

MEDIA RELEASE

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Funding our future: It's time to have your say

Burwood Council is calling on you to help decide how to fund Burwood's future.

Following community consultation undertaken between November 2017 and March 2018, residents and business owners listed maintaining and upgrading local infrastructure as one of their top priorities.

This feedback was included in the Burwood2030 Community Strategic Plan, which outlines the future for the Burwood area and highlights the community's vision.

Since then, Council has continued its extensive capital works program in order to tackle an infrastructure backlog and maintain local roads, footpaths, kerbs and parks. In order to continue delivering these services, Council will need to find additional funding.

Council rates are determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), which sets a 'rate peg', limiting the amount council rates can increase on a yearly basis. However, this rate peg does not take into consideration rising costs and resident's requests for increased services.

"Our major source of revenue has been limited in growth because of rate pegging. Despite consecutive years of returning to surplus, Council will not be able to address the backlog in infrastructure under the current rate peg," says Burwood Mayor, Cr John Faker.

"Over the past few years Council has concentrated on improving efficiency through expenditure control, service reviews and long term financial planning."

"Council has determined that the most suitable method to increase funding is to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) above the current rate peg."

There are two proposed rate models which will each have a different outcome for both Council and the community.

"It's now time, as a community, that we decide how we will fund our future. I encourage ratepayers to participate in the discussion to ensure that Burwood remains a proud place to live, work and visit."

To take part in the online survey, or for more information please visit www.burwood.nsw.gov.au.

You can also join in the conversation on this topic and make your opinion heard on Twitter (@BurwoodCouncil) or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/BurwoodCouncil).

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