



Total revenue:
\$52.6m



Total operating
expenditure:
\$55.0m



Upgrades to
stormwater
infrastructure:
\$0.25m



Renewal
of roads,
footpaths &
bridges:
\$4.5m



Renewal of
water & sewer
infrastructure:
\$11.5m



Landfill
remediation:
\$0.41m

General Rates 2024/25

General rates are levied on assessable properties under the Local Government Act 1993. In 2024/25 Federation Council has levied general rates totalling \$12.9 million on properties across the Council area. This is an increase of 17% on the total rates levied in the previous year. This is a temporary increase that was approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in June 2023.

The additional rates have primarily been allocated to the 2024/25 capital works program to renew existing assets, particularly sealed and unsealed roads and drainage. The balance is allocated to the development of a stormwater drainage strategy, a tree register and preventative maintenance on community buildings.

Based on the IPART approval of a temporary increase to general rates in 2024/25, the total rates to be collected by Council will reduce in 2025/26 unless IPART approves a further Special Rate Variation (SRV). Council has partnered with the University of Newcastle to progress an application for a permanent SRV from 2025/26 to provide adequate cash to maintain and renew the vast range of community assets that Council is responsible for. This project is being led by Professor Joseph Drew with initial community engagement in July and August 2024.

In addition Council is progressing a range of other strategies to improve its financial sustainability, including:

- Implementing improvements to asset management practices
- Implementing measures to improve productivity and contain costs
- Maximising other revenue streams, such as income from the saleyards, property holdings, caravan parks and aquatic centres
- Engaging with the community on current services provided and reviewing service levels
- Implementing recommendations from the recent University of Newcastle Independent Review.

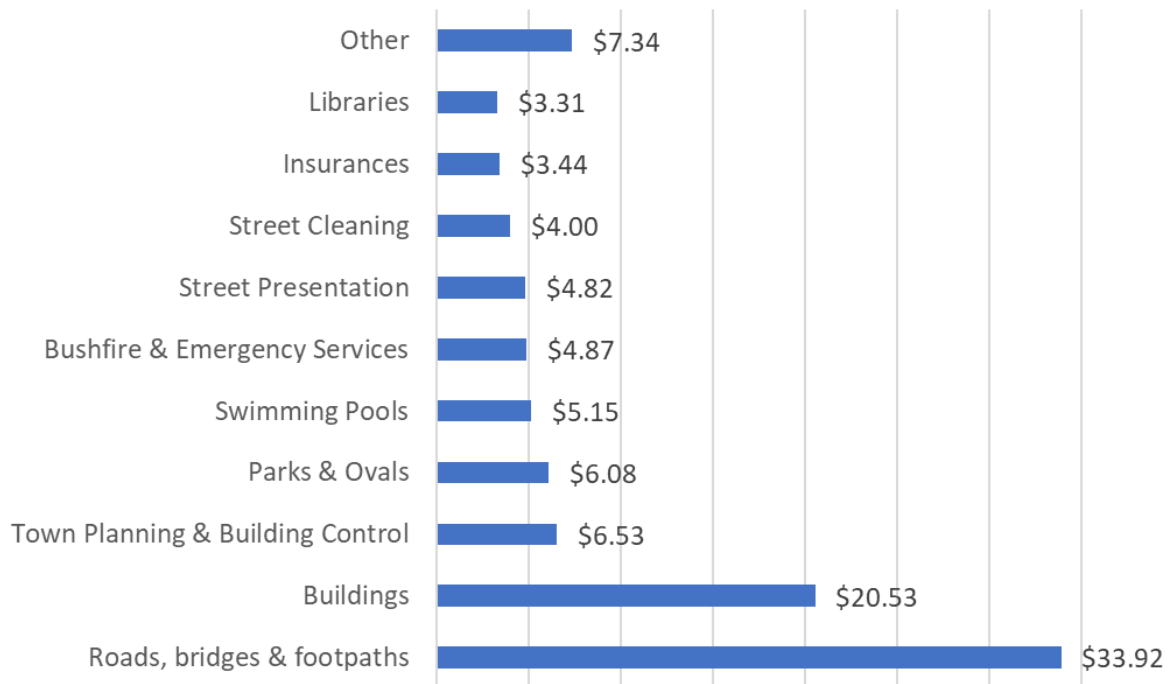
For more information on Council's financial sustainability project, please visit Council's website.

What do your rates fund?

Federation Council utilises rates to fund a range of services - from roads, footpaths and bridges, swimming pools, parks, gardens and recreation areas and libraries.

The graph overleaf displays the contribution that every \$100 of general rates makes to Council services provided to community members.

\$100 of general rates



Further detail on Council services and plans for 2024/25 are contained in the Delivery Program / Operational Plan on Council's website.

Recovery of merchant fee for credit card payments

Over many years Council has been absorbing the bank charges when a ratepayer makes payments by credit card. As a cost containment measure and to reduce the pressure on general rates, Council has determined to recover merchant fees paid when credit card payments are made. Payment systems have been updated and will charge the merchant fee recovery at the time of payment.

Having difficulty making payments?

If you are having difficulty paying your rates, please contact our Rates Department on **(02) 6033 8999** as soon as possible. Our team will be able to talk to you about available support options and payment plans.

Have your say on Council's proposed Debt Management and Hardship Policy

The draft Debt Management and Hardship Policy outlines the approach to be taken when Council seeks to recover outstanding payments. Two new options are proposed to provide a Rates Assistance Program to those in demonstrated hardship and to provide a rates deferral program for eligible aged pensioners. Community feedback is open until 5pm, Wednesday 7 August 2024.

For further information scan the QR code or visit the following website:

<https://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Connect/On-Exhibition/Draft-Debt-Management-Hardship-Policy>

