



MEDIA RELEASE

Rate Capping

4 February 2016

Buloke Shire Councillors met for the first time for 2016 last night for a Councillor Briefing in Birchip ahead of the first Ordinary Meeting of Council for the year on Wednesday, 11 February 2016 in Wycheproof. This was Council's first opportunity to meet since Minister for Local Government, Natalie Hutchins wrote to the State's Mayors and Chief Executive Officers in January advising them that a rate cap would be set at 2.5% and introduced for the 2016-17 financial year. Councils were also advised that should they wish to lodge a variation they had to give provisional notification by 31 January.

Whilst Buloke is one of twenty-one councils state-wide who have given provisional notification, it is not bound to ultimately request an exemption. Whilst rate capping is set at 2.5%, Council had previously discussed a 3.05% rate cap with residents as part of a Community Forum Summit held in October last year.

Council will commence its budget process for the next financial year and will not be able to decide the required rate increase until later on in that budget process.

Any application for a rate variation must be lodged with supporting documentation by 31 March.

End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520