

# Fit for the Future

Have a say in Kyogle's Long Term Financial Plan

## Community Survey



Kyogle Council is proposing a 22% rate rise above the pegged limit over the next five years as part of its draft Long Term Financial Plan. The draft plan which also proposes significant increases in expenditure on Council's road and bridge network and some cuts to services, aims to put Council on the path to financial sustainability. To help the community provide feedback on the draft Long Term Financial Plan, the Council has put together this questionnaire. The Council is keen to hear what the community thinks and is encouraging all ratepayers and residents to provide feedback on the draft plan. Submissions close on 24 November 2014.

### Complete the Survey on-line

This survey can be completed on line using Survey Monkey by going to the following link;

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ST72YJM>

Or you can access a link to the survey on Council's web site by going to;

Learn More

About the Council

Draft Long Term Financial Plan

### Complete the Survey in Hard Copy

You can also complete the survey on this hard copy and return it to Councils offices in Stratheden Street Kyogle, or post to;

PO Box 11, Kyogle NSW 2474

1. Are you over 18?  Yes  No

2. Are you a resident?  Yes  No

3. Are you a ratepayer?  Yes  No

4. What rate category does your property come under?

Farmland  Rural Residential

Residential – Kyogle  Residential

Business – Kyogle  Business

5. The Council has had its proposed Long Term Financial Plan on public exhibition for a number of weeks. Have you had the opportunity to read it?  Yes  No

6. Do you understand the Long Term Financial Plan?  Yes  No

7. If yes, do you believe that Council's proposed Long Term Financial Plan as printed is achievable?  Yes  No

8. Do you think that the various information sources provided by Council adequately explained the proposed rate rises and how they would be applied?  Yes  No

**9. Council have made a 4 page brochure available outlining the long term issues. Have you had the opportunity to read that brochure?**

Yes       No

That brochure (is on Council's website) lays out the challenge that faces Kyogle local government area to be sustainable in the long term and to be able to demonstrate to the state government that it has a plan to become fit for the future. The state government has asked councils to consider amalgamations as a way to become financially more sustainable or else to tackle the changes in spending and rates needed to become sustainable without amalgamation. So there are three areas that Council would like to seek feedback from the community; maintenance of roads and bridges, the rates needed to make the council sustainable and amalgamation of councils.

**Maintenance of roads and bridges**

This is the most challenging area for council. The cost to fix this problem is \$48 million and is growing by \$4 million a year, so there are insufficient funds to maintain our infrastructure. Obviously you will be impacted by what happens in your own location but we need to understand how you see council's performance across the whole local government area.

**10. Do you agree that council needs to find additional funds to fix this problem.**

Yes       No

**11. Looking ahead, do you have confidence that the council will be able to make the necessary trade-offs between services provided within the money available?**

Yes       No

### Rates

Regardless of amalgamation or maintenance trade-offs, our financial resources will not be sufficient to meet future needs. Information provided to the community includes a comparison between the pegged rate rises and proposed rate rises over the next six years.

Refer to the attached Supplementary Information Sheet for your relevant category.

12. Would this rate Increase be affordable for you?  Yes  No

13. Do you understand why council is hoping to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for rate rises above the pegged limit of 2.3%?  Yes  No

14. Based on what you understand about the Long Term Financial Plan are you in favour of Council applying to the Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal for an above pegging rate increase?  Yes  No

### Amalgamation

The Independent Local Government Review Panel has suggested Kyogle Council should consider amalgamation with either Richmond Valley or Lismore City Council. The NSW State Government supports that recommendation and to that end has provided for some financial incentives.

15. Should council explore this option and provide the community with further information?  Yes  No

Thank you for helping council to plan for the future.

