

## **Special Rate Variation – New Events Levy**

### **Why can't the Hotel and accommodation industry be levied only?**

Council is not able to, in accordance with the Local Government Act, to levy a bed tax upon the Local Government Area. A Bed Tax was explored during research across the Local Government Industry best practices.

### **Why can't the levy be applied across all rate payers as they all benefit?**

The levy could be, but it has been determined that the levy will have the most direct economic benefit to the business community and the special rate is being proposed on this basis.

### **Why are businesses that don't have the overhead costs like air bnb levied?**

Council does not have jurisdiction to monitor who has a registered business operating from home. Council understands the concern and will work with the community to identify those that are not operating with the required permits and regulations to ensure they are compliant. The proposed levy will be applied to all rateable properties with a business category.

### **Why can't Council just fund this already?**

Council is approached nearly every Council meeting to provide financial support/sponsorship for events in the region. Council does not have the funds to continue to provide this support without impacting our existing operations and community service levels with increasing revenue. The levy proposed will provide a strategic approach to assessing events for sponsorship to ensure that the event is providing a good economic return to the community.

### **Can't Council just focus on other things such as rates, rubbish and roads, isn't economic development a state government and private sector thing?**

The Tamworth Regional Council as the local government representative of the region's job is to serve the community, to act as an enabler to support the growth and development of the region. This includes service beyond what has traditionally been the role of Council's. Council does not receive funding or have excessive funds to strategically guide this growth and the proposed levy would do so.

### **Why now, when there is a period of drought?**

The levy is proposed to allow a strategy to be implemented that will attract future external investment into the region, and is an opportunity for drought recovery.

### **Why is the Chamber of Commerce president (hotel proprietor) already appointed on the assessment panel?**

No one has been appointed to the assessment panel, and any appointments to the panel will be conducted through an Expression of Interest process. The panel will consist of one Council representative and members of the community that are from different business sectors or industry that have the expertise to make a thorough assessment.

### **My business won't receive direct benefit from an event, why should I pay the rate?**

Council has developed an economic modelling framework that will help assess each new event in regards to the return on investment, the dollar spend both direct and indirect. The daily spend estimated is calculated by Tourism NSW at the event location. This can drive increased casual jobs, greater spend after the event where there is increased cash flow for locals that may be able to afford something they otherwise were not. Council understands different events will drive different types of direct and indirect benefits.