

# MEDIA RELEASE

## NAMBUCCA SHIRE COUNCIL **Proposal to change development levies**

Nambucca Shire Council proposes to change the way it collects development levies to make available more funding for high priority community infrastructure and to cut red tape.

The Council's Mayor Rhonda Hoban said a number of regional councils had already simplified how they levy contributions on new development and their apparent success had encouraged Council staff to consider the same approach for this area.

"Since 1985, Council has raised development contributions using nine (9) different plans. Each plan contains a schedule of works and an apportionment of the burden of the cost of new infrastructure between existing and new residents. The Council is obliged to maintain separate reserves for each of these plans and is prevented from spending the collected levies until it can fund the required apportionment from existing rate payers," she said.

"Besides creating a huge amount of work and compliance costs, raising monetary contributions this way across the nine (9) different plans tends to produce a lot of small reserves which can't be spent in a timely manner. This in turn leads to contribution plans having outdated cost estimates and existing ratepayers having to bear an even greater proportion of the infrastructure cost."

"It has hamstrung opportunities to deliver infrastructure and services because there is no flexibility in the plans' catchments and work schedules. Whilst the Council is continually reviewing its capital works program to prioritise the repair or replacement of failing assets and the provision of new assets the work schedules in the contribution plans remain static."

"The Council is proposing to introduce a development contribution on all new development applications of 0.5 per cent of the cost of development worth \$100,001-\$200,000 and 1% of the cost of development in excess of \$200,000. There would be no contribution required for development with a value of less than \$100,000."

"Financial modelling shows this approach will net approximately the same development contribution revenue as the existing nine (9) plans, however it will allow the Council to more readily spend the funds on needed community infrastructure", said Cr Hoban.

The draft Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan 2019 will be on public exhibition until Thursday 18 April 2019. Any person can make a submission in writing to Council about the draft plan during this period and attend a public information evening being held at 6pm on Wednesday 10 April in the Council Chambers, 44 Princess Street, Macksville.

The draft contribution plan can be found on Council's website [www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au) and hard-copies of the draft plan are displayed at the Nambucca Heads Library, Macksville Library and in Council's Macksville administration building.

Written submissions on the plan must be addressed to the General Manager, Nambucca Shire Council, PO Box 177, Macksville, 2447 and be received by 4.30pm on Thursday 18 April 2019. .../ends

For enquiries please contact the Mayor, Rhonda Hoban on 65695556 or 0408 661 412 or General Manager, Michael Coulter on 65680200 or 0409153788.

**Note to the editor:** Some of the regional Councils that levy development contributions in the manner proposed are Armidale, Gunnedah, Tamworth and Mid Coast Council.

**MICHAEL COULTER  
GENERAL MANAGER**