

FACTSHEET

What It Is, Why It's Needed, and How It Affects You

What is an SRV?

A Special Rate Variation (SRV) is an increase in council rates beyond the standard cap set by the NSW Government.

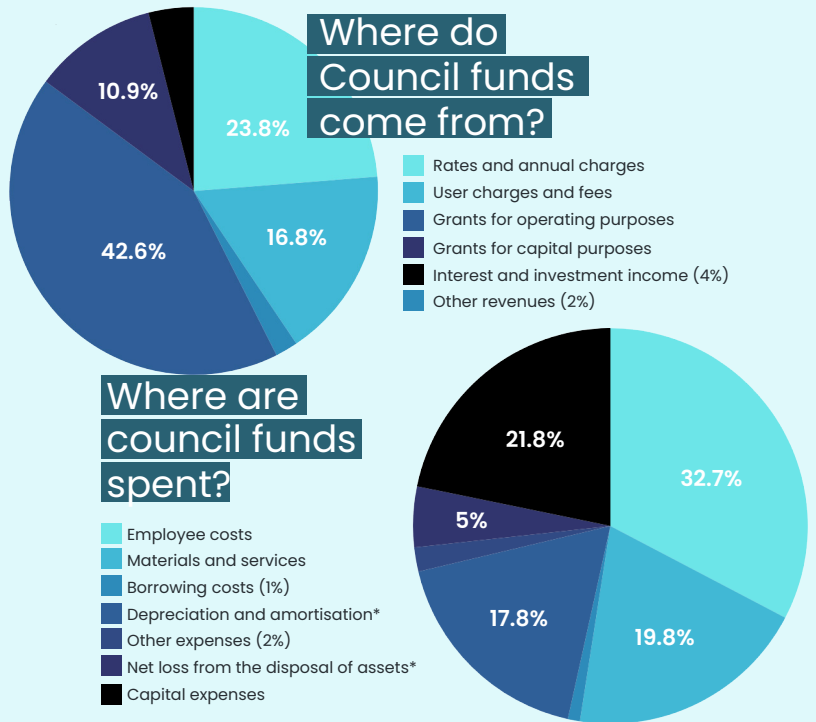
Councils apply for an SRV when their existing revenue (mainly from rates, fees, and state and federal government grants) is not enough to support essential services, maintain infrastructure, meet growing community needs and cover cost shifting measures by the NSW Government.

Why is an SRV needed?

While we receive funding from rates, government grants, and service fees, these **do not keep up with rising costs, growing community needs, and cost shifting from the NSW Government.** Over time, councils, including ours, have taken on increased responsibilities previously managed by the NSW Government. These include infrastructure and environmental programs, governance responsibilities, and expanded community services—all without additional funding to support the increase in services.

Cost shifting measures like these place significant pressure on the day-to-day operations and financial sustainability of our Shire. At the same time, the cost of materials, labour, and construction continues to rise, making it more expensive to maintain and upgrade essential infrastructure, deliver services, and complete critical projects. Without increased revenue, Council faces difficult decisions about service levels, maintenance, and future investments in our community.

"Our long-term financial plan has highlighted a critical concern: the level of service we currently provide is not sustainable."



*Non-cash expense. Figures are based off 2023-2024 Financial year.

How will an SRV affect me?

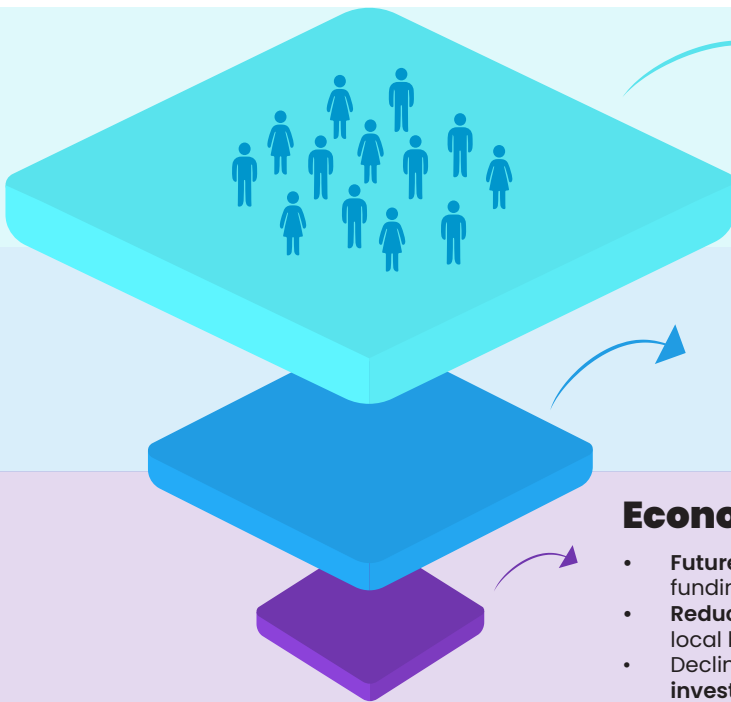
If you're a property owner, you may notice an increase in your council rates beyond the usual annual adjustment. The exact amount will depend on your property's land value and classification (residential, business, farmland, etc.), which is determined by the NSW Valuer General. You can find your land value on your rates notice or by visiting www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au

If the Special Rate Variation (SRV) is approved, it will not take effect for another 12 months.



What are the Impacts of No SRV?

Without an SRV we face cuts to our services, including reduced park and road maintenance, less frequent waste collection, a reduction in hours or closure of services like the Uralla Library just to name a few. **This will pose health and safety risks to the community, limit support for our young people and elderly, discourage local investment in the Shire, and result in local job losses.**



Community Impacts

- Services such as Tablelands Community Transport, Tablelands Community Support, McMaugh Gardens, Uralla Pool, the Visitor Information Centre and Uralla Library **may experience cutbacks or closures.**

Operational Impacts

- **Fewer council staff** may impact service delivery
- Delayed infrastructure repairs could affect long term **reliability and safety**
- Reduction in **waste collection and park maintenance frequency**

Economic Impacts

- **Future rate increases** may be needed to cover funding shortfalls
- **Reduced events** and tourism promotion could hurt local businesses
- Declining infrastructure and services may **deter investment and growth**

So, what next?

Q1 2025

Financial Assessment

Council evaluates its financial needs and determines the necessity for an SRV.

Q2-3 2025

Formal Community Consultation

The community is invited to provide feedback through surveys, public meetings, and online feedback.

Q3 2025

Application to IPART

Council submits a formal application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). IPART reviews the application, considering financial justification and community feedback.

Q3 2026

Implementation

Council phases in the rate increase June 2026 and June 2027. Revenue from the SRV is allocated to maintain services and infrastructure.

Have your say

Uralla Shire Council values your feedback and encourages residents to share their thoughts on the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV).

Attend a Community Information Session

Join us at one of our sessions to learn more and ask questions. Dates and locations will be advertised on our website and social media.

Make a Submission

Provide your feedback in writing via our online submission form, email, or post.

Talk to Us

Contact our customer service team or visit the council office to discuss how the SRV may affect you.

For more information and to have your say, visit www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/SRV or follow us on Facebook for updates.

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