

Tweed Shire Council wishes to acknowledge the Ngandawal and Minyungbal speaking people of the Bundjalung Country, in particular the Goodjinburra, Tul-gi-gin and Moorung – Moobah clans, as being the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters within the Tweed Shire boundaries. Council also acknowledges and respects the Tweed Aboriginal community's right to speak for its Country and to care for its traditional Country in accordance with its lore, customs and traditions.



Under the proposal, the dam wall will rise by 8.5 metres, securing the Tweed's water supply until at least 2065.

Work resumes on Environmental Impact Statement for raising Clarrie Hall Dam

Work to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal to raise Clarrie Hall Dam is continuing, with Council appointing consulting firm KBR to complete the EIS.

Director of Engineering David Oxenham said the EIS was now earmarked for lodgement with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in the first half of 2024.

"By lodging the EIS, the proposal to raise the dam wall will progress one step closer to gaining NSW Government approvals," Mr Oxenham said.

"But first, a registered environmental assessment practitioner must declare the EIS complete, accurate, of a high quality and easy to understand.

"We are confident with the expertise of KBR, the EIS will meet these strict requirements."

Should the proposal gain all NSW and Australian Government approvals, and Council decides to proceed, construction to raise the dam wall is expected to start in late 2026.

Mr Oxenham said raising the dam wall was vital to securing the Tweed's water supply so Council could continue to provide a safe, sustainable and affordable water service.

"We're proposing to raise the dam wall by 8.5 metres to a height of 70 metres," he said.

"This would almost triple the storage capacity of the dam to about 42,300 megalitres and secure our water supply until at least 2065."

Go to yoursaytweed.com.au/raisingclarriehall-eis to find out more and read the full media release at tweed.nsw.gov.au/latest-news

Amber alert for blue-green algae at Clarrie Hall Dam

While Council has raised the blue-green algae alert to amber for Clarrie Hall Dam, tap water across the Tweed remains safe to drink and bathe in.

The amber alert means blue-green algae may be multiplying and the affected dam water may have a green tinge and a musty or organic odour.

Water and Wastewater Operations manager Brie Jowett said testing by the NATA-accredited Tweed Laboratory Centre had found no evidence of the algal species capable of producing toxin.

"Even if this species was there, Council's water treatment processes are very robust – we remove blue-green algae from the water when blooms occur," Mrs Jowett said.

"This makes our tap water safe for drinking and pleasant-

tasting even when algae bloom in the dam.

"Visitors are advised to avoid recreational activities on the dam, including kayaking.

"Do not eat fish including shellfish from the dam and never drink untreated dam or river water at any time.

"Because water in the dam and its upstream and downstream tributaries potentially could be unsafe to livestock, keep animals away and do not water livestock with untreated water.

"If you come into contact with the algae, rinse it off with fresh water and seek medical advice if symptoms appear."

Visit tweed.nsw.gov.au/waterandwastewater for all the latest information and read the full media release at tweed.nsw.gov.au/latest-news



Tweed Shire Council has issued an amber alert for blue-green algae at Clarrie Hall Dam. Tap water across the Tweed remains safe to drink and bathe in.



Last week we each used
191L a day
as at 8 May 2023

Rulers of the Gallery

Got teenagers at home? Young people aged 13 – 19 are invited to Rulers of the Gallery a free event hosted by TRG Youth Collective at Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre in Murwillumbah.

Activities include collaborative art making, exhibitions, art and merchandise stalls by young people, clothes swap, photo booth and more.

Attendees are encouraged to bring cash for youth art stalls and quality clothing items to swap with other young people.

For this event, you can either drop off your teens or stick around and experience the show yourself.

Snacks provided. This is an alcohol-free event.

Visit gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/workshops-events for more information or to book.

Last chance for cat vouchers up for grabs

There are only days left to submit expressions of interest for one of 36 vouchers to the value of \$500 for your cat.

To encourage cat owners to keep their cats safe from harm at home, 36 Tweed residents with feline pets will be eligible for a voucher to purchase a cat haven or other forms of cat enrichment.

Cat owners who need support to improve the health and welfare of their cats, by transitioning them from roaming to being safe at home, are encouraged to submit an expression of interest to be awarded a \$500 voucher from Catnets to buy a cat haven or cat enrichment products by Sunday 21 May.

A survey of cat owners in the Tweed Shire in 2021 found that some people need support to set up a safe home environment for their cats.

Council has partnered with RSPCA NSW on its Keeping Cats Safe at Home campaign about loving cats, celebrating the people who love their cats and motivating cat lovers to keep their feline companions safe and fulfilled.

The NSW-wide project is funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the NSW Environmental Trust.

Complete the expression of interest form online in 5 easy steps before midnight on Sunday 21 May 2023. See terms and conditions and apply online at tweed.nsw.gov.au/cats



36 Tweed cat owners will be eligible for a \$500 voucher to assist with keeping their cat safe at home.

Get the Tweed Link early by email

Be one of the first to see all the latest news from Tweed Shire Council each week.

Subscribers to the Tweed Link receive it by email each week on Wednesday mornings, in addition to it appearing in print in the Tweed Valley Weekly on Thursdays.

But that's not all – you can also subscribe to Council job alerts, media releases and a range of e-newsletters and Council facility program alerts.

Sign up at tweed.nsw.gov.au/subscribe

Land valuations, the Special Rate Variation and rates explained

Property owners across the Tweed should have received their latest land valuation notices, issued by the NSW Valuer General.

The notice provides an independent assessment of the unimproved value of land only. This process is undertaken every 3 years to reflect an accurate market price, with the most recent notice providing the land valuation as of 1 July 2022.

Overall, land valuations across the Tweed climbed significantly since the previous local government valuation year of 2019, increasing by an average of approximately 72%. The highest rises were seen on the Tweed Coast where some properties more than doubled in value.

The average increase in land valuation (from 2019 to 2022) for each general rating category was:

- Residential rate – increase of 75%
- Business rate – increase of 57%
- Farmland rate – increase of 83%

Key points to note regarding land valuation changes are:

- **Council does not receive any extra income when land valuations change.** The total income that Council can source from land rates is capped at the approved pegged rate amount of 4%, which is well below the rate of inflation. Council is considering a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 2.35%, which if approved, means a 6.35% rise in the General Rate. Residents can have their say on the SRV at yoursaytweed.com.au/srv
- **An increase in your land valuation does not necessarily mean your General Rate will increase.**

The difference is how the rates revenue is shared across ratepayers, based on the change in their land valuation. Some people may pay more or less on their General Rate depending on the change in value of their land relative to changes in land valuations across the Tweed.

The impact of the 2022 land valuations on your rates depends on how an individual land valuation changes when compared with the average valuation across a rating category (for example, residential, farmland, business).

Generally, properties whose land valuation increase is lower than the average increase for that rates category (residential, business or farmland) will see a reduction in the General Rate. However, properties whose valuation increase is higher than the average for the rating category may see a rise in the General Rate.

For example:



Example 1: Jack, Banora Point

Jack's land valuation increase of 50% is less than the 72% increase across the Tweed.

His General Rate will go down, even with the proposed SRV.



Example 2: Susan, Casuarina

Susan's land valuation increased by 133%, more than the 72% increase across the Tweed.

Her General Rate will increase with or without the proposed SRV.



Example 3: Simon, Murwillumbah South

Simon's land valuation increase of 59% is less than the 72% increase across the Tweed.

His General Rate will remain unchanged as he is on the minimum rate in the Tweed*, but will increase with the proposed SRV.

***Note:** Approximately 50% of ratepayers in the Tweed pay the minimum rate. The SRV increase would be \$23 for the year.

Find out more about how your rates are calculated on Council's website at tweed.nsw.gov.au/land-valuations and watch the easy-to-understand animated video.

There is also a rates calculator for ratepayers (tweed.nsw.gov.au/general-rate-calculator) to obtain an estimate of the 2023–24 General Rate.

The General Rate is linked to your land valuation. It does not include other charges such as water access, sewage access and waste collection, which are calculated separately and added to your rates bill.

Tweed Shire Council's Revenue Team can assist with rating enquiries. Call the Contact Centre on 02 6670 2400.

Enquiries or objections to 2022 land valuations need to be lodged directly with the Valuer General of NSW's Office. See details on your Notice of Valuation.

Rates myths busted

Did you know ...?

- The NSW IPART – Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal has approved a rate peg for the total General Rate income for all local governments in NSW. For the Tweed Shire this is 4%.
- Through the SRV, Council is proposing an additional 2.35% increase on the total General Rate income.
- An increase in your land valuation does not necessarily mean your General Rate will increase.
- The total income Council receives does not change when land valuations change. The difference is how total rates revenue is shared across ratepayers, based on the change in their land valuation.

Visit tweed.nsw.gov.au/rates-explained to find out more about rates.

What would the Special Rate Variation cost me?

Want to know what our proposed special rate variation (SRV) really means for you as a Tweed ratepayer?

Check out our handy General Rate Calculator at tweed.nsw.gov.au/general-rate-calculator

The calculator will provide an estimate of your General Rate for 2023–24 with and without the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The calculator is for the General Rate component of your total rates only. There are additional water, sewerage and waste charges. The charges applied to your property will vary according to what services you receive, or can receive.

The General Rate Calculator is simple to use. Enter your rates category (it's 'Residential' for most ratepayers) and your new land valuation, which you'll find on the letter you

recently received from the NSW Valuer General.

Approximately 50% of the Tweed's ratepayers are on the minimum rate so don't be surprised if your General Rate (without the proposed SRV) stays the same or even goes down.

Have your say on the Special Rate Variation until Friday 26 May 2023 at yoursaytweed.com.au/srv

You can also come along in person to one of our Community Conversations to find out more. See the article on this page on how to join in.

Head to Council's General Rate Calculator to find out the effect of the recent land valuation, the rate peg and the proposed Special Rate Variation on your property.



Community Conversations on proposed Special Rate Variation

To better understand the proposed Special Rate Variation, how Council rates are calculated and how land valuations may impact rates, we invite you to register to attend a Community Conversation next week.

Monday 15 May

Tweed Heads – Morning Session

Tweed Heads Auditorium, Civic and Cultural Centre
9:30 to 10:30 am

Tweed Heads – Evening Session

Harvard Room, Tweed Heads Administration Centre
5:30 to 6:30 pm

Tuesday 16 May

Murwillumbah – Morning Session

Murwillumbah Auditorium, Civic and Cultural Centre
10 to 11 am

Murwillumbah – Evening Session

Murwillumbah Auditorium, Civic and Cultural Centre
5:30 to 6:30 pm

Visit yoursaytweed.com.au/srv and follow the links to register.

Have your say on Special Rate Variation

Give your feedback on a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) that Council requires to raise additional funds to meet known mandatory ongoing costs.

The Tweed community is asked to give their opinion on 2 options:

- support the proposed SRV to meet known additional costs
- not support the SRV and reduce services instead.

Option 1: Support the SRV

A SRV seeks to maintain existing service levels and fund the unavoidable additional costs described below. Council would increase rates by an additional 2.35% above the rate peg increase of 4%, raising the \$1,567,954 needed for the known additional costs. Any additional unforeseen costs may require a further service level review.

If Council decides to proceed with a SRV increase, the new rates and charges will be adopted at the Council meeting in June 2023.

What will the SRV fund?

Council will incur new additional costs that are outside of Council's control and are crucial to the delivery of Council services. In addition, the NSW Government has taken away Council's ability to charge the Environmental Enforcement Levy, reducing Council's annual income by \$288,954.

To maintain our current levels of service, we need to raise more income to fund the additional costs of these mandatory items:

- **Improve Cyber Security to protect your data – \$268,000:** This is required to protect Council's network and digital information to comply with the Essential 8 mitigation strategies as recommended by the Australian Cyber Security Centre.
- **Make it easier and safer to do business with Council by upgrading core IT Business Systems – \$500,000:** Council is facing increased information technology costs as we must retire our on-premises corporate systems and move to a cloud hosted software solution.

- **Ensure people and property are protected in line with increased insurance premiums – \$151,000:** Insurance premiums on Property, Public Liability and others insurance coverage are estimated to increase. The following additional item that the SRV will fund is required, but is not mandatory:
- **Reduce Development Application (DA) processing times – \$360,000:** Council needs additional funds to increase staff resources to help reduce the long DA processing times caused by a range of complexities and resource challenges associated with the NSW planning system.

Option 2: Reduce services and not apply a SRV

If a SRV is not supported, rates will still increase by the 4% rate peg, however this will be insufficient to meet the additional costs outlined above.

Council will still need to find a way to fund the mandatory additional costs and the only way to do that and maintain a balanced budget is to make cuts to existing services and reduce current service levels.

Visit tweed.nsw.gov.au/srv-addendum to view the full list of proposed service cuts required to fund the unavoidable additional costs. Proposed cuts include:

- reduced road maintenance services including pothole repair
- close Kingscliff Library
- reduced hours at Tweed Regional Aquatic Centres
- closure of the Growers Markets
- reduced support for community events
- basic funding only for cycleways, footpaths and bridges programs
- reduced parks maintenance.

Do you prefer Option 1 or Option 2? Have your say at yoursaytweed.com.au/srv

Before you have your say, check out how much would the SRV cost you? To find out use the General Rate Calculator at tweed.nsw.gov.au/general-rate-calculator

Help shape the vision for Hastings Point headland

What do you love about the Hastings Point headland and how do you imagine it will look in the future?

Council is seeking community feedback to inform a draft management plan to protect and enhance Hastings Point headland.

Hastings Point headland and the adjacent Cudgera Creek are beautiful natural environments loved by the local community and enjoyed by an increasing number of visitors each year.

The headland is a focal point for recreation, as well as being a diverse and sensitive ecosystem with high cultural values for traditional owners.

A management plan for the area will be designed to protect the natural environment and preserve the beauty and vitality of the area for generations to come.

The draft management plan will be informed by community feedback and consultation with local stakeholders including the Hastings Point Progress Association, Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee and Tweed's Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

"We are committed to protecting environmental and cultural values and preserving the natural beauty of the Hastings Point headland," Coastal Management Project Officer Jordan Vickers said.

"The management plan will document Council's intention to safeguard the area's unique ecosystem and ensure its values can continue to be enjoyed by future generations. We value the input of users of the headland and encourage the community to provide their feedback to inform this draft plan.

"We want to know what you love about the Hastings Point headland? What do you imagine Hastings Point headland will look like in the future with effective management? What could be done to improve your experience while visiting?" he said.

The project area includes the Hastings Point headland and carpark, Fig Tree Park, Cudgera Creek Park, the Cudgera Creek (downstream of the Tweed Coast Road Bridge), the rocky foreshore surrounding Hastings Point headland and the land from the carpark at Peninsula Street to the northern side of the creek mouth.

You can provide feedback by completing an online survey. The results will be used to inform the draft plan. An online mapping tool is also available to pinpoint specific areas for feedback.

For more information about the Hastings Point Headland Management Plan project contact Project Officer Jordan Vickers by emailing tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Visit yoursaytweed.com.au/hastingspointheadland to give your feedback. The survey will be open until 14 August 2023.



The scope of the study area for the Hastings Point headland draft management plan.

Current vacancies

Visit tweed.nsw.gov.au/job-vacancies to view current vacancies. Subscribe to receive **Job Vacancy Alerts** via email at tweed.nsw.gov.au/subscribe

WATER WEEK 5



Check when your water meter is read at tweed.nsw.gov.au/meter-reading

Youth sexting sparks community forums

Do you know if your child has a social media account, or what they might be sharing online?

In today's digital age, it is essential to teach children and young people about online safety and how to use online platforms responsibly.

With support from Council, the Tweed Byron Police District is running a free family community forum next Monday 15 May. The forum will help parents and carers understand how to start these conversations early.

Topics covered will include:

- sexting and image-based abuse
- related criminal offences and their consequences
- the personal and social implications of sending explicit images online
- victim support
- how to start the conversation at home.

Presenters will be from a range of local support services including:

- specialist youth officers from the Tweed Byron Police Department
- Tweed Valley Sexual Assault Service
- Tweed Heads Community Mental Health Support and Headspace
- The Family Centre.

Experienced NSW Police sexual assault investigators will also discuss the criminal aspect of child abuse material related offences.

Forum details

Monday 15 May, 6–8 pm. Tweed Civic and Cultural Centre Auditorium, Brett Street, Tweed Heads.

There is no booking for this free event. You can just show up on the evening.



Attend a free community forum at Tweed Heads to learn more about online safety for children and young people.

Development proposal for public comment

The following development application has been received by Tweed Shire Council and may be viewed on Council's DA tracking site located at datracker.tweed.nsw.gov.au for a period of 14 days from Wednesday 10 May to Wednesday 24 May 2023.

The proposal is not designated development and the Tweed Shire Council is the consent authority.

Applicant	Location	Proposal	Application no.
Elkn Pty Ltd	Lot 10 DP 1144883; No. 38–42 Pearl Street, Kingscliff	Use of Tenancy 11 as a medical centre (including the use of associated alterations and additions)	DA23/0185

Any person may, during the period specified above, make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the Development Application. Where a submission is in the form of an objection, then the grounds of objection are required to be specified. Any person may, during the above period, make a written submission to the General Manager of Council. It should also be noted that Council has adopted a policy whereby, on request, any submission including identifying particulars will be made public. Council will give consideration to the 'Public Interest' and requests for confidentiality by submitters in determining access to submission letters. However, the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* – GIPA may result in confidential submissions being released to an applicant.

Please note – requirements regarding Disclosure of Political Gifts and Donations

A disclosure is required to be made in a statement accompanying the relevant development or planning application by a person who makes the application. In addition, a person who makes a written submission either objecting to or supporting a relevant development or planning application must also make a disclosure if the person has made a reportable political donation. Further information regarding Donations and Gift Disclosure are available on Council's website at tweed.nsw.gov.au/development-applications

Development application determinations

Notification of development application determinations for the purposes of Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (as amended).

Application details

Approved

DA23/0108 – In-ground swimming pool
Lot 19 DP 1266201, No. 8 Evergreen View, **Bilambil Heights**

DA23/0163 – Inground swimming pool
Lot 7 DP 1088143, No. 24 Sylvan Street, **Bray Park**

DA22/0748 – Verandah extension
Lot 80 DP 30845, No. 2 Knox Court, **Kingscliff**

DA22/0774 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including inground swimming pool and decks
Lot 231 DP 252131, No. 71 Vulcan Street, **Kingscliff**

DA23/0080 – In-ground swimming pool in the front building line and modifications to front fence
Lot 3 Section 15 DP 758571, No. 5 Terrace Street, **Kingscliff**

DA23/0153 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling
Lot 37 DP 1214044, No. 14 Spoonbill Lane, **Kingscliff**

DA21/0734 – Demolition of structures, construction of one retail unit and shoptop housing (3 units) and basement car parking (5 spaces) accessed from Marine Parade, ground floor parking (2 spaces) accessed from Hungerford Lane and associated landscaping and drainage.
Lot 1 DP 169524, No. 26 Marine Parade, **Kingscliff**

DA21/0190 – Change of use to recreation facility (indoor) (tenancies 3–6)
Lot 2 DP 173499, No. 63 Wollumbin Street, **Murwillumbah**

DA23/0142 – Inground pool and decks
Lot 12 DP 1058015, No. 39 Pigeonberry Road, **Nobbys Creek**

DA22/0740 – Alterations and additions including carport forward of the building line, 1.8m front fence with sliding gate
Lot 226 DP 253826, No. 14 The Anchorage, **Tweed Heads**

DA22/0442 – Pontoon
Lot 147 DP 246854, Lot 117 DP 246488, No. 22 Norman Street, **Tweed Heads**

DA22/0558 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including carport within the front building line and use of pool and deck
Lot 2 DP 245580, No. 24 Lloyd Street, **Tweed Heads South**

DA22/0650 – Three storey dwelling with attached garage
Lot 20 NPP 285743, Unit 20/No. 2 Falcon Way, **Tweed Heads South**

DA21/1007 – Alterations and additions to an existing commercial development including signage
Lot 100 DP 1128372, No. 212 Kennedy Drive, **Tweed Heads West**

DA23/0151 – Inground swimming pool
Lot 6 DP 238224, No. 33 Blue Waters Crescent, **Tweed Heads West**

The above development determinations are available for public inspection free of charge at the Planning and Regulation Division, Murwillumbah Civic Centre, during ordinary office hours or viewed on Council's DA Tracking site located at datracker.tweed.nsw.gov.au

02 6670 2400 or 1300 292 872

[@ tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au)

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