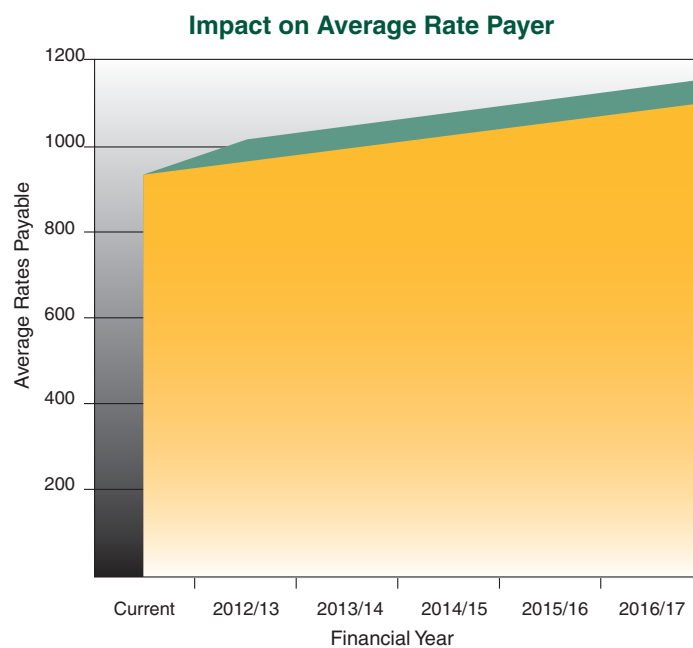


How would the proposed rate increase impact you?

So we can provide these key civic projects, Council proposes to seek a permanent additional five per cent increase in rates above the allowable rate cap percentage of three per cent.

If Council's application to the State Government is approved this will mean the average residential rate payer will pay an additional \$46.98 in 2012-13 to fund the proposed projects.

See the graph below for the impact of the rate increase.



You can find out more information on Council's website:

www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Have your say

There are a number of ways you can have your say about the proposal for a rate increase:

- **Write to Council -**
The City of Newcastle
Att: General Manager,
PO Box 489,
Newcastle NSW 2300 or
- **email -**
mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Council is also conducting a telephone survey of 400 residents to seek their views. You may be randomly selected to participate in this quick survey during September/October.

Our vision for 2030

The *Newcastle Community Strategic Plan* reflects the qualities the community would like for our city as we move towards 2030.

The plan was developed after 18 months of extensive community consultation and is our guide for action. The key civic projects included in this fact sheet align with the Newcastle Community Strategic Plan.



Community consultation for the Special Rate Variation

Fact Sheet
1 of 4

See change with nine civic projects

An ambitious multi-million-dollar 10-year action plan to revitalise Newcastle could become a reality if the community backs a rate increase to deliver nine key civic projects including building new cycleways and upgrading key cultural and recreational facilities.

The projects deliver on the community's vision for the city developed after 18 months of extensive consultation culminating in the **Newcastle Community Strategic Plan**.

Find out more about the key civic projects in this fact sheet.

"I'm fed up! I want to see change in Newcastle."
Amanda 16-24, Newcastle Voice member

"I see Newcastle on the brink of change and want to be an influence in that process"
Greer 25-39, Newcastle Voice member



Revitalising Hunter Street

Revitalising and reinvigorating Hunter Street is a significant priority for the community. After extensive consultation, Council has a clear idea about the community's vision for the future of Hunter Street.

Over the next 10 years Council will work alongside the NSW Government and the private sector to deliver initiatives to revitalise Hunter Street. Council plans to contribute \$16.6 million to this project.

Improving our swimming pools

The City of Newcastle operates five swimming centres that average 37 years of age. There are a number of challenges Council needs to consider to deliver sustainable aquatic facilities that will meet future community needs. A key component of our pool improvement project is to design and construct the Newcastle Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Lambton.

Over the next 10 years Council plans to contribute \$25 million to upgrade pools and deliver the new Aquatic Centre.

Revitalising our coast

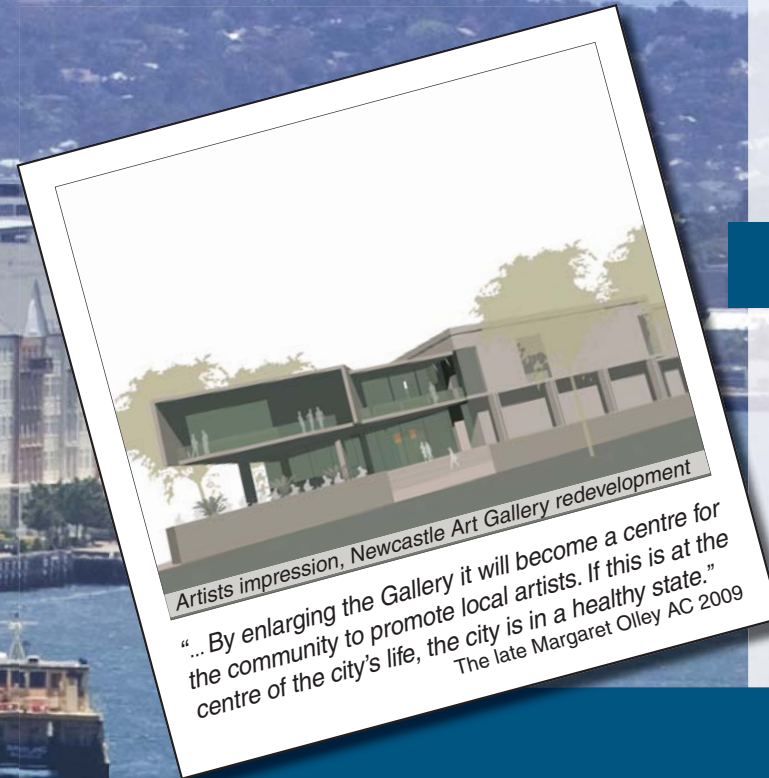
In 2010, Council and the NSW Government consulted widely with the community to develop a masterplan for managing our coastal resources. We have identified a number of major projects to revitalise the coast, including extending Bathers Way, improving parkland and installing new seating.

Over the next 10 years Council plans to contribute \$35.9 million towards this project.

Modernising our libraries

Council is currently operating a library service with one Central Library and eight branch libraries. The existing service is struggling to meet changing technologies and expectations of the community. Council wants to upgrade and modernise our libraries to better suit community needs.

Over the next 10 years Council plans to spend \$42.9 million to modernise our libraries.



Providing new cycleways

Council has recently developed a Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan which represents our commitment to enhancing cycling in Newcastle. It includes actions and targets relating to the city's bicycle network and infrastructure.

Over the next 10 years Council plans to contribute \$15.7 million on cycleways.

Expanding our Art Gallery

Newcastle Art Gallery boasts one of the most comprehensive collections of Australian art of any regional gallery in the country. The Art Gallery expansion project will increase display space, education workshop space and storage facilities. New features will include a revenue-making café and function space.

Over the next 10 years Council plans to contribute \$19 million to the Art Gallery.

Making parking easier

The City of Newcastle is developing a Parking Strategy to provide parking spaces for residents, visitors and retail users in a more equitable manner. Further community consultation will be conducted as part of the development of this strategy.

Over the next 10 years Council will contribute \$2.8 million to implementing the Parking Strategy.

Upgrading Blackbutt Reserve

Blackbutt Reserve is the green heart of Newcastle, providing visitors the chance to enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibits and recreational facilities. Projects to upgrade the reserve include the construction of a playground and toilet block, kiosk, education centre and BBQ shelters at Carnley Avenue.

Over the next 10 years Council plans to contribute \$8.7 million to this project.

Maximising revenue from our parking stations

A critical component of Council's Parking Strategy is to reduce the demand for on-street parking by making public transport and off-street parking more viable.

Over the next 10 years Council will contribute \$10 million to modernise parking stations.

