

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No 1862-4
PROP. N [REDACTED]

- 2 OCT 2014

30.9.14

AUTH. No. D. Hunt
ASSIGNED TO.

Dear G. M. Luke,

Congratulations on your new

appointment. Good luck.

Firstly, more than likely you & Millie need to take a serious pay cut. Also other head of departments. I feel serious lack of work ethics are mostly to blame for our cash strapped huge Shire. An honest days work for an honest days pay. No hiding down, out of the way places & waiting for knock off time & in general "Bludging" of the out-door staff. Do we even have a "Noxious Weed" person? --- I don't see any evidence of his activity with the Shire being over-run with Blackberries. Not impressed.

Our Rates have been going ^{up} the 10% since? 1990's as soon as one rate variation ends another starts. Yes our Shire needs alot of improvements ROADS. No other Shire has roads as rough & neglected as ours. If we HAVE TO HAVE A RATE RISE please only Option 2. Yes that is a big short fall I understand.

Why is it I read our local papers & almost without exception Camden has grants for this & that & their area is tiny compared to Wollondilly. Not alot of difference in population. Our Shire needs more Government grants!

Regards [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun, 5 Oct 2014 09:21:05 +1100
To: "Council External Incoming" <council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Wollondilly Corporate Business Plans Feedback Comments

Wollondilly Corporate Business Plans - Feedback

The following enquiry was registered on the Community Voice - Have your Say page at www.wollondilly2033.com.au

Enquiry Details

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Comments I would like to see Option 1, with no rate increase but a review of spending. Ask the community for suggestions to save money. You might be surprised what you find out. In my street this year you erected horse riding signs but in 12 years I have never seen a horse on the road there. (A couple of kms further down yes but the road is wide there and not dangerous). In the same street the road has had major grading of edges recently, but they have destroyed the end of the tar now, this has not improved our road but probably cost a lot to do. Another example is white lines painted on our road, no one has had an accident in 12 years that I have heard of or seen again save the money. I believe that the Council is just like any other business and needs to look at spending, and get rid of projects that do nothing


Email [REDACTED]

Siteflex Reference Number: Council Business Plan Feedback456755

Submitted: 5 October, 2014 9:21 AM

IP Address: [REDACTED]

[View this enquiry in Siteflex Form Results](#)



7 October 2014

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
P. O. Box 21
PICTON, NSW, 2571

Dear Sir,

Wollondilly Shire Rate Variation Proposal


I have had a long time interest as a ratepayer in three properties in the Wollondilly Shire.

I have read your well presented proposal "Addressing Our Future Needs".

I consider that local government has been unfairly discouraged from raising revenue to meet current demands and as a result the condition of the infrastructure in Wollondilly Shire is running down as described in your proposal. In this world we get what we pay for and delaying a rate variation will only make future catch up more painful and we will suffer from a poorer standard of facilities and infrastructure in the meantime.

I support Option 3 as outlined in order to meet future funding needs. I do not consider the proposed increases to be excessive.

Yours faithfully,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 6 Oct 2014 15:48:43 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Srv

I find it disappointing that the only creative ideas the council can come up with as a solution to the short and long term financing of the council is once again 'slug the rate payer', while very generously giving the rate payer a choice of how they will be slugged.

It may be time for the council to think outside the box of self interest and look for a long term solution to these issues.

An amalgamation with other rural councils around us seems a much more cost effective and practical solution than several councils with the same problems constantly raising rates and duplicating services, to try to keep themselves functioning, but the only solution our council seems prepared to consider is higher rates.

I would urge council to put aside their own self interest in keeping their jobs and consider solutions other than constantly raising rates as their only solution.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat, 4 Oct 2014 12:56:04 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fit for the future submission
Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi There,

Thank you for the chance to put forward my views on the special adjustment in the rates.

Firstly, how has this happened? I watch development happen and we the residents are continually disadvantaged. These include, the removal of overtaking lanes to provide access to Wollondilly Anglican School, Bingara gorge and the new flour factory along with poorly designed roundabouts at many other places.

With the growth of traffic these changes and the continual neglect of the shires roads, it is taking longer and longer to get to work or to shopping. These include, turning right into Picton from the M5, where the increasing amount of Wollongong traffic wants to turn right on to the northbound entrance of the freeway. The increasing amount of traffic travelling south from Camden via Woodbridge road to avoid Narellan Rd and the never happening repairs of Remembrance Drive over Razorback.

Secondly, all the time I see poor work done, that quickly deteriorates. I spend hours cleaning off the tar sprayed from your patch truck. In some places the whole road is made up of these repairs, that quickly breakup with trucks after rain. Thirlmere Way, over the hill near the hospital is another example. It took at least three attempts to get this right and it is little better than before it was resurfaced.

[REDACTED] St, where I live, had the edges graded last year. The grader, damaged the edge of the tarmac on this already narrowing road. This has been further compromised by school buses and other heavy vehicles that now move on to the road edge to pass other vehicles. This year, some less than bright person came along with a machine and a mulcher that pushed all the dirt back on to the road verge as well as leaving behind a heap of dead timber that will be dry enough to burn this summer.

Well, I could recall a few more, but hopefully I have made my point. I don't think you always spend money well or in the best interest of residents.

To meet the Governments "Fit for the Future", I suggest;

1. Large parts of the council lands are cut off by the Warragamba Dam and are not going to be economic sustainable. Move these to a more appropriate council.
2. Reduce the services offered.
 - a) Many small parks are not really used, would be better sold off and developed for example, Bell Street, Thirlmere.
 - b) Remove Library services. No different to privatising the pool.
 - c) Replace council cleanup with 2 by annual tip passes.
 - d) Cost recovery for usage of sports grounds and facilities.
3. Focus on roads, residents and the townships that make up this shire.

4. Ensure new housing and industrial developments pay their way and limit the impact on current residents.

In conclusion, with an increase in housing costs, many more people are going to be looking for cheaper housing options in this area. Areas around stations need to be rezoned to a higher density. Sadly the changes needed will negate the reasons most people moved here in the first place. Already I have seen the town of Tahmoor change from a friendly place to just another suburb. With councils current attitude to road repair and upgrades along with the delivery of outdated services, even with an increased levy, this is not going to be enough to provide residents with a sustainable place to live.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 3 Oct 2014 08:21:44 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Having our Say on Future Needs
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png

Please note we am not happy about any of the options – why is the federal government not assisting us more with funding – where is the tax going we currently pay – what does all my registration costs etc go towards – our roads are disgraceful and something should be done but it is very unfair to ask families to keep contributing!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

***** IMPORTANT MESSAGE *****

This e-mail message is intended only for the addressee(s) and contains information which may be confidential.

If you are not the intended recipient please advise the sender by return email, do not use or disclose the contents, and delete the message and any attachments from your system. Unless specifically indicated, this email does not constitute formal advice or commitment by the sender

[REDACTED]

We can be contacted through our web site: [REDACTED]

If you no longer wish to receive commercial electronic messages from us, please reply to this e-mail by typing Unsubscribe in the subject line.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 1 Oct 2014 08:00:11 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Thank you Karen for this email.

I think what Council should seriously start looking at is "In House" and how this could be reduced to assist in the "Short fall" or deficit.

Another contributor towards Councils Deficit are the salaries paid within Council, not so much the average Council worker, but the hierarchy. Mind you, as a self-employed farmer in the Wollondilly Shire raising a family of 3 and working up to 16 hours a day, I would certainly be happy with the average Council worker's pay packet.

Council also needs to look seriously at protecting farmers within Wollondilly Shire when it comes to rates. We may have land but that does not mean we are sustainable and together with the cost of production, pressure from urban encroachment etc, we are slowly sinking.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Karen Chisnall [mailto:Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** SRV
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 4:36 PM
Subject: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Hi,

Addressing Your Future Needs: Special Rate Variation

As you may be aware Wollondilly Shire Council is consulting the community about a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are currently facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years. The most significant contributor towards this deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

We are considering three options and each option has varying consequences for infrastructure and services into the future.

You have been contacted as you are listed on Wollondilly Shire Council's Business Directory. We recognise that the proposed Special Rate Variation could have an effect on you and your business, as well as the Wollondilly residents who utilise your services. We very much value your feedback and would like to encourage you and your clients to attend one of our community engagement opportunities and/or make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

The community consultation runs from the 15th of September 2014 to the 31st October 2014.

There are a number of ways you can make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation including:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We have attached a Special Rate Variation information pack for your information. This includes a Special Rate Variation newsletter and frequently asked questions, as well as a flyer outlining the various community engagement activities we are running in September and October 2014.

You can find out further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation on our webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or by calling (02) 4677 1100.

If you would like hard copies of any of this information to display and/or distribute to your clients please contact Council or reply to this email.

If you have any further questions about the three options we are considering please feel free to contact Council.

The information contained in this email message and any accompanying files is or may be confidential.


If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, reliance, forwarding, printing or copying of this email or any attached files is unauthorised.

This email is subject to copyright. No part of it should be reproduced, adapted or communicated without the written consent of the copyright owner.

If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender immediately by return email, or telephone and delete all copies.

Wollondilly Shire Council does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this email or attached files.

Internet communications are not secure, therefore Wollondilly Shire Council does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.



29th September 2014

RE: "Fit for the Future" document response

Dear Sirs,

I write in response to the Fit for the Future document received recently.

Efficiency

1. In terms of efficiency I would like to know the breakdown of expenses that go to "soft services" and to administration and to direct expenditures
2. You mention "resource sharing with other councils". Would we be better served by amalgamation with adjacent councils?
3. Consider the provision of less sophisticated services and more modest designs for bridges and the like

Rates

1. The disparity in your numbers between Camden and Wollondilly is marked. Why is that? Is it that the rates are double us? If not what are the other revenue streams do they have? Can Wollondilly attract such streams?
2. Are rate incentives used to attract businesses to the shire?
3. As always, it is about allocation. Visible works whilst nice it should be the council's primary responsibility to create "community". More difficult less tangible but essential.

Comments

1. I support Option 3
2. The proviso being an identifiable and measureable improvement in
 - a. administrative costs
 - b. design costs
 - c. legal costs
3. I support the council becoming (increasingly) involved in the provision of community support services that target the disadvantaged and the disaffected.

Yours,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun, 28 Sep 2014 15:45:42 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re your proposed Special Rate Variation pamphlet

Dear Sir/Madam

It was with horror that I read that expensive pamphlet you sent every household. How much did that cost? It would have been better spent on infrastructure.

When I purchased my home here the rates were already high enough. But nearly every year we get hit with enormous rate slugs to a point where our rates are over \$1700 pa. This is already too large a slug for the average household which is struggling to cope financially with the 'money grabs' from all directions . We are all struggling to cope as it is – let alone with your over 43% slug over 4 yrs – under the guise of having to do it to maintain infrastructure.

Councils already get more than enough to not only maintain but should have enough from the \$1700pa plus per household and from other sources of subsidy and revenue to do this. If anything rates should be reduced. Follow the lead of the State and Fed Govts in trimming your own bureaucratic and over administered organisation eg. lower wages for staff esp the mayor and other high level managers, cut the fat from procedures and reduce staff and admin expenses. IF that is unpalatable then you should consider amalgamating with adjoining councils or abolishing local councils altogether. Don't feel insulted by these suggestions . They are factually more sensible and able to achieve better infrastructure outcomes than your 'money grab' from the same old cash cow your poor ratepayers.

Stop this nonsense now or face being voted out next election. Other residents all say the same thing. Give us a break and don't blame the State Govt.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 26 Sep 2014 17:08:23 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fit for the Future

To whom it may concern

I would like to point out that the residents of Warragamba and Silverdale had no notice of the Community meeting at Warragamba Town Hall on 25th Sept as the newsletter was received on this day. For those of us who work we would have been reading the letter as the meeting was taking place.

Our submission about the Special Rate Variation is for Option 2, 8.5% per annum over 4 years.

Regards

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 26 Sep 2014 10:03:23 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>, <cabatten@gmail.com>
Subject: Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council,

I support your Option 3 to improve infrastructure and service quality in the shire,

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 25 Sep 2014 20:51:19 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Wollondilly - Special Rate Variation

To whom it may concern,
please register that we would support an 4 year SRV rate of 10.8% over 4 years.
Should we need to complete a form please forward it to the address below or by return email.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 25 Sep 2014 11:10:45 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation

To whom it may concern,
We are the owners of the [REDACTED]

We received your brochure the other day titled "Addressing OUR / YOUR needs."

Having read it we think that your option 2 scenario is the way to go.

We base this on the fact that the Council is responsible in keeping the Wollondilly Shire at a high level so that it encourages people to come into the area and settle in the area because it is a decent place to live and visit.

Without ample funds this is not possible. Wollondilly Shire Council has a job to do. Sometimes in doing so making themselves unpopular.

We have found the Council hard, strict but fair and at all times try to process our dealings with minimum fuss and with minimum delays.

We support the special rate variation as it is important to keep the Shire prospering and growing.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 25 Sep 2014 10:32:37 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation

Dear Sir,

I am replying to the Special Rate Variation proposal.

With more subdivisions such as the Wilton Junction subdivision and many others happening in the Shire, Council will have available to them rates from all these new subdivisions. It is unrealistic and harsh to expect existing rate payers to have to pay an extra 8.5% to 10% increase on top of the rates we already pay. If this proposed rate increase goes ahead it will cause much hardship to many living in the area. I am not in favour of such a large increase such as the ones proposed and will not support such proposal.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wed, 24 Sep 2014 21:01:25 +1100

To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Special rate variation

To whom it may concern,if a special variation is implemented are the levies that are paid now going to be abolished, or can new ones be added? Also will the job ads keep appearing that seem mostly for indoor staff in papers I read and with good rates of pay?I know that we are big council but many people live here because it is cheaper than close to the city but if council keep putting rate rises in place just to keep assets working why will people want to move here. Rate rises may be required but workplace and business practices need to be addressed as well.Most workers in Australia have to show productivity gains to get a pay rise,I hope the council does not think they should just get one.Please think about these proposals carefully as the community is in your hands. A concern resident [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

"This email and any attachments are confidential and are for the intended addressee[s] only. Unauthorised use of this communication is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and remove them from your system. Confidentiality is not waived or lost by reason of the mistaken delivery to you. Before opening or using any attachments, it is your responsibility to check them for viruses and defects."

Thank You.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 24 Sep 2014 17:05:44 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate variation

Hi

Have received your "Special Rate Variation" correspondence and would comment as follows. I find it hard to believe that a council having operated for as long as Wollondilly has not managed its funds on an annual basis to keep pace with the required infrastructure maintenance.

[REDACTED] We are on a pension that certainly does not increase by 8.5% per annum (Option 2). Consequently if implemented will place a burden on ourselves and any others that cannot increase their income by the margin that council would like to increase rates.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 24 Sep 2014 15:28:52 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: NO Variation!

Hello, As a pensioner trying to make ends meet, I find any increase a burden on the limited funds we are receiving from the government. I must decline options 2 and 3 on that alone. As we have voted on similar increases in the past, not much has changed. I believe that it will be the same again, regardless what the brochure says.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 23 Sep 2014 13:56:50 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rates - Thoughts

To whom it may concern,

I read the article in the local newspaper in regards to the thought of the 3 options for rates. Myself and my husband are not high income earners and we are 25 & 26 years old with a new born. We live in Oakdale with a mortgage on our house and we both work full time. Option one would be best for us as we are paying bills off weekly to keep up to date including paying our rates off weekly via Bpay, we are not living in a highly populated town so the comment in regards to the roads is not so necessary to us, even if work is done in our area it's generally a "cover the pot hole up with the loose tar" than in a couple of weeks it's generally a nice hole again. I hope you can take this into account. Thankyou

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 8 Oct 2014 10:23:58 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Special Rate Variation

I do not agree with any rate increase above rate peg of 3%. With the continuing increase of population into the shire, the council income from rates will surely increase to compensate. Anything above it is double dipping for the council, and will continue at this rate for many years to come.

Being aged pensioners on a 5 acre lot and having no easy access to the parks and playgrounds, any increase in rates has no benefit to my family.

I firmly believe that there is no need to increase the rates above the rate peg of 3% at all.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 8 Oct 2014 12:01:27 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation

Hi,

Thank you for sending us the brochure on Addressing Future Needs. After careful consideration we support Option 2.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Wollondilly Shire Council
PO BOX 21
Picton
NSW 2571

Special Rate Variation submission

Dear Sir,

I refer to the recent request for feedback on council proposed 'Special Rate Variation'.

As long standing rate payers of the Wilton community we are not happy with the suggestion of Council to increase rates by any amount. Residents are confronted every week with increases and or proposed increases in all sorts of fees and charges and enough is enough. We have had a new sewage scheme imposed on the Wilton community and our costs to operate this new system have gone through the roof.

We do not endorse any rates increases.

We notice that in the brochure 'Addressing Our Future Needs' that there are comparisons with other Council's and find it interesting that Camden does not have many more in population numbers but has better revenue but this is not explained as to why.? Perhaps Wollondilly Council is playing a smoke and mirrors game to try and win over rate payers.

In this modern day of numerous structural changes within state government departments and agencies perhaps Council needs to consider this to make efficiencies and to perhaps reconsider joining with other neighbouring LGA's. After all the Rural Fires Service management teams at Mittagong and Picton have been made into one new management unit to make efficiencies and save tax payers money so come on Wollondilly Council look outside the square before imposing more financial burden on rate payers.

Regards
Concerned resident Wilton Community
2nd / Oct / 2014

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP. No.	
- 8 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	K. Chisna U
ASSIGNED TO:	



Jai Rowell MP

Member for Wollondilly



Friday, 3rd October 2014

Wollondilly Shire Council
Luke Johnson, General Manager
PO BOX 121
PICTON NSW 2571

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP. no.	
- 9 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	K. Chisnall

Dear General Manager,

I refer to you the attached correspondence dated 26th September 2014 from [REDACTED] who brings to my attention her concerns regarding the Special Rate Variation, local road maintenance, Rural Status and potential fire hazard on Council Land.

As the person responsible for these matters, I would appreciate any advice or assistance you could provide to [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking these matters into consideration. I look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Jai Rowell MP
Member for Wollondilly
Minister for Mental Health
Assistant Minister for Health

JR: bh/fb

RECEIVED

2^b SEP 2014

Sender: [REDACTED]

To: Rt Hon Jai Rowell (MP) WOLLONDILLY

Shop 1 117 Remembrance Drive TAHMOOR NSW 2573

22nd September 2014

COPY

Dear Sir

Newspaper Articles, Road Maintenance, Re-consider Rural Status, Rate Increase etc

Please find attached: WOLLONDILLY Feb 2005 newspaper articles on the last rate rise was to be **7% ROADS RATE For 5-year hike for 20 YEAR PROGRAMME** to tackle the most complaints about ie Roads. 25 years ago my grandson was a baby when the last road seal was laid at Pheasants Nest Roads. This shoots down in flames Council 's 20 year programme it appears. Our roads out here are desperate. The 20 year programme will be Shire wide said Cr Banasik then Councillor/s came up with a seven years compounded rate rise costing us a lot more, we end up with a single driven truck that drives over pot holes dropping a little dab will do you done so many times in areas making the driving rough going and some bad patches done by a crew, the SHIRE WIDE 20 year programme has ended up a furphy **OUR SHIRES ROADS ARE DESPERATE.**

Number 2 newspaper article 2005 as attached headline, **MAYOR BACKS RATES AS 'COMPROMISE'** thus reduced to 6.7% rate rise recommended for 7 years long instead with added compound interest rates hurting the rate paying Public even further was carried out.

I AM SAYING NO TO A FURTHER RATE RISE UNTIL ALL THE SHIRE 'S ROADS GET A VERY LONG AWAITED ROAD SEAL, 25 YEARS it appears years is far too long, we have been so neglected in comparison to CAMDEN COUNCIL stretching through to Leppington many off roads it appears, handling high density traffic, so with Wollondilly Shire re-considering rural status I say no until ratepayers get much needed infrastructure and can feel the roads are safely maintained re- sealed is now a priority. The money Rate-payers have to pay is actually going somewhere to meet rate-payers needs. It is grossly unfair when we do not have the infrastructure as enjoyed by Camden Ratepayers, Pheasants Nest and other spots are so totally rural living and road neglected a huge expansive area left going nowhere and more than ever is handling much more traffic due to many newcomers into the area. **COUNCILS DO RECEIVE STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ROADS**

[REDACTED] now a home body has spent 8 years repairing Camden Roads and holds Road Management with Red Card Certificates in Road Maintenance and Traffic Management. Daily his Camden Council Truck went to the Asphalt supply depot, re., a Wollondilly Shire Council newspaper mentioned the high cost of Asphalt. Yet recently the Cul de sac apron end of Charles Road has this expensive Asphalt laid and nicely rolled while the rest of this well used road is waiting to be re- sealed. Wollondilly Shire, will Council Please explain why this happened, is it because of who lives in this Charles Road Cul de Sac ??? I do not feel Wollondilly Shire Ratepayers are getting a fair bang for the many bucks forked out per ratepayer for Council rates each year and 25 years now is far too long to wait for a road re-seal **this is not good enough.** For us, we might get a grass verge shave or pot hole repairs occasionally. **PAGE ONE OF TWO**

I am very concerned Council work has left, an area in Charles Road to be a major fire hazard, it lays between [REDACTED] Charles Road and almost opposite number [REDACTED] a mass of chopped back scrub that once encroached over Charles Road dangerously some-time ago. Please visit the site please as soon as possible. I believe a hazard burn is required URGENTLY. [REDACTED] can I take you directly to this site hazard for controlled fire burning on Council property please.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please assist in encouraging Wollondilly Shire Council to address the rate-payers needs as mentioned.

We need proper re-sealed safe roads desperately.

Freeze any rate rise till this has come to pass and further infrastructure in place.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

22nd September 2014

ENC: See [REDACTED]
COUNCIL NEWS ITEMS. ETC

LETTER.- Re PRIVATISATION

The District Reporter

Vol 17 No 36

Ph: (02) 4655 1234 www.tdr.com.au

Friday, September 19, 2014

Special rate rise on the table

To keep up with the infrastructure backlog, Wollondilly residents are being asked to support another special rates variation.

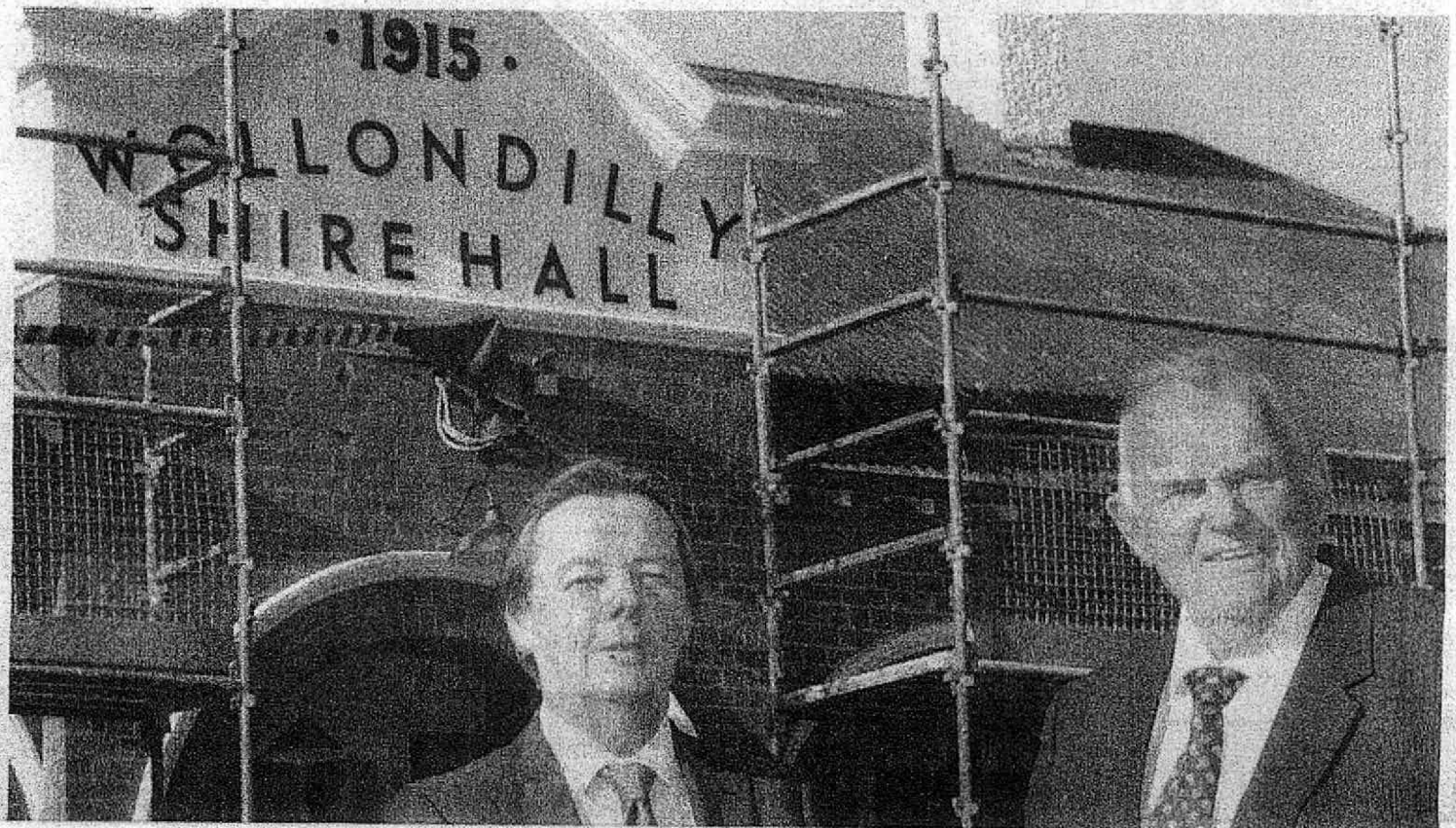
With only weeks into the top job as the shire's general manager, Luke Johnson isn't slowing down to smell the roses, but rather has clear sight of the backlog of works piling up. Mr Johnson is asking for a rate special variation - similar to what his predecessor has done before; he believes it's only way in sustaining what the local government area has.

"There's approximately \$15.8 million worth of infrastructure backlog; how we go about addressing the issue is to have a conversation with the community, which is so important," Mr Johnson said.

There are three options being proposed the first is the do nothing scenario where the annual automatic three per cent rate peg is passed and existing infrastructure such as roads, parks, sportsgrounds, bridges and halls will be left to continue to deteriorate.

Option 2 looks at "stabilising" what is already with 8.5 per cent annual increase over four years (including the rate peg) - this will provide some additional funds as well as new infrastructure.

Option 3 is about "improving" what's in the shire and would include a 10.8 per cent annual increase over four years (plus the rate peg) - this will allow more available funds for





Comment made of [REDACTED]

1 message

Sat, Aug 2, 2014 at 4:49 PM

I have always found [REDACTED] to be very caring at all times when it comes down to assist ratepayers with various requests, situations or difficulties that may or may not need assistance from Wollondilly Shire Council.

This articulate dear lady does so much. Yes I have a lot of time for her.

I appreciate her time in Council when she was elected may have been very difficult.

It appears she is seeking answers with little joy..

Last Friday I was at the Council desk for myself personally, the lady on the desk appeared new, very helpful and kind. It was a relief. However, I asked how much for a confirmation letter re advice given and was told \$250 it appears. I was shattered. The notice on that desk for all to see is a fee for such a letter it appears. E& O E

Pheasants Nest will shortly have a road re-seal it appears, My grandson was a baby now 25years when the last one was done. While I look forward to this reseal I still carry the emotional scars from the last one I lost my car and my occupants badly shaken. the undulating parts of Pheasants Nest road at the bottom meet with bridges where no sealing goes, many loose stones end up there and my car spun on a bridge a full 100 degree circle it went Wack ! striking that bridge and we faced the opposite direction at the finish. I brought it to Council's attention for fear it could happen again or to someone else, they wanted me to speak to someone else about it a Works Manager, unfortunately that person did not come forward at this time. If Council can come up with a helpful solution for myself and others re - this reseal it will be very much appreciated.

Camden Council now is the outright winner spending \$269 per rate payer per year. It is pleasing to see Wollondilly engaging in our roads and the long awaited P T T .coming to fruition. Can Council please find another venue for our young horse riders and Riding for the Disabled please. so they can represent their Schools and eventually the Sydney Royal. Many thanks.

*yes received a call re Road re-Seal Concern
Hope we can keep our Rate Payers Assoc*

Please seal these roads: residents

SHAUN DAVIES

RESIDENTS of a small area at Juxton say emergency service workers cannot access their homes because Wollondilly Council will not take responsibility for their unsealed roads.

The residents of Beverly and Belair roads said they also suffered flat tyres and damage to their cars due to the rough conditions, despite almost all of them owning four-wheel drives.

Garbage trucks do not come down the two roads. The residents either drag their bins several hundred metres to the nearest council road, or take their garbage to the tip.

The "unformed roads" were graded several months ago with emergency council funds after heavy rain, but the residents said their condition was deteriorating.

The council is now considering taking responsibility for the roads, after Councillor Shane Read and acting director technical services Charles Dunlop visited the residents.

One resident, Helen Rutherford, said police who were called to Belair Rd earlier this year were forced to stop their car at the top of the road and walk down.

She said fire officers had told her they would not be able to get trucks to her house, at the very end of Beverly Rd, in the event of a bushfire. Bushfires threatened the area in 2001.

Another resident, Julie Lofts, said she did not bother calling an ambulance when she suffered a near-fatal anaphylactic shock last year. "My husband had to rush me to hospital and there's no way you can get an ambulance in here because they won't come down this road," Mrs Lofts said. "The roads aren't even on the maps."

Wollondilly Mayor Phillip Costa said the roads were never intended to be built. He said fixing the roads would be an expensive exercise. "But we're now in the 21st century and I agree that we should look at those roads and see what can be done," Cr Costa said.

Cr Read, who raised the issue at last week's council meeting, said he wanted to see the roads tarred and the residents granted council services.

ROUGH DEAL

- Poor-quality roads forced police to leave car and walk
- Residents told fire crews can't protect their homes
- Bins must be dragged several hundred metres for garbage service
- Council takes no responsibility for "unformed roads"



KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



BAILEY

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 9 Oct 2014 19:47:49 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council
Rate Department

To Whom it may Concern. - The Mayor.

This email is in Regards to Rate Increase which I strongly object against.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] since 1978 and all I can say is that Rates have gone up and up and up since I have purchased the property and I don't see a lot of progress that has warranted the increase in rates over the past years.

And now you are asking for rate payers to pay more again being 10.8% each year for the next 4 years so we won't get left behind in progress, if you don't mind telling me what has been the progress done in Belimbla Park since 1978 that has warranted the amount that I pay in rates to the Council and I am paying over \$3000 a year for what and in 4 years' time you want me to pay \$4521 per year. So please take your time and explain to me why I have been paying a lot and you want me and the other rate payers to pay even more and more.

I disagree with your options in asking for more money especially since I have been here since 1978 and very little have I seen as progress.

I object to pay any more in rates and if anything at all I would rather pay less than what I am paying and have been paying.

I will await your response as I am a very concerned Rate Payer and have been here for 36 years.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

This email is free from viruses and malware
because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

TO THE MAYOR WOLLONDILLY COUNCIL,

AFTER READING ABOUT THE COUNCIL
APPLYING FOR ANOTHER SPECIAL RATE RISE I DECIDED TO
SIT DOWN AND WORK OUT WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN TO
ME.

THE CURRENT YEARLY RATES THAT APPLY TO ME
ARE \$1,383.93 PER YEAR. ASSUMING THAT COUNCIL IS
GRANTED THE 10.8% PER ANNUM RATE RISE MY RATES WOULD
INCREASE BY 10/100 FIRST YEAR - \$1,533.94
SECOND YEAR - \$1,699.00
THIRD YEAR - \$1,882.49
FOURTH YEAR - \$2,085.80

THIS REPRESENTS A STAGGERING \$701.87 OVER THE
FOUR YEAR PERIOD. HOW CAN YOU JUSTIFY SUCH AN INCREASE
ON FAMILY'S IN THE SHIRE? I IMAGINE THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE
OUT THERE WHOSE RATES WOULD BE HIGHER THAN MINE, WHAT
EFFECT WILL THIS HAVE ON THEM.

I KNOW. WRITING THIS LETTER WILL HAVE
LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON THE COUNCIL, BUT IN A WAY IT
MAKES ME FEEL JUST A LITTLE BETTER.



THE MAYOR'S OFFICE
SULF 09 OCT 14 NL 572

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
62-64 MENANGLE STREET
PICTON

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No.
PROP. No.

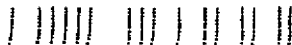
1862-4

10 OCT 2014

AUTH. No.

ASSIGNED TO: K. Chishall / D. Hunt

2 5 7 1



To: Wollondilly Shire Council
11th October 2014



Ref: Special Rate Variation proposal

SUBMISSION

Dear Wollondilly Council,

We have read and discussed your proposal on rate option 1-2 & 3.

Living on the near Northern boarder from 1972 the only improvement was from Bridgewater Section 94 contributions to a short section of road ie. Remembrance Driveway, otherwise an overlooked area. For example Community Meetings at Werragamba, Tahmoor, Appin, Cowdler???

OUR SUBMISSIONS :-

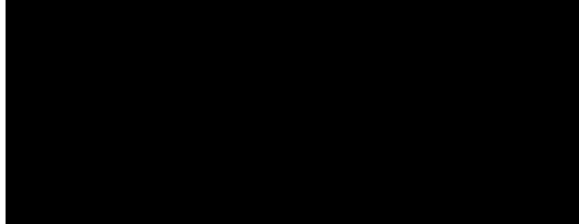
Option 1: YES

Option 2: NO

Option 3: NO

Suggestion 1: Amalgamate with other councils to take advantage of State Government cash on offer.

Yours Faithfully,



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-3
PROPOS.	
15 OCT 2014	
AUTH. NO.	
ASSIGNED TO.	Karen

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM NO. 1862-3
PROJ. NO.
15 OCT 2014
AUTH. NO.
ASSIGNED TO Karen

[REDACTED]
13.10.14.

Re: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON 2571

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am appalled and deeply concerned about the council's move to increase rate charges.

There are many long term, older residents in the Wollondilly area who will be adversely affected by an increase in rates.

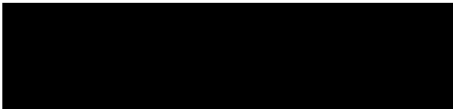
I live on a small property and since my husband died in a car accident nearly 6 years ago I have been struggling to maintain it on my own - this is my home and I do not want to leave it and lose my two beloved horses.

I am nearly 70 years old and what they call a 'self funded retiree'. As the government does not acknowledge those people who have made financial provision for retirement, I do not receive a pension or any other benefits. I have to pay in full for everything, including my council rates. I am just keeping it all together, but any new rate increase such as you are proposing will make it so much more difficult for me.

You talk about the area's significant future population growth. It is certainly evident in the way that beautiful rural land is being turned into ugly, overcrowded housing estates. And this 'new' population is also using existing infrastructure.

Developers are the people you should be targeting for money to make up your shortfall.

Not long term, struggling residents.
[REDACTED]



13 October 2014

Wollondilly Council
Menangle Street
PICTON NSW 2571

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	150
PROP. No.	
16 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	S. Fisher

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I wanted to come down last week to talk about our rates but unfortunately I had a bad cold.

This time I'm not in favour of a rate rise even though I was last time – no doubt you will make the increase regardless. I don't like how Wollondilly Council does things – nothing is ever done properly to my way of thinking. If I read in the paper one more time how we can do something for tourists I will be sick.

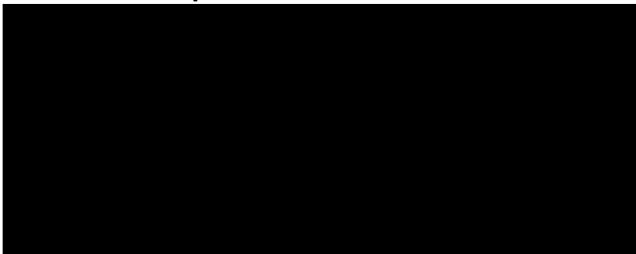
I have lived in the area almost fifteen years and I'm just talking about Picton. The station is always nicely kept, although I don't think the Council has anything do with this. The Botanical Gardens, the cycle track and the Memorial Park near the Bowling Club are also beautifully maintained, however, the rest of the town is dirty and unkempt.

Now you have three decent buildings – the George has been spruced up, the old building that has been painted up next to the laneway to the parking area at the back of the shops in Argyle Street and John McGrath Real Estate – wouldn't it be nice if you could ask some of the other building owners to give their buildings a paint job and give the town some appeal. You have also done a good job with the carpark at The Oaks shops.

Now I know that Camden Council have more residents and therefore more money than Wollondilly, but it has always been planned well, kept beautiful no matter which direction you approach Camden and is always well maintained. I have visited Camden for many, many years and it has always been this way.

I'm sure that Wollondilly councillors have been to many little country towns that are a delight to see because if a Council is proud of its towns then the residents will be too.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 10 Oct 2014 10:11:57 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate Variation document

[REDACTED]

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
Menagle St
PICTON 2571

In Response to Special Rate Variation Document.

Thank you for giving me, as a rate payer of the Wollondilly Shire, the opportunity to comment on this document.

As with all businesses, of which Wollondilly Shire Council is one, it is necessary to come to terms with the financial situation of the business. At the end of the day, the desirable situation for all businesses is to be in profit. It is very obvious that the Wollondilly Shire Council is NOT in profit otherwise there would not be the necessity to take action.

Therefore something must be done. There are only two options available.

1. To have a Special Rate Variation

OR

2. Borrow the money.

Both the above options have short and long term effects in relation to the immediate needs. The second is not a feasible option due to long term financial effects.

As stated in the document, we the ratepayers, have been offered three options.

Option 1 Deteriorate

Option 2 Stabilise

Option 3 Improve

Something has to be done in the short term to deter the collapse and deterioration of the infrastructure but the Wollondilly Shire Council has to look to the long term

In the words of a former NSW Premier Arthur Calwell, "Populate or Perish" it is evident that by the statistics provided in the brochure in regards to population compared with surrounding metropolitan councils, Wollondilly Shire is by far the least populated.

Council may argue that there is a foreseeable population growth over the next 20 years but the need is immediate and if the infrastructure is not repaired and maintained now there will be nothing to encourage the growth of Sydney's population to move to the Wollondilly Shire and make it their home.

If the Wollondilly Shire Council is to maintain and improve the infrastructure of the shire it is imperative to increase the population thus increasing the revenue per capita and this can only be done by making provision for sub-division of larger acreages and therefore create more building sites which will in turn increase the population.

With an area of over 2500 sq kms in the Wollondilly Shire it is not feasible from a financial point of view to support a population of only 45,322. It is all very well for council to envisage a "Rural Living" lifestyle but

when it comes to maintaining roads, bridges, buildings, parks, halls, libraries and the like this is unsustainable. Not only does the population growth of the area need to be addressed but also the economic development of the shire through retail, tourism and industry by supporting these three facets of growth.

The re-introduction of Progress Associations.

Local Progress Associations unite the community to develop pride and passion for one's locality by providing a positive approach to the improvement of the local area. Members work together for the common good to improve facilities such as parks, gardens and halls. They also provide a social aspect for the community to get to know their neighbours and provide input and information to the community on local affairs.

Progress Associations also give the community the opportunity to approach council on issues of concern that have been discussed at length and decisions have been reached unanimously thus providing well researched information to the council. Many Progress Associations raise money to improve facilities in their area and thus assist council financially.

Accountability.

The Wollondilly Shire Council will need to be accountable to the ratepayers of Wollondilly Shire in that the monies collected from Special Rate Variation is used for the intended purpose ie. repairs, maintenance and improvement of infrastructure and not put into the general coffers to be absorbed into the general management of the Wollondilly Shire Council.

A report should be tabulated stating the extra money collected from the Special Rate Variation Scheme and where the money has been utilised. This report should then be distributed to the ratepayers of Wollondilly Shire on a pre-determined regular basis to enable the ratepayers to know exactly where the money has been spent.

Quality of Work Undertaken.

This is an extremely important factor in the spending of finances. Short term fixes are not viable or sustainable ie filling pot holes. A programme of works should be drawn up in order of priority with estimated quotes and time span for completion for the work This work should be undertaken at the highest quality and be looked upon as preventative maintenance and not a "short fix" This programme of work should be advertised or distributed to the ratepayers.

Seeking Expert Advice.

As Local Government is an arm of the State Government has the Wollondilly Shire Council sought input and advice from the New South State Government in order to solve the financial crisis the Wollondilly Shire Council finds itself in?

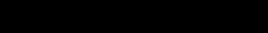
They may in turn have another solution to the crisis other than leaning on the ratepayers to come to the rescue of the Wollondilly Shire Council.

Over the years there have been rumors that the Wollondilly Shire was going to amalgamate with Camden and Campbelltown to form a Macarthur Shire or on the other hand with Wingecarribee to form a Southern Highlands Shire Council. Could these scenarios be an option to solve the financial crisis?

The ratepayers of Wollondilly Shire should be better informed as to how the Wollondilly Shire has taken so long to inform us of the predicament they find themselves in and how this has come about before requesting us to make decisions on how to solve the problem if in fact it is a solution.

At this stage I am not prepared to support any of the options until I receive more information in relation to the queries in this email

Yours Sincerely



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 10 Oct 2014 11:15:46 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate Rise

To Whom It May Concern,

Concerning the rate rise.

We disagree that the rates should go up. The carbon tax has been repealed. There has been an increase in population. We just cant afford to pay anymore money.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 10 Oct 2014 10:41:10 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to SRV

We write regarding the Special Rate Variation currently under consideration by Wollondilly Shire Council.

I strongly object to any further SRV for the following reasons:-

1. The current rates payable to Wollondilly Shire Council are already rather excessive for the services provided. Having resided in other NSW LGA's, the rates payable here for the quality of services provided are considered poor.
2. Whilst it is understood that the land area covered by the Wollondilly LGA is expansive, the burden to maintain such a wide network of roads should not continually rest with the small number of residents. Why did Campbelltown Council receive \$1.4m more in funding than Wollondilly given Wollondilly are required to maintain a far greater network of road infrastructure???
3. As residents of Bingara Gorge, in addition to rates payable to WSC, we are already funding the maintenance of parks, gardens and streetscape through our Community Levies. Community title estates are essentially a requirement of Council to relieve the cost burden of additional maintenance of these open spaces within new estates. If the SRV proceeds, special consideration should be given to exempting those Community Title areas given the circumstances already imposed upon them. The only thing Council currently provide for us is a garbage collection service - they don't maintain our parks, gardens, streetscapes or roads.
4. Perhaps Council can consider other income generation options such as a review and disposal of their excess land holdings. Other Councils in NSW have successfully implemented such a review process of land holdings and generated substantial income from the sale/lease of excess land. As a ratepayer, it would be appreciated if before taking the easy option of placing the burden on the ratepayers by increasing rates, other options are also considered?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun, 12 Oct 2014 15:08:59 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: SRV Proposal

I would like to make the following comments on the proposed SRV:

I was not able to attend the presentation at Warragamba Town Hall as I only received the brochure two days before the meeting. As a result, my submission is based on the information contained in the brochure.

On past performance I would prefer Option 1.

The previous SRV yielded little for the residents of Warragamba/Silverdale and I do not want to pay increased rates for the benefit of other sections of the shire that I do not access.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 13 Oct 2014 18:54:29 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Special Rate Variation Option
Priority: High
Attachments: image001.jpg
To whom it may concern,

Please submit my prefer option for Special Rate Variation Option number one (1).

You may be able to save funds by only sending one new letter out instead of Six ..

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 16 Oct 2014 07:48:14 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: addressing our future

If the council has 45 million dollars why would you need to hit us with more increases. My family and I don't support any decisions to increase our rates. Maybe you should come out of your cozzie office and talk to the people and see how many are struggling now to pay their bills. Any increase would push people out of their homes as we have all just had increases in our gas and electricity bills.

As i see it the council don't seem to maintain the roads very well now. Half the streets in bargo don't have footpaths. The more you increase our rates the more people will leave the area as they wont be able to afford to live here. I see this as another excuses to put up the rates not to help the people of Wollondilly.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun, 19 Oct 2014 11:16:44 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation submission

Hi

My comments are as follows

Fully understanding that infrastructure requires maintaining, however the current rates of \$1364 for our small property at [REDACTED] appear to be already quite high for a small townhouse. Add the fact that annual salary increases in certain industries (especially the manufacturing industry) have been adjusted upwards only once during the past 3 years (by 3%) - with no salary adjustment this year - then it is not possible to see how one could afford such a special rate variation - with many other costs increasing at the same time.

As salaries remain stable, with less disposable income, we are forced to be more careful with our weekly purchases regarding where and what we purchase. More bang for the remaining bucks if you like.

I would like to see councils doing more in the same vein - amalgamation of councils, more streamlined processes, staffing reviews, efficiency improvements and so on. Understanding that maximisation of efficiencies is key to the solution - but no figures have been shown which clearly state savings made year on year. For instance how have operating costs been reduced during the last financial year, and what plans does council have to reduce costs even further? Why is Camden's revenue so high when compared against Wollondilly? Why not amalgamate Camden /Wollondilly - which would still be for a population of just over 100k - and reduce staffing, sell excess council property that has been made redundant by the amalgamation, and so on.

Hopefully the 'Fit for the Future' requirements will address much of this

As such it is my recommendation that there should be no special rate variation until there is more clarity regarding actual savings year on year, and future forecast savings year on year based on implementation of current plans. 'Fit for the future' may well address these concerns ...

regards
[REDACTED]

10th October 2014

Dear Councillor & Council Managers Wollondilly Shire Council

Re: [REDACTED]

Gentlemen,

I am in receipt of a Council request to support increases to rates over the next few years and this has compelled me to again write to Council regarding a situation in Camden Park that has not been addressed by Council.

I am a resident in [REDACTED] and my property is adjacent to a reserve that was used for some years to house a container holding landscaping equipment for use in the estate at the direction of Stockland.

When this container was delivered to the reserve it was deemed necessary to drop road base on the grass at the entrance to the container and up to the roadway, (approximately 10.0 x 3.0 metres) as a means of containing any mud when accessing the equipment during wet weather, this was done by either Council or Stockland and although the container has been moved some time ago the condition of the reserve is still dreadful.

I and other residents in [REDACTED] have had visits from Councils environment personnel on occasions and we have pointed this situation out to them over the past couple of years and nothing has been done by either Council or Stockland to recuperate the reserve to what it should be and was originally.

I am fully aware of the increasing costs of upkeep to Council property and also the cost of servicing needs of ratepayers however this situation was bought about by Council not ensuring that the developer repaired and or maintained this area to what it should be and that is why I am reluctant to support any increases to rates.

I believe that Stockland should be responsible for the removal of this road base and the regeneration of grass to the area in question and I ask that Council request that this be done as a matter of urgency as it is highly probable that an injury or damage will occur due to the rocks being thrown around when mowers are used in the reserve.

Regards

[REDACTED]

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
17 OCT 2014
RECEIVED AT COUNTER
BY: *pm*

Submission Special Rate Variation

Dear Sir/Madam,

When asked, all residents – rate payers and non-rate payers – will agree that the Shire's infrastructure, and in particular the road network, needs to be of a high standard. However, this can hardly be taken as justification for an (almost) perpetual application for a Special Rate Variation.

When this S.R.V. principle was first raised some years ago, the clear impression that was given was that this was of a temporary nature to help overcome a budget shortfall. However, as has become obvious, at the end of the designated period, the compound rate rises have become part of the base rate.

Now, once again, a major shortfall of \$80 million is being projected for the next ten years, and once again only another S.R.V. of no less than 10.8% compound for 4 years is put forward as the solution to all problems. Ironically, thus achieving a massive overall rate increase of around 50% over 4 years, Council then reassures us rate payers that "at the end of the four year period the S.R.V. increase will be built into the rate base". This is bureaucratic double-speak for "the total 50% increase will form the new base rate from then on". Undoubtedly to be followed by another S.R.V. for the remaining 6 years.

Everyone, including rate payers, have to live within their means. Council, as a Government entity however, only considers an increase in their "means" by shifting the burden onto rate payers. There are limits to the financial capacity of rate payers. It would therefore be reasonable for Council to show what sacrifices it is planning to make itself as a contribution and/or what additional contributions have been sought from State or Federal Government to enable Council to deal adequately with what it considers "exceptionally high infrastructure costs, relative to a small rate base".

These S.R.V.'s can not possibly be loaded onto rate payers year after year.



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
TRIM No. 1862-4
PROP. No.
20 OCT 2014
AUTH. No.
ASSIGNED TO: K. Chisnall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 20 Oct 2014 16:46:38 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT I DO NOT AND AM STRONGLY AGAINST WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATE VARIATION TO THE RATE PAYERS for this area, unfortunately I was unable to make it to one of the meetings to express my concerns and chat with your representatives - maybe WSC should have a closer look at the amount of wages that it pays its staff and other monies wasted in the area by the council. thank you, concerned rate payer.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 21 Oct 2014 08:18:04 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: special rate submission.

Hi [REDACTED] and i would like to enter a submission for this special rate rise .I attended the tahmoor meeting on october 16th and i can sympathise with the councils problems. However due to my own circumstances of being a soon to be self funded retiree who is working 4 days a week with no spouse income i am going to find it very difficult to sustain any rise.I also feel that due to living on acreage in 7C catchment I am very restricted on land usage and facilities. as you know we have no town water no sewerage and no phone reception. We do not use any of the village facilities.The value of our land would not be any greater than a suburban block in Sydney suburbia.

I therefore urge you to reconsider these rate hikes for people like us which there seems to be quite a few.

[REDACTED]

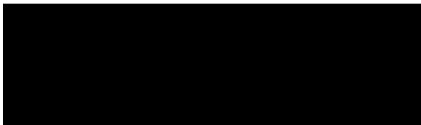
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 21 Oct 2014 18:54:33 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate variation

My family does not support the special rate variation. We would be lucky to be able to pay the 3percent per annum recommended rate. The cost of living has skyrocketed with massive increases in power bills and insurances, not to mention school fees and everyday items etc. However our wages haven't gone up.

I find it unacceptable that the council thinks that by putting the rates up this will show the State government that Wollondilly council is "fit for the future". It is in fact showing a lack of empathy for the people of Wollondilly who pay a small fortune for fuel (due to increased travel to work etc) and most people who live on properties have many costs people in suburban areas don't have.

Why doesn't the council lobby the government for more money to fix our roads etc, how about they return some of that tax money they collect from fuel from our locals.

Start thinking smarter Wollondilly Councillors and stop using rate payers as your cash cows!



Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 22 Oct 2014 17:53:30 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission to Special Rate Variation

To Councillors & Management.

No to 8.5% or 10.8% Special Rate Variation.

- # Learn to Live within your means.
- # Use the increased number of Rate Payers to pay for additional requirements.
- # Watch you are not over employing.
- # Do you really need footpaths and kerbing ?
- # Does every road and driveway need to be tarred ?
- # Land Developers are they paying their fair share ?

Yours Sincerely.

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 22 Oct 2014 13:13:26 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed rates increase!!

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express our concerns re the proposed rates increase that will be above the normal pegged 3% increases that you have outlined in your "Fit for the Future" post out brochure. As you will read below we believe that you will do Wollondilly harm, not good, by your proposal.

- We [REDACTED] reside in the beautiful village of Douglas Park, we have seen no improvements in or around our street for for the past 9 years that we have lived here so we are very much opposed to any increases in our rates especially when we have the fear that we will still see no improvements even after the increases.
- Being pensioners we will find it very difficult to pay the proposed increases in the rates, we are not a bottomless pit for funds, you can't keep reaching into our pockets like this.
- We believe that the population in Wollondilly will steadily increase naturally as people realise what a great area it is to live in thus with new residences & estates being constructed council will be receiving more income in new rates collections which will be a plus as council has minimal outlay for these estates as it makes the developers pay for the infrastructures required with establishing new estates and council will be seeing more funds coming in from new rates collections.
- We already pay for waste collections in our rates so there is no burden on council for the picking up of our bins etc and more revenue will come when new residences are established.
- For the rates that we already pay we see no services or maintenance in our street, probably because our end of the street is zoned as rural for which we are already penalised by the lack of services already, we don't want to have to pay for an increase in rates and still receive no services.
- As we are all being asked to be more frugal in our every day life we believe that council could do the same by the cutting out of any council waste, photo opportunities and mismanagement.
- You may say that council may have to cut back on services without the requested increases in rates but we are paying for the services already through our rates and are not receiving the services now so if an increase is applied we will still see no increase in services, that will really hurt us even more.
- Council definitely needs to engage more external contractors for infrastructure needs because they are much more efficient in their operations, the M7 project is a perfect example of what can be accomplished but also at the same time needs a careful scrutiny of the contractors to ensure that the council is paying the correct price for the tasks that are being performed for the right costing structures.
- By past experience as a contractor in working for government establishments and seeing first hand the waste and rip offs by some contractors, it is imperative that private contractors whilst doing a task much faster and efficiently than council workers need to

be kept in line with their costing structures.

- We have no problem with normal cost increases, they seem to be unavoidable these days but the proposed major price increase that you are proposing will definitely affect our everyday life style and would be a big burden on us just at the time in our lives that we are trying to slow down and enjoy our retirement years with less worries and stress. We are currently engaged in volunteer work and we fear that these continual increases in out goings will affect this situation because of the extra burden on our finances.
- We did not appreciate the scare tactics that you employed in your "fit for the future" brochure in saying that unless we pay a huge increase in our rates above the normal pegged increases everything will deteriorate into oblivion , these are scare tactics that only highlight council inefficiencies in maintaining local infrastructures.
- Your proposed rate increases would meant approximately an extra \$50.00 a month for us that we would have to find from our already decreasing funds, that may not mean a lot to you but it is to us!! especially when we are seeing no return for our rates that we are already paying.
- The proposed rate increases will have a long term effect on property valuations in the Wollondilly shire because you will start to force some people into selling their properties because of the cost of their rates but nobody will be buying the properties in Wollondilly because the rates are to high, you are making a "catch 22" situation.
- Wollondilly is a great place, please don't spoil it.



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, 22 Oct 2014 22:36:35 +1100
To: "Council External Incoming" <council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate Rise

Him it seems tomorrow Appin gas rwi clashing meetings rates and [REDACTED]
I am disgusted there is a rate rise
[REDACTED] I was given six months to also pit on the sewer with no help
from council, now you are lowering the property values by building horrid blocks here buy
raising the fees?
o am really horrified that you can give us nothing for our money and yet expect si much, I thank
you for the aged financial burgen of sewer so you could carve up the town!
[REDACTED]

From: "Grant Rokobauer" <Grant.Rokobauer@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thu, 23 Oct 2014 12:12:00 +1100
To: "Karen Chisnall" <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FW: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Submission received from [REDACTED] member

Grant Rokobauer | Strategic Planning Team Leader

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571
P (02) 4677 1172 | E grant.rokobauer@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | W
www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2014 11:16 AM
To: Grant Rokobauer
Subject: Re: FW: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Dear Grant,

Thank you for your note regarding the proposed Special Rate variation. We consider option 2 is the obvious choice,

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

On Wed, Oct 22, 2014 at 11:06 AM, Grant Rokobauer <Grant.Rokobauer@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Committee Member,

Addressing Your Future Needs: Special Rate Variation

As you may be aware Wollondilly Shire Council is consulting the community about a proposed Special Rate Variation. We are currently facing an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years. The most significant contributor towards this deficit is our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

We are contacting all members of Council's committees and advisory groups regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation as we very much value your feedback and would like to encourage you to attend one of our community engagement opportunities and/or make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation.

We are considering three options and each option has varying consequences for infrastructure and services into the future.

The community engagement runs from the 15th of September 2014 to the 31st October 2014.

There are a number of ways you can make a submission about the proposed Special Rate Variation including:

Mail: PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

Email: srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 4677 1100

Web: www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

We have attached a Special Rate Variation information pack for your information. This includes a Special Rate Variation newsletter and frequently asked questions, as well as a flyer outlining the various community engagement activities we are running in September and October 2014.

You can find out further information about the proposed Special Rate Variation on our webpage www.wollondilly2033.com.au/srv or by calling (02) 4677 1100.

If you have any further questions about the three options we are considering please feel free to contact Council.

The information contained in this email message and any accompanying files is or may be confidential.

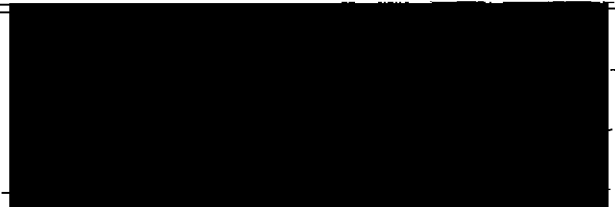
If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, reliance, forwarding, printing or copying of this email or any attached files is unauthorised.

This email is subject to copyright. No part of it should be reproduced, adapted or communicated without the written consent of the copyright owner.

If you have received this email in error, please advise the sender immediately by return email, or telephone and delete all copies.

Wollondilly Shire Council does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this email or attached files.

Internet communications are not secure, therefore Wollondilly Shire Council does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP. No.	
23 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	K. Chisnall

To

The General Manager,
Wollondilly Shire Council,
PICTON

Sir

I wish to make a submission to the Wollondilly Shire Council re the proposal for rating variations in the coming years as it affects residents of Wollondilly Shire.

I believe that the variation should be kept as low as possible even remaining at the 3% increase currently in place.

A lot of Wollondilly residents are not in a sound financial position to come up with the considerable increases which are enmeshed in the other 2 variations of 8.5% and 10.8% P.A. respectively. Council obviously wants extra Revenue to work on. In view of the numerous residential and other developments currently in the pipeline (18 or more) what about raising the developer Contributions up to maybe \$25,000-\$30,000 per block.

Also could the Council tap into the N.S.W government and its Coal Royalties which are collected from local coal mining activities.

In closing I ask you to leave the rate levy as it is as any other increase would severely impact many residents.

Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 24 Oct 2014 14:27:37 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: special rate variation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to say that as a long time resident of Silverdale that we are not happy with the proposed increase in council rates.

The information pamphlet reached our home only the day before the community information meeting was to be held. No forward planning there.

We feel that our area has been somewhat 'hung out to dry' with all the surrounding development and airport approval. How will this affect our area? No consultation or information has been forthcoming and our 'Rural living, room to grow' will soon be gone with planes buzzing overhead, noise and pollution.

Residents have chosen this country lifestyle simply by moving here and we have always put up with substandard services by the council for this privilege. We have never had adequate medical, dental, aged care, mental health care or transport in the area. After many trips around the country, we can assure you that Silverdale rd is by far the worst road we have come across. We have no paths to even walk to the local shops, with big drop offs on the side of the gravel road making it both dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians alike. The recent cement island placed at the top of Ridgehaven rd turning onto Silverdale rd were a disgrace to the planner or engineer that designed them. They jutted out way too far and again caused a danger. This was short lived however due to traffic hitting the concrete and just demolishing it within a fortnight of our rates money being used. Wise move. Our Parks are not up to speed when you compare them to others in the area and no new ones have been build even though new subdivisions have been released. No recreational land has been provided for these areas.

Bringing life into the area again could be up for community consultation as we believe something like an indigenous culture centre or the like may attract more visitors rather than a disgusting RV dumping waste site which we can assure you isn't a pleasant thing to witness whilst at a child's birthday party in the park!!!!

This letter could go into much more depth such as rubbish not being removed for bush fire prevention to the town planner having no idea what subdivisions are coming as she doesn't know the area. Future planning at its best.....

So sick and fed up with seeing and hearing what is going on in neighbouring suburbs.....we all pay rates....for this reason we feel we do not wish to pay more rates and see it misspent and used in other places. We have not seen the benefit of past infrastructure let alone future.

So to sum up our view of the proposed special rate variation. Unless it is going to do wonders for OUR community, we DO NOT WANT IT.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sun, 26 Oct 2014 11:53:03 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed Rate Changes

We would support an 8.5% rate increase.
Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: "Peter Wright" <Peter.Wright@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Mon, 27 Oct 2014 07:56:37 +1100
To: "Karen Chisnall" <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: SRV Submission 2

Hi Karen

On Friday arvo I had another phone call from someone else who wanted to “have their say” verbally. So please treat this record as an official submission:



had a number of questions which I responded to relating to:

- Difference between options 2 and 3
- Clarifying that the rate compounds over 4 years
- Development contributions / role of future growth
- What infrastructure developers have to provide
- How much he would have to pay based on the rates amount he currently pays

expressed an understanding of the fundamental need for Council to have sufficient funds to provide infrastructure and services for the community. He was very appreciative of the answers I gave him and he asked that his conversation be considered as a submission in favour of OPTION 2.

Peter Wright | Manager - Community Services

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571

P (02) 4677 1108 | E peter.wright@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | W www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

From: "Peter Wright" <Peter.Wright@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Fri, 24 Oct 2014 11:54:52 +1100
To: "Karen Chisnall" <Karen.Chisnall@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: SRV Submission

Hi Karen

I had a phone call from someone who wanted to "have their say" verbally. So please treat this record as an official submission:



explained that he was opposed to the SRV. The reasons / key points raised:

- We should budget better and stay within our means. He feels we budget "back-to-front"
- This is the 3rd SRV . Each time you say it will solve the problem and it doesn't and then you ask us again
- Council should stick to the three Rs – roads rates rubbish. Over the years we have broadened out to do too much. We need to cut costs by going back to the basics
- We are too top heavy / too many high paid positions
- Our fleet of Council cars is an issue – too big

was very appreciative of being listened to and having his conversation considered as a submission.

Peter Wright | Manager - Community Services

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571
P (02) 4677 1108 | E peter.wright@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | W www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

From: "Kay Hough" <Kay.Hough@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Mon, 27 Oct 2014 08:15:14 +1100
To: "Records Requests" <records.requests@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Rate Review
Priority: High
Attachments: photo.JPG

Kay Hough | Customer Service Officer

Wollondilly Shire Council | PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571
P (02) 4677 8221 | E kay.hough@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au | W www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 26 October 2014 4:22 PM
To: Kay Hough
Subject: FW: Rate Review
Importance: High

Hi Kay,

Spoke with you some time ago ,hope your still there I have been trying to send an email to the council but it keeps bouncing back the web page says unavailable. Is it possible for you to pass this on.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 26 October 2014 4:12 PM
To: 'srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov'
Subject: FW: Rate Review
Importance: High

To Whom it may concern.

Please find attached a photo of a prime mover without the trailer on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Please note the condition of the road caused by the continuing volume of trucks using this road. Please note that this particular truck driver was very courteous, unlike the many "cowboys" who continuously speed along these roads. You will see that there is no room for another vehicle to pass, it is even worse on the [REDACTED]
There is a least 2 trucking companies now working out of [REDACTED] with vehicles coming and going at all hours of the night and day. Weekends are very scary as children are riding their ponies from one property to the other as there is a couple of pony club activities going for young children.
This is classified as Rural Residential, how is it that truck companies are allowed to operate? There is going to be a serious accident soon, but then it will be too late.