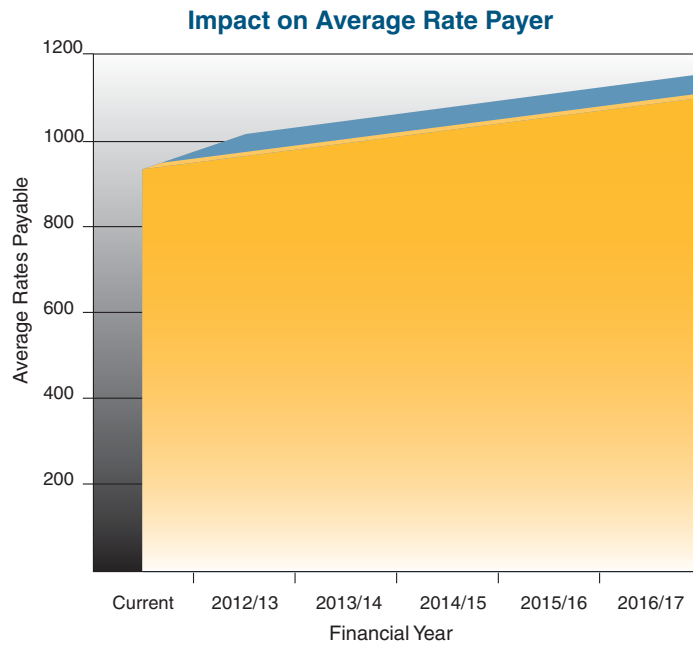


Special Rates Variation

So we can provide key civic projects such as revitalising Hunter Street and our coast, upgrading libraries, improving our pools and providing new cycleways, 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, the average residential rate payer will pay an additional \$46.98 in 2012-13 to fund the proposed projects.



■ using 3% rate cap
■ 3% rate cap + 5% special variation

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.



Artists impression, Hunter Street revitalisation



Community consultation for the Special Rate Variation

Fact Sheet 4 of 4

The Newcastle Community Strategic Plan

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. It contains seven strategic directions for Newcastle:

- A connected city
- A protected and enhanced environment
- Vibrant and activated public places
- A caring and inclusive community
- A liveable and distinctive built environment
- A smart and innovative city
- Open and collaborative leadership.

The *Newcastle Community Strategic Plan* is available at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

"I love living here and would like to see a positive change happen"
 Lillian, 55-69, Newcastle Voice member

"... It's time that this anti-progress sentiment is changed so that Newcastle can again be a vibrant city to be proud of."
 Peter, 55-69, Newcastle Voice member



Our 2030 vision

In 2030, Newcastle will be a smart, liveable and sustainable city. We will celebrate our unique city and protect our natural assets. We will build resilience in the face of future challenges and creativity. As an inclusive community, we will embrace new residents and foster a culture of care. We will be a leading lifestyle city with vibrant places, connected transport networks and a distinctive built environment. As we make our way towards 2030, we will achieve all this within a framework of open and collaborative leadership.



Our 2030 vision is included in the *Newcastle Community Strategic Plan* available at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



Funding the Newcastle Community Strategic Plan

Beginning with the 2030 vision for a smart, liveable and sustainable city, Council developed a *Long-Term Financial Plan* to deliver operational works and key projects over the next 10 years. Key projects were determined through a ratings priority matrix, with higher ranking given to project's that aligned with the *Newcastle Community Strategic Plan*. The prioritised projects included:

- Major Asset Preservation Program
- Hunter Street revitalisation project
- Coastal revitalisation project
- Swimming pool upgrade project
- On & off-street parking strategy
- Newcastle Art Gallery expansion
- Library upgrade program
- Blackbutt Reserve upgrade
- Building new cycleways.

These projects were packaged together in The City of Newcastle's 2011/2012 - 2014/2015 Delivery Program and Operational Plan as an option (Scenario 4) to be funded by a mixture of rates, asset sales, additional grants and increased borrowings.

On 21 June 2011, Council adopted Scenario 4 as its preferred program of works and resolved to undertake consultation with the community for the preparation of an application for a 5% rate variation.

We are now seeking community feedback on the proposal to seek a rate variation to fund the key civic projects. Find out how to have your say on the back page of this brochure.

Linking Projects to the Community Strategic Plan

Civic Project	Seven Strategic Directions						
	Connected city	Protected and enhanced environment	Vibrant and activated public places	Caring and inclusive community	Liveable and distinctive built environment	Smart and innovative city	Open and collaborative leadership
Major asset preservation program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Hunter Street revitalisation	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Coastal revitalisation		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming pool upgrade program			✓	✓			
On street parking strategy	✓				✓	✓	✓
Off street parking strategy	✓				✓	✓	✓
Newcastle Art Gallery expansion			✓	✓		✓	
Libraries upgrade program			✓	✓		✓	
Blackbutt Reserve upgrade		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cycleways program	✓	✓		✓	✓		

Projected costs over 10 years	\$millions
Hunter Street revitalisation major works program	16,670
Coastal revitalisation works program	35,938
Swimming pool upgrade program	25,729
Implementation of the Parking Strategy (On-street) to provide parking spaces more equitably in the Newcastle LGA	2,897
Implementation of the Parking Strategy (Off-street) to sell or redevelop Council owned parking stations	10,340
Art Gallery expansion	19,357
Library upgrade program	42,900
Blackbutt Reserve upgrade	8,650
The provision of new cycleways	15,660