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Submission:

Rockdale Council is seeking a rate variation. This variation would not be necessary if council was competently managed and Councilors had experience in funds management.

Prior to any rate variation approval, there should be a full Forensic Accounting Audit completed on Rockdale Council to see how rates have been managed and spent previously. A rate variation should not be approved until there is adequate proof that council is competent in funds management.

It should be noted:

2. At the Council meeting to approve the rate variation 7 councilors were in favor (Labor and Independents), 6 councilors against (Liberal) and 2 councilors absent. Questions should be asked as to why the two councilors were absent. Could it be that they did not want to upset other Councilors based on how they voted? You would think, in order to approve such an important matter there would need to be 100% or at least a majority in favor.

Over the years it is clear and evident that Rockdale Council has let the area fall into a sorry state of disrepair. It appears exorbitant amounts of money have been spent on some projects ie Brighton beachfront (benefiting a few local businesses), whilst other areas completed neglected.

Information I have is limited, but there are clear signs of mismanagement and possible overpayment of past and current council projects. Typical example: council was about to renovate (not rebuild) a very small toilet block in Vanston Parade Sandringham. Costs were stated at being about \$330,000

After a number of locals heard about the project and took issue with the renovation and costs, it was put on hold. In also appears about one million dollars was spent renovating three other toilet/showering facilities nearby. This amount is way above what should have been spent on such projects.

Another project currently underway is a surveillance camera in Vanston Parade. This camera was placed in the street and no information provided to residents as to its purpose and expected outcomes. It should be noted that a similar surveillance camera was placed in the same position a few years ago. During this 3 months installation period there were approximately 900 instances of illegal parking (council statistics) that could have added over \$200,000 to council coffers. In all about one million dollars a year is not being collected by council in this one street alone.

Council should install parking meters along the Botany Bay waterfront, but refuse to do so. Funds derived from these meters would quickly assist in providing the necessary funds to renew basic infrastructure. It is evident that the majority of visitors to the area and its bayside attractions are not from the Rockdale Area. Why are they not charged for the privilege (ie paid parking), just like if we were to visit areas like Bondi or other beaches.