

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 new infrastructure.

Mr Johnson said while the council trims and continues to look for "efficiencies and improvements" it's not enough to generate the \$80 million needed in the next 10 years. If a special rates variation is passed, it will be the third in a decade.

Mr Johnson is aware that there might be some opposition and acknowledged that some people might be doing it tough, but it is envisaged the average increase will be \$40 a year. He said it will leave the shire in good condition for future generations.

The area has 800 kilometres of roads, 17 towns and villages each with their own hall and sportsgrounds as well as numerous bridges - these features are unique to the shire. "What legacy are we providing for Wollondilly? What's going to be here for our children?"

"Let's fix the problems to ensure long-term viability and leave the place in good shape."

It's a sentiment that's shared by the new, but familiar mayor, Cr Col Mitchell who said there have been some improvements since the special rates variation first started. "This is something for us to become more sustainable; bring our roads up to standard was one way the special rates variation has worked previously. This variation is for the bridges, cul-



Asking for a special rates increase: Wollondilly general manager, Luke Johnson and mayor, Cr Col Mitchell pictured in front of Wollondilly Shire Hall - one of the shire's assets that requires essential work. Both men said a special rates variation will help with other deteriorating infrastructure.

verts and roads; not for new infrastructure."

Cr Mitchell said a lot of road work has been done to cope with the increased traffic and heavier vehicles being produced. He said the roads were initially built for a different era. Mr Johnson added that with the population expected to increase, more work needs to

be done.

If any special rate variation is adopted after four years the increase will be included in the annual rate base.

The council will be holding information sessions, community meetings, and drop-in

question and answer sessions until October 31. There's a dedicated website with information on each of the options being considered; the effect these will have on rate payers and the impacts each option will have on community infrastructure and services into the future.

Do nothing is not an option at all - it's only prolonging the inevitable and passing it along. There's a lot of growth planned for the shire and this will also mean more rates and even contributions from developers to build new infrastructure, which as the years pass will become well-used and in need of repair - thus beginning the cycle once again.

The rate variation is one of these matters that will no doubt generate much discussion and some finger pointing about wasting money and keeping a tighter rein on the budget - but at the end of the day the right decision has to be made in respect to the area and future generations.

Rail travel on the way With a new rail line closer to opening in the south west, more transport options should become available. The Edmondson Park and Leppington railway stations are well on the way to being operational in early 2015 and this could mean reduced traffic on the main roads out of Camden and Wollondilly. Let's wait and see what the take-up rate will be and if people are prepared to give up their cars for trains.

With so many more people moving into the area, it is a smart move to open the rail links sooner and congratulations to the Liberal/National government for making such a commitment. Hopefully, the rail link might extend further to the outer areas such as Bringelly and even the South Coast sooner than later.



Lee Abrahams, Editor

In a world first, Kids Helpline recently launched a project to provide safe and secure online group counselling to Australian teenagers using social media.

The pilot project, led by University of Sydney Psychologist Dr Andrew Campbell, responds to the gap in services and growing demand to migrate e-mental health support online.

"One in three teenagers has a social media account and one in five will suffer a mental health problem," Dr Campbell said.

Social media counselling is the new frontier for mental health because it responds to the changing habits of at-risk teens who are digital natives and increasingly using social media to connect.

"Social networks are a preferred option for young people seeking support. In fact research reveals Australian teens are more likely to talk to others via social networks about their problems than they are to get help face-to-face from a trusted

person like a parent or counsellor. Dr Campbell said while the internet posed inherent dangers, safe and secure social media counselling was the way forward to help teenagers with anxiety or depression.

Kids Helpline CEO Tracy Adams said the past five years had seen a huge growth in young people seeking help via online counselling, with it now accounting for 42 per cent of all Kids Helpline counselling sessions.

"This pilot project addresses a growing need for online support," Ms Adams said.

The project will trial the use of the Google+ social networking platform to help young people manage their depression and anxiety. Under project, young people who contact Kids Helpline will be assessed and, if appropriate, directed to secure social networking areas for their age group. Each group will have a maximum of 10 members who are all dealing with similar issues and so can share their experiences and gain support from one another.

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The Monarchist & The Republican



Paul Hillbrick



Noel Lowry



Declaring war on ISIL

No prime minister will ever take lightly the decision to send Australian troops into any military conflict. As prime minister, Sir Robert Menzies in 1939 had to make the announcement that Australia had joined the war in Europe, Prime Minister Tony Abbott has relied upon internal reports the need to commit 600 troops to Iraq to gather intelligence, help facilitate air and ground missions, assist with humanitarian aid and stop the progress of the Islamic terrorist organisation ISIL.

It is concerning that there are people living in Australia that are happy to support a terrorist organisation like ISIL, and with the recent beheadings of a journalist and aid worker by ISIL these people here don't seem to have a problem with such primitive behaviour. Despite ISIL being denounced by a handful of international Islamic leaders, the response to the beheadings has drawn silence from Australian Islamic leaders, which can only suggest that they condone the barbaric practice.

Australia's terror alert was lifted to high because of evidence of potential terrorism threats within our borders of which the Abbott Government proactively requested that phone records be kept by telephone providers for two years, which has led to information that warranted dawn raids on terrorist suspects conducted in Queensland and Sydney this week. Passports have been cancelled for those Australian citizens who've elected to participate in fighting overseas with ISIL, and to prove that the connections to ISIL are very local; a Sydney money transfer business has been suspended from trading, because of millions of dollars of financial discrepancies believed to have been funnelled to ISIL.

Different to the previous war in Iraq, Australia has been requested to take part in stopping terrorist activities in Iraq and

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is so extreme that it would be difficult to define it as an Islamic group in the same way it would be difficult to define the Ku Klux Klan as a Christian movement. The group's genocide practices against the Kurds and its claim to be the leaders of the Islamic faith around the world are so absurd that not even Al-Qaeda could continue to support it. ISIL would be best described as a rogue terrorist organisation with a relatively small support base in the Middle East. It does not have the support of a nation and it does not have a legitimate claim in the eyes of the wider Islamic community, Sunni or Shiite. Its desire to control an Islamic state which includes Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran and areas of Turkey is absurd in the eyes of all Middle East nations.

Equally ridiculous is that in 2003 former Liberal Prime Minister, John Howard, supported the then President George W Bush and with the Brits and Americans formed a Coalition of the Willing and went to war in Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein. That war fostered terrorism in Iraq and nurtured the conception of ISIL. During Saddam's years in power, terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda were unable to get a foothold in Iraq. In what must be regarded as the biggest, dumbest political blunder ever made by an Australian prime minister, the decision to send troops into Iraq was morally bankrupt and will be judged accordingly in history. This decision was far worse than the Harold Holt decision to send troops into Vietnam in the late 1960s and it is the reason why British, American and Australian citizens are now being targeted by ISIL today.

We are facing a new and very dangerous terrorist group with



Brian Stewart

'The saint of holy topsy-turvydom'

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) was a remarkable individual.

Living in the emerging market economy of 13th Century Europe, Francis perceived that this new attitude to money offered pathways to power. Finding himself being drawn into a lifestyle where wealth was regarded as a primary value, he, therefore, taught and practised an alternative pathway - one of humble simplicity.

Both by the standards of his day and, especially, by the standards of ours, the monk's lifestyle offers such a contradiction to materialism that a relatively modern writer, G. K. Chesterton, described Francis as "the Saint of Holy Topsy-turvydom" who "chose weakness instead of strength, vulnerability instead of righteousness, truth instead of practicality, honesty instead of influence".

Defying the social mores of his day, Francis succeeded in living a life of earnest compassion; the needs of others were his highest priority.

Significantly, a recent author (Christine Mallhouri, 'Waging Peace on Islam', Monarch Books) describes Francis's opposition to the savagery of the Crusades, and his challenges to

The General Manager

Wollondilly Shire Council

PO Box 21

Picton NSW 2571

Subject; Special Rate Variation –Options

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1682-4
PROP. No.	
30 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

Dear Sir

As a rate payer, it is with some regret that I must submit my comments concerning the application for a Special Rate Variation, as this approach seems to be used as a general panacea to remedy deficiencies in funding.

The whole idea of rate pegging as I understood it was an attempt by the State Government to prevent Local Councils, going on frolics of their own and becoming involved in various activities, ie campaigns against airports, overseas trade embargoes, green bans etc, which indeed council should not be involved in, many of these under the heading of community involvement. Some of these interests led to huge legal costs borne by ratepayers for no return.

On the 14/2/ 2011, I submitted my comments, recommending against a special rate variation, for various reasons. At that time council submitted 4 scenarios for consideration of which you are no doubt aware. A 6% increase was given over a 3 year period which according to Council fell short, however access was given to the State Governments Local Infra Structure Scheme which ameliorated matters and allowed much needed works. Also a .4% carbon tax rebate was received. It is noted council carried on.

For those of us on fixed pensions, we receive CPI, INCREASES, THE SAME APPLIES FOR AGED PENSIONERS. I know of no employed person who receives an increase of 8.55 OR 10.8% rise per annum. In fact teachers receive something along the lines of 2.8% and NSW Public servants have their salary pegged. I can understand that there is a large back log of Infrastructure works but this has not happened over night.

I have lived in the Wollondilly Shire since 1979, and have enjoyed the rural atmosphere. When we arrived council was involved in basic activities, such as road works, Town planning, parks gardens, library swimming pools septic removal and other council activities. Other community activities were completed by members of the community with minimal council assistance.

Let us look at Councils Botanic Gardens estate, a council initiative, and to my mind a resounding success. Then followed the Jarvisfield Estate starting off at 1 acre blocks and down to smaller blocks, the engineering and road works met the required standard. The new estate followed, but the requirement to develop these smaller blocks, must have cost thousands. I can understand council wanting to fireproof their future maintenance needs, but I believe that the road construction would equate to an interstate highway. Indeed over engineered, young people will pay a lot for this aspect.

Time moves on and the new Local Government came into being .This act does give councils wider powers , but at what cost to the rate payers . I have taken the opportunity to peruse , various publications , councils web site , and of course Addressing Our / your future needs, the previous General Manager Residents update June 2011. Of particular note is the document on the internet which indicates what council provides . Let us now consider this aspect .

1 Child Support Services . Why is council involved n Child Care , surely this is a State Government responsibility, and administered by the Dept of Family and Community Services, NSW Dept of Education and Communities . Unfortunately this has been contracted to the ratepayer to meet the short fall .Unfortunately the State Govt provides the seeding finance ie dollar for dollar , then retreats and council is left with the on cost and maintenance . As time goes by then this becomes a community expectation , and council accepts responsibility, which really is not council responsibility .

In the true spirit of community involvement , child care services and other interested bodies , can organize themselves , under the Incorporation of Association legislation and in true community spirit look after themselves, with a small amount of help ie some Tennis Clubs .

2 Community Development this is a growth Industry ,, but the community must play a role , and not require council staff to help and monitor their activities and provide funds .Why is the council managing a community bus , albeit with volunteers ,, is not this a matter for the Dept of Transport or Rta

3 Youth Development : Again I feel this is the responsibility lies with a State Government Department , duplication must be guarded against or scarce resources leak into other areas .

4 Community Safety : Surely this is in the province of Police , Dept of Transport , Rta Maritime and Health

Emergency services is clearly under the auspices of the SES . This again is a large organization with salaried officers , and should look after their own affairs especially buildings. Why is Wollondilly Shire Council funding upgrades to the SES WHEN THIS IS A STATE BODY .The volunteers do a great job , let the ses look after itself as they come under state control .

Turning to the Rural fire Service , this is now a large bureaucracy in itself , with salaried officers , with a huge headquarters at homebush it is aeons away from the old fashioned volunteer bush fire brigade .Why are ratepayers maintaining the rfs fleet and buildings . The Thirlmere fire station opened with a new \$400:000, fire station with \$50:000, being contributed by council . Every day we see the 4 wheel drives come over the mountain roost at HQ IN Picton and go home again, not to mention the Helicopter, why are we contributing ? The local volunteers to a great job , but are subject to direction from Hq homebush, let them look after themselves .

5 Cultural Affairs ; Indeed there are State departments that look after these affairs , and of course they offer funds , which are clearly not enough . Art exhibitions and events who picks up the shortfall? Who pays

6 Economic Development : I strongly support local business ,and industry , however Maldon Concrete Works 40 to go , Tahmoor Pit more to go . I believe that State and Federal Bodies are responsible for this aspect .

7 Environmental Health and Regulatory compliance : Again some State responsibilities have crept in here ie food regulation , the majority are council issues, but again Councils must not accept State responsibilities without adequate funding .

In summary in my time in the Wollondilly Shire , there has been a marked growth in community expectation ,, whether it has been aided and abetted , by some counsellors , which are not councils responsibilities ,, but which unfortunately as the shine wore off ,are now subsidised by rate payers , notwithstanding they are State Government responsibilities .

Since I have been here and in councils defence , road and infrastructure projects have occurred , but unfortunately good intentions have been eroded by leakage of funds for community expectations , and short term solutions . The Razor back road for at 4 years barricades have been put in place awaiting funds for road maintenance , surely the cost of said barricades must be astronomical . Also the temporary pedestrian bridge in Menangle street following flood, how long will this remain or will we await another special rate variation .

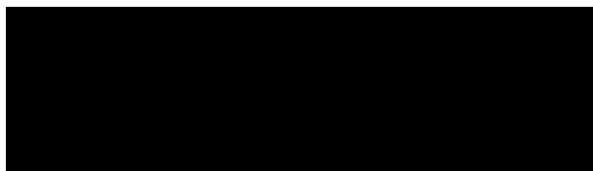
But let us pause here ,Councils organization chart of 2010 showed a General Manager , plus 2 Assistant General Managers . It is indeed pleasing to note this structure has been maintained , however the Assistant Managers, are now Deputy General Managers , I trust with increase in remuneration . Comparing the organization chart of 2010and the new schedule of responsibility of Deputy General Manager s ,, perhaps Infrastructure ad work and Environment , and community services seem to be re allocated .

In my humble opinion ,Infrastructure works could go under economy ,the rest could go back to the manager community services, flatten out the managerial services, let the managers manage , and thiswould lead to the Deputy Managers position dealing with community involvement being abolished, taking into consideration the matters I have raised above . After all only large State Government Departments responsible for State wide matters have a structure with 2 Deputy Gms . Whilst on the subject of staffing there seems to be a continual stream of new positions being advertised in the Bush Telegraph? Have staff numbers increased.

Concerning the back log most large entities make provision for unforeseen works , maintenance allocations , the back log must have come to notice some time ago .

In view of the matters raised , I believe that there should be no increase in rates , the whole matter of community involvement must be looked at to ensure , we are getting value for money .The relationship with other State and federal bodies , government reviewed and if proper funding not obtained overlaps must be curtailed, and council withdraw from these areas.. The role of Deputy General Manager involved with community involvement be abolished , and other aspects of that position be devolved and let the mangers manage .

I hope you take my submission into consideration .



29/10/2014

The General Manager

Wollondilly Shire Council

Dear Sir,

We wish to object to the proposed rate increases in the strongest possible terms.

Your proposed rate increases will have the effect of driving older people out of the Shire, people who have lived and worked in the Shire for all their lives and loved the Rural life style.

Not all older residents are pensioners, and get concessions to rates and council services even though paying taxes all their working lives.

We do agree the roads in the Shire require constant repairs and maintenance but why burden one generation with all the excesses of the Council.

We understand Council has been charged with the responsibility to maintain Burraborang Road Oakdale., What submissions have been made to the State Government for the fair share of road taxes collected from the Coal Carriers for the damage to our arterial roads ?

We have to live within our means and Council should do the same.

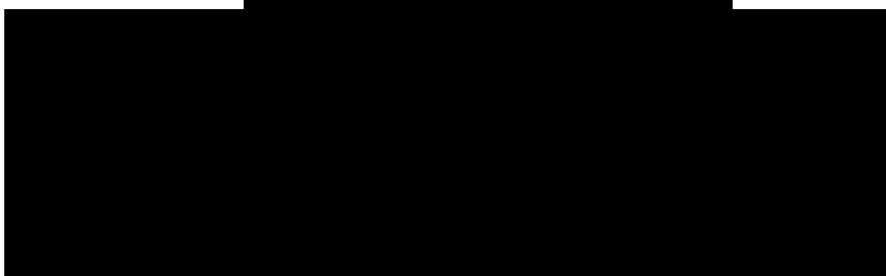
When are Rate Payers going to receive proper balance sheets showing a breakdown of income received and expenditure?

We trust Due and Proper process should be observed before any rash decision to again burden Rate payers with an other increase to their living costs.

A special Rate variation was introduced in 2011, Another proposed now in 2014, When are the Council next going to Propose a further rate variation?

We look forward to your early reply.

Yours Faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 30 Oct 2014 15:59:25 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Wollondilly Shire Council special rate variation submission

Dear Councilors

In response to Wollondilly Shire Council's proposed special rate variation, I would like to give a perspective from a farm business point of view. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for the greater Sydney Region. We employ a number of people directly, with many others employed in "down the line" activities, our family have been sustainable [REDACTED] producers in Wollondilly for over a century. This is an industry that my family and I are extremely proud to be involved in and are planning to be involved in for many years to come, the fact that my son is working full time on the farm and daughter studying [REDACTED] at University, is testament to our dedication. There are many challenges in farming. [REDACTED]

The "value" of land is being pushed ever upwards by speculators looking to subdivide once productive rural land into small "lifestyle" blocks and produce nothing but grass clippings and exhaust fumes, all the while these residents demand new services from government, services which are expensive to deliver due to the scattered nature of these dwellings. To a genuine farmer this is a bizarre set of circumstances.

I accept the fact that Wollondilly Council is operating in a system with many constraints and has very few avenues to change this set of circumstances, to improve the lot of the farmers who remain, however I feel an increase in rates of the scale indicated will be devastating to the majority of local farmers.

While the work of Wollondilly Council is generally appreciated by the wider community

I would ask you, as elected representatives to assist farmers and consider the following points.

- (1) Identify existing genuine farmers (this could be achieved using an opt-in system)
- (2) Most surrounding councils offer rate reductions to genuine farmers. (Wollondilly doesn't)
- (3) Encourage the intensification of land development around existing villages / towns that have supporting infrastructure in place.
- (4) Discourage land speculation / development outside of these areas, particularly productive farmland.
- (5) Apply any necessary special rate variation to identified "lifestyle blocks" that are currently given Farmland rating.(or formally lease this land to genuine farmers and thereby a grant a rate reduction.)
- (6) Encourage all levels of Government to assist genuine farmers (particularly those caught up in similar circumstances)
- (6) Assist genuine farmers with programs of an environmental nature (particularly weed invasion)
- (7) Offer more support to your existing Wollondilly rural liaison committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in this process.

If you would like to discuss this further don't hesitate to contact me.
Yours sincerely



From [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 30 Oct 2014 21:26:13 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate rise

In regards to the special rate rise I personally believe, as do many others I speak to, the senior staff at the council and councillors have not been good stewards of the rate money that you already receive.

As a business owner for the passed 37 years I have managed to keep my business afloat in good times and bad. When business is tough you drastically cut your costs and the quickest way to do that is to get rid of dead wood from your staff, including over payed senior staff. Cut wages of senior staff. Councillors need to hand back some or all of their discretionary funds so this can be used for more important items. Stop pandering to politically correct needs of the community and concentrate on only the most important needs of the community.

Why has so much money been spent fighting the airport at Wilton which if it went ahead would bring much needed extra money and employment into the region?

Why has another set of playing fields been built at Picton, as it already has 2 fields at Hume Oval and Victoria Park?

Why does Council need to pay for a bus to transport students to this new park when that should be looked after by parents or schools as required?

Why was so much money wasted on trying remove a person from squatting in a disused house which the council eventually lost in court? (Council has no compassion).

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 30 Oct 2014 16:47:48 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate rises

Can you please address what actions council are taking to avoid wasteful spending before slugging the poor Aussie battler with increased rates? Everything is always going up but our pay packets don't. I struggle to make ends meet now. Why should we have to pay even more? I think you might find the funds you need by cleaning up a few in house things first.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my Windows Phone

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender:

Age:

Special Rate Variation Submission:

Understand that there are a lot of things that need to be paid for. However, to put rates up by 10.8% is too much. Will impact them significantly.

State/federal government needs to assist with the funds & look at where they are allocating funds.

Not happy with the fact that the rate increase will be pegged at the increased amount after 4 years.

Would be happy to contribute if the rate base went back to the pre-SRV period rating amount.

More open to a 5% increase if the SRV will be retained in the rate base after the SRV period.

Would prefer if an application was made to government for fairer distribution of funding.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 31 Oct 2014 12:51:48 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: special rate variation

I am writing regarding the special rate variation booklet sent to all ratepayers recently.

We have been in the area for over 40 years and seen very little change regarding roads etc but the population has doubled.

Council now have many more rate payers to top up their bank accounts so I SAY NO TO ANY RATE RISE.

[REDACTED]

27th October 2014.

Wollondilly Shire Council,
Picton.
Dear Sirs,

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

Proposed Rates Increase

I am opposed to any increase in rates.

Among other reasons:

1. The Thirlmere Car Parking Area, proposed for the last 30 years, is still not completed.
2. The \$1 million makeover of the business area, which was to take place after the \$1 million makeover of each of Picton and Tahmoor, hasn't happened.

The Thirlmere business community is paying the same rate in the \$ as Picton and Tahmoor, but the makeover which was to be done is conveniently forgotten.

The only answer to Council's financially unsustainable position is to amalgamate with Campbelltown and Camden Councils, (with the exception that Marragomba & Scheradle should be incorporated into Penrith Council). The economy of scale would result in cheaper rates.

If Council facilitated more subdivision, the burden of any increase in the rate in the \$ would be lowered by spreading the burden over a greater number of ratepayers.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
30 OCT 2014	
RECEIVED AT COUNTER	
BY:	<i>KH</i>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 31 Oct 2014 13:44:28 +1100
To: "Council External Incoming" <council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Addressing yOUR Future Needs

From: [REDACTED]
To: frv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Addressing yOUR Future Needs
Date: Fri, 31 Oct 2014 13:42:48 +1100

Special Rates Variation Submission:

As We are a Resident and Property Owner since May 1998

We agree that additional monies is required to maintain and upgrade our Roads

In our opinion some of this funding should come from the revenue which is collected by the State Government via Mobile Speed Cameras used and setup within our Shire. We do not believe that the Rate Payers of our Shire should be the only ones forking out the funds from their own pockets as we are not the only ones using these Roads. Therefore the Revenue should NOT come entirely from the Shires Rate Payers.

We strongly believe as it is stated by The NSW Roads Minister that the Revenue raised from these such Devices is to fund Road Safety. In our opinion Road Safety is the Maintaining and upgrading the current Roads; This does not mean reducing speed limits but Yes Educating is needed, after all Our Roads are Rural. Therefore if the Roads were maintained to a better standard (and correct signage) there would be no need to reduce speed limits which on its own cause another safety issue where persons are longer on the roads than required which could cause fatigue.

Therefore any traffic Infringement revenue acquired by the State Government from within our Shire from our Residence should be feed back for Our Shires Road Safety Program which will be used for maintaining, repairing and upgrading Our Roads.

All this said additional funding should also be granted from the State Government to upgrade and maintain The Main Roads within our Shire, Roads such as Old Hume Highway (Route 12 between Camden, Picton, Tahmoor, Bargo and Yanderra), Silverdale Road, Picton Road, Barkers Lodge Road, Burragorag Road, etc.

Sincerely Yours,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat, 1 Nov 2014 21:02:01 +1100
To: "Council External Incoming" <council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Rate Variation

General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
Dear Sir

We have lived in the Wollondilly Shire for 32 years. We are totally opposed to any more special rate variations. We notice in all the documentation and publicity about this latest rate variation that nowhere does the Council state how much rates have gone up in the past 8 years or so, and how many rate variations have been applied for, and approved against the wishes of the vast majority of Wollondilly residents, in recent years. So Wollondilly rates have gone up by a huge amount, when you calculate the accumulative effect of all of these rises. When will the Council ever stop seeking more extra rate increases?

We notice in the chart provided about Wollondilly and other Councils with regards to income and expenditure, that Penrith and Hawkesbury are on a par with Wollondilly with regards to Income per capita, and that Campbelltown actually receives quite a bit less per capita for their huge infrastructure. And it was not that long ago that Wollondilly rates were quite a bit lower than the rates of those Councils. Also Campbelltown, Penrith and Hawkesbury Councils spend much the same per head as Wollondilly. As far as the road length goes, the other Councils have much more infrastructure to maintain because they have large urban areas to be serviced, so that it not an argument to be used.

Council can seek savings in other areas or reduce some services instead of raising rates. Council can also sell some old buildings which are not needed today and which require a lot of maintenance, such as old halls. The can reduce the number of committees as well. The Council could sell the old Post Office building and put tourism information in the Council building 100 metres up the road, or in the Rail Museum at Thirlmere, for instance. When will Council cease seeking special rate increases if they do not seek to make the hard decisions and reduce costs.

So we strongly oppose this rate variation idea because:

1. There has already been a huge increase in rates in Wollondilly in recent years.
2. Council should be seeking cost savings, even it means cutting some services, or else the Council will continue to apply for these special rate variations every few years as they are doing now. And they are accumulative. Residents here already have extre costs of living because large numbers of them need to commute to work outside of the Shire, there being very few work opportunities in Wollondilly. These continual extra rate increases, which keep on accumulating onto previous increases, impose a huge financial burden on the Shire's residents.

Yours sincerely

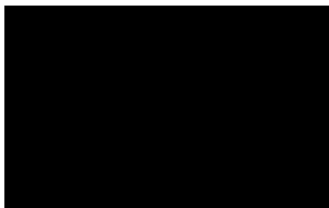
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 31 Oct 2014 21:53:16 +1100
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Special Rate Variation

Wollondilly Shire Council
To Whom It Concerns

I have read your correspondence and procrastinated about my thoughts on your wish list but now I feel with all the price rises that are coming to the public by way of fuel, power, water and just the cost of living does not go down well with the additional Council Rate rise request. Inflation rate is about 3% and not much more on Bank interests, so I can not support your request.

yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, 31 Oct 2014 19:53:28 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate variation

> After reading the article and the options we would support option one only.

My reasons are we are already paying enough for other services and people are struggling trying to cope with those bills.

We feel that if developers wish to build these horrible housing estates where all the houses are the same and jammed together on tiny blocks then the developers should be diverting some of their vast profit into the local coffers, why should us residents pay extra for the destruction of our rural lifestyle by these money grabbing developers.

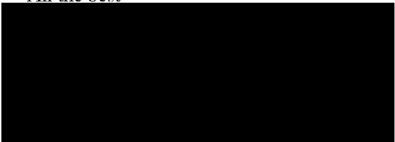
Slowly we are seeing our lifestyle eroded as the urban sprawl creeps ever closer.

If we cannot afford the development without the residents paying extra then it should not be allowed to go ahead.

We also doubt if you got a good return rate on this survey as most people are apathetic and only moan and groan but do nothing about it.

We do appreciate the time and effort that Wollondilly Council have put into this survey.

All the best



Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 4 Nov 2014 10:41:28 +1100
To: "Grant Rokobauer" <Grant.Rokobauer@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>, [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FW: ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Grant

One of the issues for councils is that where you have dispersed settlement the cost of providing services and maintenance of infrastructure is not fully covered by the incremental increase of council funding through rates from the additional created lots.

So strategically councils should take into account the cost / benefit of further dispersed growth that is not near existing well serviced and maintained transport infrastructure / other council supported services.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Land use planning information and guidelines are available at:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/lup>
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/lup/analysis-census-data>

Building thriving, sustainable Agriculture for tomorrow's communities

On 22 October 2014 11:06, 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.

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SUBMISSION DATE	SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION
16/09/2014 10:11	Why don't you merge with Camden Council?
16/09/2014 11:49	Hi There,
16/09/2014 19:56	1
16/09/2014 20:00	1
16/09/2014 20:03	1
22/09/2014 15:45	I believe that if Council is not permitted to incorporate option 3 of the SRV then Wollondilly will suffer as a whole due to lack of vital infrastructure repairs and renewal.
24/09/2014 11:41	I already pay very high rates - some 100% more than the average figure you publish - and I disagree that you can increase my rates by a flat % when there are others that should pay their way. There are clearly many people who pay far less than they ought. I recommend a flat price increase of \$100 pA per ratepayer, in order to get the rates base up towards \$2000 per residence - pensioner or young person. If we all admit that infrastructure needs building - roads especially - then we should all agree to the increase.
24/09/2014 11:46	Option 1.
24/09/2014 14:42	I do not agree with a srv as there are many other options that are coming to fruition in the Wollondilly area, with developments being pushed through with large subdivisions creating more rates being charged, this should surely cover any shortfalls. It would also help if Wollondilly Council used its funds wisely rather than spending ratepayers money fighting battles that are really unnecessary. The income available to Wollondilly Council should certainly be enough to cover their requirements and if they were not so slow in moving developments along rather than continuously holding them back.
24/09/2014 16:14	I strongly feel with the way the costs of our rates are increasing we cannot afford any increase so I strongly recommend Option 1
24/09/2014 17:34	Support of Option 3 please. Is there a public vote as part of the Community Engagement? If so, my wife and I are in support of maximising the effectiveness in a shorter timeframe by nominating Option 3. I do believe however, that the increase in population over the same amount of 4 years will further boost the revenue to Council and would hope that in the next 4 year instalment, a SRV is NOT needed.

24/09/2014 20:43	<p>I am not impressed with the recent proposal to increase our land rates again. I understand that Wollondilly council covers a large area and they need extra funds to deal with improvements needed and I wouldn't have a problem with paying extra even a substantial increase if I could see improvements in my own area. I have lived in Bargo for five years and in that time I have seen very little improvements in the area. I have in the past expressed my concern to council about the atrocious state of our roads all to no avail. Bargo is an area that has large traffic flow due to the on/off ramp to the freeway and many being heavy trucks. The roads impacted are Avon Dam Road and Johnston Rd as many trucks are going to and from Inghams chicken farm. Other areas such as Picton seem to take priority and this is extremely frustrating. I understand that council is planning to beautify the main st of Bargo but how does planting a few trees take precedence over fixing roads that are in much need of repair. Funds need to be managed better and maybe ask the local community what that feel their money should be put towards as we are the ones that live in the area. There also needs to be closer supervision of work crews that jobs have been sub-contracted to as on many occasions there seem to be an over abundance of workers standing around a job site doing nothing. Glad to see my hard earned money isn't going down the drain. One of the reasons my husband and I moved to the area was because this shire promoted itself as being bicyclist friendly however there seems to be a lack of facilities to cater for this recreational activity yet money is thrown towards football facilities. Has the council tried working with national parks or other local organisations to promote and develop cycling opportunities in the shire.</p>
26/09/2014 7:55	I agree with option 3
26/09/2014 8:50	<p>I heartily endorse a rate variation of 10.8%. I think the Council has done a great job with its limited funding but our infrastructure is in need of urgent upgrade and then sustained quality maintenance My neighbours often complain about the condition of our roads well now is the time to get them fixed. 10.8% variation has my unequivocal support..</p>
27/09/2014 10:50	<p>prudent financial management and reduction of waste is the answer and not the proposed rate increases by up to 50% in 4 years! On behalf of all pensioners I am totally opposed to any proposed special rate variation!</p>
29/09/2014 10:37	<p>Your own data suggests we need explore other means to raise revenue. Camden Council has 2.8 times the revenue with only 1.3 times the population. I also find it somewhat offensive that my rates are used to maintain sport fields and tennis courts that I have no intention of using when you seem to go out of your way to inhibit my particular sporting interest - the proposed Mountain Bike park at Mowbray Park Farm!</p>
30/09/2014 17:52	<p>Special rate Variation will impact everyone perosn in the area, Council needs to be aware of the business in the area that will suffer as a result in rising costs. Council should ONLY use local business in all aspects of infrastructure By using out of area trades will only take jobs and opportunities way from local business. Building, drafting, gardens, roads, parks, ecto to name o few should be carried out by local business. Lets get fair Council, to the business that pay local rates!</p>
2/10/2014 12:35	I do not support an application to increase rates - I already pay a large amount.
3/10/2014 13:30	Option 2 Stabilise
3/10/2014 17:43	Option No 1

4/10/2014 16:42	I support Option 3. Although it is more costly, our community needs to provide more services and opportunities to enable growth and to maintain the amenities which make this area so wonderful in the first place.
6/10/2014 15:41	Once again the council is asking rate payers to decide between option chosen by the council, effectively rigging the result to the options the council is prepared to accept, rather than taking action to provide a solution that benefits rate payers rather than reinforcing the council status quo, such as structural change for the long term such as amalgamating with several councils around this shire. The economies of scale as well as the apparent better management practices of other councils would benefit all rate payers. This solution has probably not been put forward as an option because it would mean some council ours would be out of a job, so let's just keep slugging the rate payer.
7/10/2014 17:44	I would like Option 2 Stabilise
8/10/2014 9:49	Before agreeing to any variation I would like to know exactly how, where and how much the council is going to spend our rates. Living in Silverdale we are sick and tired of the lack of funds spent in our area compared with other suburbs. Our roads are atrocious, our parks are in a delapidated state, we have no adequate shopping centre and it is clearly obvious that the council does not care about Silverdale or it's resident rate payers. Please tell us where, how and how much you will spend on Silverdale and we will consider your proposal. Until then there is no way we will pay a poor performing council anymore.
8/10/2014 14:00	none
8/10/2014 14:44	Option 1. We do not currently and will not in the future see any improvement to our area or roads, and havent for many years. As our rates are high due to land size, I do not feel that we should provide a larger portion of support to Council to benefit lower rate payers who will see any benefits.
8/10/2014 14:49	Option 1. We do not currently and will not in the future see any improvement to our area or roads, and havent for many years. As our rates are high due to land size, I do not feel that we should provide a larger portion of support to Council to benefit lower rate payers who will see any benefits. The rise in option 3 for us would potentially be unaffordable and would mean we would have to sell. I would prefer to have a home to live in than provide such a large increase to council in rates. I understand that increases must occur, but I am doubtful we will see or benefit from any of it. I am concerned that the council in this proposal have also not provided any actual planned work for certain areas, which allows non committal and again does not demonstrate to me that in my SIGNIFICANT increase I would have if option 3 were to come into place, would benefit me or my immediate area. Further, the Council's spend of money on building a round about at the junction of avon dam and arena road is a prime example of a terrible spend of money. The round about is so poorly positioned and is more dangerous that the road was an an intersection. I have little faith my extra money will be spent wisely. I vote for option 1.
10/10/2014 13:32	Option 1
10/10/2014 17:35	Option 3
11/10/2014 9:19	I feel that option 3 should be adopted because as more people come into the Shire Council will have to provide additional infrastucture plus additional services . Even though I am on the pension I feel that the option 3 shuold be adapted
13/10/2014 19:53	No special rate variation supported - Option1
17/10/2014 13:13	Option 1

21/10/2014 8:47	Having lived in this shire for 20 years I and most of my local residences are of the same opinion that any extra funding will be spent on more influential townships of Picton and Tahmoore as it is now. The only money I have seen spent in the Warradale area in recent times is the painting of white lines around potholes which have now faded and the potholes are still there. Even in your our "Addressing Our future needs" document only mentions Warradale once in The Previous Special Rate Variation for playground upgrade. A big effort if you are a kid. Our roads have always been the worst in the Shire any patchup road works carried out need re-doing because of the cheap spray and lay solutions. I am not prepared to pay extra rates to council for them to continually spend on areas other than the Warradale Area. Option 1 is my preference until Council shows that they treat all townships equally.
21/10/2014 19:00	I do not support the special rate variation. The is a reason why it is at 3 percent and that is because people will struggle to pay any more than this as the cost of living is increasing. I find it disappointing that this is what our council has decided to do to show it is "fit for the future"
24/10/2014 15:00	option 3
26/10/2014 19:18	No rate rise. Council spending far too much on unnecessary legal fees. This should be immediately stopped and the funds saved used for improvements. Council using ratepayer funds to fight ratepayers is totally unacceptable.
28/10/2014 9:36	Option 2
28/10/2014 10:22	There should be an Option 4 which states that Council will hire an independent Consultant, working on behalf of ratepayers, who will review Council operations and budgets to determine if Wollondilly Council could improve efficiency, review staffing levels and reduce overall costs. If the consultant returns a report stating that we have an efficient council that is underfunded then I will support a rate increase and there will be less discontent among rate-payers.
28/10/2014 15:02	I would vote for option 1
29/10/2014 11:04	I support option 2.
29/10/2014 11:50	I strongly oppose any special rate variation and am personally not prepared to pay any more than the standard yearly increase as there have been special rate rises in the past and I don't feel that the community has anything to show for it. Our roads are a disgrace, council has wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on stupid things that were completely unnecessary. And wasting money on legal fees to try and shut the community out from having a say on where their rate money is spent. Maybe council need to have a serious look at cost cutting/budgeting to make better use of ratepayers money. Was there great demand for a new sportsground in Picton ??? No there wasn't. And how much of ratepayers money was spent opposing the Wilton Airport ??? I know that as a ratepayer that I was in full support of the airport which would have created a mass of jobs for local people, so my money was wasted on something that I didn't feel the same as council about. More consultation and transparency is needed from this council with it's ratepayers. We have the right to have a say on where our money is spent. And there is too much being spent unnecessarily to benefit some of the councillors and the big wigs within council.
29/10/2014 11:53	Until I see better utilisation of ratepayers money then I strongly oppose any rate rises in the future.
29/10/2014 15:30	option 1
30/10/2014 9:30	Request it to be pegged at 3%
30/10/2014 9:31	Request it to be pegged at 3%

30/10/2014 9:36	Request it to be pegged at 3%
30/10/2014 12:59	As a single parent there is just no more money to be given away even with the discount I get .. I already pay for 2 greens bins because I mow the council strip on a corner block ..Maybe council should.mow it ..An extra \$500 or more for what. Our roads are all crap after walkers dug them all up ..Never Fixed.. Our footpaths are a horror especially with a pram ,,You dont spend money in Appin now why the hell would I want to pay more . Oh and the park looks like a caravan park where that new pump out is for their waste ..what am I paying for that too ..A free caravan pk ..Take a look Council at Appin and think about what is happening here A RATE RISE NO WAY ...Your letting Walkers destroy our Rural area.But you want us to pay more .. Appin is getting 18000 new homes over 20 yrs that should cover your costs for the whole of Wollondilly
30/10/2014 12:59	8.5
30/10/2014 15:37	option 2
30/10/2014 16:33	Option 1 3%
30/10/2014 16:44	A - no rate rise
30/10/2014 17:02	Option 2 or 3
30/10/2014 17:03	Option 2 or 3
30/10/2014 18:35	what has council done for Appin to ask for such an increase? i believe option 1 is to peg it at 3%. I'd like to see some money spent on improving my town for this rate rise.
30/10/2014 20:17	No extra increase
30/10/2014 22:18	Nice photo of Picton wish Appin had as much money spent on it. The forgotten Village.
31/10/2014 6:31	As a young family, I do not like any rate increases however, I am also aware of the infrastructure needs of the community.
31/10/2014 6:44	As a young family, I do not like any rate increased however, am aware of the infrastructure needs of the community. What is council doing to help this deficit? Has council considered merging with Wingecarribee? Has councillors considered a reduction in salaries? Can council show the scaling back of wages and associated back of house costs in order to attempt to cover some if the deficit. What has been done to rectify the problems that had obviously put council in this position of needing to introduce a special rate rise? Clearly, budgets have not been met over the years and poor accounting measures have been adopted. With the rate variation will other necessary licences be increased too, ie biocycle treatments on property etc? I understand how important it is for children to have a future in the area and for that to happen, infrastructure is necessary. I would only go as far as option 2 in the rate variation, provided my valid questions be answered.
31/10/2014 7:17	I agree that we need to move forward and the only way to do that is to accept either option 2 or preferably option 3. ie As many residents can appreciate our roads are appalling and becoming worse much quicker than the council has the money to fix them. The council needs more money to fix roads and other important issues within the shire.
31/10/2014 15:32	Currently paying 4 rates to the Wollondilly Shire Council could get quite expensive ?

31/10/2014 21:17	We don't even have gutters, sewerage, streets/roads are not maintained, our driveway is used as a turning circle for your bin collection due to poor street design (request to council to fix problem has been ignored) gutters flood, bio-cycle waste water sits in culvert & becomes stagnant due to no storm water run off, this then runs into the cataract catchment. When the river floods we are cut off from main town services. Eg school, post office, public transport. No shopping mall, no hospitals.
2/11/2014 7:08	I don't mind paying more so that the council can provide better services but two things really irritate me:
2/11/2014 7:17	I don't mind paying more so that the council can provide better services but two things really irritate me: 1. You seem to need these rate variations because the council has failed to set aside sufficient funds in the past to manage lifecycle maintenance of infrastructure. Where is the apology for this negligence that I am now asked to help pay for? And where is the plan for making sure there is a proper maintenance plan from now going forward? Where is the information about how council is going to manage this better in the future. 2. I think the first priority for council should be spending the extra funds raised in a way that benefits the whole community. So far the extra funds raised seem to be for paying for new sports fields and library extensions. Great for the people who play sport or happen to be able to visit the library when it is open during the week. I would like to see money spent on establishing online services so that people who have jobs outside the shire can do business with the council without taking a day off work. Council facilities including the library should also be open on the weekends so the whole community can benefit from them. I have seen nothing in your promotions for the rates variation that talks about a commitment to services for everyone not just people who happen to be around during weekdays. I suspect most of your rates payers are like me and do work and get no services from you except garbage collection. I would like to see evidence of you addressing these issues, not just providing ever more for one portion of the community - the only portion of the community that ever consulted about anything.
3/11/2014 9:53	do not have a rate variation, it is expensive enough now
3/11/2014 19:37	I request Option 1. No special rate variation
3/11/2014 19:38	I request Option 1. No special rate variation
3/11/2014 19:40	I request Option 1. No special rate variation

<i>SRV Submission number</i>	SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION via COUNCIL BUSINESS PLANS FEEDBACK FORM
1	<p>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</p>
2	Option 2 or 3 For me Rate variation Hoping that Appin gets some of the benefits.

Addressing **Your** OUR future needs

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

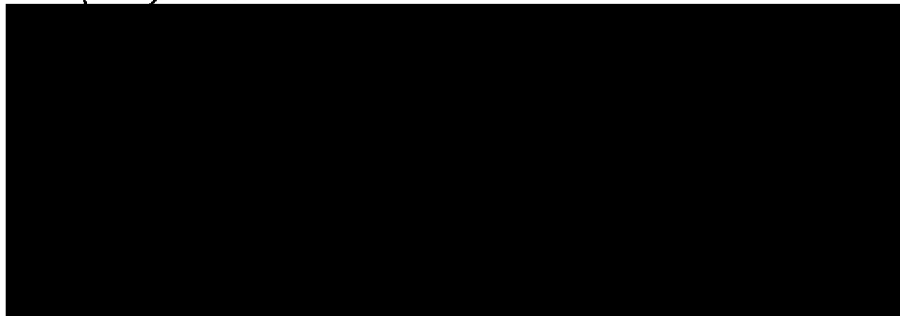
Title:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:



Postcode:

.....

Gender:

Male/Female

Age:

Ageless.....

Special Rate Variation Submission:

Option 3. Any other option is a waste. time
No such thing as a free lunch

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP No.	
- 5 NOV 2014	
AUTH. No.	Karen
ASSIGNED TO:	

JM ASSOCIATED INVESTMENTS (DULWICH HILL) PTY LTD

SUITE 1B 9 LYN PARADE, LIVERPOOL NSW 2170
TELEPHONE (02) 9826 7000 FACSIMILE (02) 9826 7111
ACN 000 699 212
ABN 11 000 699 212

29 October 2014
Ref: JM140215

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON NSW 2571

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM N.O.	
PROP. N.	1862-4
1 n NOV 2014	
AUTH. N.O.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ADDRESSING YOUR/OUR FUTURE NEEDS

PPTY: [REDACTED]

We refer to your newsletter and would like to contribute our feedback in regards to this matter.

We would support an increase of up to 5%. Increases above that rate would impact severely on rate payers especially those with limited resources.

Council should prioritise the projects taken on, some are necessary for the better of the community and shire but others are aesthetic in nature and can be implemented when council's finances permit.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

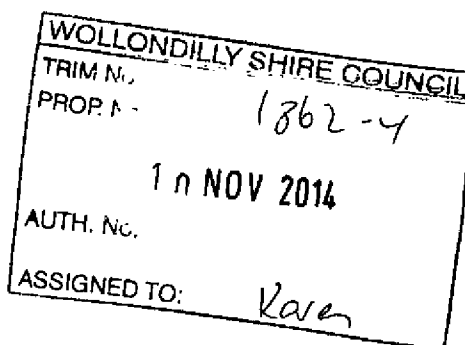
Rosalie Lena
PROPERTY MANAGER

GM AMALGAMATED INVESTMENTS (DULWICH HILL) PTY LTD

SUITE 1B/9 LYN PARADE, LIVERPOOL NSW 2170
TELEPHONE (02) 9826 7000 FACSIMILE (02) 9826 7111
ACN 000 699 221
ABN 13 000 699 221

29 October 2014
Ref: JM140217

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON NSW 2571



Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ADDRESSING YOUR/OUR FUTURE NEEDS
PPTY: [REDACTED]

We refer to your newsletter and would like to contribute our feedback in regards to this matter.

We would support an increase of up to 5%. Increases above that rate would impact severely on rate payers especially those with limited resources.

Council should prioritise the projects taken on, some are necessary for the better of the community and shire but others are aesthetic in nature and can be implemented when council's finances permit.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Rosalie Lena
PROPERTY MANAGER

29 October 2014

Ref: JM140221

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON NSW 2571

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM N.:	1862-4
PROP. I:	
10 NOV 2014	
AUTH. NO.:	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ADDRESSING YOUR/OUR FUTURE NEEDS

PPTY: [REDACTED]

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Council should prioritise the projects taken on, some are necessary for the better of the community and shire but others are aesthetic in nature and can be implemented when council's finances permit.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rosalie Lena
PROPERTY MANAGER

Southern Highlands Pastoral Pty Ltd

Suite 1B / 9 Lyn Pde
LIVERPOOL NSW 2170
A.B.N. 85 241 714 742
Telephone (02) 9826 7000
Facsimile (02) 9826 7111

29 October 2014
Ref: JM140222

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	
PROP. No.	1862-4
10 NOV 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON NSW 2571

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ADDRESSING YOUR/OUR FUTURE NEEDS

PPTY: [REDACTED]

We refer to your newsletter and would like to contribute our feedback in regards to this matter.

We would support an increase of up to 5%. Increases above that rate would impact severely on rate payers especially those with limited resources.

Council should prioritise the projects taken on, some are necessary for the better of the community and shire but others are aesthetic in nature and can be implemented when council's finances permit.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rosalie Lena
PROPERTY MANAGER

DEMALLE CORPORATION PTY LTD

SUITE 1B, 9 LYN PARADE LIVERPOOL NSW 2170
PHONE (02) 9826 7000 FAX (02) 9826 7111
ACN 002 628 453
ABN 59 002 628 453

29 October 2014
Ref: JM140219

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRUCK NO.	1862-4
DATE	10 NOV 2014
AUTH NO.	
ASSIGNED TO.	Karen

The General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON NSW 2571

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ADDRESSING YOUR/OUR FUTURE NEEDS

PPTY: [REDACTED]

We refer to your newsletter and would like to contribute our feedback in regards to this matter.

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Council should prioritise the projects taken on, some are necessary for the better of the community and shire but others are aesthetic in nature and can be implemented when council's finances permit.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rosalie Lena
PROPERTY MANAGER

<i>SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION NUMBER</i>	SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION
1	Maybe council should consider amalgamating with Camden council so we would have more rate payers per land capita than we do now, As opposed to amalgamating with Wingecarribee because they're in the same boat as we are, big land area and less rate payers. I also think our money should be better managed and not wasted as much as it is.
2	Option 1

Wollondilly Shire Council.
Special Rate Variation.
To Whom it May Concern;

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
PRIME NO	1862-4
PROJ NO	
15 DEC 2014	
AUTH	
ASSIGNED TO	Karen.

Wollondilly Shire Council is again about to fleece land owners with another of their so called Special Rate Variation rises & I am shocked to read in the Reporter (21-11-14) that Cr. Mitchell claims there is little or no community opposition.

With all the mini sub-developments, rural living will soon be a thing of the past & this Council is hell bent on pushing pensioners out of their properties while at the same time Council's income must be bursting at the seams with masses of new sub-divisions/developments which is bringing in millions.



Pensioners cannot afford to keep paying more & more to keep Council's benefits at such a high level, when most of us are battling to keep our properties.

Wollondilly Council has received \$3,615,572 between 2014-15 to 2018-19, for its Roads to Recovery Program, with \$62,595 to be allocated in 2014-15 & the government is doubling Roads to Recovery payments to councils

next year (2015-16) which will be a tremendous windfall for Councils.

With all this revenue & development Council are still forcing land owners to pay more.
Where will it all end!!

Yours faithfully



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat, 6 Dec 2014 15:04:30 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate variation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I realise these comments come after the proposed cut off date of 31 October, However, they need to be made and acted upon in any deliberations regarding increased rates.

As a long term owner, resident, developer and community participant I do not see the validity in the idea to increase rates to sustain a business, at least not without making structural changes to the income and expenditure base of the LGA.

It has been apparent to me for at least three decades Wollondilly's boundaries must change to reflect the commerce, social interaction and use of facilities

Wollondilly exists only as an historical name. It does not exist in the consciousness of the ratepayers. It is not a market

Two telling lines in the brochure are the "roads Bridges and Footpath expenses per capita and "metre road length per capita". Wollondilly is king of both parameters compared to the five LGA's quoted. This is a bad statistic to own along with the Lowest revenue of the Five LGA's

Put up the rates then you say?

As a commercial landholder in Picton I can say we pay council \$26,000 pa for 15000m2 over two titles. For that we receive little or nothing. The retail environment is changing in Picton as elsewhere due to changing technology, work patterns, transport connections but most notably improved facilities in adjoining LGA with higher populations, less roads to maintain and better shopping areas . Our rates go into general revenue to subsidize rural roads to convey residents to our opposition in better shopping centres in neighbouring LGA's

Putting up commercial rates will further curtail commercial development here, not enhance it. We will get further behind in service delivery.

A far better scenario would be to give neighbouring LGA's some of our low density, large road budget areas. Campbelltown , with 5m of road per capita could take Appin, which has no social or commercial relationship with the rest of Wollondilly. Similarly, Penrith, with 6m of road per capita could take Warragamba/Silverdale and south to Orangeville. These areas have no connection with the bulk of Wollondilly's population, where the rates are primarily raised, both commercial and residential. They use the services of Campbelltown and Penrith respectively. Wollondilly's more efficient rates collection to length of roads precinct is from Razorback to Bargo area.

It is most questionable whether multiple administration centres are required with such short distances between Wollondilly, Camden and Campbelltown in the days of internet technology. Certainly the commerce of the region is integrated, why not civic service delivery ? All

administration sucks up money from its designed end use. A more favourable outcome may be to amalgamate with Camden and Wingecaribee to the south, making Picton the Capital of the combined LGA (of course). This makes sense from a regional employment perspective. It gives Picton a reason for being, is the most scenic town in the combined district and central to all three LGA populations.

Further, rates need to be sourced from the new commerce. Under the LEP any residence can be a commercial premise employing three people without DA, and without charges !! Technology is driving shopping and work from home. The traditional rate collection areas are paying for this, whilst trying to compete with the internet. This is just not sustainable as commercial property values fall.

I suggest a rate on all internet connections. That way activity is taxed at source and all users of facilities pay for facilities. It is extremely efficient to tax this way.

Another way of attaining revenue needs to be investigated. I don't see any utility in maintaining a rates system in the 21st century. Rates are tied to land as that was a parameter available in 1919 when the Local government act was enacted. There are better proxies for service delivery and its associated income attainment than rates. I suggest car registrations or utility connections, as they are digitised, transferrable and reflect the biggest costs of facilities, people. Private contractors could use LPI's land title system for rubbish collection. Council could use it for house numbering, or let LPI manage their own numbers.

Putting up rates without structural change is a con. More population in denser centres and less roads per capita measures should be implemented immediately. Council will have more income with less roads to spend it on, allowing a better social dividend.

I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your conversation.

Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat, 10 Jan 2015 20:56:08 +1100
To: "Council External Incoming" <council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] "Judith Hannan" <Judith.Hannan@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Permanent Special Rates Levy 2015

Please find attached email to wollondilly@council.nsw.gov.au returned to me as email address was reversed incorrectly.

Cheers,



----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: Judith Hannan WSC <judith.hannan@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>; "wollondilly@council.gov.nsw.au" <wollondilly@council.gov.nsw.au>
Sent: Saturday, 10 January 2015, 20:48
Subject: Permanent Special Rates Levy 2015

Fit for the Future

You state:

We are having this conversation with the community because we want to ensure we are "fit for the future" and the special rate variation is an important step towards achieving this.

I support Option 1 only, I do not support Options 2 or 3, as I am already unable to meet the inflationary abnormal demands from council for permanent Special Rate Variation increases that I cannot afford as an old age pensioner.

Unfortunately, I was away when you held your meetings at Warragamba, Appin and Tahmoor.

I have telephoned council and spoken to Andrew, who has stated that where my overall costs for permanently increased rates for 2014/2015 rates have only increased in dollars by only 2.5% then they are OK,

Could you please have my rates checked, as the Ad valorem amount has increased by over 9%

and this is not OK by me.

I would not have expected your last SRV determination to have been permanent, as it has been made without a return to the permanent base pegged rate variation value, as it should have been able to be expected by me and by this community, rather than permanently increasing councils revenue in perpetuity, by 19.1016% as opposed to falling back to the permanent pegged rate value base, yet clearly your success with IPART for only 3 years at 6% per annum, in the light of the majority 53% of this community having clearly stated that they were not in favour of council seeking a 6.7% increase for 7 years, as highlighted in the IPART determination for Wollondilly Shire Council and subsequently reduced by it, thus observing the wishes of the majority of the community.

Would council be able to rezone and subdivide its 12 Ha property into an Industrial Estate, to provide jobs in this local government area? That would be really good I think.

When will the XPT do what it does in outlying areas such as Picton across the state, ie., pick up and set down passengers other than first stop Campbelltown then Mittagong. Or is Picton the seat of local government, just a sleepy hollow not worth a mention.

We will soon need a Public Transport System, for our Doctors services at The Oaks and ALDI at Tahmoor.

We live in Wollondilly council area but by car we are served best by Camden Narellan, Mt Annan and Campbelltown Services provided by other Local Government. You have to go to these areas as we have no specialists or hospitals in your area.

I note the previous General Manager, J.L. McMahon (now resigned 2014), found that a decision to reapply for a SRV, in 2014/2015 was a daunting task, as he stated, "This is a monumental decision, for me, and council, they, did not feel easy about taking" and did not apply to IPART, now we are again being bothered to consider not two but three options provided in 2014/2015 for yet another SRV. This is very worrying as I totally disagree with inflationary permanent SRV's and we don't want to have to sell our home.

I seriously question, the validity of a council that applies each of its SRV determinations as permanent, with a cumulative affect.

It cannot be forgotten and council is reminded, the IPART made it very clear to council it was not to use funds achieved by its determination for purposes other than those specific purposes as applied for and achieved by a council. My concern is if the cumulative effect of these permanent SRV's is permanent then your council is doing what it likes with addition monies received in perpetuity, after the expiration of the prescribed period of the determination.

An IPART SRV determination should not under any circumstances, in my view be a licence for councils to print money after the prescribed period.

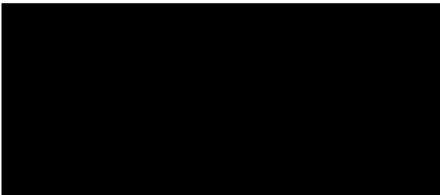
Attention is required as below:

Belimbla Park circa 1958, has existed as a subdivision for over fifty years, corner splays were resumed, in the last twenty five years, and since then nothing has been done to remove the cutting that prevents safe vehicle ingress and egress as requested by me from and to Binalong Road/Burraborang Road intersection, this is an extended period of inactivity by council. It will be timely for council to continue to finalise these works as a matter of urgency.



Please refer to Councillor Judith Hannan for the full history.

Cheers,



SUBMISSION DATE

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION

My vote is Option 1 with confidence in our Council to do the job with the money that is already available or fight harder with NSW gov for more money for our shire. The ratepayers are finding things tough enough already post recession. So, Council ... please roll up your sleeves & work harder with what you have like your ratepayers

24/12/2014 23:34 have to do.

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24/12/2014 23:36 have to do.

I believe that if the special variation rate goes through then the council will only spend the money in the Picton side of razorback. They arent interested in the Camden

20/01/2015 13:44 side.