



Attachment 6B: Community Feedback (Redacted Submissions)

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

TRIM No

PROP. N°

1862-4

- 2 OCT 2014

AUTH. N°

Dear G. M. Luke, D. Hunt

ASSIGNED TO:

30.9.14

Congratulations on your new appointment. Good luck.

Firstly, more than likely you & Allie 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

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]
[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

2⁶ 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.

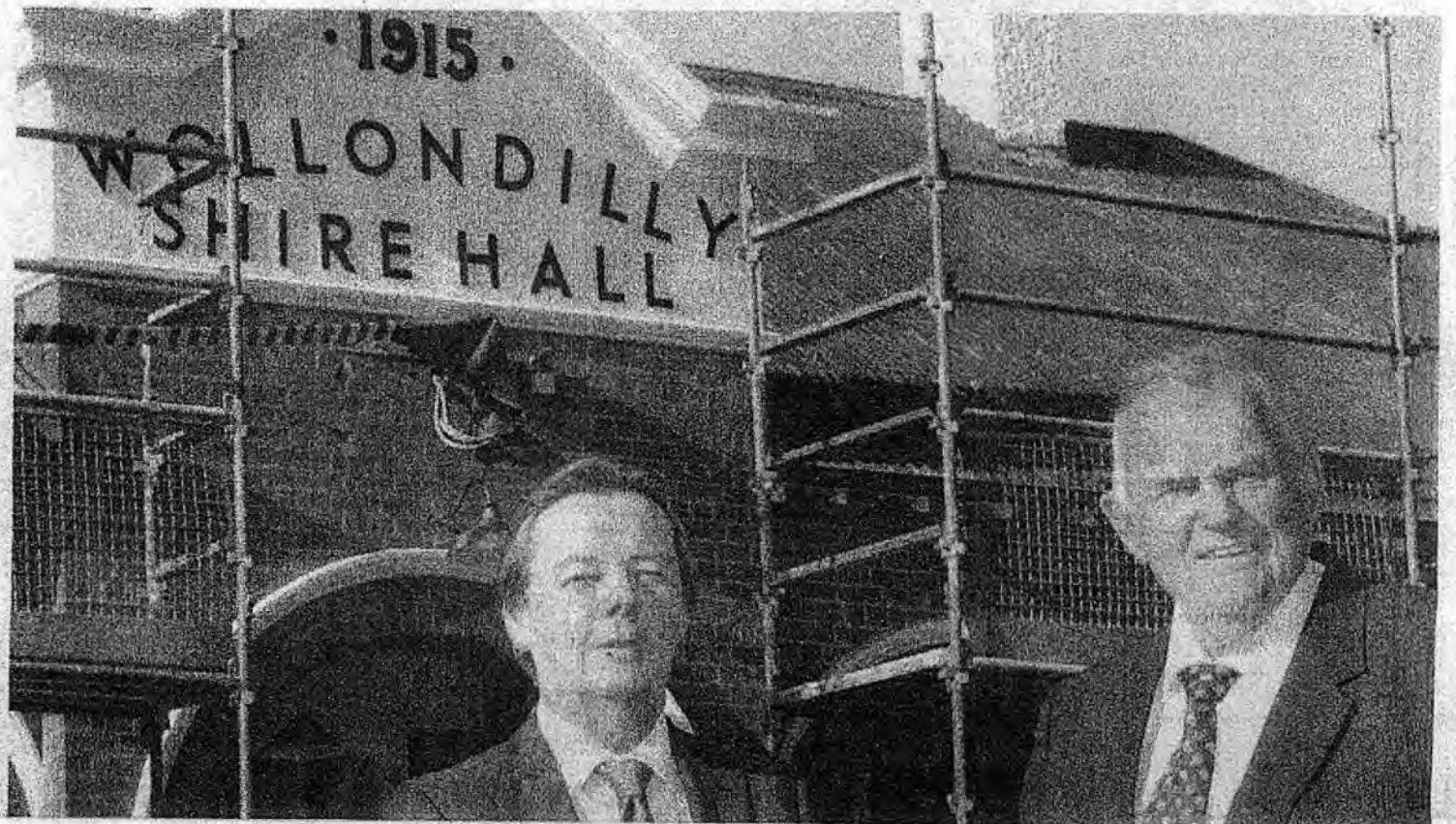
With only weeks into the top job as the shire's general manager, Luke Johnson isn't slowing down to smell the roses, but rather has clear sight of the backlog of works piling up. Mr Johnson is asking for a rate special variation - similar to what his predecessor has done before; he believes it's only 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 25 years 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 Council
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"



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 137/10
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.

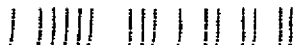


THE MAYOR SUIF 09 OCT 14 NL 512

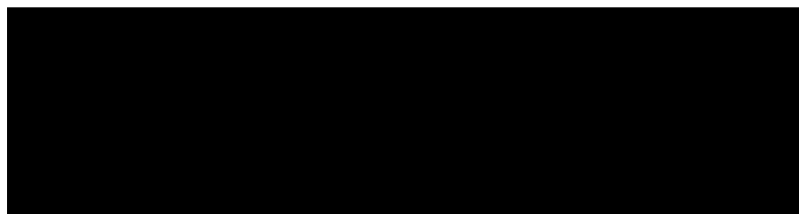
WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL
62-64 MENANGLE STREET
PICTON

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862 - 4
PROP. No.	
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, Cowdellor???

Our SUBMISSIONS :-

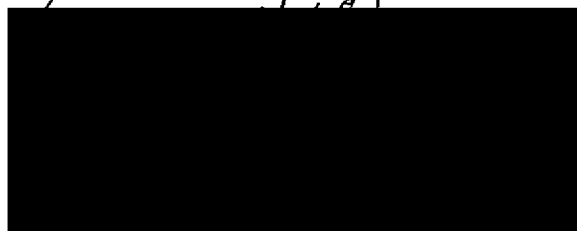
Option 1: YES

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
PROPOSAL	
15 OCT 2014	
AUTH NO.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

[REDACTED]

13.10.14.

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

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
PICKTON NSW 2571

WOLLONDILLY SH. 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.

Option1 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 ..



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 brought 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.

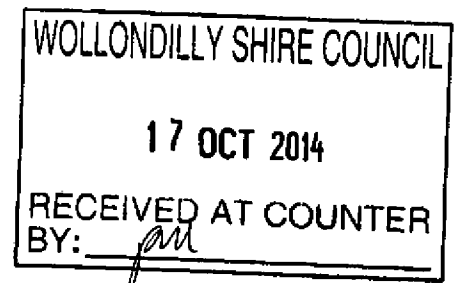
I believe that Stockland should be responsible for the removal of this road base and the regeneration of grass to the area in question and I ask that Council request that this be done as a matter of urgency as it is highly probable that an injury or damage will occur due to the rocks being thrown around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

Regards

[REDACTED]

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.

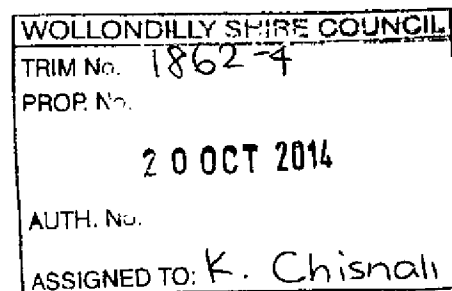
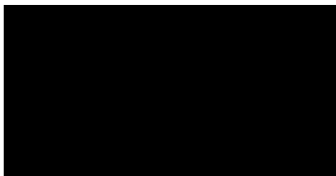
Everyone, including rate payers, have to live within their means.

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.



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]

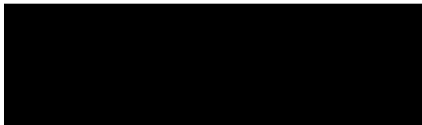
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 21 Oct 2014 18:54:33 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special rate variation

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 to 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 outgoings 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 mean 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 too 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.

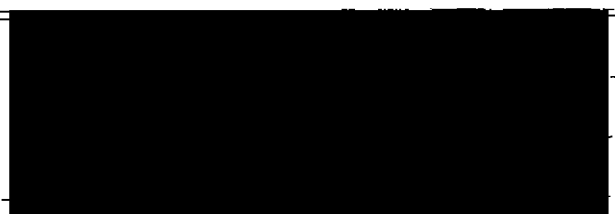
If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, reliance, forwarding, printing or copying of this email or any attached files is unauthorised.

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:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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

[REDACTED] 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.

Why should we pay an increase in rates when it will be the owners of these trucks that benefit, not us the rural resident. This is an area that does not have town water or sewerage, so any benefit would be road repair, which the trucks damage.

To allow these trucking companies to set up business in this area, is unbelievable, they should be on main road access, or in industrial area.

When we moved here in 1975 there was a 10 ton limit on [REDACTED] so how has that disappeared? Why destroy such a beautiful area, where people from Sydney used to come and visit and marvel at the peace and quiet of rural living, kids could safely ride their ponies from neighbour to neighbour without fear of being run off the road.

[REDACTED]

With areas growing so fast it is a shame to the history of the area to destroy this, we should be able to move horses and cattle from property to property without the risk of being killed!
Our neighbours are of the same opinion, please retain our rural landscape.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 28 Oct 2014 07:56:15 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed special rate variation

Good afternoon

After many years in [REDACTED] I feel that I need to address this issue.

I understand the logic of your argument. However continually throwing money at a problem is not the answer. While rates can spiral upwards, thereby providing more capital to 'play with', in the long term this will not address the core problem. It is about how the money is allocated and spent. There is a demonstrable need for greater strategic thought and accountability.

For many years Federal Government departments have been required to endure efficiency dividends in return for additional dedicated funding - for specific activities financed by new policy proposals. This has led to the development of paradigms based on the curtailment of 'waste'; something I unfortunately see every time I drive past one of our Council's road gangs.

From my observations Council has not invested wisely in many areas. By way of example, a couple of years ago Council engaged a contractor to repair and re-surface specified areas of Woodbridge Road at Menangle. When completed the work was obviously sub-standard, and after the first rain (a couple of weeks later) the road was again severely potholed, to the extent that it was not only a disgrace, it was dangerous. I do not know how Council negotiates its contracts, but given the shoddiness of the work it should have been the contractor's responsibility to repair the work in a timely manner and to a standard acceptable to the travelling community.

Before actively considering any rate increase I need to know what cogent interventions Council is going to introduce in order to reduce, but more particularly avoid, waste.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 27 Oct 2014 19:54:32 +1100
To: "SRV" <SRV@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Rate increase

To Wollondilly Council.

As local ratepayers, we do not think a special rate rise is warranted. We are pensioners and we budget our money responsibly, and think the Council should do the same. Council should concentrate on the basics and not diversify into other areas that should not be concerning them. The imbalance of indoor/outdoor staff is ridiculous, and the number of cars parked in the Council car park, given to indoor staff, is well and truly out of hand. The previous rate rises did very little to improve the facilities, so why would we think more rate rises would be any different. With the growth in this area, and more growth to come, there is already more money coming in though the rates. Yours

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

ATTENTION REGARDING RATES RISE TO PAY FOR FUTURE INFRACTURE WORK.

COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER OTHER MORE PALATABLE OPTIONS, ONE BEING INCREASE IN RATES BASE.
RURAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REZONED TO MINIMUM OF 4 HECTERS IN THERESA PARK FROM 2 HECTERS, REALISTICALL. THIS IS NOT A ZONING WHICH SATISFIES ANY CRITERIA FOR RESIDENTIAL OR FARMING APPLICATIONS.

SUGGRSTED OPTION WHICH IS CURRENTLY USED IN THERESA GREEN, IN LOTS OF ONE HECTER OR TWO HECTERS. THIS WILL INCREASE RATES RETURN TO COUNCIL WITH NO EFFECT TO THE AREA, WITH MINIMUM COST TO RESIDENTS RATES, AND POSSIBLY NO NEED FOR LARGE INCREASES IN RATES FOR COUNCIL TO ACHIEVE FUNDING REQUIRED FOR FUTURE WORKS.

[REDACTED]

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	862-4
PROP. No.	
28 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
27 OCT 2014	
RECEIVED AT COUNTER	
BY:	

Illawarra Coal

27 October 2014

Special Rate Variation

Email:- srv@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

BHP Billiton
Illawarra Coal
Lvl 3 Enterprise 1
Innovation Campus SquiresWay
North Wollongong
New South Wales 2500 Australia
PO Box 514
Unanderra New South Wales 2526 Australia
Tel: +61242863000 Fax: +61242863600
bhpbilliton.com

Endeavour Coal Pty Limited is a subsidiary of Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Limited and operates Appin and West Cliff Mines and also owns additional Residential and Rural Land located within the Wollondilly Shire LGA. The total amount of rates paid to Council for the 2014 to 2015 rating period was \$493,760, of which \$397,410 was at the Mining Rate of 0.04310712 cents in the dollar.

Illawarra Coal makes a major economic contribution within the Shire via employment and expenditure on goods and services. Further, Illawarra Coal provides significant investment in community programs through our Community Partnership Program or direct sponsorship. Illawarra Coal operates with a minimum impact on Council assets and is generally regulated by State or Federal Government Agencies.

The Mining Rate charged by Council is seven times the Business Rate. Given that the impact of our business is no more significant than other large businesses that operate within the Shire that are rated at the Business Rate, we consider that the proposed Special Rate Variation is unjustified. Illawarra Coal proposes that either:

- a) the Mining Rate be exempt from the Special Rate Variation, or
- b) the Mining Rate be abolished and that all businesses that operate in the Shire be rated at the same equitable Business Rate.

Endeavour Coal would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission.

Yours sincerely

Frank Cook

Senior Survey and Property Advisor.

Addressing Your OUR future needs

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Gender: [REDACTED]

Age: [REDACTED]

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No	1862-4
DATE	28 OCT 2014
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

Special Rate Variation Submission:

As an aged pensioner and ratepayer I am opposed to any form of special rate variation. If this was approved it would place a huge burden on those who can least afford it for years to come.

Before the last rate variation in 2011 the shire was in trouble financially. It was hoped that a special rate variation would solve some of the problems but this was not the case. All it did was help clear some of the backlog but services and infrastructure have still been in decline.


This proposed special rate variation will not stop this decline because the infrastructure is in such a bad shape the money needed would have to come from grants or loans from State and Federal governments who for years

OVER

have neglected local governments. In saying that a lot of our problems in this shire relate to bad management and the shire in its present structure is unsustainable moving into the future.

The large network of roads will always be a drain on councils revenue because the State Government is well aware of the costs involved in maintaining them. That being said it is grossly unfair to expect average ratepayers to provide extra funds to council when much of the problems have been created by governments withdrawing funding for major works.

As with any organisation the viable success can only be achieved if the elected councillors put their political aspirations aside and all work towards making Wollumbilly Shire a better place for all.



26/10/2014.

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:

Age:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Male/Female

WOULD NOT SAY

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TR / No.	1362-4
PROP. No.	
29 OCT 2014	
AUTH No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	

Special Rate Variation Submission:

AGAINST OPTIONS 2 AND 3. RELIEVES
RATE INCREASES ARE ALREADY TOO HIGH
AND DOES NOT WANT ANY ~~ADDITIONAL~~ INCREASE
ABOVE THE RATE PEG.

Addressing Your OUR future needs

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Gender: Male/Female

Age: [REDACTED]

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM NO.	1862-4
PROPOSED	29 OCT 2014
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	

Special Rate Variation Submission:

Information
My husband & I read the rate variation booklet that went out to every household. We believe in the importance of repairing roads, upgrading park areas (especially children's play facilities) and maintaining a healthy financial status for a local government. Therefore we agree and support a rate rise (either 8.5% or 10.8% increase over four years).

[REDACTED] 8/10/14

Addressing Your OUR future needs

Wollondilly
Shire Council

ADDRESSING YOUR FUTURE NEEDS
wollondilly2033.com.au/srv

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender:

Male/Female

Age:

60+

CALLED COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICE

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP. No.	
29 OCT 2014	
AUTH. NO.	
ASSIGNED TO:	

Special Rate Variation Submission:

[REDACTED] WAS COMFORTABLE WITH
COUNCIL PROCEEDING WITH OPTION 2 OR
3. [REDACTED] ALSO ADVISED THAT
COUNCIL SHOULD BE ADVOCATING FOR
BETTER TRANSPORT & TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
IN WOLLONDILLY PARTICULARLY IN WILTON.
A NEW TRAIN STATION LIKE DOUGLAS
PARK NEAR WILTON ~~WILTON ROAD~~
WOULD ASSIST IN GETTING CARS OFF
THE ROAD. SHE DID ADVISE NOT
A NEW RAIL LINE TO WILTON
BUT A STATION CLOSE TO WILTON
ON THE CURRENT LINE.

Addressing Your OUR future needs

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss
First Name:
Last Name:
Address:
Postcode: 02
Gender: Male/Female
Age:

Special Rate Variation Submission:

Option 2 due to uncertainty of whether she will be living in the area in the next 3 years

Realise work needs to be done & you need money from residents to pay for it. but due to uncertainty of living situation will stick with option 1

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No	1862-4
PROCESSED	29 OCT 2014
AUTH No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	

Addressing Your future needs

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender:

Male/Female

Age:

65

Special Rate Variation Submission:

I AM TOTALLY OPPOSED TO INCREASING
RATES.

RATES HAVE INCREASED FOUR-FOLD IN THE
LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

IF OPTION 3 IS ACCEPTED RATES WILL INCREASED
BY ABOUT SIX-FOLD SINCE THE LATE 1990S.

THIS IS TOTALLY OUT OF PROPORTION AND
THE RATE-PAYERS SHOULD NOT HAVE THIS
BURDEN IMPOSED UPON THEM.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIP No.	1862-4
FROM No.	
29 OCT 2014	
ASSIGNED TO	

Addressing Your **OUR** future needs

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender: Male/Female

Age:

Special Rate Variation Submission:

I don't think council rates should go up more than the 3% per year. People are finding it hard to make ends meet now. The rate rise shouldn't be more than the CPI.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
FORM No.	1862-4
PROJ No.	
2-0-OCT-2014	
AUTH No.	
ASSIGNED TO	

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:

Special Rate Variation Submission:

Is against SRV as is a pensioner and can not afford any rate increases. He believes that if Council needs more money for infrastructure maintenance we should be approaching state/federal government for grants.

Asked him for his opinion if rates did not increase above cap and infrastructure declined, he said this was okay if it meant his rates did not go up.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM NO.	1862-4
PROP. NO.	
29 OCT 2014	
AUTH No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	

Addressing Your OUR future needs

Title:

☒ Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender:

☒ Male/Female

Age:

Special Rate Variation Submission:

Very supportive of Wollondilly Shire Council & the work the Council carries out across the local government area.

However, raised objections to supporting a SRV due to the fact that a DA he submitted for a subdivision 10-12 years ago was rejected by Council. He believes the subdivision could have brought in extra rates to combat the issues Council is currently facing.

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TEAM NO.	1862-4
DATE	2-9 OCT 2014
AUTH. NO.	
ASSIGNED TO	

Illawarra Coal

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIP NO.	1862-4
PROJECT NO.	
29 OCT 2014	
AUTH. NO.	
ASSIGNED TO	Kalen/D Hunt



BHP Billiton
Illawarra Coal
Level 3 Enterprise 1 Building
Innovation Campus Squares Way
North Wollongong
New South Wales 2500 Australia
PO Box 514
Unanderra New South Wales 2526 Australia
Tel: +61242863000 Fax: +61242863600
bhpbilliton.com

28 October 2014

Councillor Col Mitchell
Mayor
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON NSW 2571

Special Rate Variation

Endeavour Coal Pty Limited is a subsidiary of Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Limited and operates Appin and West Cliff Mines and also owns additional Residential and Rural Land located within the Wollondilly Shire LGA. The total amount of rates paid to Council for the 2014 to 2015 rating period was \$493,760, of which \$397,410 was at the Mining Rate of 0.04310712 cents in the dollar.

Illawarra Coal makes a major economic contribution within the Shire via employment and expenditure on goods and services. Further, Illawarra Coal provides significant investment in community programs through our Community Partnership Program or direct sponsorship. Illawarra Coal operates with a minimum impact on Council assets and is generally regulated by State or Federal Government Agencies.

The Mining Rate charged by Council is seven times the Business Rate. Given that the impact of our business is no more significant than other large businesses that operate within the Shire that are rated at the Business Rate, we consider that the proposed Special Rate Variation is unjustified. Illawarra Coal proposes that either:

- a) the Mining Rate be exempt from the Special Rate Variation, or
- b) the Mining Rate be abolished and that all businesses that operate in the Shire be rated at the same equitable Business Rate.

I am keen to meet with you and appropriate Council officers to discuss the above. Would it be possible to arrange a meeting at your convenience in the coming weeks. I am contactable via mobile phone (0419) 515638 or email; john.r.brannon@BHPBilliton.com

For your information, we have also made a submission to the Special Rate Variation email address.

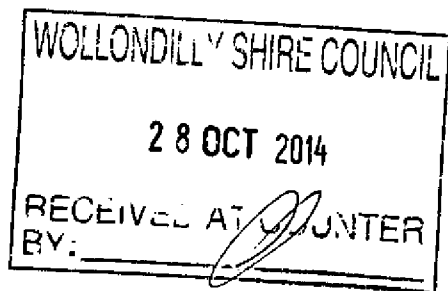
Yours sincerely



John Brannon
Head of Corporate Affairs

Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd
ABN 69 093 857 286

A member of the BHP Billiton Group which is headquartered in Australia
Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
ABN 49 004 028 077
Registered in Australia

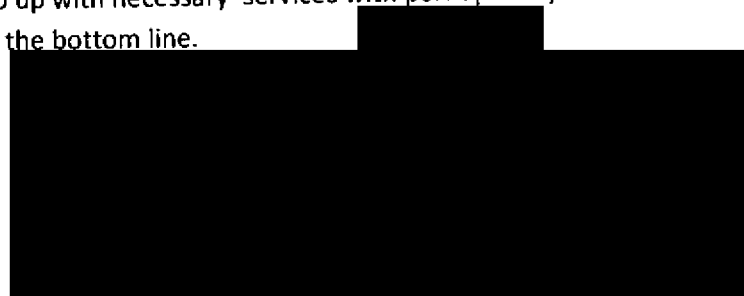


Dear Sirs,

re: Submission to Current Rating

We attended the meeting held in the CWA Hall on the 16th inst., and can only say that we comprehend the difficulties for our Shire Council to attend to the expected requirements of ratepayers and hope to keep within the current rate charges. We unfortunately would have to agree that an increase is necessary and if it can be within the "middle range" bracket, then we feel it may JUST be acceptable to most constituents.

However, we have submitted an application to have a small section of our property made available to be given a separate title so that we are able to sell this approx. ¼ acre area. We are in a rural residential area and the current laws do not allow for us to subdivide in any way. We are hopeful that your continuing application to the State under "Growth Management Strategy" policies may eventually lead to a possible 'change of rules in isolation' which would not only benefit so many ratepayers, but lead to growth in our Shire (more ratepayers) without impacting greatly on existing infrastructure. By this I don't mean great developments that require new roads & services, but simply allowing small acre properties on the perimeters of our towns and villages, which are currently classed as rural residential, to make small sections of their land available for re-sale or to pass on to family members. At present, our grown children cannot afford to buy land in this great Wollondilly Shire and so very many of us who have lived here all our lives, are not in a position to help them until we pass on and even then, their inheritance can only be left to one offspring. I feel quite strongly that a change of this nature might just bring in the extra finances required to help our Shire keep up with necessary services with perhaps only the cost of extra "garbage collection" added to the bottom line.



WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	18264
PROP. No.	
29 OCT 2014	
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

**WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS &
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

"For the People. By the People"

c/- 24 Byron Road
TAHMOOR 2573

Email: [REDACTED]

General Manager
Wollondilly Shire Council
PO Box 21
PICTON 2571

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP. No.	29 OCT 2014
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO:	Karen

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
28 OCT 2014	
RECEIVED AT COUNTER	
BY:	[Signature]

Dear Sir

RE: WRRRA SUBMISSION REGARDING COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

We thank Council for the opportunity to present our Submission on behalf of Wollondilly ratepayers.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Secretary

WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC
cc: IPART

Encl: (1) Submission

**WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS &
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC**

“For the People. By the People”

SUBMISSION

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION 2014

TO

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2014

WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS SUBMISSION

“SPECIAL RATE VARIATION 2014”

1. Introduction

Picton Municipal Council was incorporated in 1895. At that time, nine community members were elected to represent the voice of the people.

The First Council was united in their civic approach to borrow money to pave the way for future infrastructure in building roads, bridges, and a Shire Hall to reflect the affluence of a rural community.

A sister council operated at The Oaks under the name Wollondilly until the Picton Municipal Council agreed to amalgamate with Wollondilly Shire Council in 1940. There was strong argument for and against the proposal, but amalgamation proved to be the best solution for economic sustainability and growth.

The new Shire incorporated Warragamba/Bents Basin in the north, Appin in the East, Nattai/Burratorang in the West and Yanderra in the South, covering an area of 2,557 sq kilometres.

Wollondilly is made up of 17 towns and has a population of approximately 50,000 people with a revenue base heading towards \$50 million per annum. Council is the caretaker of more than half a billion dollars in assets paid for by rates revenue, government grants, bequests and developer contributions over the last hundred years.

In the recent two decades, Council has been successful in achieving frequent rate rises. In 2011, Council received a further rate variation of 6% over 3 years to reduce the infrastructure backlog of approximately \$52 million, in addition to borrowing approximately \$3 million under the State Government LIRS scheme in 2013 for bridge repairs and curb and guttering.

In 2014, Council is offering the community three rate rise options before applying to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to vary the rate increase from the pegged 3% annual increase.

The first option is for no special rate variation.

The second option is for a further rate rise of 8.5% per annum over 4 years to stabilise infrastructure, which will be built into the rate base at the end of that 4-year period.

The third option is for a 10.8% rise per annum over 4 years to improve infrastructure which will also be built into the rate base at the end of the 4-year period.

2. Submission

The Wollondilly Residents & Ratepayers Association Inc (WRRRA) resolved at our monthly meeting on Wednesday 15 October 2014 to prepare a Submission in response to Council's newsletter seeking a Special Rate Variation.

Since incorporating in early 2012, WRRRA has orchestrated a campaign for a popularly elected mayor which will now be addressed by Council by way of referendum at the next Local Government election in 2016.

Additionally, we initiated a campaign calling for amalgamation/boundary variation with neighbouring councils based on our argument that the Shire of Wollondilly is too big for Council to manage efficiently in today's financial climate. We made a Submission to the Local Government Independent Review Panel calling for the democratic right of the electorate to vote for the mayor. Our call was taken up by the LGIRP.

Further, we initiated a campaign in opposition to Council spending ratepayers' money without consultation with the community to oppose the Federal Government's proposal for a second Sydney Airport at Wilton, prior to Government studies being prepared which ultimately discarded Wilton as an appropriate site.

We acknowledge that Council is responsible for the maintenance of 840 kms of roads, 90 parks and reserves, 78 bridges, 19 halls, 13 sports fields and 33 playgrounds, in addition to a huge area requiring weeds eradication, maintaining signage, fencing Council property and purchasing works equipment to undertake maintenance.

Council is responsible for managing its budget in a way that enhances public confidence. However, in the recent past, Council has spent two years and \$2 million building yet another sportsground at Abbotsford Road Picton in the first stage of a 4-stage project estimated to cost \$8 million to complete, at the expense of addressing the declining state of infrastructure.

The Council foyer has been refurbished at a cost of \$85,000 when the work was not required. It has purchased library vans that have proved to be a drain on the budget. It spends funds on maintaining Yerranderie roads that few people use. It has spent inestimable funds on legal expenses to expel an aged resident from his Cawdor property which proved unsuccessful in the Land and Environment Court. It has wasted over \$43,000 instructing Sydney solicitors to write letters to community members threatening them with legal action for fair comment on a closed Facebook site regarding former mayor Cr Benn Banasik and the Deputy General Manager. It has spent over \$75,000 on consultancy fees to oppose the Federal Government's proposal to build a second airport at Wilton and paid over \$2,000 to purchase red T-shirts for Council staff to wear with no return to ratepayers. The former General Manager has spent unlimited funds on corporate credit card expenses and Council is wasting thousands of dollars in legal fees to block WRRRA from access to details of the credit card expenses. In addition to hidden wage increases, the elected Council recently voted for an undeserved increase in their fees and expenses, costing approximately \$250,000 annually to attend eleven Council meetings a year, informal

meetings, site inspections, purchase of laptops, phones and the high cost of attending conferences for no return to ratepayers. The expenses cannot be justified.

The Wollondilly community places a high expectation on the maintenance of our roads, bridges, footpaths, and curb and guttering. Over recent times, motorists have reported the worsening deterioration of infrastructure and Council admits it is aware of the situation but has persistently maintained that there is no money in the budget for repairs and maintenance. Council's argument cannot be sustained when ratepayers pay rates in return for safe roads, footpaths, bridges and curb and guttering.

Council's brochure/newsletter (p1) states that: *"Without a Special Rate Variation we won't be able to maintain our essential infrastructure and services."*

Further, Council states that: *"Our long term financial modelling currently estimates that Council faces an \$80 million deficit at the end of 10 years unless there is a significant change to expenditure or revenue."*

We submit that Council's statements validate our argument that Wollondilly Shire Council cannot cope with the growing infrastructure backlog and should consider amalgamation or boundary variation to bring about efficiency of scale across local government boundaries.

Based on the existence of deteriorating infrastructure, and the requirement for more money to maintain future infrastructure, there is no evidence to support Council's argument that a Special Rate Variation will *"enable us to continue to deliver quality services in line with the expectations of our growing community."*

Faced with expected population growth in the Shire, Council must consider the benefits of amalgamation for future benefit to the community. It cannot continue to bury its head in the sand and rely on rate increases to do what it has already proved is beyond its capabilities. Council must be progressive and look to the past for a road into the future by emulating survival strategies. Council is doomed if it fails to reinvent itself.

3. Conclusion

The Wollondilly Residents & Ratepayers Association is grateful to Council for providing the community with an opportunity to make submissions in response to the Special Rate Variation. However, we challenge Council's claim that it is *"working hard"* to ensure efficiency and reviewing ways to reduce expenditure when there is no evidence to support the statement and pouring millions into another unnecessary sporting facility at the expense of priority needs calls for explanation.

Our Association is of the firm view that increasing rates will not resolve the existing infrastructure backlog over the next four years, noting that the last increase was premised on the same argument, only to be confronted with the realisation that the backlog has deteriorated further.

Our Association strongly opposes any further rate increase and calls on Council to consider privatisation of its half-billion dollar assets, resurrecting its former property portfolio from which profits would be returned to general revenue, or boundary variation/partial amalgamation of the outreach villages with Camden, Wingecarribee, Wollongong and Campbelltown in order to remain viability over coming decades.

WRRRA believes that Council must move forward with the times and do what is necessary in corporate terms without further expense on the ratepayers' pocket during the lengthening economic downturn.

WOLLONDILLY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
27 OCTOBER 2014

28 OCT 2014

RECEIVED AT COUNCIL

BY:

28/10/14

To whom it concerns at the Council.

I do not agree with another special rate rise as this will be the 3rd in ten years.

I have worked out that say a 8% rise was granted my rates will rise by \$800-00 in the next 4 years then it becomes a base.

Council wants to come clean & tell the rate payers exactly the \$ rise per year will be.

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

Because very little subdivisions were allowed in the last 50 years or so this has helped put us in the position we are in today.

Forget rural living now. Up till 1965 we were a very Big fruit, vegetable and egg producing area.


I knew of 5 carriers delivering to Sydney markets on a daily basis. [REDACTED] was doing up to 10 loads per week. This area produces very little to-day.

We all know our subsidiary roads are bad, but the bulk of

3.

These roads are 1800
hundreds horse & Sulby
& Horse & dray dirt tracks
that were bitumed over
they were never formed
for to-days traffic
we all pay rates &
very high fuel taxes
excise but we get
no returns.

They are always grissing
about western suburbs
what about from
Penrith to Wollondilly
& Wingacarrabel areas
are we 5th rate people?



What a load of junket!

Homeowners ripped off as rates rise while councillors jet to the coast

ALICIA WOOD
STATE POLITICAL REPORTER

ONE third of all NSW councils will increase their rates this financial year, but councillors have found the money to jet off to a local government junket in Coffs Harbour.

The annual Local Government NSW conference will be launched by Premier Mike Baird today, and he is expected to reiterate to councillors the urgent need to put their finances in order.

Councils have until July next year to show the state government they are chang-

ing the way they operate in order to access a funding pool of \$1 billion.

With a third of councils applying to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to jack up rates and a third of councils losing \$1 million a day, the government is concerned the "carrot" for change is not being properly considered by most councils.

Local Government Minister Paul Toole said the number of applications for rate rises was not a good sign.

"The local government sector is losing more than a million dollars a day," Mr Toole said. "This is not sustainable.

"Expecting ratepayers to fork out an extra 10 or 20 per cent in rate increases every year is not the solution to creating a stronger local government system.

"I encourage every council across NSW to consider their long-term financial sustainability and consult with their communities on how they plan to achieve this."

Councils bringing in the biggest rate rises include Maitland — which will increase its rates by 50.75 per cent over seven years, Richmond Valley, which will increase rates by 34.3 per cent over five years, Gilgandra,

which will increase rates by 29.3 per cent over three years, and North Sydney, which will increase rates by 27.5 per cent over five years.

Blacktown council is set to increase rates 11.81 per cent over two years.

Mosman, Ashfield, Shoalhaven, Blue Mountains, Eurobodalla, Wollondilly, Gloucester and Newcastle all intend to apply to raise rates.

The annual LGSNW conference started yesterday and will run until tomorrow.

The main focus of the talks will be on how councils will respond to the government's reform plans.

BIGGEST LOSERS

Maitland: rates up 50.75 per cent over seven years

Richmond Valley: rates up 34.3 per cent over five years

Gilgandra: rates up 29.3 per cent over three years

North Sydney: rates up 27.5 per cent over five years

Blacktown: rates up 11.8 per cent over two years

Conference spending:

- **North Sydney:** \$12,000

- **Blacktown:** \$11,449

- **Penrith:** \$13,200 in

registration fees alone

- **City of Sydney:** \$26,300

- **Ryde:** \$16,380

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014

1.2 MILLION READERS A DAY | DAILYTELEGRAPH.COM.AU

BLOCK CAUGHT OUT IN A LIE

TV show episode faked » P3

Korean
Staff
Wanted

STORE'S RACE ROW

Dress shop drama » P5

the Daily Telegraph

WE'RE FOR NSW



LGNSW patrons Doug Sutherland and Col Sullivan, and (below) Woollahra councillor Anthony Marano doze off during the conference. Pictures: Nathan Edwards

SNORED MAYORS LIVING THE DREAM

GEOFF CHAMBERS

ON the same day Premier Mike Baird called on the state's councils to be "bold", councillors snoozed at the local government conference in Coffs Harbour.

A total of 745 delegates crammed into the C.ex club yesterday for the LGNSW conference, where the majority of motions discussed focused on state and federal funding issues.

Only 61 of 172 eligible motions were voted on during a marathon eight-hour session, which included a speech from Mr Baird calling on councils to put their "pride into the back seat" and support the government's Fit for the Future program. A further 69 motions were ruled irrelevant by the LGNSW board.

Office of Local Government acting CEO Steve Orr told councillors opposing amalgamation that new details

would be provided before the end of the month.

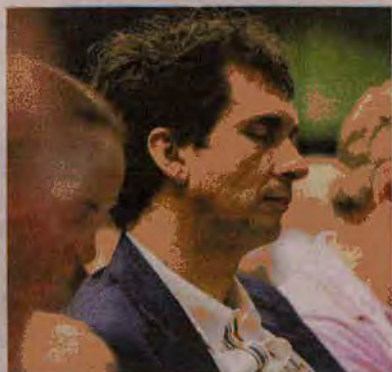
LGNSW president and Coffs Harbour councillor Keith Rhoades said while they would fight against forced amalgamations, councils should consider their options and assess whether they had the "capacity to stand alone".

Councils have until June 30 to lodge their Fit for the Future submissions, which will be assessed by an independent panel. "There is significant

support available to help council through the process," Mr Orr said.

Woollahra councillor Anthony Marano (left) said he was "very tired" and described the room as "airless and stuffy".

Liverpool Plains councillor Col Stewart travelled from Quirindi, 367km from Coffs Harbour. Mr Stewart said he worked hard for his local community and had a "habit of looking down at the floor" during meetings and speeches.



Luke's death



Rosie Batty leaves the Victorian Coroners Court after giving evidence at the inquest into the murder of her son Luke (inset). Picture: Jason Sammon

SHANNON DEERY, DAVID HURLEY & MATT JOHNSON

A TERRIFIED Rosie Batty decided against calling police when her violent estranged husband turned up at her son's cricket practice, contravening an order to stay away from him.

Her previous dealings with police over his breaking intervention orders to see his son made her frightened to go through another stressful incident.

It was a tragic mistake that cost the life of her 11-year-old son Luke when his father, Greg Anderson, 54, bludgeoned him to death.

Months earlier she had phoned police to apprehend Anderson, but no action was taken despite a warrant existing for his arrest.

The explosive revelation emerged at an inquest into the murder yester-

day, when Ms Batty said police officers later told her a "gap" in the police database was to blame.

"They said there was no record (of the warrant). They dismissed me like I didn't know what I was talking about," Ms Batty said.

She told the Victorian Coroners Court that on the day Luke was murdered she had decided against phoning 000 because previous dealings with police had been "traumatic and unpredictable".

"I'd had some really unpleasant situations involving the police at the oval," she said.

"I didn't trust the situation. I looked at Luke and thought 'This is going to be the third time I've tried to have this man arrested in front of Luke and his friends at that bloody oval!'"

Anderson had been playing with Luke at the cricket oval in the town of

Tyabb south of Melbourne in February when he suddenly attacked his son, killing him before police arrived and shot Anderson dead.

The court heard Luke would not have felt any pain after the initial blow inflicted by his father.

Witnesses tried to approach Anderson, 54, to help Luke but he ran at them scaring them away, saying: "He's in heaven now".

Ms Batty said a week before the murder she had given police Anderson's address after they asked her for help locating him. He was wanted on outstanding warrants and she presumed he had been arrested.

Ms Batty had also phoned her local police in April 2013 to report Anderson after he had turned up at football training to watch Luke.

An intervention order was in place protecting Luke from his dad after he

threatened him with a knife telling him "this could be the one to end it all". Anderson had failed to appear at court for the hearing that saw him banned from all contact with his son. When Ms Batty saw him at football training she phoned police but nothing was done.

She said police told her there was a "gap" in the system and they hadn't seen the warrant for Anderson's arrest.

The tragic revelation is expected to heighten pressure on the government to address fatal system failures that may have contributed to Luke's death.

Bail documents showed that on one occasion a police prosecutor didn't oppose Anderson's bail application in court despite the investigating officer stating he opposed bail. It meant Anderson was free to walk out of court.

Police and the government yesterday refused to comment on the inquest.

JANUARY 3, 2013

Batty attends Hastings police station. She says Anderson threatened to kill her and, as a result,



Killer Greg Anderson with baby Luke.

had committed a crime. She tells police he had said: "Right now I really want to kill you. I hope you have made a will."

APRIL 24, 2013

Anderson is told by the court not to contact Batty or Luke after making threats against them.

MAY 28, 2013

Anderson contacts Batty, who reports him to police and he is subsequently arrested again.

JUNE 11, 2013

Anderson fronts court over family violence issues. Police prosecutor fails to oppose bail and Anderson is released.

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Anderson murders Luke after cricket practice at the oval in Tyabb.



Flowers at the scene where Luke was killed.

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 isn't 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 parent or carer's opinion. 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.

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 carer's opinion. 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.

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.

Wombaroo Publishers
ABN: 47 301 509 824

Postal Address:
PO Box 116
Camden NSW 2570

02 4655 1234 t.
www.tdr.com.au

Editor:
Lee Abrahams
02 4655 1234
0406 713 714 m.
editor@tdr.com.au

Production:
Emily Bell
02 4655 1234 t.
design@tdr.com.au

Sales:
Noel Lowry
02 4655 1234 t.
0406 047 086 m.
sales@tdr.com.au



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 in 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 overnight.

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

3Youth 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 ,Deptof 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 .

5Cultural 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 .

7Environmental 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 .

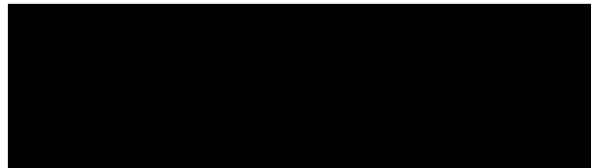
But let us pause here ,Councils organization chart of 2010 showed a General Manager , plus 2 Assistant General Managers . It is indeed pleasing to note this structure has been maintained , however the Assistant Managers, are now Deputy General Managers , I trust with increase in remuneration . Comparing 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

Addressing Your OUR future needs

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Gender: Male/Female

Age:

Special Rate Variation Submission:

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
TRIM No.	1862-4
PROP. No.	30 OCT 2014
AUTH. No.	
ASSIGNED TO	Karen

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 Burragorang 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.

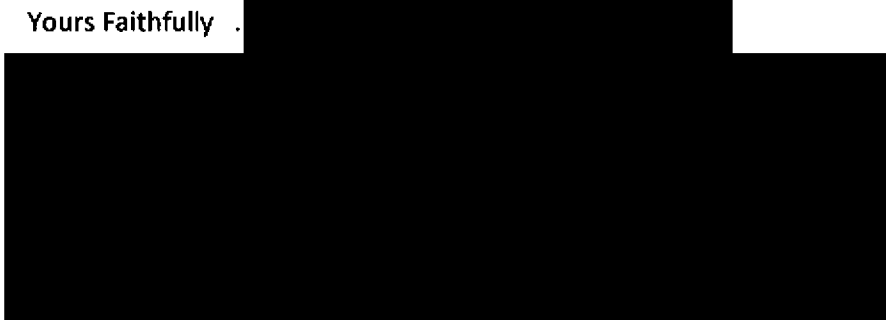
When are Rate Payers going to receive proper balance sheets showing a breakdown of income received and expenditure?

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 paid 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

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,

Proposed Rates Increase

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

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 & Scherode 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:	KH

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

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

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.

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.

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 their organisation.

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

SRV Submission number	SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION via COUNCIL BUSINESS PLANS FEEDBACK FORM
1	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
10	Option 2 or 3For meRate variationHoping 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]

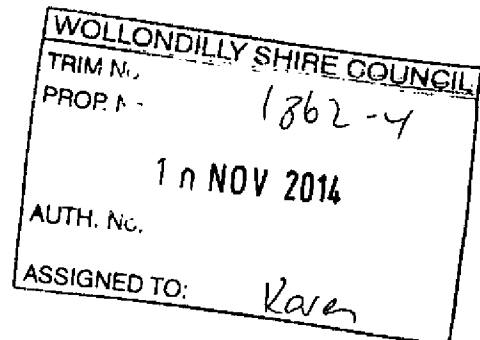
Rosalie Lena
PROPERTY MANAGER

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]

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

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

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

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

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	
FILE NO.	1862-Y
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.

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

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION NUMBER	SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION
1	<p data-bbox="482 254 1481 380">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 Wingecaribee 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.</p> <p data-bbox="482 384 570 409">Option 1</p>

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

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL	
PRINCE	1862-4
PROCESSED	15 DEC 2014
AUTHORITY	Karen.
ASSIGNED TO	

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 Council.

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.

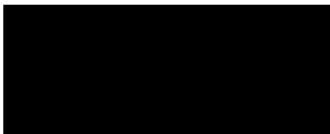
I suggest a rate on all internet connections. That way activity is taxed at source and all users of facilities pay for facilities. It is extremely efficient to ax this way.

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 thanks you for the opportunity to contribution to you 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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please refer to Councillor Judith Hannan for the full history.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

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.

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 23:36 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.

31st October 2014

Wollondilly Shire Council
Picton

re: 10.8% rate rise

We do not believe that we should pay any more in rates for our property. The road is seldom repaired & as we are on the outskirts of the council area little attention is paid to Orangeville/Werombi area.



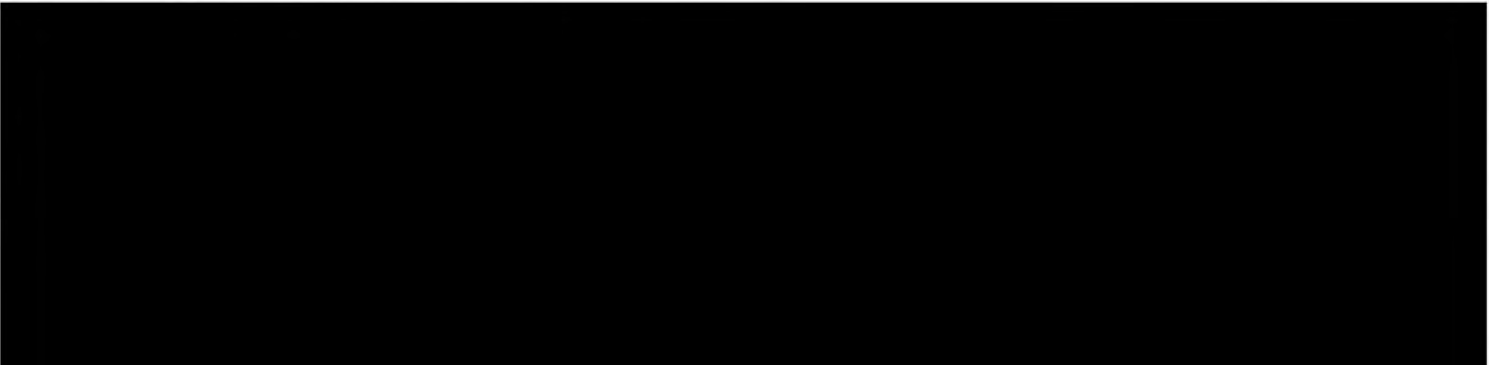
To: Wollondilly Shire Council

31-10-14.

I am not in favour of
any rate rise ever.

The maintenance of our
roads in this area is
way below average.

The population has boomed.
where is all of the
money going.



SUBMISSION DATE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION SUBMISSION

Why should we pay more for our rates when very little is ever done in Bargo? Apart from the garbage collection, services are limliWe have no sewage, no kerb and guttering, no footpaths and no decent upkeep of major roads let alone minor ones. Our road has had the shoulders graded twice in 34 years.

4/02/2015 16:36 Everything seems done in a slip slop manner.

Why should we pay more rates? Services are poor apart from the garbage collection. No footpats, no kerb and guttering and no sewerage. Upkeep on major roads is hit and miss.The shoulders on our road have only been graded twice in 34 years. bargo seems

4/02/2015 16:45 to be at the end of the list always. Thank you.