

Developing a Rating Strategy – In the hands of the Community

FINPRO

Thursday 13 June 2013

Presented by:

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Why... No really WHY?

Do we need a
Rating Strategy Reference Group?



And so it begins....

It started around the time of our 2012/13
Budget preparation...



Call to Action

- Council adopted a Terms of Reference for a Rating Strategy Reference Group – July 2012
- Received five nominations – extended nomination period – August 2012
- One further nomination received. Endorsed group of six – November 2012
- Three further nominations received and endorsed – December 2012



Group Objectives

- Identify and recommend principles that Council should consider when striking general rates;
- Provide input regarding the equitable sharing of the rates burden between the various categories of ratepayers;
- Make recommendations as to changes of current charges and their relationship to general rates – municipal charge;
- Identify other special rates, charges or levies it believes the Council should consider.

No go zones



- Amount of total rates and charges revenue to collect;
- Strategies and policies of Council in general;
- Cost effectiveness and efficiency of providing Council Services;
- The merit or otherwise of the range of services and facilities provided by Council;
- The Council's Capital Works Program.



The process

- Group met between December 2012 and March 2013
- Chaired by Mayor, attended by Deputy Mayor and supported by Council Officers
- Natural (and strong) leaders in the group
- Good buy-in by all members and ownership of the 19 recommendations
- Discussion paper released by Council reflecting Reference Group recommendations
- Community Information Sessions were led by the Reference Group Members

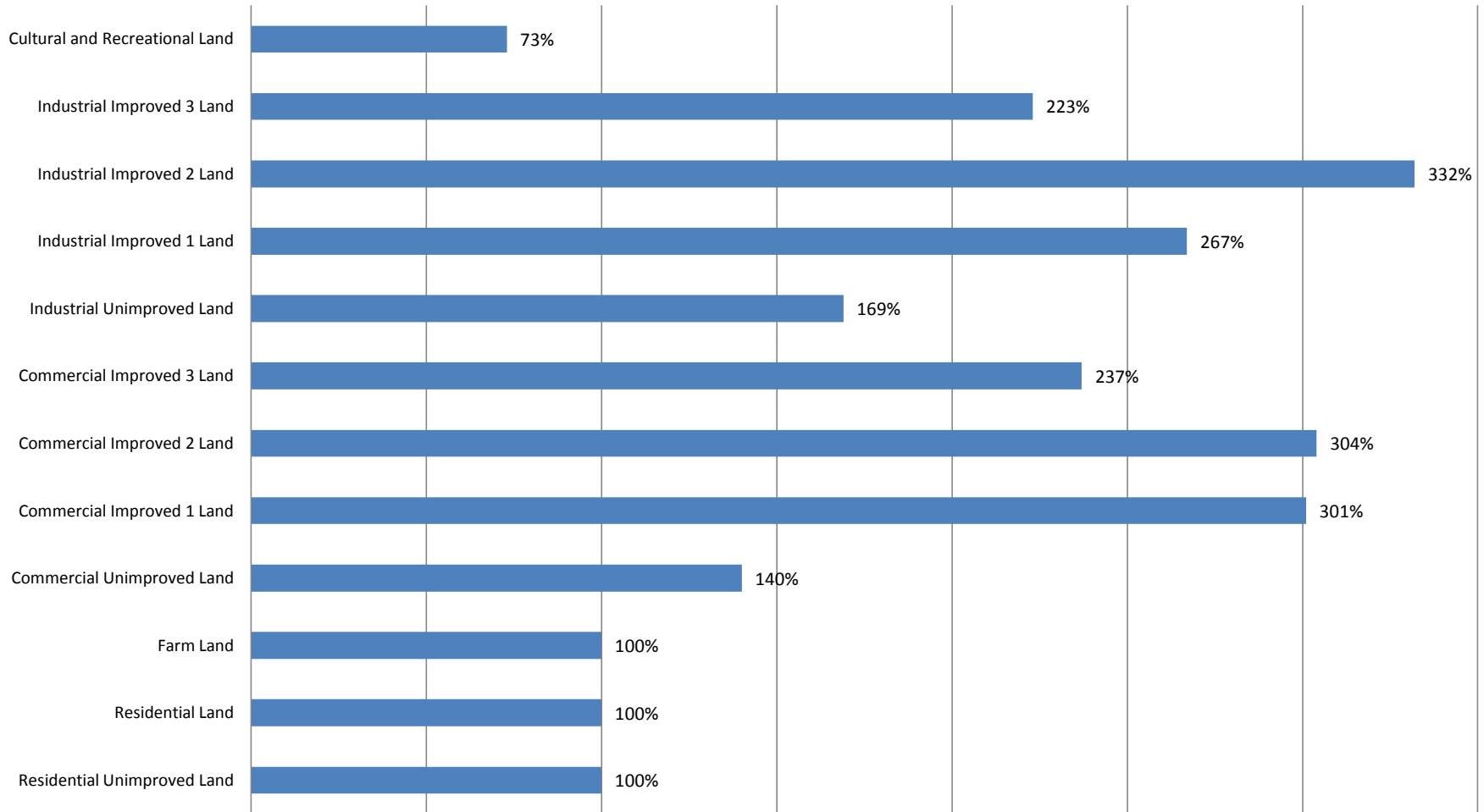
Outcomes

Recommended principles:

- equity principle, considering:
 - * Property wealth tax
 - * User Benefit
 - * Capacity to Pay
- Incentive principle
- Comparative rates principle
- Simplicity principle
- Efficiency principle
- Legislative compliance principle

Current 2012/13

Differential Rate Ratios



Recommendations

19 in total, key ones included:

- No municipal charge
- User Benefits and capacity to pay
- Unimproved be set higher than improved
- Combine existing three differentials for commercial and for industrial into one
- Phased implementation

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL



RATING STRATEGY 2013 – 2017

DISCUSSION PAPER

FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Note: The recommendations of the Reference Group as detailed in this Discussion Paper are not necessarily representative of the views and opinions of the Council.

Tell us what you think community!



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Next step is to release

- * Rating Strategy 2013-2017
- * Draft 2013/14 Budget



Thank you!

Any Questions?