

How will a rate rise affect me?

In QPRC we have more than 20 rating categories so the effect on you will depend on where you live and the value of your property. The proposed rate rise will affect the general rate charge. Waste, sewerage, stormwater, and water access charges will not be affected by this change.

Below we have shown what the average rate looks like under each scenario.

On our website you can see what each scenario looks like for your rating category. All rate increase figures are inclusive of the rate peg and are permanent.

Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services

year one 12%	increase of \$129
	\$2.50 extra per week
year two 12%	increase of \$144
	\$2.80 extra per week
year three 12%	increase of \$161
	\$3.10 extra per week
41% cumulative rates increase	

Scenario 3: Maintain Services

year one 28%	increase of \$356
	\$6.85 extra per week
year two 25%	increase of \$407
	\$7.85 extra per week
year three 23%	increase of \$468
	\$9 extra per week
97% cumulative rates increase	

Is there financial support?

We have a robust financial hardship policy designed to support ratepayers in situations beyond their control and defer payments where they would cause hardship.

We offer interest free payment arrangements for up to two years and all applications are assessed against the eligibility conditions in our policy.

Scenario three also includes an additional \$100 for pensioners across QPRC. This will bring the pensioner rebate up to a maximum of \$525, depending on what services you pay for.

If you are having difficulty making your rates payments, please contact us.

- ▶ You can learn more about rate relief and find our Hardship Application form at bit.ly/QPRC-RP or by calling **1300 735 025**

Scenario 2: Reduce Services

year one 18%	increase of \$229
	\$4.40 extra per week
year two 18%	increase of \$270
	\$5.20 extra per week
year three 18%	increase of \$319
	\$6.15 extra per week
64% cumulative rates increase	

On our website you can see what each scenario looks like for your rating category at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/srv

Learn more at...



QPRC
news

Official Newsletter of
Queanbeyan-Palerang
Regional Council

December 2022

Learn more about the proposed **QPRC rate rise**

Australia Day

Australia Day Ceremonies will be held on 26 January in Braidwood, Bungendore, Captains Flat and Queanbeyan.

At each of these events Citizen, Young Citizen, and Event of the year will be awarded.

- ▶ Learn more and find your nearest event at bit.ly/QPRC-ausday



Roads update

Like all the other councils in our region, the whole local government area is completely saturated. This means that road surfaces are breaking up. It also means that short-term repairs don't last long because the next rain event either causes further damage or breaks up the temporary repair.

We understand how frustrating this is for the community, and our roads crews are working hard to get on top of the problems. It's not a quick fix and it's a continuous job at the moment - but our crews are doing everything they can to keep our roads together.

- ▶ Report road damage via Snap Send Solve, bit.ly/QPRC-rf-rap or calling **1300 735 025**



Moore Park skate bowl

The mural in the Moore Park skate bowl was completed with the help of local young people and artists Mike Shankster and Arina Apostolova.

The artwork was developed by Mike, Arina and a group of young people who learned about different art styles in a series of workshops beginning in September.

The finished work adds bold colours to the park. Our community team plan to run more workshops and events at the space in the coming months.

Have your say

Garden Organics are currently accepted at the former landfills at Majors Creek and Araluen. Environmental protection and regulatory requirements mean that the existing facilities must be closed.

We are now seeking input from the community on a suitable green waste service for the area.

- ▶ Have your say until 23 December at bit.ly/QPRC-mcagw

Crawford Street upgrade

In late October works began to install traffic signals at the intersection of Crawford and Antill Streets in Queanbeyan.

Antill Street is temporarily closed to the west of Crawford Street with detours in place. This first stage of the project is expected to be complete in January 2023. The second stage involves work at the Crawford/Erin/Campbell Street intersection and is expected to start in February. The intersection upgrades are funded under the Australian Government Black Spot Program.



Children's Music Play

We recently received funding for a children's Music Play Program at the Queanbeyan Library.

The 45-minute sessions use music, movement, play and percussion to engage with children aged 3-5 years. The program has been widely popular with weekly sessions run by Music for Canberra at the Queanbeyan Library.



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
144 Wallace St, Braidwood • 10 Majara St,
Bungendore • 256 Crawford St, Queanbeyan
P 1300 735 025 E council@qprc.nsw.gov.au

www.qprc.nsw.gov.au



Follow us on social media

Facebook [/qbnpalrangRC](https://www.facebook.com/qbnpalrangRC)
Twitter [@QbnPalrang](https://twitter.com/QbnPalrang)



Sign up for weekly e-News
www.qprc.nsw.gov.au



Have your say at
yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

This newsletter was printed and expected to be delivered in early-December.

Why do we need a rate rise?

After a four-year rate freeze following the merger in 2016, the uncertainty of the pandemic and natural disasters in 2020 and 2021, and significant changes to the economic environment in the last six months Council must adopt a rate rise to become financially sustainable.

Without a rate rise Council will continue to go backwards financially or be forced to significantly cut services to make annual savings of more than \$20 million each year. These reductions would impact our community in the form of closing pools, selling off our community and arts venues, adoption of paid parking in the Queanbeyan CBD or increasing a wide range of service fees including childcare and saleyards.

Our actions to get back-on-track include \$2.2 million in annual merger efficiency savings, \$8 million from the sale of land and buildings in the Queanbeyan CBD and \$457,000 in electricity savings by switching our streetlights to LEDs.

We have explored three rate rise scenarios and their impacts on Council services over the next three years. The proposed rate rise will affect the general rate charge. Waste, sewerage, stormwater, and water access charges will not be affected by this change.

How our rates compare

Our rates vary between Braidwood, Bungendore, Queanbeyan and Googong and factor in the services these areas receive. For simplicity we have averaged out the residential rates paid by households in QPRC and compared it against other NSW local government areas and the ACT.

The average residential rate in similar NSW council areas is **\$1170**.

Location	Average Residential Rates (2019-20)
Tuggeranong*	\$2,151
Gungahlin*	\$2,097
Wingecarribee	\$1,714
Lithgow	\$1,528
Cessnock	\$1,215
Queanbeyan-Palerang	\$1,155
Bathurst	\$1,112
Eurobodalla	\$1,073
Yass Valley	\$1,021
Goulburn Mulwaree	\$991

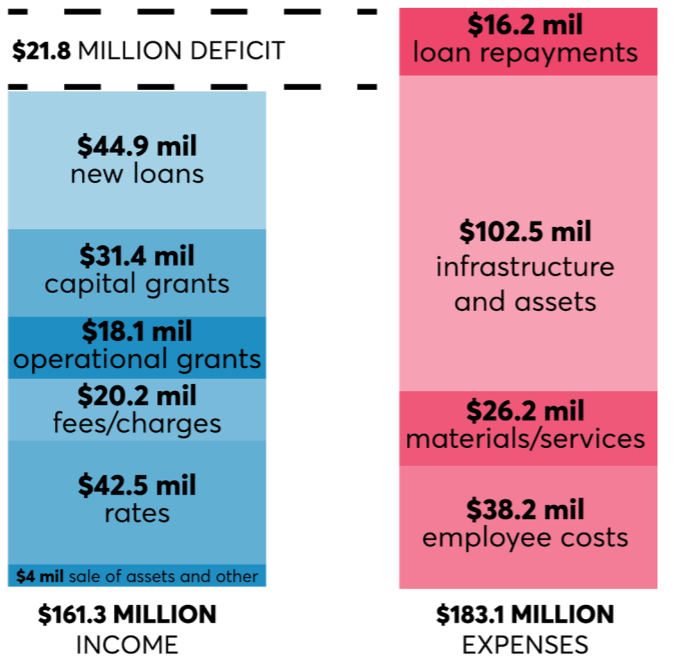
* ACT General Rates by district (Houses)

Where we are

As part of the process to correct our budget we have been through an independent organisational review.

We have significantly reduced our spending in the last two budgets and remained at lower staffing levels than other comparable councils as an emergency one-off measure, however without a rate rise we will reach a \$21.8 million deficit this financial year.

General Fund 2022-23



How are your rates spent?

An increase in rates will be used to cover increasing costs of essential services. It will also be used to improve infrastructure and asset renewal including footpaths and roads as well as environmental programs.

For every \$100 of rates you pay it breaks down into...



Three scenarios

We have unpacked three scenarios to show what Council services would look like with different rate rises.

Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services

Increase rates by 12% every year for 3 years. This scenario does not fully fund current Council operations and will require a strategy to find immediate savings of \$12 million each year.

\$12 million in savings each year will mean stopping all non-core services:

- ✗ Privatising or selling The Q
- ✗ Stop funding community activities, (arts, community development, youth, seniors, heritage grants and First Nations activities)
- ✗ Stop funding community halls and meeting spaces
- ✗ Closing aquatic centres, some sportsgrounds and playgrounds, and cancelling planned developments
- ✗ Closing libraries, customer service centres and depots at Bungendore and Braidwood
- ✗ Significantly increasing user charges and fees for all community services
- ✗ Fully funding economic development and tourism through user charges and a rate on businesses
- ✗ Removing community grant support
- ✗ Significantly reducing urban amenities, (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning)
- ✗ Introducing paid parking for Queanbeyan CBD
- ✗ Reducing number of Councillors
- ✗ Removing additional pensioner rebate

The rate rise will only affect your general rates: this is the base rate and property value (or adv) on your rates notice. Not your water, sewer or waste charges.

Scenario 2: Reduce Services

Increase rates by 18% every year for 3 years. This scenario maintains only core services and requires a strategy to find immediate savings of \$5.5 million each year.

\$5.5 million in savings each year will mean reducing non-core services:

- ✗ Significantly increasing user fees at The Q
- ✗ Reducing community funding by 50% (arts, halls, community development, youth, seniors, and First Nations activities).
- ✗ Only keeping one pool and stopping any planned developments for sports and aquatics
- ✗ Combining libraries and customer service into single facilities in Bungendore and Braidwood
- ✗ Increasing fees for childcare and saleyards, to be fully self-funding
- ✗ Increasing user charges and fees for all community services
- ✗ Reducing economic development and tourism
- ✗ Reducing some urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning)
- ✗ Stopping main street and heritage grants
- ✗ Introducing paid parking for Queanbeyan CBD
- ✗ Reducing number of Councillors
- ✗ Removing additional pensioner rebate

Scenario 3: Maintain Services

Increase rates by 28% in year 1, 25% in year 2 and 23% in year 3. This scenario maintains current services and asset renewal and allows for improvements to facilities and roads.

Community facilities, footpaths, roads and bridges will be maintained more frequently to return to service levels the community expects. This scenario includes all existing services as well as:

- + Additional **\$100 Pensioner Rebate** for the whole local government area. This is on top of up to \$425 supplied by the NSW Government, depending on which services you pay for.
- + **\$1.3 million** each year towards environmental and sustainability programs.
- + **\$400,000** each year for new and upgraded community infrastructure - like footpath extensions. This is designed to support matched grant funding opportunities.
- + **\$1.9 million** each year for asset renewal including roads, pools and other facilities.

Have Your Say

Have your say on the rate increase by going to our Your Voice page or visiting our Customer Service Centres and libraries. Here you can learn more about each scenario and fill out a digital or printed survey. The survey is open until 31 January 2023. You can also:

- Email council@qprc.nsw.gov.au with Special Rate Variation in the subject line
 - Mail to PO Box 90, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
 - Deliver to Council offices in Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan
- yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au

