

Draft Special Rates and Charges Policy – public exhibition results

Approved for public exhibition and feedback – Council Meeting Wednesday 22 September 2021

Feedback opened 29 September 2021

Feedback closed 20 October 2021

Feedback advertised on social media, newspaper, staff, Council and community newsletters.

Responses: 5

Summary:

Respondents did not comment on any specific items in the policy.

Comments (below) related to timing or on a lack of support for special rates and charges schemes.

I support the proposal but suggest a delay in implementation until the covid impact is understood. I expect Council rates will skyrocket next year with massive property rises and highest ever building activity.

I think idea is terrible. Council should be able to pay for the upkeep of roads etc. Council wastes a lot of money on stupid things for example a party when all the tyres were gone from Numurkah. We pay enough rates as it is without fixing up the roads etc. They have just done our curb and chanel here in Tungamah and the bitumen part is terrible. If we had to pay for that , I wouldnt.

Provision of Curb & Guttering, Footpaths, Bike/Walking Tracks, Drainage, Roads, Carparks & Streetscape upgrades are basic requirements that are expected from the Shire. Ratepayers should not be expected to share the extra costs of providing these infrastructures if the original developer had not provided them. These costs should be incorporated into the Council's Budget & more unnecessary expenses should be forgone in order to balance the budget. I reiterate that Council should stay focused on providing these basic needs of the ratepayers in order to have a safe, liveable community. Ratepayers should not be expected to financially support these necessary projects with extra funds as they have already paid their rates which need to cover these costs in the Budget. Thankyou.

I believe the proposed draft policy will put further financial strain on low income households. The policy will further divide socio-economic areas in the Moira Shire.

Higher-socio economic areas will be less likely to need infrastructure upgrades than lower-socio economic areas. Lower-income households cannot afford to pay for improved infrastructure. In the long term this will lead to further deterioration of public infrastructure in these areas. It should not be the financial responsibility of households to contribute to infrastructure directly benefiting them. As you say in the draft, infrastructure updates improve life for all of the shire. This policy will indirectly marginalise low income households.

It's concerning there are no protections listed for households that cannot afford this. There is no mention of household income thresholds, exempting those who can not afford to contribute to updates.

During a period of serious lockdowns, I cannot understand Moira doing a further 'money grab'. I have been unemployed for over 18 months, as I know many others to be in the same boat. If infrastructure needs to slow down, so be it. Putting financial pressure on residents at this time is unconscionable.