

Richmond
Valley
Council



MINUTES

**Extraordinary Council Meeting
7 February 2019**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	3
2	PRAYER	3
3	APOLOGIES	3
4	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	3
5	GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS	4
5.1	Special Rate Variation Application.....	4

**MINUTES OF RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 GRAHAM PLACE, CASINO
ON THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 5.00 PM**

Please note: these minutes are subject to confirmation at the next Council Meeting. Decisions recorded in the draft minutes are subject to the Council's Code of Meeting Practice in relation to rescinding decisions.

PRESENT: Cr Robert Mustow (Mayor), Cr Stephen Morrissey (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Cornish, Cr Robert Hayes, Cr Sandra Humphrys, Cr Jill Lyons, Cr Daniel Simpson

IN ATTENDANCE: Vaughan Macdonald (General Manager), Angela Jones (Director Infrastructure & Environment), Ryan Gaiter (Chief Financial Officer/Manager Mid-Richmond), Deborah McLean (Manager Governance & Risk) and Julie Clark (Personal Assistant to the General Manager and Mayor).

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor provided an Acknowledgement of Country by reading the following statement on behalf of Council:

"Richmond Valley Council recognises the people of the Bundjalung Nations as Custodians and Traditional Owners of this land and we value and appreciate the continuing cultural connection to lands, their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region in the past, present and future."

2 PRAYER

The meeting opened with a prayer by the General Manager.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

5 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

5.1 SPECIAL RATE VARIATION APPLICATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013 Council resolved, and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved, a Special Rate Variation for five years for the financial periods 2014/2015 to 2018/2019. As a result of the current special rate variation period concluding this financial year, Council determined at its November 2018 meeting that it would be timely to go back to the community to discuss the need for a further special rate variation to fund the increased service levels that have been established and enjoyed by the community, and continue with the asset renewals and maintenance programs in a financially sustainable manner. To achieve this and continue to improve our financial performance indicators an increase above the rate peg amount of 2.7% is necessary.

Council staff have modelled three different increased rate revenue scenarios and the cost impact of these rate increases on ratepayers for a four-year period commencing from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023. A thorough community consultation process commenced in December 2018 and has just concluded to gauge the community's satisfaction with current service levels and to determine the preferred rating option for the next four-year period. In the event that Council resolves to submit an application for a Special Rate Variation, the community has a further opportunity to provide submissions to IPART before it finalises its determination.

Council's role is to decide which rate increase best balances the views and interests of the whole of the Richmond Valley community and ensuring that the Council business is managed in a financially sustainable manner.

RESOLUTION 070219/1

Moved: Cr Robert Mustow

Seconded: Cr Sam Cornish

That Council;

1. Note and consider the concerns raised by community members about the financial impact pensioners, farmers and residents with higher unimproved capital land values;
2. Note and consider the feedback received and results of the extensive community consultation that has been conducted and from this process the majority of residents are accepting of the need for an increase above the rate peg;
3. Approve that the General Manager submit an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a permanent Special Rate Variation under Section 508A of the Local Government Act 1993 of 5.5% (including rate peg) for four successive years from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023.

In Favour: Crs Robert Mustow, Stephen Morrissey, Sam Cornish, Robert Hayes, Sandra Humphrys, Jill Lyons and Daniel Simpson

Against: Nil

CARRIED 7/0

The Meeting closed at 5.35 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Richmond Valley Council held on 19 February 2019.

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CHAIRPERSON