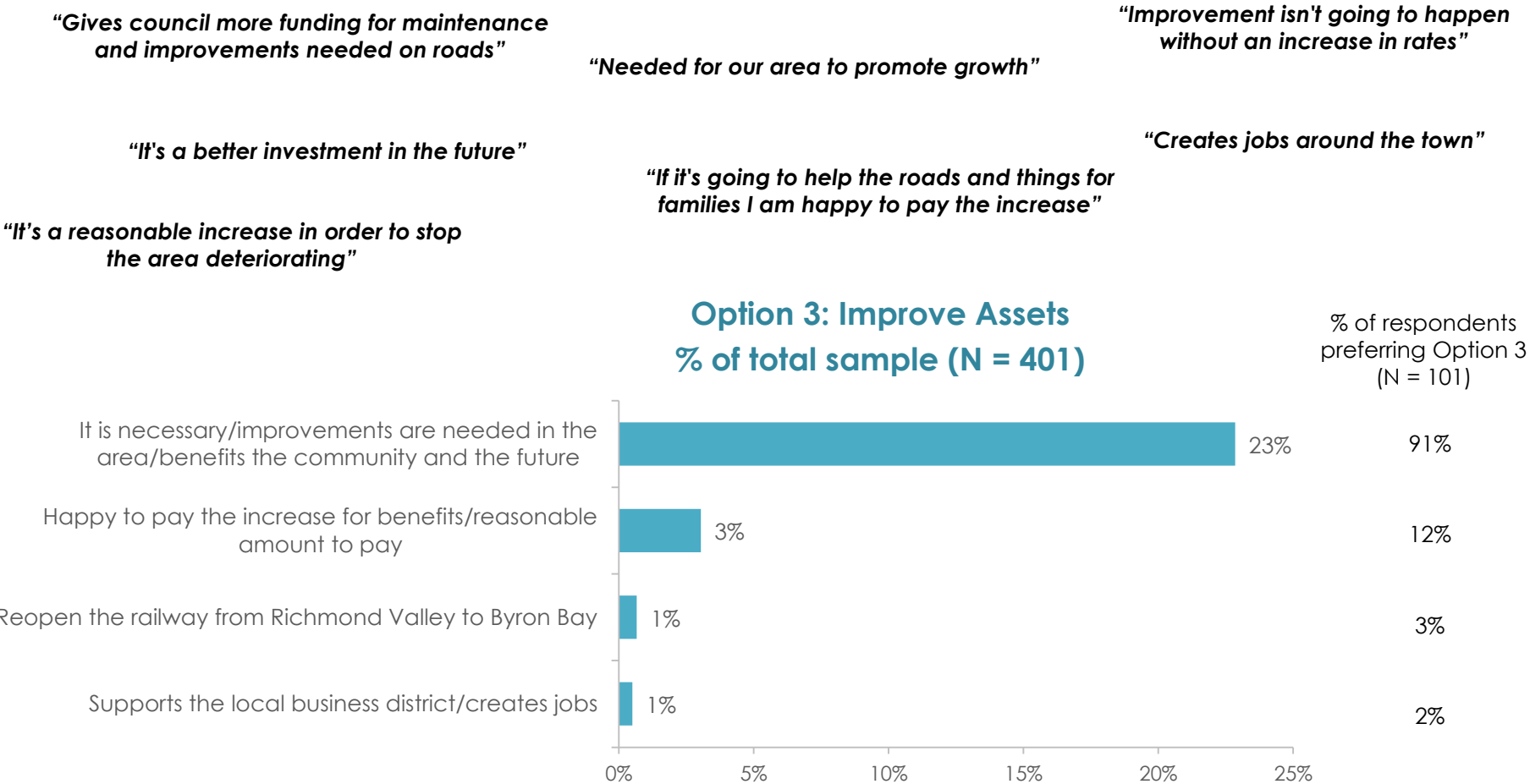
“Council need to care for the country residents as well as the town residents”



See the Appendix for the complete list

Reasons for Preferring Option 3: Improve Assets (25%)

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?



See the Appendix for the complete list



23% of residents (the largest reason for support overall) believe Option 3 is necessary as improvements are needed and this will benefit the community now and in the long term.

Community Diagnostics



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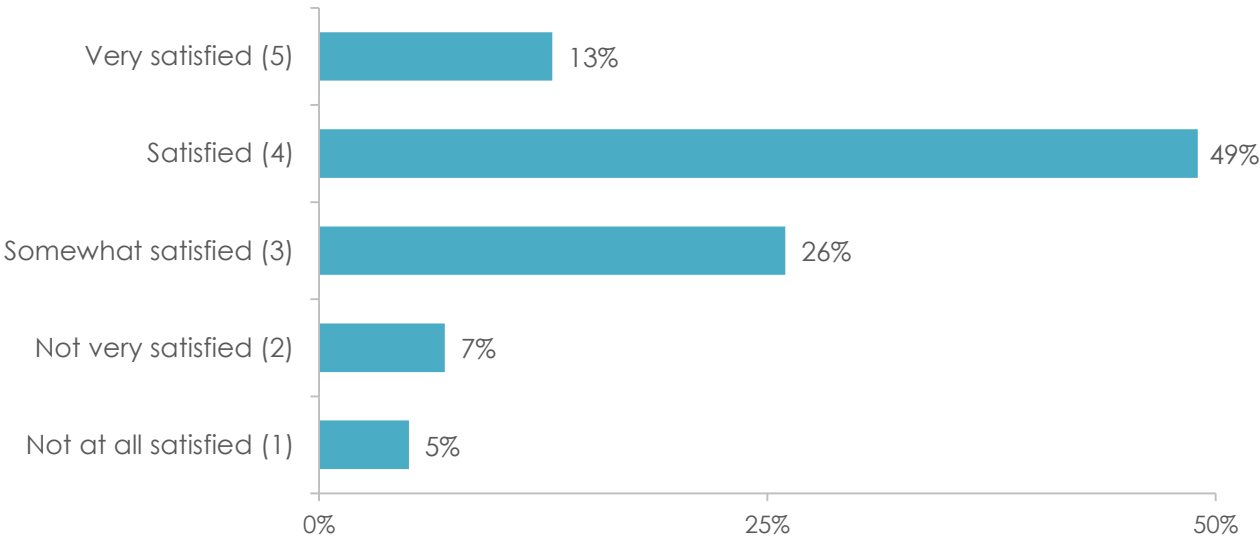
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Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council

Q1b. Overall, for the last 12 months, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean satisfaction rating	3.56	3.45	3.66	3.65	3.51	3.41	3.68	3.52	3.79▲
Base	404	199	205	84	89	112	119	342	62

	Township	Village	Rural Suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	Not aware/not sure
Mean satisfaction rating	3.66▲	3.54	3.35▼	3.56	3.56
Base	243	51	110	116	288



NSW LGA Brand Scores	Mean rating
Richmond Valley Council	3.56
All of NSW	3.42▼
Regional	3.31▼

Base: N = 404

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied
▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of satisfaction (by group)

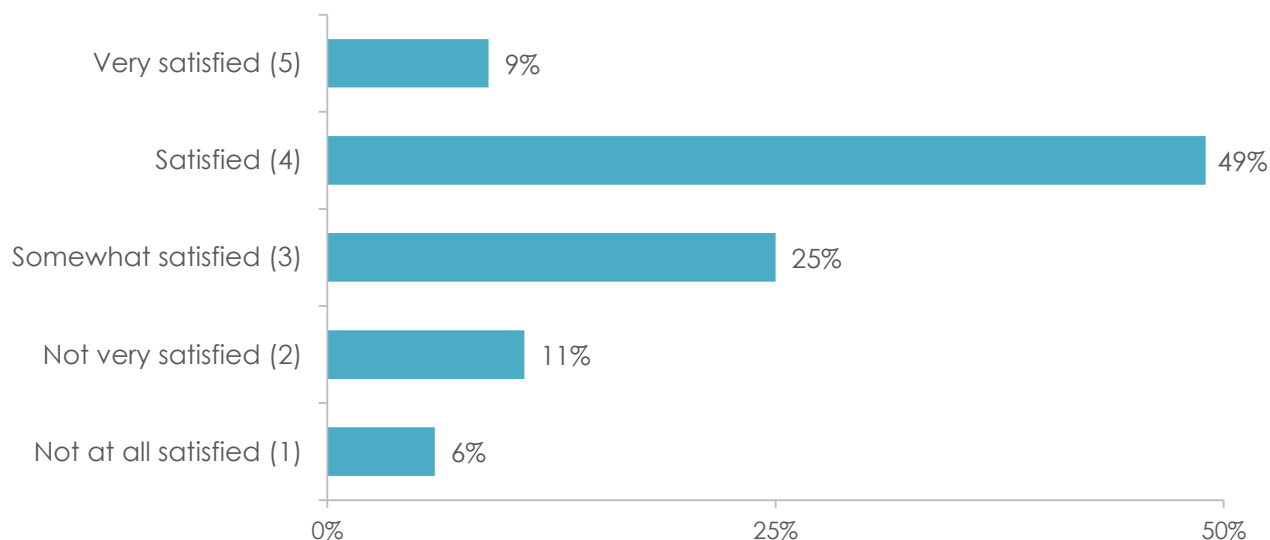
88% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Council over the last 12 months. This result is significantly greater than our 'all of NSW' and 'Regional' benchmarks. Non-ratepayers and those located in a township were significantly more likely to be satisfied, whilst those located in a rural suburb were significantly less satisfied.

Satisfaction With Quality of Infrastructure and Facilities

Q1c. How satisfied are you with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Council in the local area?

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean satisfaction rating	3.45	3.47	3.43	3.47	3.30	3.37	3.61▲	3.41	3.64
Base	404	199	205	84	89	112	119	342	62

	Township	Village	Rural Suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	Not aware/not sure
Mean satisfaction rating	3.56▲	3.29	3.28	3.49	3.43
Base	243	51	110	116	288



Base: N = 404

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied
▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of satisfaction (by group)

83% of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Council.

Residents aged 65+ and those located in a township were significantly more satisfied.

Projects & Priorities



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Key Priorities for Council in the Local Area

Q1a. What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?

Key Priorities	N = 404
Maintenance and improvement of roads and supporting infrastructure	59%
Waste management e.g. improving the household collection service, preventing illegal dumping, reduce fees, rural areas, etc.	8%
Water management/supply/quality/restrictions	8%
Maintaining/increasing infrastructure/community buildings	7%
Appearance and maintenance of the area	6%
Business and employment growth	6%
Management and protection of the natural environment/improving the health of the River	6%
Nothing, happy with the way the area is/Council is doing a good job	6%
Provision and maintenance of footpaths/kerbs and guttering/drainage	6%
Council - financial management/improving operations/more community consultation	5%
More facilities and services for youth/management of youth	5%
Enforcement of laws and regulations e.g. speed limits, illegal camping and animal control	3%
Managing and attracting tourism	3%
Provision and maintenance of parks/playgrounds	3%

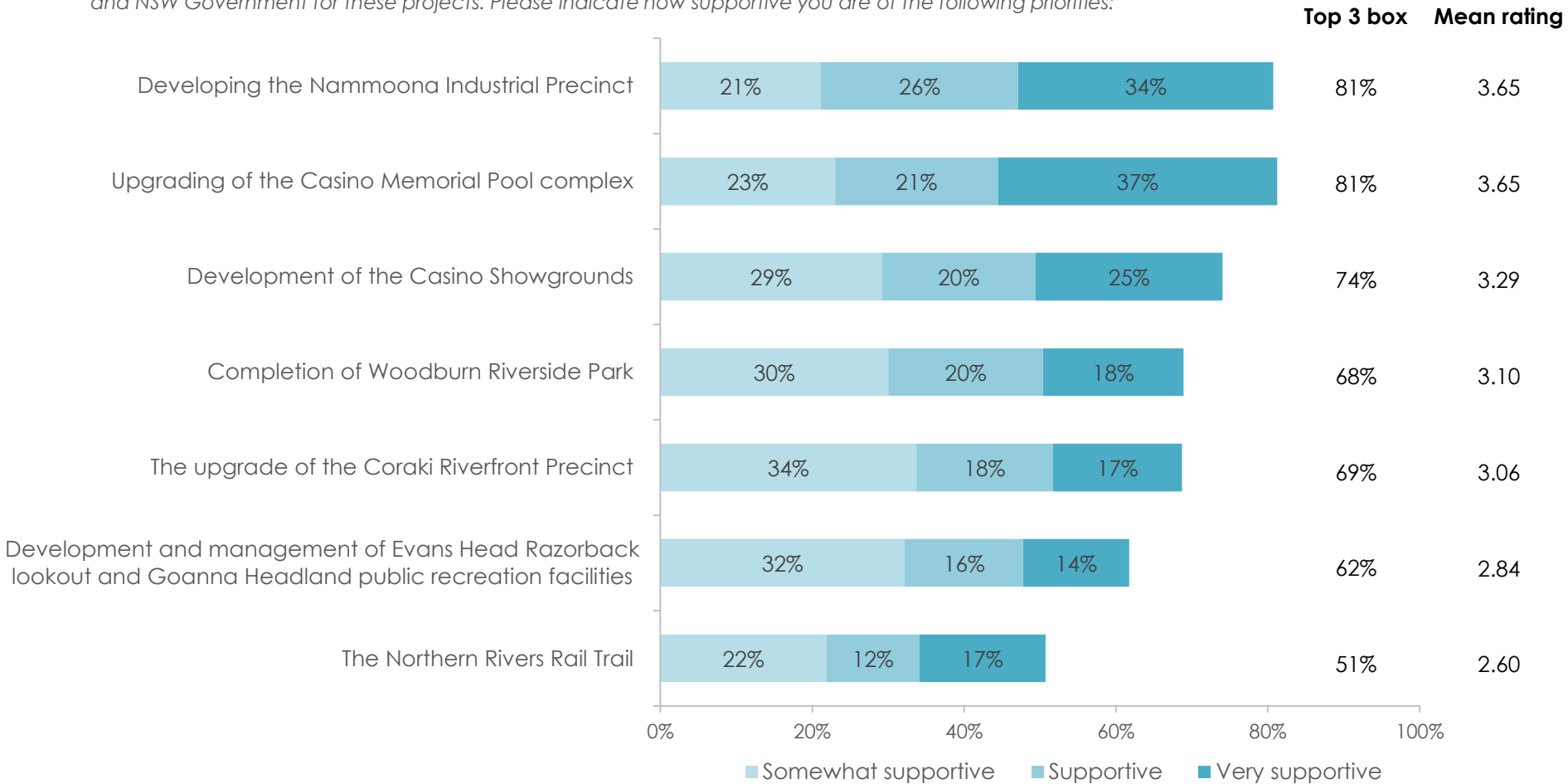


Please see the Appendix for responses fewer than 3%

The maintenance and improvement of roads was identified as a key priority for the area by 59% of residents. Other priority areas include waste and water management.

Support For Priorities – Current and Future Services

Q5. Richmond Valley Council has identified priorities for delivery in the coming four years, as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council is seeking your opinion on these priorities so that it can manage the delivery of current and future services. We pursue grant funding opportunities from the Federal and NSW Government for these projects. Please indicate how supportive you are of the following priorities:



Base: N = 404

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

Refer to the Appendix for list of complete priority descriptions, full table of results and results by demographics

Developing the Nammoona Industrial Precinct and upgrading of the Casino Memorial Pool complex had higher relative levels of support, with 81% of residents at least somewhat supportive of both of these projects.

Appendix



Background and Objectives

Background

Richmond Valley Council spends around \$15.7 million on the maintenance and renewal of local assets and infrastructure each year, however, it should be investing at least an additional \$1 million a year to keep them safe and functioning.

Despite its best efforts, Council recognises available funding is not enough to keep community assets in an acceptable condition.

As such, they are consulting with the community about the potential to address the shortfall with a Special Rate Variation (SRV), presenting the community with 3 options to consider and provide feedback on.

Objectives of the survey

To obtain a statistically robust and clear measure of the community's understanding and attitude towards a potential SRV.

Specifically:

- Measure awareness levels and sources of information about a Special Rate Variation
- Measure levels of support for different SRV options (options were randomised to mitigate order effect)
- Obtain a hierarchy of preferences for the different options
- Community attitude towards a number of key projects
- Measure community satisfaction with the performance of Council



Methodology & Sample

Data collection

Micromex Research, together with Richmond Valley Council developed the questionnaire.

Telephone interviewing (CATI) was conducted during period 23rd – 31st January 2019.

Sample

N=404 interviews were conducted. A sample size of 404 provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.9% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=404 residents, that 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.9%.

For the survey under discussion the greatest margin of error is 4.9%. This means for example, that an answer 'yes' (50%) to a question could vary from 45% to 55%. As the raw data has been weighted to reflect the real community profile of Richmond Valley Council the outcomes reported here reflect an 'effective sample size'; that is, the weighted data provides outcomes with the same level of confidence as unweighted data of a different sample size. In some cases this effective sample size may be smaller than the true number of surveys conducted.

Interviewing

379 of the 404 of respondents were selected by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages and SamplePages.

In addition 25 respondents were recruited face-to-face, this was conducted at a number of areas around the Richmond Valley LGA, i.e. Casino Town Centre and Evans Head Town Centre.



Methodology & Sample

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Significance difference testing is a statistical test performed to evaluate the difference between two measurements. To identify the statistically significant differences between the groups of means, 'One-Way Anova tests' and 'Independent Samples T-tests' were used. 'Z Tests' were also used to determine statistically significant differences between column percentages.

Within the report, ▲ ▼ are used to identify statistically significant differences between groups, i.e., gender, age, ratepayer status and awareness of the SRV.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.



Sample Profile

QB. Which town/village do you live in/near?

Town/Village	N = 404	Town/Village	N = 404
Casino	49%	Spring Grove	1%
Evans Head	11%	Swan Bay	1%
Coraki	7%	Tatham	1%
Ellangowan	4%	West Coraki	1%
Woodburn	3%	Whiporie	1%
North Casino	3%	Woodview	1%
Bentley	2%	Bungawalbin	<1%
Yorklea	2%	Clovass	<1%
Backmede	1%	Dobies Bight	<1%
Broadwater	1%	Doonbah	<1%
Coombell	1%	Dyraaba	<1%
East Coraki	1%	Hogarth Range	<1%
Fairy Hill	1%	Myrtle Creek	<1%
Greenridge	1%	Naughtons Gap	<1%
Leeville	1%	New Italy	<1%
McKees Hill	1%	Stratheden	<1%
Mongogarrie	1%	Upper Mongogarrie	<1%
Rappville	1%	Wyan	<1%
Shannon Brook	1%		

Q8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employment status - other	Count
Self employed	15
Carer	4
Farming	4
Volunteer	2
Semi-retired	1



Source of Information on a Special Rate Variation

Q4a. Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation?

Q4b. How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation?

Of those aware of the SRV

	Male	Female	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer	Township	Village	Rural suburb
Newspaper advertisement	47%	52%	0%▼	51%	45%	68%▲	48%	75%	47%	53%	57%
Mail out - community newsletter	30%	41%	66%	21%	43%	29%	34%	49%	38%	31%	26%
Mayoral Column	5%	8%	0%	5%	11%	7%	5%	25%	5%	29%▲	2%
Council website	5%	5%	0%	17%▲	4%	1%	4%	25%	4%	0%	11%
Information kiosk	0%	3%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	25%▲	2%	0%	0%
Other	36%	34%	48%	62%▲	22%	23%▼	37%	0%	38%	32%	26%
Base	66	50	15	27	27	46	110	6	85	8	23



Preferences for Special Rate Variation Options

Q3a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

1 st preference	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Option 1	38%	41%	35%	23%▼	44%	40%	42%	41%▲	22%
Option 2	37%	34%	39%	51%▲	32%	35%	33%	37%	36%
Option 3	25%	25%	26%	26%	25%	25%	25%	22%	42%▲

2 nd preference	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Option 1	22%	19%	26%	25%	25%	21%	20%	23%	19%
Option 2	59%	61%	56%	46%	60%	61%	64%	60%	53%
Option 3	19%	20%	18%	28%	15%	18%	16%	17%	28%

3 rd preference	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Option 1	40%	40%	39%	51%	32%	39%	38%	36%	59%▲
Option 2	4%	4%	5%	3%	8%	4%	4%	3%	11%▲
Option 3	56%	56%	57%	46%	61%	57%	59%	61%▲	30%

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)



Preferences for Special Rate Variation Options

Q3a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

1 st preference	Township	Village	Rural suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	No/Not sure
Option 1	37%	58%▲	32%	40%	37%
Option 2	37%	28%	40%	40%	36%
Option 3	26%	14%▼	28%	20%	27%

2 nd preference	Township	Village	Rural suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	No/Not sure
Option 1	21%	28%	24%	25%	22%
Option 2	58%	68%	56%	56%	60%
Option 3	21%	3%▼	20%	19%	19%

3 rd preference	Township	Village	Rural suburb	Aware of the SRV prior to call	No/Not sure
Option 1	43%	14%▼	44%	35%	41%
Option 2	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Option 3	53%	82%▲	51%	60%	54%

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)



Preferences for Special Rate Variation Options

Q1b. Overall, for the last 12 months, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?

Q3a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

	Preference by <u>overall satisfaction with the performance of Council</u>		
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Option 1 – Rate peg	3.21 ▼	3.51	3.95 ▲
Option 2 - Stabilise	3.65	3.54	3.32
Option 3 - Improve	3.99 ▲	3.75	3.32 ▼

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied

Q1c. How satisfied are you with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Council in the local area?

Q3a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

	Preference by <u>satisfaction with the quality of infrastructure and facilities</u>		
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Option 1 – Rate peg	3.22 ▼	3.31	3.77 ▲
Option 2 - Stabilise	3.52	3.45	3.09
Option 3 - Improve	3.72 ▲	3.67 ▲	3.27 ▼

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied

Base: N = 401

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of satisfaction (by group)



Key Priorities for Council in the Local Area

Q1a. What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?

Key Priorities	N = 404	Key Priorities	N = 404
Community safety/reducing crime e.g. more police, street lighting	2%	Better NBN in the area	<1%
Keeping rates low/providing value for the rates paid	2%	Creating opportunities	<1%
Providing/maintaining basic services	2%	Dealing with climate change	<1%
Provision and maintenance of public swimming pools	2%	Increase in rates	<1%
Community development/support groups	1%	Maintaining low density housing	<1%
Expand housing opportunities e.g. for pensioners, aboriginal communities, medium density etc.	1%	Progress in the area	<1%
Holding more family friendly events	1%	Providing more information about the Special Rate Variation	<1%
Hospitals and healthcare e.g. more doctors, mental health facilities, reopening of the hospital etc.	1%	Providing more schools for the growing population	<1%
Increased recreational areas e.g. walking trails, dog parks, gym equipment, etc.	1%	Provision of drought relief for farmers	<1%
Making the town more accessible for elderly and disabled people	1%	Reduction in cost of living	<1%
More access to the river	1%	Shade for outdoor activities e.g. sporting fields/playgrounds	<1%
Provision of parking	1%	Shared cycleways	<1%
Public/community transport	1%	Swimming	<1%
Services and facilities for the ageing population	1%	Toilets kept open at the Arcade	<1%
Traffic management	1%	Too many cabins instead of camping	<1%
Unequal funding/services to more regional areas	1%	We do not have a Councillor in our area to represent us	<1%
Access to libraries/library services e.g. more books	<1%	Don't know/no response	5%



Support For Priorities – Current and Future Services

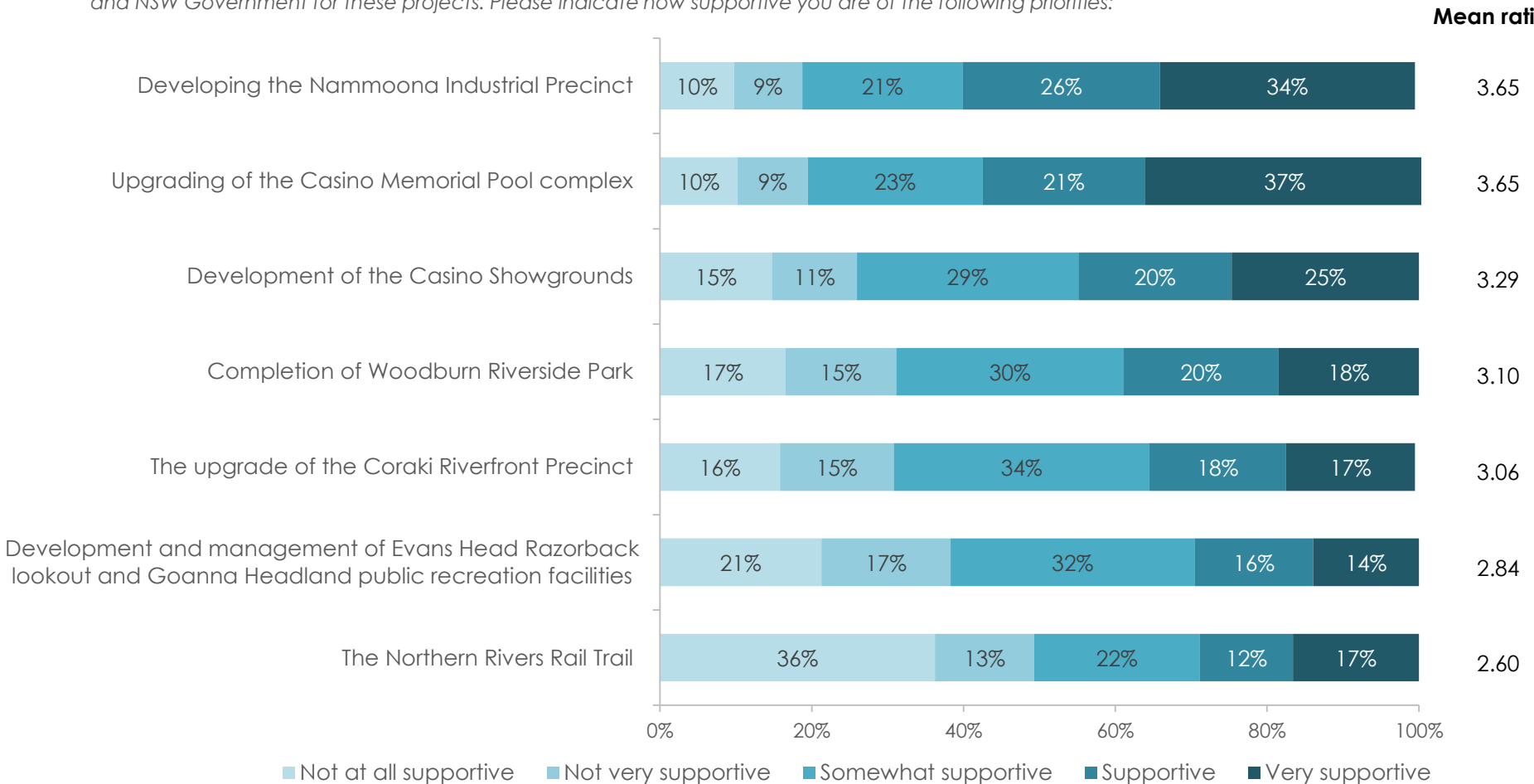
Q5. *Richmond Valley Council has identified priorities for delivery in the coming four years, as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council is seeking your opinion on these priorities so that it can manage the delivery of current and future services. We pursue grant funding opportunities from the Federal and NSW Government for these projects.*

Description on Graph	Full Description
The Northern Rivers Rail Trail	The Northern Rivers Rail Trail will link Casino to Lismore through to Murwillumbah as a cycling and walking track on the old railway line. This will be a partnership with other local councils to boost tourism
Upgrading of the Casino Memorial Pool complex	Upgrading of the Casino Memorial Pool complex with new filtration system, pool access ramps, zero depth water play space, accessible heated therapy and Learn to Swim pool, new twin tube water flume slide, refurbishment of entrance and kiosk, addition of food court and new children's wading pool
Development and management of Evans Head Razorback Lookout & Goanna Headland public recreation facilities	Development and management of Evans Head Razorback Lookout and Goanna Headland public recreation facilities
Completion of Woodburn Riverside Park	Completion of Woodburn Riverside Park upgrade work ahead of the Pacific Highway bypass including building the boardwalk and landscaping the eastern side of the park
Development of the Casino Showgrounds	Development of the Casino Showgrounds to include an indoor equestrian arena, redevelopment of the horse racing training stables, and renewal of the sand track and racecourse, to support the training industry and employment
Developing the Nammoona Industrial Precinct	Developing the Nammoona Industrial Precinct which includes the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, Council's Waste facility, Riverina Stockfeeds and potential inter-modal industrial facilities to increase business and employment
The upgrade of the Coraki Riverfront Precinct	The upgrade of the Coraki Riverfront Precinct which will include walking paths and trails, improved beach and water access, better picnic facilities, indigenous art and educational works, along with historic displays. Improved playground amenity and exercise stations



Support For Priorities – Current and Future Services

Q5. Richmond Valley Council has identified priorities for delivery in the coming four years, as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council is seeking your opinion on these priorities so that it can manage the delivery of current and future services. We pursue grant funding opportunities from the Federal and NSW Government for these projects. Please indicate how supportive you are of the following priorities:



Base: N = 404

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive



Support For Priorities – Current and Future Services

Q5. Richmond Valley Council has identified priorities for delivery in the coming four years, as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council is seeking your opinion on these priorities so that it can manage the delivery of current and future services. We pursue grant funding opportunities from the Federal and NSW Government for these projects. Please indicate how supportive you are of the following priorities:

	Overall	Male	Female	18–34	35–49	50–64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Developing the Nammoona Industrial Precinct	3.65	3.61	3.69	4.04▲	3.56	3.68	3.41▼	3.58	4.03▲
Upgrading of the Casino Memorial Pool complex	3.65	3.55	3.75	3.94	3.70	3.61	3.45▼	3.56	4.15▲
Development of the Casino Showgrounds	3.29	3.12	3.45▲	3.67▲	3.14	3.34	3.08▼	3.20	3.80▲
Completion of Woodburn Riverside Park	3.10	2.96	3.23	3.20	3.07	3.05	3.09	3.00	3.63▲
The upgrade of the Coraki Riverfront Precinct	3.06	2.95	3.17	3.28	3.05	3.01	2.97	2.94	3.76▲
Development and management of Evans Head Razorback lookout and Goanna Headland public recreation facilities	2.84	2.72	2.96	2.97	3.01	2.78	2.68	2.71	3.53▲
The Northern Rivers Rail Trail	2.60	2.48	2.72	2.75	2.86	2.64	2.26▼	2.45	3.41▲

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)



Support For Priorities – Current and Future Services

Q5. Richmond Valley Council has identified priorities for delivery in the coming four years, as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council is seeking your opinion on these priorities so that it can manage the delivery of current and future services. We pursue grant funding opportunities from the Federal and NSW Government for these projects. Please indicate how supportive you are of the following priorities:

	Township	Village	Rural suburb
Developing the Nammoona Industrial Precinct	3.76	3.04▼	3.71
Upgrading of the Casino Memorial Pool complex	3.80▲	3.01▼	3.62
Development of the Casino Showgrounds	3.36	2.77▼	3.38
Completion of Woodburn Riverside Park	3.12	3.27	2.98
The upgrade of the Coraki Riverfront Precinct	3.02	3.47▲	2.98
Development and management of Evans Head Razorback lookout and Goanna Headland public recreation facilities	2.90	2.52▼	2.86
The Northern Rivers Rail Trail	2.65	2.74	2.42

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support (by group)



Reasons for Preferring Option 1: Rate Peg Only (38%)

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

Option 1 – First Preference	% of total sample (N = 401)	% of those preferring Option 1 (N = 152)
Rates are high already/cannot afford a rate increase/most affordable	21%	57%
Improvements are needed with Council's financial management/ reduce Council staff wages	12%	32%
Do not trust they will spend the money wisely/do not care about the community/investing in the wrong areas	6%	15%
Not getting value for the rates currently paid/rural places do not benefit	5%	12%
Improvements are needed for the area e.g. roads and drainage	2%	4%
Better option for the community	1%	4%
Council is overstaffed	1%	3%
Council needs to make more efficient use of current infrastructure/look for other ways to improve	1%	2%
Other sources of revenue should be sought	1%	2%
Do not need new infrastructure/area doesn't need improving	<1%	1%
Make the plans public (have public meeting)	<1%	1%
The people who live in the outskirts bring in the most money for the economy e.g. farmers	<1%	1%
Don't know/nothing	1%	3%



Reasons for Preferring Option 2: Stabilise Assets (37%)

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

Option 2 – First Preference	% of total sample (N = 401)	% of those preferring Option 2 (N = 148)
Affordable/reasonable increase/cheaper than option 3	16%	44%
Middle ground option that prevents assets from deteriorating	13%	35%
It is necessary/improvements are needed in the area	9%	24%
Best option	3%	7%
In hope that Council will do the right thing/focus on the right areas	3%	8%
Not getting value for the rates currently paid/rural areas do not benefit	3%	7%
Council needs to be more efficient/things are not getting done	2%	6%
Improvements are needed with Council's financial management	2%	5%
We need to find the money from federal and government funding rather than struggling families	1%	1%
Biggest problem is not knowing how we rate it against other councils	<1%	1%
Financially the community will struggle	<1%	<1%
Helps when rate payers can see where there money is going	<1%	1%
It seems like rates are going up and up all the time	<1%	1%
Don't know/nothing	1%	3%



Reasons for Preferring Option 3: Improve Assets (25%)

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

Option 3 – First Preference	% of total sample (N = 401)	% of those preferring Option 3 (N = 101)
It is necessary/improvements are needed in the area/benefits the community and the future	23%	91%
Happy to pay the increase for benefits/reasonable amount to pay	3%	12%
Reopen the railway from Richmond Valley to Byron Bay	1%	3%
Supports the local business district/creates jobs	1%	2%
If the rates go up then there should be obvious results in terms of infrastructure and assets	<1%	2%
As long as all the funds aren't just spent in casino, I'm happy to pay more	<1%	1%
Council should really justify the increase in rates - not a huge difference between 2nd and 3rd option	<1%	1%
Council spends their money well	<1%	1%
Councils should lobby the NSW Government to spend more money in rural councils rather than in the cities	<1%	1%
I don't approve of the nose-end parking	<1%	1%
Low income earners need to have more reductions in rate payments	<1%	1%
There are lots of other variables you have to take into consideration	<1%	1%
There should be other ways to get funded	<1%	1%
We don't live in town	<1%	1%
Don't know/nothing	<1%	2%



Questionnaire



Richmond
Valley
Council

micromex
research

**Richmond Valley Council
Community Survey – Special Rate Variation
January 2019**

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is from Micromex Research and we are conducting a survey on behalf of Richmond Valley Council on a range of local issues. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes, would you be able to assist us please?

QA. Before we start, I would like to check whether you or an immediate family member works for Richmond Valley Council.

- ☐ Yes (Terminate survey)
☐ No

QB. Which town/village do you live in/near?

Townships: - 60%

- ☐ Casino
☐ Evans Head

Villages: - 15%

- ☐ Broadwater
☐ Coraki
☐ Rappville
☐ Riley's Hill
☐ Woodburn

Rural suburbs: - 25%

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Backmede | <input type="radio"/> Ellangowan | <input type="radio"/> North Casino |
| <input type="radio"/> Banyabba | <input type="radio"/> Esk | <input type="radio"/> Piora |
| <input type="radio"/> Bentley | <input type="radio"/> Fairy Hill | <input type="radio"/> Shannon Brook |
| <input type="radio"/> Bora Ridge | <input type="radio"/> Gibberagee | <input type="radio"/> Six Mile Swamp |
| <input type="radio"/> Boorabee Park | <input type="radio"/> Greenridge | <input type="radio"/> Spring Grove |
| <input type="radio"/> Bungawalbin | <input type="radio"/> Hogarth Range | <input type="radio"/> Stratheden |
| <input type="radio"/> West Bungawalbin | <input type="radio"/> Irvington | <input type="radio"/> Swan Bay |
| <input type="radio"/> Busbys Flat | <input type="radio"/> Kippenduff | <input type="radio"/> Tabbimoble |
| <input type="radio"/> Camira | <input type="radio"/> Leeville | <input type="radio"/> Tatham |
| <input type="radio"/> Clearfield | <input type="radio"/> McKees Hill | <input type="radio"/> The Gap |
| <input type="radio"/> Clovass | <input type="radio"/> Mongogarie | <input type="radio"/> Tomki |
| <input type="radio"/> Codrington | <input type="radio"/> Upper Mongogarie | <input type="radio"/> West Coraki |
| <input type="radio"/> Coombell | <input type="radio"/> Mount Marsh | <input type="radio"/> Whiporie |
| <input type="radio"/> Dobies Bight | <input type="radio"/> Myrtle Creek | <input type="radio"/> Woodview |
| <input type="radio"/> Doonbah | <input type="radio"/> Naughtons Gap | <input type="radio"/> Wyan |
| <input type="radio"/> Dyraaba | <input type="radio"/> New Italy | <input type="radio"/> Yorkeia |
| <input type="radio"/> East Coraki | <input type="radio"/> North Woodburn | |

Q1a. What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?

Q1b. Overall, for the last 12 months, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas? Prompt

- ☐ Very satisfied
☐ Satisfied
☐ Somewhat satisfied
☐ Not very satisfied
☐ Not at all satisfied

Q1c. How satisfied are you with the quality of infrastructure and facilities provided by Council in the local area? Prompt

- ☐ Very satisfied
☐ Satisfied
☐ Somewhat satisfied
☐ Not very satisfied
☐ Not at all satisfied

Concept statement

Richmond Valley residents have consistently told Council that assets such as roads, public spaces, parks and footpaths are important to them, and Council needs to improve their condition.

Council spends around \$15.7 million on the maintenance and renewal of local assets and infrastructure each year, however, it should be investing at least an additional \$1 million a year to keep them safe and functioning. This doesn't include extra money needed to fund the depreciation, maintenance and renewal of new assets.

Despite its best efforts, Council recognises available funding is not enough to keep community assets in an acceptable condition.

There is no easy solution to addressing this funding gap. Put simply, if the gap is not addressed now the community assets which Council manages will deteriorate and become unusable.

The NSW Government sets the amount that Councils can increase their rates by each year. At the moment, that amount, known as the rate peg, is an annual increase of 2.7%, however, the NSW Government can also approve additional rate increases to fund particular projects – these are known as Special Rate Variations. A proposed special rate variation will be necessary in our Shire to maintain and manage our assets to ensure Council delivers services in line with community expectations and remains financially sustainable into the future.

Council acknowledges that any rate increase may adversely impact some community members. Council has a Hardship Policy and alternative payment options to assist ratepayers should they have difficulty keeping up with their rate payments. Please contact Council for further information regarding this.

There are three options which I would like you to consider. Each option will have varying impacts on local assets and service quality.

Option 1 – Rate Peg Only. Our assets would decline with more assets in poor condition. The focus would be on managing risk, including the possible closure and removal of unsafe assets and reduction of services.

Option 2 – Stabilise Assets. We would stabilise the decline of our community assets and be able to fund the required renewal and maintenance of our assets into the future.

Option 3 – Improve Assets. Council would improve the quality of our community assets and have a greater capacity to fund asset upgrades and new works.

Let's look at the options in more detail:

Note: Rotate order of exposure 1-3/3-1

Option 1: Rate peg - 2.7% increase only

No Special Rate Variation. Rates would increase by the annual projected rate peg amount of 2.7% next year and 2.5% per year for the following 3 years. Over the four-year period, this is a cumulative increase of just over 10.5%. Residential ratepayers who are currently paying around \$970 per year would pay, on average, just over \$1,070 by 2022/23.

This option would generate \$1.3 million over 4 years, which is simply the rate peg increase allowed for by the State Government.

Under this option the impact would be further deterioration of assets, including the worsening of:

- Roads
- Town centres and public spaces
- Community buildings
- Public toilets
- Footpaths
- Stormwater drainage; and
- Parks and open spaces, including playgrounds

Council would also have virtually no capacity for new capital works, meaning it would have difficulty funding new assets such as footpaths, shared pathways, and community facilities. It would also be unable to undertake works like upgrading the state of the gravel road network, or the progressive rehabilitation of the local sealed road network.

In order to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future financial benchmarks, Council would be required to reduce or close some services.

Q2a. How supportive are you of Council proceeding with Option 1? Prompt

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

Option 2: Stabilise Assets – 5.5% increase

An annual increase of 5.5% for four years, consisting of the rate peg amount of 2.7% and an additional special rate variation amount of 2.8%. Over the four-year period this is a cumulative increase of just under 24%. At the end of the four-year period the Special Rate Variation increase would be built into the rate base. Residential ratepayers who are currently paying around \$970 per year would pay, just over \$1,200 by 2022/23. Based on what the average residential ratepayer will pay on top of the projected rate peg this equates to an extra \$0.47 per week next year, \$0.63 per week in year two, \$0.66 per week in year three and \$0.73 per week in year four.

This option would generate \$3 million over 4 years which is \$ 1.7 million more than under the rate peg.

Council would be able to continue with the its current preventative maintenance and renewal program to stabilise the condition of priority assets.

This would also help Council be able to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future financial benchmarks and maintain current service levels.

Q2b. How supportive are you of Council proceeding with Option 2? Prompt

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

Option 3: Improve Assets – 7% increase

An annual increase of 7% for four years, consisting of the annual 2.7% rate peg and an additional special rate variation amount of 4.3%. Over the four-year period this is a cumulative increase of 31%. At the end of the four-year period the Special Rate Variation increase would be built into the rate base. Residential ratepayers who are paying around \$970 per year would pay approximately \$1,270 by 2022/23. Based on what the average residential ratepayer will pay on top of the projected rate peg this equates to an extra \$0.77 per week next year, \$0.91 per week in year two, \$0.96 per week in year three and \$1.15 per week in year four.

This option would generate \$3.9 million over four years, which is \$2.6 million more than under the rate peg. This option would stabilise the deterioration of our assets and gradually improve their condition over time. It would enable Council to fund a more extensive program of gravel road upgrades, the rehabilitation of sealed roads and the renewal of town centres and public spaces. It would be able to deliver these improvements sooner and bring forward much-needed maintenance.

Council would also be able to meet the NSW Government's Fit for the Future financial benchmarks a lot earlier and maintain current service levels with some capacity to invest in new or expanded services.

Q2c. How supportive are you of Council proceeding with Option 3? Prompt

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

Q3a. Please rank the 3 options in order of preference:

	1 st preference	2 nd preference	3 rd preference
Option 1 – Rate Peg only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 2 - Stabilise assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 3 - Improve assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3b. What is your reason for choosing that option as your highest preference?

.....

Q4a. Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a Special Rate Variation?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No (Go to Q5)
☐ Not sure (Go to Q5)

Q4b. How were you informed of the Special Rate Variation? Prompt

- ☐ Mail out - community newsletter
☐ Council website
☐ Newspaper advertisement
☐ Mayoral Column
☐ Information kiosk
☐ Other (please specify).....

SIGNATURE PROJECTS:

Q5. Richmond Valley Council has identified priorities for delivery in the coming four years, as outlined in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council is seeking your opinion on these priorities so that it can manage the delivery of current and future services. We pursue grant funding opportunities from the Federal and NSW Government for these projects. Please indicate how supportive you are of the following priorities, on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all supportive and 5 is very supportive. Prompt

Rotate order

	1	2	3	4	5
The Northern Rivers Rail Trail will link Casino to Lismore through to Murwillumbah as a cycling and walking track on the old railway line. This will be a partnership with other local councils to boost tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upgrading of the Casino Memorial Pool complex with new filtration system, pool access ramps, zero depth water play space, accessible heated therapy and Learn to Swim pool, new twin tube water flume slide, refurbishment of entrance and kiosk, addition of food court and new children's wading pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Development and management of Evans Head Razorback Lookout and Goanna Headland public recreation facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Completion of Woodburn Riverside Park upgrade work ahead of the Pacific Highway bypass including building the boardwalk and landscaping the eastern side of the park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Development of the Casino Showgrounds to include an indoor equestrian arena, redevelopment of the horse racing training stables, and renewal of the sand track and racecourse, to support the training industry and employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing the Nammoona Industrial Precinct which includes the Northern Rivers Livestock Exchange, Council's Waste facility, Riverina Stockfeeds and potential inter-modal industrial facilities to increase business and employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The upgrade of the Coraki Riverfront Precinct which will include walking paths and trails, improved beach and water access, better picnic facilities, indigenous art and educational works, along with historic displays. Improved playground amenity and exercise stations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Demographics

The following information is used for demographic purposes only.

Q6. Please stop me when I read out your age bracket: *Prompt*

- ☐ 18–34
- ☐ 35–49
- ☐ 50–64
- ☐ 65+

Q7. Which of the following best describes the house where you are currently living?

- ☐ I/We own/are currently buying this property
- ☐ I/We currently rent this property

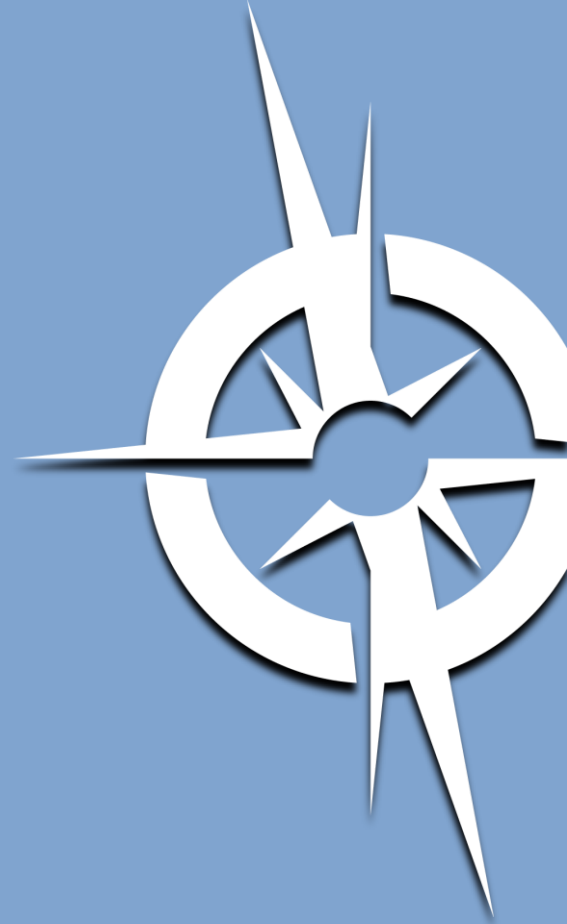
Q8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? *Prompt*

- ☐ Work full time in the LGA
- ☐ Work full time outside the LGA
- ☐ Work part time in the LGA
- ☐ Work part time outside the LGA
- ☐ Home duties
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Unemployed/Pensioner
- ☐ Other (please specify).....

Q9. Gender by voice:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

To find out more information about Richmond Valley Council's policies and Special Rate Variation proposal, please access www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au



Telephone: (02) 4352 2388

Fax: (02) 4352 2117

Web: www.micromex.com.au

Email: stu@micromex.com.au