



# Walgett Shire Council

ABN 88 769 076 385

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### RADIO

- ABC Western Plains
- ABC New England
- ABC National
- 2WEB
- NOW FM/2VM
- Opal FM

### PRINT MEDIA

- Walgett Spectator
- Lightning Ridge News
- Mungindi Matters
- Daily Liberal – Dubbo
- Western Magazine
- North West Magazine
- Sydney Morning Herald

### TV

- Prime (Dubbo)
- WIN (Dubbo)
- Southern Cross 10
- Imparja
- NBN

**DATE:** 11 January, 2018

**EMBARGO:** Nil

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### WALGETT SHIRE – SPECIAL RATING VARIATION PROPOSAL

An alternative suggestion to road funding put forward by local farmers during last year's budget discussions is the basis of a fresh approach being taken by Walgett Shire.

The suggestion made was that Council should use loan funds while interest rates are relatively low to undertake a major upgrade programme and then use income from a rate rise to pay off the loan.

As a result, Walgett Shire Council is currently seeking community input and feedback with regards a proposal to lodge an application with IPART for a Special Rating Variation of 10.9% to upgrade the Shire local road network to make the transportation of goods and services to and from rural properties easier and also enable children to lose less time away from school.

Council is distributing a special householder through local mailing outlets to alert local residents of the proposal. It has also prepared a detailed briefing paper which is available for all ratepayers/residents from Council's Walgett Administrative Office as well as at other locations throughout the Shire. The briefing paper is also available on Council's Website.

Current rating levels are insufficient to achieve any real reduction in the backlog of road maintenance works and Council believes the combination of a Special Rating Variation, coupled with loan and grant funds as a smart approach as it leverages a relatively small amount of funding to maximise the amount of resealing works that can be delivered and make an immediate reduction in the back log of works.

Council is currently seeking submissions which close on 8 February, 2018 ahead of lodging a submission with IPART on 12 February, 2018. Ratepayers/residents are invited to attend a number of community forums being held across the shire. Details of the times and dates of the forums are available from Council's website in addition to be advertised in the local media.

ENDS

For further information please contact: Don Ramsland – General Manager on mobile 0458 200 158

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