

Hi

As a declared 'shareholder' (Dick Persson's term) of Central Coast Council, I object strongly to the Central Coast Council's request to increase their general income above the 2% rate peg. Please DO NOT burden the ratepayers of the Central Coast with a grossly unfair increase of 10% or 15%, especially as I see nothing in place that will prevent this from happening again. See points below in regards to our wish list and hopes for a better CCC.

1. Cultural change in the bureaucracy. Live within your means and be kinder to your employees.
2. Official apology for unlawful use of funds. We don't trust CCC anymore, but would like to again.
3. We want an official vote of no confidence in Council and the entire executive leadership team who oversaw this mess.
4. We want curb, gutter, potholes fixed, weeding, water... all the basics prioritised FIRST. There are many documented examples of potholes, roads in disrepair, high weeds covering footpaths used by residents, making them dangerous to negotiate and often forcing schoolchildren to make their way to school by walking on the streets. This neglect is not lack of funds. It's endemic to this Council, a situation going back years.
5. No more carrot v stick threats of restricted services if the CCC loses with IPART.
6. Sack the councillors not just suspend them.
7. An end to the auditor general's historical mentions of decades of breaches of the act 2001 to 2019 in the auditor's report. Stop breaching the act.
8. No more executives getting golden handshakes. With power comes responsibility. Enforce those responsibilities and hold the bureaucracy to account.
9. No more contrived manipulated surveys from CCC. Your council is losing your 'shareholders' respect, trust and confidence.
10. No more lack of transparency and proper documentation by council in regards to financial matters that results in inadequate checks from the NSW Auditor General department. Make CCC responsible and culpable via written contracts.
11. 27% of residents on the Central Coast are over 60. Well above the NSW average of 22%. Pensions increased by 0.2% in 2020 and many pensioners and lower income earners are already struggling to get by. PLEASE DO NOT approve the Council's request for an unheard of 10% or 15% rate increase. Simply put, that would destroy lives.
12. Work on behalf of the entire area not just a few select prestige 'tourist based' suburbs. Necessities first.
13. With the higher rate rises will come higher rent rises, and businesses will charge more, some business will now not come to the Central Coast OR they will leave. The cost is always passed on. So if anyone thinks this is just a home owner problem they are incorrect. Rate rises will increase poverty and unemployment. Developers will have trouble selling their lots and package deal homes, as the insecurity of permanent rate rises will scare people away both buyers and investors. Worse still this could lead to hundreds of homes put up for sale to get away from the financial insecurity leading to a downturn in property values. Watch this decision snowball out of control.

14. In August 20th 2014 Gosford Council agreed to investigate the introduction of a sewer levy for residents who are unable to access sewer services and are therefore being financially disadvantaged due to costs associated with pump-out services. Council also agreed to request the State and Federal Government's assistance via any appropriate funding opportunities or any other federal or state funded services program, to assist in the provision of reticulated sewer to residents on pump out in the Gosford City area.

Here are quotes from Central Coast residents on their issues today, NOT 2014. SO THE COUNCIL THREATENS TO REDUCE OUR SERVICES EVEN FURTHER IF WE DON'T PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES. Can the services of these people be reduced even further? :

(a) Don't you just love power outages when you can't flush a toilet or have a shower because you can't run the pumps.

(b) Get the generator out, fuel it up and start running extension leads. We're living the life.

(c) There are thousands of rate payers like this. Water tankers in times of low rain constantly driving around doing water deliveries? The majority of the water tankers work 18 hour days doing their best to provide water to all the residents when we haven't had rain.

(d) There are hundreds of residents without connected sewer that have on site waste management systems that we pay to maintain and service.

(e) We have the same in the old Wyong shire. It costs us \$3200 a year for the privilege of maintaining on site waste management services. (note - rates for most central coast rate payers are MUCH higher than the out dated figures on the Council's 'Secure your future' letter!).

(f) We have no curb and guttering. No footpaths or street lighting. We do have bin service. We have back to grid solar power and also enviro cycle for sewage. We mostly use tank water, although we have the option of switching to town water in if no rain. Yet STILL our rates are \$3200 yearly!

(g) The only thing I get from the council is garbage collection. No curb and gutter or street lights. \$2200 after pensioner rebate from federal government.

(h) We are not on the sewer and have on site treatment and pay \$80 every quarter for the 'privilege'. Then on top of that council demands \$69 per year for doing nothing and providing us with a piece of paper to say that we can service our own septic. When it needs parts or something breaks down WE foot the bill. This time it's over \$500.

(i) We don't have ANY of those services provided either and this seems to be quite common across the coast. To be honest many of us in this same situation would be better off with no council, no rates, take our own bins to the tip, maintain our own road frontage and volunteer once a month to maintain a common area.

(j) In Jilliby, on HueHue road, we have no water service, no sewer, no gas, no NBN, no green bin service and no curb / guttering. Our rates don't reflect the lack of services.

I disagree with being referred to as a Shareholder in CCC. We did not cause this mess. Our elected officials caused this mess. We are Stakeholders, not Shareholders.

15. LET'S TALK ABOUT INSURANCE! As former business owners and operators would know insurance is critical for their industries. So it makes sense that the council must have insurance in order to cover malpractice and unlawful action. The Council has breached both public liability (just look at the state of our roads, lack of footpaths in areas they absolutely need them to protect rate payers from verging

on dangerous roads) and public liability (Somehow Dick Persson see this as our fault as 'shareholders'). How are we responsible when it has been proven unlawful access to funds (Dick's own words) were approved WITHOUT PUBLIC CONSULTATION WITH THE 'SHAREHOLDERS', and despite continuous warnings of over spending.

16. LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF CCC NOT PROVIDING THE BASIC SERVICES. Here is a list of suburbs where, to varying degrees OR entirely, are without basic water, storm water, or sewerage services OR they may have one and not the other. Literally thousands of properties. There will be others that I haven't mentioned:

Jilliby, Alison, Wyong Creek, Somersby, Kulnura, Central Mangrove, Mardi, Yarramalong, Dooralong, Wamberal, Erina Heights, Matcham, Holgate, Springfield, Fountaindale, Kangy Angy, Lisarow, Ourimbah, Long Jetty, Watanobbi, Woongarah, Wallarah, Glenning Valley, Tacoma, Calga, Ravensdale, Cedar Brush Creek, Niagara Park, Tumbi Umbi, Peats Ridge, Mt White, Moonee ,Mangrove Mtn, Lower Mangrove, Green Grove, Mount Elliot, Doyalson. And basically everywhere on the western side of the freeway.

Here are quotes from some of the ratepayers (Dick Persson's 'shareholders') in these areas:

a. ' Kangy Angy. No water no sewer. The biggest issue is we have to pay council yearly to have a septic/envirocycle. It's ridiculous! '

b. ' Dooralong no water or sewerage '.

c. ' Lisarow no water or sewer and dirt road and yes water rates , it's all a joke ! '

d. ' We are on tank and septic and yet our rates are ridiculous and we live on a dirt road. Ourimbah '.

e. ' We are in Long Jetty & don't have storm water and yet we seem to pay higher rates than Terrigal where all the money is spent '.

f. ' I had a house with no stormwater outlet but was paying a stormwater levy. In Watanobbi '.

g. ' Ourimbah. On council water - which can be tainted in colour and smell from time to time. On septic tank. Which we need to pay a yearly live fee to use '.

h. ' On-site Sewage Management System. Last year it cost me \$650 to get the tank and pipes emptied, pressure cleaned. Plus an annual fee of \$54 which is now in my rates. It was inspected by Council under the a Local Government Act to protect public health and the environment. Up here on the Mountain there are HOW MANY chook sheds within 1/2 a kilometre of a creek or stream? So Chook poo is allowed to polite our environment but we are not? '

i. ' Wallarah doesn't have services either ie water, sewer, nbn etc '.

j. ' Some parts of Wyee, we went there a few months ago and people have no sewerage and they cannot build there '.

k. ' How the does an 800million a year council give so little to so many '.

l. ' We have no water and sewerage at Niagara Park. We also pay storm water rates even though we have no gutters and run off on our land goes into a creek '.

m. ' Tumbi Umbi in the rural areas. I had to install an Envirocycle, pay to have it serviced every 3 months, and pay a licence fee to Council to operate it '.

n. ' Ravensdale, no water, no sewerage yet we are rated on both! '

o. ' We live at Kulnura. The part I hate as a rate payers is the fact we get charged to have septic on our own property. Our septic runs on to our own property & no one from council ever inspects it & if there's a problem, We pay for it to get fixed. Same as this storm water charge. None of our property runs off on to council property, yet we pay a storm water fee?? We have huge amounts of water coming off a council road into our property. They didn't clean their culvit out on the road & with recent rain it starting washing our driveway out. All the silt that came off the council road washed into our creek. We complained to council numerous times but nothing was done. We get trees down, drains blocked & dangerous trees hanging over from council land & guess who cleans it up?? We do! We even clean up trees that have fallen on our local road as no one else does it. NO council to be seen.

p. ' Yes, we have to pay for sewerage and water rates, but we have neither. We are on The Ridgeway at Tumbi Umbi '.

q. ' We are on septic and tank water at Holgate plus they are billing us for storm drains! '.

r. ' My point is, if u drive further north we don't have play grounds or skate parks or any recreational areas that our kids can play in or our teens can use. We have an old 20 yr old small derelict skate park which is not maintained. We have no kerb and guttering. We have patched roads without asphalt. Yet we pay more for our rates... why is this??

s. ' At Gorokan we have no footpaths or kerb and guttering but still get rates for stormwater and drainage' .

t. ' Mount Elliot has no water, sewer service, footpaths, kerb and gutter, Council never mow our front strip - the only "service" Council provide is rubbish collection '.

u. ' No sewerage service in rural Glenning Valley. Southfork Drive, doesn't have street lights, curbing or guttering. If our rates increase 10% we will be paying an extra \$375 pa for garbage collection. That's all we get '.

v. ' Our rates only just went up last year I think it was approx \$800 increase for the year and now they want to put it up again '.

w. ' What gets me is that Council involve themselves & our rate fees heavily in the arts community but don't provide the very basic items like sewer & water supply '.

So as you can see if CCC carry out their threats to 'reduce' services if they don't have us pay for their mismanagement what will they reduce for people in these areas? Why did CCC replace all the street signs that still have a 10 year life? Over the last twenty years why couldn't they begin a project to run the water to one suburb a year over time. The money wasted on new street signs for all of the coast would have paid for one suburb. Wrong priorities. A lack of service mentality. A culture of avoidance of service.

WE SAY 'NO' TO THIS UNFAIR 10% OR 15% RATE RISE. WE WANT ACCOUNTABILITY. WE WANT INSURANCE. WE WANT BASIC SERVICES BEFORE ALL ELSE. ROADS, WATER, SEWERAGE, WEEDS. WE WANT COUNCILLORS WITH BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SKILLS. KEEP POLITICS OUT OF COUNCILS. RUN IT LIKE A BUSINESS.