

4. Adoption of the 2009/12 Management Plan

This report proposes the adoption of the 2009/12 Management Plan in accordance with S.406 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993. The report assumes Ministerial approval for the 8.76% Special Variation with a subsequent report proposed if the application is refused or amended.

General Manager

BACKGROUND

Prior to the end of the financial year Council is required to prepare, publicise and adopt a Management Plan with respect to:

- (a) Council's activities for at least the next three years and;
- (b) Council's Revenue Policy for the ensuing financial year.

Whilst Council has not yet received a Ministerial determination of its 8.76% special variation application it is recommended that the Management Plan be adopted by Council. The recommendation assumes Ministerial approval with a further report foreshadowed if the determination so requires.

A copy of the proposed 2009/12 Management Plan will be tabled to the meeting of 30 June with publication of the final document to be undertaken once confirmation of the Ministers decision on the special rate variation is known.

ISSUES

Community engagement during the development of the draft documents

During the development of the draft 2009/12 Management Plan, Council engaged with business and sporting groups to explore options for greater investment in recreational facilities, tourism and economic development. Significant local community and media interest was generated following separate meetings with representatives from the sporting clubs and business groups. Council invited comments on the option of seeking a special variation to provide additional funding for these areas.

Exhibition and availability of documents

Council resolved to place the 2009/12 Draft Management Plan on public exhibited from 1 to 29 May. During this time the availability of the draft documents was well publicised in the local print and electronic media. Copies of the documents were freely available from Council's various library services, from the Bega Council administration centre or by telephone or email request. The documents were also available on line from the Council website.

The draft management plan, and in particular the proposal for a special variation resulted in a number of 'letters to the editor', editorial comment and articles in the three local papers as well as news items on the two local radio stations. Council also provided a number of media releases and a one page summary of the documents in its fortnightly 'Community Link' page in the local papers.

'Bang the Table'

In a new initiative, Council used the 'Bang the Table' (BTT) website to encourage community discussion on the draft documents. A link to BTT was provided from the Council's website. Council's draft management plan page on BTT was viewed approximately 180 times during the exhibition period and 10 comments were provided. To leave a comment people had to register with the site.

Of the ten comments left five were made by the same person and the remainder were single comments made by individuals. Whilst more people accessed the site and may have viewed the documents and comments, effectively only five people made use of the website to engage in a 'conversation' about the draft management plan. Of these five, three opposed the special variation, one supported it and one gave Council a pat on the back for using the web based forum and made a comment about the proposed fees and charges.

Viewers of BTT site were advised that comments left on the site were not classed as formal submissions and that formal submissions needed to be sent via letter or email to the Shire's General Manager.

Summary of Submissions

During the course of developing the 2009/12 Management Plan a total of 104 public submissions were received. A number of these came as petitions and letters from groups and associations. These submissions, both for and against aspects of the draft document may indicate the views of a broader spectrum of the community.

Submissions were invited during the development of the draft as well as during the formal exhibition period. Two late submissions were received and considered by Councillors at a workshop dedicated to the review of all community input into all aspects of the Management Plan.

The vast majority of submissions, related to the proposed 8.76% special variation to general rate income. Throughout the development and exhibition process submissions were received that supported and opposed the identified rate increase. Other submissions offered partial or qualified support. One petition with 50 signatories opposing the increase was received as were 5 petitions of support with 155 signatories.

The removal of the water and sewer access charge for nursing homes was represented in four submissions from the agencies running the various centres in the Shire. This was the issue that received the next largest number of submissions.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AGENDA
30 June 2009

The submissions regarding the 2009/12 Management Plan are summarised in the following table.

Issue/Opinion	Submission Identification Number	Total
(Pre-exhibition) Petitions supporting a special variation to fund additional sports ground investment.	1,2,16,17,19 (A total of 155 signatories)	5
(Pre-exhibition) Support for a special variation to fund additional sports ground investment.	3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,13	9
(Pre-exhibition) Support for additional investment in tourism and economic development	14,21,22	3
(Pre-exhibition) Objection to any proposal to seek a special variation for sports grounds, tourism and economic development	11,12,15,18,20,23,24	8
Objection to the proposed special variation increase based on a range of contentions including: capacity to pay, lack of benefit from tourism and sporting facilities, previous increases, self funded retiree's, pensioners, compounding effect of water and sewer increases	2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,12,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23, 24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,34,35,36,37,38,39 40,42,43,44,47,49,52,59,61,62,63,64,65,66,67 68,69,70,71,72,73,74,76,77,78	57
Objection petition (50 identifiable names and addresses)	33	1
Partial Support for sports grounds component of proposed special variation	45,60	2
Conditional support for the special variation based on similar increases across all rate categories	14,46,56,57,58	5
Reservations about the proposed special variation	41	1
Support for the special variation increase	1,5,58,75,L1 ¹	5
Council must seek other sources of income and/or reduce costs	11	1
Dubious benefits of the Yellowpinch Pipeline	17	1
State Forests and National Parks should pay rates	17	1
Plan needs to focus on creating a harmonious and positive community	48	1
Objection to removal of exemption from water/sewer access charges for nursing homes	50,51,53,L2	4
Council needs to improve its management of cemeteries	54	1

¹ L1 and L2 were late submissions received after the close of the formal exhibition period but considered by Councillors at their workshop of 9 June.

Issue/Opinion	Submission Identification Number	Total
Water charging not rewarding lower consumption	55	1

Councillor review of all submissions

All submissions were considered by Councillors at a workshop on 9 June 2009, as part of the finalisation process for the management plan. A copy of submissions and overview was also provided to the NSW Department of Local Government.

Following the review of submissions, Council is awaiting the response of the Minister for Local Government regarding the 8.76% Special Rate variation application.

Acknowledgement

All submissions were formally acknowledged by the Corporate Planner.

Comparison with submissions for 2007/08 and 2008/09

The following table provides a summary of special variation applications and subsequent submissions.

ITEM	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Special Variation sought	9.87%	9.26%	8.76%
Number of submissions	46	33	78
Objection submissions	14	24	58
Support Submissions	8	-	4
The next top issue	Opposition to the increase in sewer access charges	Lobby State Forests to pay rates	Removal of exemption from water/sewer access charges for nursing homes

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT DOCUMENT

Fundamentally the 2009/12 Management Plan tabled for adoption reflects the draft document placed on public exhibition. The main amendments are:

1. Inclusion of an 8.76% special variation to general rate revenue.
2. Provision of information about Council's response to the State Government's new Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation. This is in the form of a diagram indicating current and proposed strategies and a schedule of work and projects. A copy of the 'Integrated Planning and Reporting Cascade' is attached to this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Separate reports will be provided on the 2009/10 Rates and Charges and the 2009/10 Schedule of Fees. In addition a report will be provided on revotes for 2009/10 that will be included in the final 2009/12 Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2009/12 Management Plan, including an 8.76% variation to general rate income be adopted with a further report to be submitted if the Minister for Local Government refuses or amends Council's application.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AGENDA
30 June 2009

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING CASCADE AND SCHEDULE OF WORKS

IPR Themes →	Governance	Social	Economic	Environment	Prepared by:	Content
20 yr	STATE PLAN 20 yr					
Themes	Delivering Better Services Rights, Respect, Responsibility	Fairness and Opportunity	Growing Prosperity	Environment for Living	State	
20 yr	REGIONAL STRATEGY 20 yr					Regional framework
Aims	Cater for housing demand	Protect cultural and heritage values	Support economic growth and employment	Protect high value environments Limit development constrained by coastal processes		
C-P-R	State of Shire/City Report (SoS/SoC) 4 yr					Condition/Pressure/Response
Why	Governance Report	Demographic Report (Census) Social Report (SR)	Economic Report Condition of Public Works Report (CoPW)	State of Environment Report (SoER)	Council	
Strategy	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) 10 yr					- Vision - Aspirations - Targets - Roles - Response to SoS - Outcomes (KR) Template - Executive Summary - Priorities
What	Financial Strategy	Ageing Strategy	Asset Strategy	LEP	Councillor Leadership Group	
	Workforce Strategy	Youth Strategy	Economic Development Strategy (EDS)	Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM)		
	Community Survey	Affordable Housing Strategy	Structure Plans/DCPs	Water Sharing Plan (WSP)		
	Land Investment Strategy	Community Engagement Strategy	Climate Change Strategy	Waste Strategy		
	Information Technology Strategy	Recreation Strategy	Merimbula & Bega Traffic Strategies Airport and Eden Port Masterplans			
	Risk Strategy					
	Position Statements and Key Result Indicators (KRI)	Position Statements and Key Result Indicators (KRI)	Position Statements and Key Result Indicators (KRI)	Position Statements and Key Result Indicators (KRI)		
Plan	DELIVERY PROGRAM (DP) 4 yr					- ExecSummary Strategies-Pathway - Benchmarks - Policy- Outputs (KPI)- Rol Template - Executive Summary - Priorities - Integration b/w Groups
How	OHS Plan	Social Plan (SP)	Development Contribution & Servicing Plans	Waste Minimisation Plan	Leadership Group	
	Performance Management Plan	Cultural Plan (CP)	Tourism Infrastructure Plan	Water Business Plans	Management Forum	
	Internal Audit Plan (IAP)	Community Safety Plan	Business Marketing Support Plan	Estuary Management Plan (EMP)		
	HR/Training Plan	Accessibility Plan	Asset Management Plans	Plans of Management (POM)		
	Risk Management Plan (RMP)		Cluster Plans			
	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)		
Actions	OPERATIONAL PLAN (OP) 1 yr					- Actions - Timelines - Measures (PI) - Funding - Accounts by Theme
When	Budget	Works Schedule	Works Schedule	Works Schedule	Staff	
	Statutory	Projects	Projects	Projects		
	Functions	Functions	Functions	Functions		
	Organisation Structure	Performance Indicators	Performance Indicators	Performance Indicators		
Report	ANNUAL REPORT 1 yr					
	Financial Statements	Status works	Status works	Status works	Staff	
	TBL accounts	Status Projects	Status Projects	Status Projects		
	Statutory	Performance	Performance	Performance		
	CSP Term Report 3 yr					- Outcomes by Theme - Accounts by Theme
	Outcomes	Outcomes	Outcomes	Outcomes	Councillors	
	Achievements	Achievements	Achievements	Achievements		