



AGENDA FOR EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

8 FEBRUARY 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to clause 7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that an Extra Ordinary Council Meeting of Walgett Shire Council will be held at the **Council Chamber, Walgett** on **8th February 2018** commencing at **6.00 pm** to discuss the items listed in the Agenda.

Don Ramsland
GENERAL MANAGER

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

What is a "Conflict of Interests" – A conflict of interests can be two types:

Pecuniary – an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

Non-Pecuniary – a private or personal interest that a Council official has that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Local government Act (eg. A friendship, membership of an association, society or trade union or involvement or interest in an activity and may include an interest of a financial nature.)

Remoteness

A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision the person might make in relation to a matter or if the interest is of a kind specified in Section 448 of the Local Government Act.

Who has a Pecuniary Interest? – A person has a pecuniary interest in a matter if the pecuniary interest is the interest of:

- The person, or
- Another person with whom the person is associated (see below)

Relatives, Partners

A person is taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter if:

- The person's spouse or de facto partner or a relative of the person has a pecuniary interest in the matter, or
- The person, or a nominee, partners or employer of the person, is a member of a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter

N.B. "Relative", in relation to a person means any of the following:

- (a) the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descends or adopted child of the person or of the person's spouse.
- (b) the spouse or de facto partners of the person or of a person referred to in paragraph (a)

No Interest in the Matter

However, a person is not taken to have a pecuniary interest in a matter:

- If the person is unaware of the relevant pecuniary interest of the spouse, de facto partner, relative or company of other body, or
- Just because the person is a member of, or is employed by, the Council
- Just because the person is a member of, or a delegate of the Council to, a company or other body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter provided that the person has no beneficial interest in any shares of the company or body.

Disclosure and participation in meetings

- A Councillor or a member of a Council Committee who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned and who is present at a meeting of the Council or Committee at which the matter is being considered must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.
- The Councillor or member must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting of the Council or Committee:
 - (a) At any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the Council or Committee, or
 - (b) At any time during which the Council or Committee is voting on any question in relation to the matter.

No Knowledge – A person does not breach this Clause if the person did not know and could not reasonably be expected to have known that the matter under consideration at the meeting was a matter in which he or she had a pecuniary interest.

Non-Pecuniary Interest – Must be disclosed in meetings.

There are a broad range of options available for managing conflicts & the option chosen will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of the interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. Non-Pecuniary conflicts of interest must be dealt with in at least one of the following ways:

- It may be appropriate that no action be taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However,

Councillors should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.

- Limit involvement if practical (eg. Participate in discussion but not in decision making or vice versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (eg. Relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict)
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as if the provisions in S451 of the Local Government Act apply (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary interest)

Disclosure to be Recorded (S453 Act)

A disclosure (and the reason/s for the disclosure) made at a meeting of the Council or Council Committee or Sub-Committee must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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## Local Government Act 1993

### Chapter 3 section 8A

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COUNCILS

##### (1) **Exercise of functions generally**

The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils:

- (a) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- (b) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- (c) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- (d) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- (e) Councils should work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- (f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- (g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- (h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- (i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

##### (2) **Decision-making**

The following principles apply to decision-making by councils (subject to any other applicable law):

- (a) Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.
- (b) Councils should consider social justice principles.
- (c) Councils should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.
- (d) Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- (e) Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

##### (3) **Community participation**

Councils should actively engage with their local communities, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures

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## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ am

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

*I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands within the Walgett Shire and I would also like to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this Shire.*

## 3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

| Leave of Absence                                                                           |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Recommendation:</b>                                                                     |            |
| That the leave of absence received from _____ are accepted and a leave of absence granted. |            |
| <b>Moved:</b>                                                                              | <b>Clr</b> |
| <b>Seconded:</b>                                                                           | <b>Clr</b> |

#### **4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

*Councillors and senior staff are reminded of their obligation to declare their interest in any matters listed before them.*

*In considering your interest you are reminded to include pecuniary, non-pecuniary and conflicts of interest as well as any other interest you perceive or may be perceived of you.*

*Councillors may declare an interest at the commencement of the meeting, or alternatively at any time during the meeting should any issue progress or arise that would warrant a declaration.*

*Councillors must state their reasons in declaring any type of interest.*

| Councillor | Item No. | Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary | Reason |
|------------|----------|-------------------------|--------|
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## 5. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 5.1 GENERAL MANAGER

#### 5.1.1 SPECIAL RATING VARIATION APPLICATION TO IPART

**REPORTING SECTION:** General Manager  
**AUTHOR:** Don Ramsland – General Manager  
**FILE NUMBER:**

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**Summary:**

To advise Council on progress made to date with regards the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) Application for 2018/19.

**Background:**

In November, 2018 Council resolved vide Minute 11/2017/13

1. That Council formally notify IPART of its intention to seek a special rate variation for 2018/19 and beyond.
2. That Council's IP&R documentation clearly reflects the issues raised and adopted during the round of public consultations held in May/June, 2017
3. Note the need to engage additional professional services to assist with the preparation of the SRV application and make due provision for this in the September QBRS.
4. Put a range of scenarios to further round of community consultations in December, 2017/February, 2018

**Moved:** Cllr Cameron  
**Seconded:** Cllr Murray  
**Carried**

Subsequently Council staff revised the Integrated Planning and Reporting documentation to ensure that the issues raised during and adopted following the May/June, 2017 round of public consultations were clearly reflected. Mr Laurie Knight of local government consulting was engaged to assist with the preparation of the SRV application including the following documentation:

SRV Community Briefing Paper  
SRV Community Engagement Guide  
SRV Options Survey  
SRV Media Release

A full round of community consultations was held between Monday 29 January, 2018 and Friday 2 February, 2018. A point summary of each of those meetings is attached to this report.

Also attached is a summary of the results to date of the community survey conducted as part of the consultation process. It should be noted that surveys will be received up to and including 8 February, 2018.

**Current Position:**

Following last week's round of community consultations it has become obvious that for Council's Special Rate Variation Application to be successful, it will be necessary to undertake further work on the proposal to be able to fully meet the following IPART criteria.

- Establish the need for the Rate increase, including assessment of alternate options are clearly identified and articulated in Council's Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) documentation (This includes Council's *Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan*);
- Evidence of Community awareness and consultation regarding the Rating variation;
- Impact of proposed Rate variation on ratepayers;
- Formal adoption and approval of the IP&R by Council;
- Evidence of relevant Productivity and Cost Containment strategies incorporated in the proposal.

On reviewing the outcomes from the various community meetings the following aspects require further work:

- Engaging with the community in various ways (facebook, email, websites etc.) to circulate information in a timely fashion so as to allow the input from all sections of the community
- Ensuring that mail outs reach the outlying communities well ahead of any community meetings
- Endeavour to win the support of the majority of the community by addressing their issues in relation to other areas of concern
- Incorporate a plan of works to be undertaken as part of the proposal for the strategic rural road network.
- Address the issue of the progressive upgrading of minor unsealed rural roads to an all weather access standard including a provision for direct resident/ratepayer contributions
- Consider providing for a sunset clause for the proposal to reassure residents that any funds raised will be used for the intended purpose
- Secure a firm undertaking from higher tiers of government in respect of any matching funding proposals
- Give due regard to seasonal conditions
- Undertake a study of the long term benefits that would flow on to each sector of the community.

From a broader perspective, enhance Council's level of community consultation across a wide range of community issues including:

- Address the maintenance of the road infrastructure network on the opal fields
- Explaining what services and facilities ratepayers receive for their rates
- Lobbying for the opening of OPA 4
- Providing greater detail of the break down and utilisation of both State and Federal government grants
- A review of service levels for existing Council services and facilities
- Ensuring that the services Council provides by way of water and waste removal are of a consistently high standard and represent value for money.
- Demonstrating the measures being taken to improve productivity and cut costs across all council functions.
- Investigation of the re-establishment of precinct committees
- Arranging for an independent community satisfaction survey to be undertaken

Council should further investigate productivity and cost containment strategies as a means free up funds to undertake major projects in the future as part of the 2018/19 Integrated Planning and Reporting process in a lead up to reviewing Council's Long Term Strategic Plan. This approach could reduce the reliance on a Special Rate Variation in the years ahead.



I would like to thank all of our Councillors and staff who contributed their time and efforts to the process.

**Relevant Reference Documents:**

Guidelines for the Preparation of an Application for a Special Variation to General Income Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation and associated briefing notes.

**Community Strategic Plan Link:**

Refer to Section 5 Infrastructure

Goal I 5.1 – Provide and maintain an effective road network that meets the community needs and expectations

Goal I 5.2 – A Regional and State Road network that is appropriately supported and resourced by the Government

**Delivery Plan/Operational Plan/Budget Links:**

Refer to Infrastructure Section

Goal I 5.1.1 – Manage road network to respond to community needs, growth in the Shire, improving road safety and improving transport choices

Goal I 5.2.1 – Ensure that the road network is maintained to a standard that is achievable within

the resources available

**Stakeholders:**

Various NSW State agencies including Department of Lands and Department of Resources and Energy.

Walgett Shire Council

Local ratepayers and residents

Various operators in the rural sector

**Governance Issues:**

Council is required to follow the guidelines strictly in preparing its application for a special rate variation. Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Documentation should clearly reflect the level of community engagement in relation to all areas of Council's operations and in particular the special rate application process.

**Environmental Issues:**

A range of environmental issues associated with the process need to be identified in any briefing papers

**Financial Implications:**

The financial implications of the requested variation should be clearly reflected in the Long Term (ten year) Financial Plan remembering that 1% variation would yield approximately \$50,000 and the reconstruction and sealing of 1 km of roads costs in the vicinity of \$250,000. This figure does not factor in the economies of scale that would be achieved from a major project undertaken by competitive external tender.

Council needs to develop an innovative approach using revenue, grant and loan funds coupled with user contributions to make a major impact on the unsealed roads network in the shire. This could involve a detailed review of work practices aimed at improving productivity and reducing costs by a fixed percentage over a given period.

**Legal Issues:**

Council needs to make provision for resident/ratepayer contribution scheme to allow for the upgrading of minor, unsealed roads to allow for all weather access.

**Alternatives/Options:**

Do nothing

Consider various combinations of SRV across existing rate categories

Consider other in-house funding options and sources as part of future budget planning

**Conclusion:**

As stated above there is a need to recognise the views expressed during the community consultation sessions in various centres throughout the Shire that demonstrate a lack of community support for the concept partly because of the increased costs involved, partly because of the lack of understanding.

Council needs to determine the future action to be taken with regards the Special Rate Application to IPART and the other issues raised during the community consultation process.

**Present position – 2018/19 Special Rate Variation Application**

**Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Defer any Special Rate Variation Application to IPART to fund the upgrade of the strategic rural road network until such time as there is majority support for such a proposal.
2. Continue to work with the community to achieve a greater level of understanding of the cost and level of services and facilities it provides.
3. Lobby relevant state agencies to address an adequate level of maintenance of the road infrastructure network on the opal fields
4. Concentrate on providing a consistently high quality water supply to all towns within the Shire.
5. Arrange for an independent community satisfaction survey to be undertaken within the next six months.
6. Investigate the re-establishment of precinct committees.
7. Lobby the State Government to open OPA 4.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Attachments:**

1. Summary of 2018 Community Consultation sessions
2. Summary of 2018 Community Surveys

# Summary of 2018 Community Consultation Sessions

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## 1. 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 10am SRV Meeting held at Cumborah Hall

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, Cr Walford, Cr Murray, Cr Martinez, General Manager, Director Enviro Services and Chief Financial Officer.**

**62 members of the public.**

### **Issues.**

- Police patrolling private roads in the opal fields.
- Rates have risen 46% from 2012 to 2017. Council had a 3% increase in 2014, where did this go.
- A member of public called for a vote on any increase. 100% of community voted against any rate increase.
- Community require map of roads that are to be upgraded.
- Some residents didn't get the survey in the mail.
- The bus route is not maintained, why Council would start maintaining the road now.
- What Councillors will benefit from the road upgrades.
- A call by community to open up new opal fields.
- Roads to Recovery: Where has money been spent since inception? Details must be provided.
- Landholders are not receiving notices regarding the maintenance of road works.
- Is any funding available for tourism?
- The width of grids was queried.

Closed 11.30am.

## 2. 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 4pm SRV Meeting held at Walgett Council Chamber

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, Cr Walford, Cr Murray, Cr Martinez, General Manager, Director Enviro Services, Director Engineering and Chief Financial Officer.**

**18 members of the public.**

### **Issues.**

- Do Aboriginal Housing pay rates. Yes.
- Who will be carrying out the road upgrades?
- Why would we seal roads when flooding will only wash them away, it's better to make gravel all weather roads?
- Cheaper to maintain gravel roads.
- Ratepayers are away on holidays, the scheduling of meetings is bad timing.
- What is the road upgrade priority? None yet.
- The Engineers don't know black soils and they can't build roads.
- There should be a grandfather clause in the SRV after so many years or kilometres of road are upgraded. After say 10 years.
- How much water does the Maules Creek coal mine use as the Namoi was 300% now its 24%.
- Why does it take so long to have roads sealed?

- Are Council able to provide the cost of maintaining unsealed roads versus sealed roads?
- Roads affected by flooding need time to dry out.
- a Council representative to contact a resident in relation to the water source for Lake Keepit.

Closed 5.10pm.

### 3. 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 2pm SRV Meeting held at Rowena Hotel

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, Cr Cameron, Cr Martinez, General Manager, Director Enviro Services, Director Engineering Services and Chief Financial Officer – Apology Neville and Jill Holland.**

**9 members of the public.**

**Issues.**

- What is the criteria for upgrading the roads?
- What roads does this apply too?
- Some residents didn't receive flyer in the mail.
- How do you work out the productivity criteria?
- Unable to hear other questions because of noise at venue.
- How long will the rates be fixed.
- What happens if grants are not awarded?
- When will rates for the 2018/2019 be circulated.
- Where are the road counters going to be placed.
- What money is used for road infrastructure such a culvert and bridges?
- Issues with delivery of postal information, flyers only got as far as the pub.
- How are drought zones determined?
- Council's Engineering Director is to contact a resident to discuss the large traffic volumes on Mercadool road.

Closed 3.20pm.

### 4. 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 5pm SRV Meeting held at Collarenebri Town Hall

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, Cr Martinez, Cr Smith, General Manager, Director Enviro Services, Director Environmental Services and Chief Financial Officer.**

**37 members of the public.**

**Issues.**

- SRV is bad timing Colley residents and businesses can't afford a big rate rise.
- There are drainage problems in the town that are not being fixed.
- Why is there a backlog of works' where did the previous SRV 3% monies go.

- External contractors doing the work does not help the local economy.
- This process is not genuine, it's aimed at the farmers (see SRV Survey). Residents can't afford a rate increase.
- Council needs to fix all the other issues such as the water and make it drinkable.
- Water rates have doubled over the years.
- Water quality is not consistent.
- Has Council thought of saving money in current budget to pay for road upgrade program?
- Lights at the filtration plant are on 24/7 and this must be costing a small fortune est \$7 x 4 per day 365 days a year.
- Residents thought the rate increase was \$500 per year or \$1.37 per day.
- What is the breakup of State and Federal grant funding?
- Back lane between High and Earl Streets not mowed and Council trees are not watered.
- What has happened to the sealed road to the cemetery, new gates and new lawn cemetery?
- Council web site states Council is in charge of the Aboriginal Cemetery.
- Some residents did not receive the Council SRV survey and no notification of the meeting.
- Council's October, November and December minutes are not on the Council web site.
- What is the breakup of rates?
- No or very little communication from Council to the Collarenebri residents.
- Drainage problem exists at 14 Narren Street.
- Fire hydrants in back lanes are not accessible by the local town Fire Brigade.
- New work on Merywinebone Road fell apart after one (1) week.
- The residents unanimously voted against any SRV increase.
- Where was the 2013 Betterment Program Funding spent?
- Investors purchasing rental properties will pass increases onto locals.
- Fix basic services before attempting to raise rates to fix roads.
- Have other expenses been audited. E.g.: Lights at the Sporting Oval continues to turn off and on regularly.
- Chlorination issues with the water quality continues to cause problems.
- Council should provide details as to how the total of \$6 million has been spent on roads for the last 12 months.
- What was awarded in financial grants?
- With funding received previously, Council haven't proved to residents that money isn't being spent wisely.
- Vacant blocks are not being maintained.
- Is funding available for the Aboriginal Cemetery.
- Council should provide a budget relating to roads at the next meeting.
- Average wage is \$275.00 per week. 80 - 90% of people can't afford to water their gardens especially the pensioners.
- Air conditioners are being ruined by the water quality.
- Cllr Smith declared he is always available for a chat if residents have any issues they wish to discuss/report.
- Why do Council think residents would agree to such a proposal?
- Collarenebri is a forgotten town of the Shire.
- Funding allocation between townships for community events should be investigated.
- There is nothing to entice people to stay or relocate to Collarenebri.

- No shade cloth is provided over the pool, children are getting burnt.
- It takes Council too long to act upon requests.
- The General manger is to contact a resident to discuss issues relating to the water clarifier

Closed 5.30pm

## 5. 31st January 2018 4pm SRV Meeting held at Lightning Ridge Bowling Club

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, Cr Walford, Cr Martinez, General Manager, Director Enviro Services, Director Environmental Services and Chief Financial Officer.**

**Est 250 members of the public.**

### **Issues.**

- Will pensioner rebate be affected?
- No notification or survey received by ratepayers. Email from concerned residents helped.
- Will Council keep the 10.9% SRV after 10 years, no decision, however grandfather clause to stop after 10 years.
- Which roads will be upgraded?
- What about doing the footpath in Opal Street to Courthouse.
- (CH) Resident has contacted IPART and NSWEC and the survey is not valid it should be linked to rate assessments.
- What is meant by the phrase – roads are a soft target.
- Council needs to fix the roads properly.
- If WSC is on the maximum rate increase 2.3%, how can it increase the rates again?
- Council does very little for the Lightning Ridge residents and doesn't look after roads in the fields.
- Council reserves of \$29 million why can't we use this, what is the breakdown.
- Why are the Police booking people on private roads in the opal fields? Young cops are an issue.
- The rate increase will only create more poverty on the struggling people and businesses.
- Council has received \$6 million for roads, \$2.3 million for RTR, \$3.3 million other and \$.5 million for emergency works, where is all this money going to.
- Last 5 years WSC has received \$8 million from State and \$5.75 million in FAG from Feds where has this gone.
- Other issues raised, however unable to hear because of the vocal residents.
- What guarantee can Council give that the SRV will only be in place for 10 years?
- Option 5: Sack Council and put an Administrator in to audit financials.
- The practices used for road infrastructure was questioned.
- Car Door Tour routes are not graded.
- Arterial roads should be maintained.
- Opal Mining should have been listed on the pie chart.

- Suggest that Council investigate looking at providing Gas infrastructure as an alternative to raising rates.
- There is no shade in town. Both the Council and Bowling Club should provide more for the residents.
- The Shire is a very big area, let's invest in roads and look at Scenario 2A as an option and get the job done.
- Council doesn't claim responsibility for mining roads.
- Inside information has been disclosed to rate payers: Money has been overspent on numerous projects.
- Clarification: 100kms in Scenario 2A is the total amount of sealing, not 100kms per year.
- Quality of roadworks conducted by Council needs to be reviewed, it isn't good enough.
- SRV isn't going to improve the local roads and the proposal isn't logical.
- Two residents contacted the General Manager with regards personal issues

Closed 5.45pm

## 6. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 1pm SRV Meeting held at Burren Junction Hall

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, General Manager, Director Enviro Services, Director Environmental Services and Chief Financial Officer.**

**8 members of the public.**

**Issues.**

- Problem, timing of meetings is wrong, residents away on holidays
- How many years will the SRV be in place, and will this be reduced after 10 years.
- Who pays for the Regional Roads?
- What was the 3X3 funding used for?
- What are the strategic roads and how is the priority determined.
- Some ratepayers didn't get the survey. No mail out for Burren Junction.
- To get this proposal over the line perhaps we need to gravel some roads and seal others.
- Leave roads upgraded as all-weather gravel roads.
- Some roads in the opal fields need to be addressed.
- (LS) Can we have a joint project with Council and ratepayers to upgrade roads, is this a possibility.
- Do the National Parks pay rates?
- Can the gravel roads be upgraded to ONLY 3.5 meters instead of 7 meters? Goangra road is an example.
- Why doesn't Council crown the roads so water runs off, they are making them level and they hold water.
- Old Burren road is a disaster, currently digging causeway back to bore drain. Marlbone road an issue.
- Drainage north of the Burren Junction Hall is an issue it doesn't drain away.



- The big tourist sign west of Burren needs replacing.
- Will Council have the money to maintain the new sealed roads?
- What about using the new locking plastic under roads to hold them together.
- Can the ratepayers get a list of what roads will be up-graded?
- Silo access via Beanbri Road experiences huge traffic especially during the harvest period.
- Where is money being spent within the Burren Junction area?
- Why doesn't National Park pay rates?
- Everyone within the Shire would benefit from the SRV if the 100kms was targeted – Should the length be expanded?
- Can industry provide records of truck movements to ascertain what roads are used during harvest?
- What happens after 10 years?
- Is it possible to have single lane roads instead of double lanes?
- In theory wouldn't be better to have a combination of sealed, gravelled and unsealed surfaces?
- Eastern Landholders pay more rates due to land value.
- Will money be available for maintaining roads if the SRV goes ahead?
- \$250,000 per km for sealed road works versus \$80,000 per km for a gravel road was discussed.
- There is a need for more low laying roads.
- Attendees to the local Swimming Pool are taking alcoholic beverages to the pool, can this please be addressed.
- Residents are never informed about increases relating to both rates and water.

Closed 2.30pm

## 7. 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 4pm SRV Meeting held at Come By Chance Hall

**Present. Mayor, Cr Taylor, General Manager, Director Enviro Services, Director Environmental Services and Chief Financial Officer – Apology Clr Keir**

**11 members of the public.**

**Issues.**

- Council should consider option 3 in an attempt to attract more grant funding, may be able to get 130 klms sealed
- How long before we know the SRV is approved by IPART.
- How long will the SRV apply, will it be for 10 years only.
- Walgett Shire is severely disadvantaged, shire rate is a tax and there are many profitable businesses in the shire. Option 3 is the best option.
- Which roads are will be upgraded.
- The CBC road is to get funding how much was this? Missed out on sealing the whole length.
- What assuredly do residents receive that funds raised through the SRV will be allocated for road projects?

- The Shire is severely disadvantaged due to its soil types, it's time to do something about it.
- The Council is a business, it needs to change the way it operates to run profitably.
- The concept is for all in the Shire, yes some will be disadvantaged but that will always be the case.
- Instead of sending revenue to Canberra, can it be utilised in our Shire.
- If all of the other townships have sealed roads, wouldn't Come By Chance be identified as a major target for sealing?
- Will funding opportunities allow for the full sealing of the Come By Chance road?
- Widths of road must be at least 8mts wide to allow safe movement of harvest traffic.
- The planning/identifying of sealed roads will heavily influence the results of the survey.
- The growth of livestock and agricultural industry within the last 10 years in Walgett Shire is remarkable.

Closed 5.10pm

## 8. 2 February 2018 4.15 pm SRV Meeting held at Carinda Hall

**Present: Mayor, Cllr Murray, General Manager, Director of Environmental Services.**

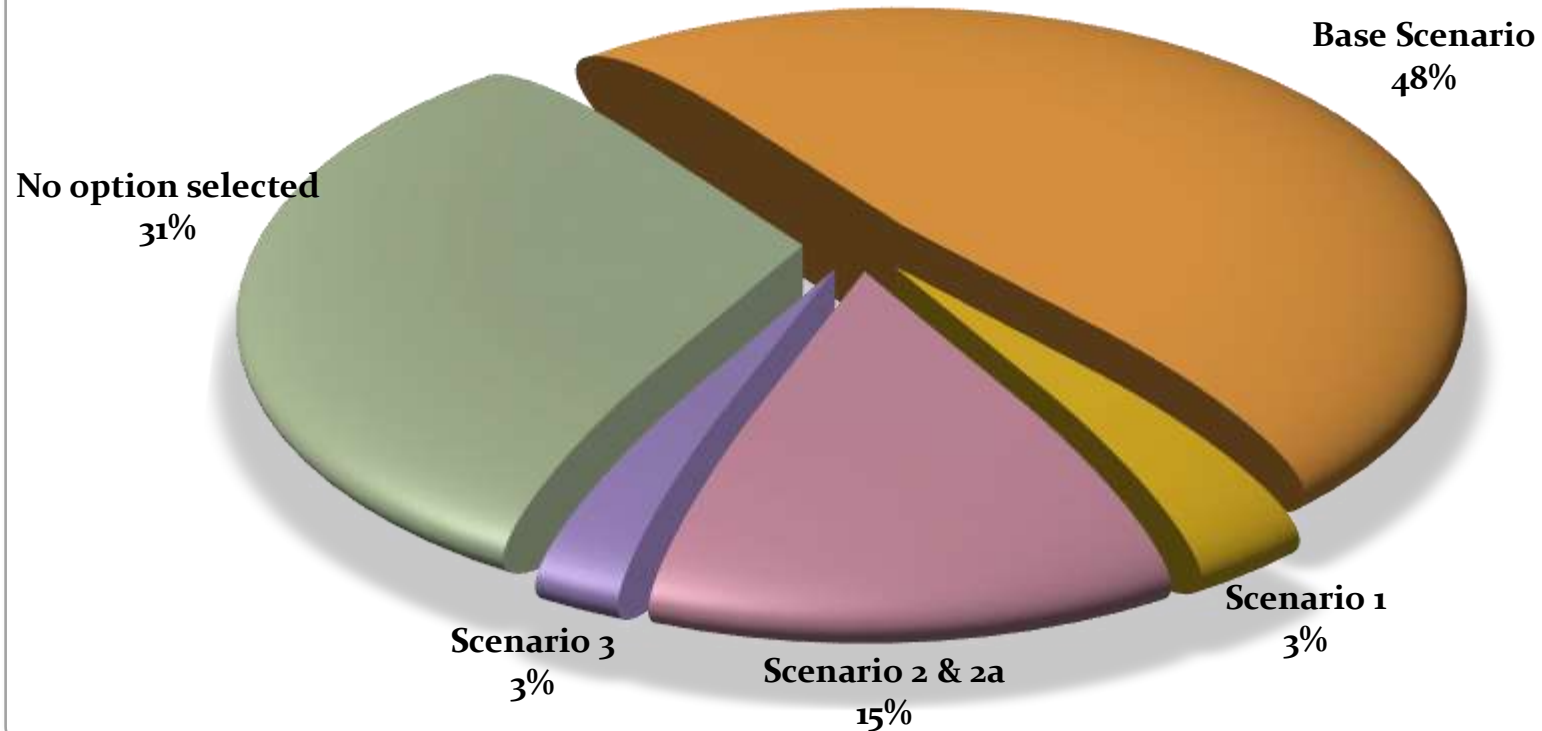
**20 members of the public**

**Issues:**

- Not all residents received survey in the mail
- Timing of meetings
- What's in it for Carinda residents – what roads would be upgraded in Carinda
- What is the difference between local roads and regional roads
- The Carinda-Walgett Road is in poor condition needs continual repairs
- What roads will be upgraded under the proposal and what criteria will be used
- Will residents have a say in what roads will be targeted
- Will there be a sunset clause after 10 years
- Preference for option 2a
- What would happen if no increase option supported
- Why include scenario 2 if scenario 2a is preferred
- Does the proposed increase include both principal and interest of the proposed loan
- Could there be another rate increase in the next ten years for other purposes
- What will happen to survey information with regards privacy provisions
- How long will the increase be in place for and how will it be reviewed
- Why was only 5% option canvassed in the 2017 consultation process
- What other areas of saving are being investigated
- Will any funds be spent on roads in urban areas
- How will survey results be used by Council
- Roads categories
- Ratepayers will be able to make their own submissions to IPART
- How confident is Council that IPART will accept the proposal
- Will rates continue to rise, most would prefer ongoing small increases
- Could process be deferred for 12 months to carry out more consultation

Closed 5.20 pm

## SURVEY RESULTS - SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROPOSAL



### No option selected

**Baseline Scenario** – No SRV (2.3% general rate pegging increase)

**Scenario 1** - 5% increase in General Rates above the allowable maximum

**Scenario 2 & 2a** - 10.9% increase in General Rates above the allowable maximum & 10.9% increase in General Rates above the allowable maximum, matched with a contribution from the Fixing Country Roads State Grant program

**Scenario 3** – 21.8 % increase in General Rates above the allowable maxi

## 6. CLOSE OF MEETING

Time: .....