

November 28, 2018

Coralie Nichols,  
General Manager,  
Dungog Shire Council  
Dowling Street,  
DUNGOG NSW 2420

Dear General Manager,

RE: Dungog Shire Council Special Rate Variation.

I write to you as a rate-payer, small business owner in the Dungog Shire, President of the Dungog District Chamber of Commerce and Board Member of Dungog Regional Tourism.

I am aware that Dungog Shire Council was identified as "not fit" under the Independent Local Government Review Panels (ILGRP) process and as a result has now lodged a Reassessment Proposal addressing how Council intends to meet the seven (7) key performance measures. As part of the improvement proposal and to help address the funding shortfall (dating back to the introduction of the State Government's rate pegging policy in the early 1970's and rate relief that was provided by Dungog Shire Council in the 1980's) Council is now proposing a special rate variation (SRV) over a period of 7 years. I support this Rate Variation and believe that it will help put Dungog Shire on a sustainable pathway, improve the overall financial performance and better manage and maintain infrastructure.

I have been involved in the process of community engagement for the SRV. I was a member of the SRV Community Panel, working with Councillors and staff to develop a SRV proposal for further community consultation and to provide input into Council's application process to IPART for a SRV. I have also attended public meetings and engaged with Community Members in relation to the impact of the proposed SRV.

I am also aware of that a SRV is only one of a number of options Council is considering in order to improve our overall financial performance and better manage and maintain infrastructure.

I support the current proposed SRV and congratulate Dungog Shire Council on its  
 the long term sustainability of Dungog Shire.

Dear Tracy,

As a recently new landholder within the Dungog Shire, I was delighted to received your mayoral update dated 14 January 2019.

I was astounded to see that you have a backlog of public works totalling \$37m for road works and also bridges. I fully appreciate the fact that the typography of the Dungog shire is such that given its hilly, undulating and many waterways, the pressures on your council are quite significant.

I think the work that you have undertaken so efficiently on the Maitland / Dungog Road is excellent and a vast improvement on the previous road. Well done!!!

But further, I realise that many of the bridges were installed many years ago and the cost of their replacement today, given the amount of use and the weights they have to carry, call for a much greater investment that originally was the case.

I fully support your Council's actions in asking the State Government to assist with the change in status of the Maitland / Dungog Road and further, fully support the renewal of old timber bridges with the construction of concrete facilities that will handle the additional weights of trucks, semi-trailers and lorries generally.

Your region is so productive. The Dungog Shire is an extremely beautiful area and does very well in supporting the economy because of the beef industry, the dairy industry and agriculture. However, we all must come to grips with the fact that trucks and 4WD's are much heavier today than our original roads and bridges were constructed to service.

I applaud strongly Council's initiative in pursuing Government grants to help Council catch up on the road and bridge installations for your Shire, to facilitate better access, but more importantly to create greater safety for the area's roads generally.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

January 11<sup>th</sup> 2019.



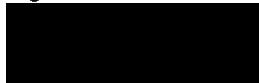
Ms Coralie Neville,  
The General Manager,  
Dungog Shire Council.

Dear Coralie,

Thank you for your recent attendance, along with the Mayor, at our Branch. It was good to hear your input regarding local matters.

As our letter to the mayor indicated, this Branch is very aware of the issues you discussed with us. Despite it never being popular to raise rates, we understand the historically low rate and the reasons for it. In a general sense this branch supports the need to increase the rates and other charges as specifically we must get roads funding onto a more secure basis. To that end we are, through the Labor Party, pressuring for the return of at least one major road into the responsibility of the State Government.

Again, our thanks to you.



[REDACTED]

DATE: 09/02/2019

FROM: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

TO: The General Manager  
Dungog Shire Council, PO Box 95, DUNGOG NSW 2420

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Comment on Dungog Shire Council SRV Application to IPART

As a local business owner and rate paying member of the community I am writing to you to express my support for your application to IPART for a SRV over 7 years.

It has been proven that without a significant rate increase the Dungog Shire Council is not "Fit for the Future" - a fact that was used to trigger amalgamation processes in other districts. A Council that is not "Fit" is one that will be unable to maintain and provide essential services to a community that remains to grow - a fact that I find unacceptable.

A common complaint amongst residents and visitors to the district is the current state of the roadways within the shire. This also has a direct and noticeable impact on myself with increased expenses related to vehicle maintenance (both personal and business). If the SRV is approved, road maintenance will be increased 40%, and renewal and rehabilitation will be increased 60-65% - in my opinion this is necessary to ensure the viability of the shire as a place to live and visit.

During 2015 Dungog was hit by a significant weather event, resulting in approximately 46 houses and 5 businesses being directly impacted by flood water. This does not include the immeasurable toll it took on the community. Approving the SRV will enable an increase of urban stormwater renewals - which I hope would reduce the risk of a similar event impacting as many homes and businesses, giving the community some peace of mind.

Having a young family in the district I am quite aware of the state of the parks and reserves, with none of the parks having shade cloth covering the play equipment it is hard to find places to take children during the day. Maintaining and renewing these assets will not be possible without the approval of the SRV.

It is because of the reasons listed above that I fully support the Dungog Shire Council application for an SRV.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]