

# SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

## Planning for the Future

In 2005 in response to the increasing demand for new facilities and services, Council was given Ministerial approval for a Special Rate Variation known as AREAS (Asset Renewal and Established Areas Strategy) for investment in infrastructure renewal, public domain maintenance and programs in the City's older areas.

### What has AREAS meant for the City?



#### ROADS:

Additional 850,000 square metres of road resurfacing has been completed. That's 10% of our road network. Additional work including kerb and gutter repairs was also funded.



#### NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL:

140 community engagement events were held with more than 10,000 people. 12 Neighbourhood Action Plans developed including 369 actions to improve the physical, social and economic environments for those suburbs. Over 70% of these actions have been completed or are underway.



#### BUILDINGS:

Repairs and maintenance to Council's 293 buildings across the LGA to avoid costly overhauls in the longer term and ensure they're meeting community needs.



#### LOOKING AFTER PUBLIC SPACES:

More frequent litter pick ups and clean ups of public spaces such as parks, bus stops, seats, carparks, playgrounds and footpath sweeping as well as targeted graffiti removal. We've seen a reduction in graffiti across the City due to our quick response times.

Council considers the ongoing focus made possible by funding through AREAS as essential – from an economic perspective to avoid the impacts of long term maintenance backlog but also to continue the excellent work in some of those communities that need it most.

Council is also proposing an additional small increase which would enable us to tackle some major infrastructure projects and continue our evolution into a self-sufficient Regional City that has everything we need.

In recent years we've implemented a range of productivity savings and reduced costs across many of Council's operations, shaving \$4.5 million off the bottom line annually which we'll continue, and will grow, each year.

This proposal also forms part of Council's steps to ensure we are in line with the NSW Government's Fit for the Future reforms and will enable us to finance major infrastructure such as decked car parking in the City Centre or actions in the Our River Masterplan, as guided by the community.