

trator, and is currently discussing strategies to avoid further general fund shortfalls.

**Bypass**—Work on Tenterfield’s Heavy Vehicle Bypass is set to start this November. Council is establishing a Bypass Strategy Committee to ensure community concerns and potential negative impacts of the bypass are addressed to ensure the town and the shire are not disadvantaged.

### FREE ASBESTOS TESTING KITS AVAILABLE

Northern Inland Regional Waste have provided free asbestos testing kits to the public.

These free testing kits are available to collect from the Tenterfield Waste Transfer Station and the Council Administration Office in limited numbers. Interested members of the public can visit these locations or call 02 6736 6000 to access a kit today.

### WATER METER READING

Water meter reads will commence during May & June 2022 for approximately 4 weeks. In order to help Council staff it would be appreciated if property owners could

- Trim back/remove shrubbery or trees that are obstructing water meters
- Contact Council Staff if you have locked gates and organise a time for meter to be read
- Contact Council staff if you have dog/s that need to be restrained
- Winter is approaching so please make sure your meter is covered.

### RATES & CHARGES FOURTH INSTALMENT NOTICE 2021/2022

Council wishes to advise Residents and Business Owners that the Fourth Rates Instalment Notices have been issued on 22 April 2022. These will be due for payment on or before 31 May 2022.

Ratepayers are reminded that interest accrues on all overdue Water & Sewerage Notices and Rates and Charges Notices on a daily basis at a rate of 6.0% per annum.

Please contact Council’s Rates Department on 02 6736 6000 (option 2) if you have not received your Rates account by Friday 6 May 2022 or have problems in paying either Rates or Water accounts by the due date to avoid recovery action and costs.



#### A STITCH IN TIME

Tues, 10 May @ 10.30 am  
Sun, 15 May @ 10.30 am  
Tues, 17 May @ 1.00pm

#### SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2

Tues, 10 May @ 1.00pm

#### FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE

Sun, 15 May @ 1.45 pm  
Mon, 16 May @ 10.30 am  
Tues 17 May @ 10.30 am  
Sat, 21 May @ 7.00 pm

#### THE LOST CITY

Fri, 20 May @ 7.00 pm  
Sun, 22 May @ 1.45 pm



#### THE BUSH, BROADWAY AND BROKEN HEARTS: A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC OF PETER ALLEN AND FRIENDS

Friday, 13th May 2022 @ 7pm – 8pm  
Saturday, 14th May 2022 @ 2pm – 3pm  
Saturday, 14th May 2022 @ 7pm – 8pm

**Tickets:** \$35

**Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/893681?widget=true>

#### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Friday, 27th May @ 7.00 pm

**Tickets:** Adult \$45/ Concession \$35

**Bookings:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/863728?widget=true>



## YOUR LOCAL NEWS

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### Contact us

02 6736 6000

FREE CALL 1300 762 400 (Landline only)

COVID 19 statement

Council has implemented strict protocols to ensure we comply with directions issued by government in relation to managing the COVID 19 risk.

These protocols apply to our staff, our customers and visitors to our premises, and councillors alike.

Please be understanding that we will do our best to maintain services and help in what are unique and challenging circumstances.

[www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)

Photo: Council Administration Building



## COUNCIL MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council for May 2022 will be held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 at the Koreelah Room, Tenterfield Shire Council Chambers, 247 Rouse Street, Tenterfield, or via Zoom pending NSW Health restrictions, commencing at 9.30 am.

Business Papers will be available on Council's website ([www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au)) on Thursday, 19 May 2022 from 5.00 pm.

Community members wishing to speak on any of the Agenda items should contact Council at [council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au) before 5.00 pm on Monday, 23 May 2022 and provide the request to speak in writing, setting out the details of the matter to be raised

The Council meeting will be recorded and will be placed on the website on Thursday, 26 May 2022.

Please contact the Executive Assistant & Media [e.melling@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:e.melling@tenterfield.nsw.gov.au) should you require any further information relating to the Council Meeting.

## MAYORAL MESSAGE

### ADDRESSING RECENT COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

As required by State legislation, Tenterfield Shire Council (TSC) is reviewing its 10-year Strategic Plan, 4-year Delivery Program, 2022/23 Operational Plan and its Long-Term Financial Plan – with drafts available on Council's website. Council has held community consultations in Tenterfield (2), Jennings, Sunnyside, Mingoola, Torrington, Bolivia, Drake, Urbenville, Legume and Liston.

As part of the review of the Long-Term Financial Plan, an application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) rate rise of 81% over two or three years has been proposed to fund current and future Council operations. The proposed rise only refers to the first two lines of your annual rates notice – the Rating category ad-valorem (value) and the Base Amount. It DOES NOT apply to fees and charges on the rates notice.

Water and Sewer Fund income is used solely in those operational areas. The General Fund covers roads, bridges and other transport infrastructure, buildings, wages, and depreciation (depreciation totals more than a third of our budget). The General Fund is financed through rates, annual fees and charges plus government grants. The General Fund budget is around \$24 million, rates income is \$4.8m.

In Tenterfield's case we face significant cost-shifting from State government, higher general costs, depreciation, significant asset replacement and repair and reduced rate base from the big areas of Crown Land in the Shire from which no rates can be derived. As well as increasing rates, user fees and charges, Council is also considering reducing service levels, selling or repurposing assets to reduce ongoing expenses and creating income sources.

Sadly, there's a lot of misunderstanding circulating in the community. The following answers some of these untruths.

### Annual Rate Rises & Share of Rates Categories-

ACTUAL RATE RISES IN LAST 15 YEARS		
YEAR	RATE PEG %	TSC SRV %
2007/08	3.4	
2008/09	3.2	
2009/10	3.5	
2010/11	2.6	
2011/12	2.8	
2012/13	3.6	
2013/14	3.4	
2014/15	2.3	15
2015/16	2.4	10
2016/17	1.8	10
2017/18	1.5	10
2018/19	2.3	
2019/20	2.7	
2020/21	2.6	
2021/22	2.0	
2022/23	0.7	

Farmland	49%
Residential Tenterfield	21.96%
Residential Other (Villages)	22.03%
Business Tenterfield	6.17%
Business Other (Villages)	0.63%
Mining	0.21%

**Water Treatment Plant**—Tenterfield's new water treatment plant currently under construction is FULLY funded by Federal and State grants (\$9.7 million). Council is confident it will be completed under budget despite recent increases in material costs. The new plant was designed in collaboration with State Government departments to meet population needs based on past use. Once completed later this year, Council will seek approval from NSW Health to allow recreational activities on the dam.

**Council Chambers**— There's no gym, sleep-room, barista, or a \$30,000 coffee machine in Council's admin building. There's an \$89 Aldi coffee machine (that staff purchased for their use) and staff bring their own pods. The doors in the foyer are Stringybark (marketed as Tasmanian Oak).

The Administration Building was refurbished to include an Emergency Control centre while redoing the external cladding due to deterioration. During this work dangerous exposed ceiling wires were found, and the ceiling and roof

were found to be precariously supported by half a brick because the outer walls had spread. C-beam bolts had sheared off and parts of the ceiling were only supported by internal windows. Extra C-beams and posts had to be installed.

The refurb was initially funded through a \$200,000 government grant, \$200,000 of council co-funding for the Emergency Centre, \$813,000 from the sale of the Mobil Service Station and \$500,000 brought forward from the maintenance and asset renewal budget. The unforeseen structural repairs have been financed from council funds. The grand total is \$2,078,000.

**Memorial Hall**— Memorial Hall works have all been funded through grants of \$1,700,000, except for roof structural strengthening which will be funded through Council funds. An engineer's report found there was a risk of roof collapse from years of extra sheeting being added to the ceiling which exceeded structural load-bearing. Without reinforcing, the building was unsafe and unusable.

**Staff**— More staff have been needed in recent years for projects and to comply with increasing State Government legislation. Our Chief Executive has found considerable wage savings in the past nine months and will continue to find savings where possible.

**Staff Cars**— Senior staff have a vehicle as part of their employment package. If not, then their wages would be increased. Some staff have a novated lease for a fully-maintained (fuel, servicing, rego etc) vehicle and Council pays an allowance for work-related use of the vehicle. Some staff have a leaseback arrangement whereby they pay Council for private use of the vehicle, while some staff are allowed to take a vehicle for commuter use where it has to be parked at their home and no private use is allowed.

**Saleyards and Visitors Information Centre**— Council is NOT planning to sell the Saleyards and is well aware local producers are recovering from record drought, extended bushfires and storms/floods which will take time to rebuild stock numbers across the region.

Council is investigating rationalising (not closing) our tourism information service and whether relocating the Visitors' Information Centre could provide a 7-day-a-week service instead of the current five. Council is also considering repurposing (not selling) the existing building to increase own source revenue to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

**Administrator**— Some people have called for an Administrator to be appointed because of the proposed rate rise under discussion. Council is not in such a dire situation that requires the appointment of an Adminis-