



21st February 2014

Dr Peter J. Boxall AO
Chairman
Ipart
PO NBox Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as a concerned rate payer of Glen Innes Severn Council. Our Council has recently indicated to the residents that it intended to apply to Ipart for a SRV. Originally they were proposing 10% for residents for 1 year and 10% for farmers for each of 3 years. After a lot on unrest within the community they changed this to 10% for residents in year 1 and 5% for year 2 and 10% for farmers for year 1 and year 2 and 5% for year 3.

The majority of rate payers, despite what our Council may have you believe, feel this is still excessive towards the farmers, given that they don't benefit from the rates as much as the town people do and also, given the current drought situation in particular up here, most people felt it was unfair.

Council supplied a questionnaire to rate payers and also had community meetings, based on the comments that they have posted on their web site, the overwhelming result was a very loud NO to any rate rise.

We currently have a Council that would appear to be incapable of performing any capital works project either within time or budget and this is not hearsay, it's fact from their own figures.

Examples
Southern End of Grey Street
Council Works Depot
Truck Wash
Red Range Bore
Aggregate Centre

All of these projects have gone over budget within the last 2 years. Council seem to forget that it's not their money they are spending, it's ours and we the ratepayers are sick and tired of the waste.

Every household has to live within their means and manage their funds, our Council seem incapable of doing this as they simply put their hand out for more funds and either the State or Federal Government up until now has given them more. Now that the State and Federal Government has said enough is enough they are now expecting us to pay more. Well we are saying enough is enough.

Our Council is planning on spending \$7500 per tree (approx 12 trees) in our main street, which no one wants and also \$250,000 for a "Shared Zone". How an area within the main street that has a seat can cost \$250,000 I don't know, but again our Council wants to spend the money on another useless area which no one wants.

Our Council had an Extraordinary Meeting last night to vote on the recommendation to send their proposal to Ipart and the vote was 3 for and 3 against (unfortunately the 7th Councilor was absent) so our Mayor used his casting vote for and now you will be receiving the recommendation.

A more equitable solution would be 5% residents, 5% farmers and 5% business for 1 year and then we could review. This was expressed to Council at one of the community meetings, but our Mayor ignored it, saying that they had already spent months working on this proposal and they weren't going to change it now. Personally I would have thought that an agreeable solution by all would be the preferred option to present to Ipart.

We realise that there is an infrastructure backlog and if we could be guaranteed that our money would be well spent on upgrading the roads and bridges we would probably be happy to pay a bit more but given the Councils current track record, this is not the case at present.

What we really need is our Council to be dissolved and an Administrator appointed, by doing this the Administrator would be able to assess our current financial situation and hire the correct people to arrange for the roads and bridges etc to be fixed at an acceptable level, for an acceptable cost and to stem the flow of overspending that we currently have.

Our Council seems incapable of listening to it's ratepayers, so I implore you to listen to us and reject the application.

I thank you for your time and appreciate your consideration.

Kind regards


Wendy Ennor

Encl.....

Council's Long Term Financial Sustainability



Community Survey:

Your feedback on the future of the Glen Innes Severn region and the special rate variation would be greatly appreciated, please complete the following survey and return to Council by 7 February 2014.

1. Listed below are some of the discretionary services that Council provides, please indicate by ticking in the box your opinion of each service currently:

	Stop providing this service	Reduce this service	Increase this service	Leave as is
➤ Public Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Rural Halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Sporting Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Glen Innes Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
➤ Emmaville Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
➤ Visitor Information Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Village Landfills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Parks and Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Village Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
➤ Saleyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
➤ Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. In your opinion, how would you generally describe the condition of *rural sealed roads* in the Local Government Area?

Very Poor Poor Fair Satisfactory Good Excellent

3. How important are the condition or *rural sealed roads* to you? (1 being not important 5 being very important)

1 2 3 4 5

4. In your opinion, how would you generally describe the condition of *rural unsealed (gravel) roads* in the Local Government Area?

Very Poor Poor Fair Satisfactory Good Excellent

5. How important are the condition or *rural unsealed roads* to you? (1 being not important 5 being very important)

1 2 3 4 5

6. In your opinion, how would you generally describe the condition of *town and village streets* in the Local Government Area?

Very Poor Poor Fair Satisfactory Good Excellent

Council's Long Term Financial Sustainability



7. How important are the condition or *town and village streets* to you? (1 being not important 5 being very important)

1 2 3 4 5

8. In your opinion, how would you generally describe the condition of *bridges* in the Local Government Area?

Very Poor Poor Fair Satisfactory Good Excellent

9. How important are the condition or *bridges* to you? (1 being not important 5 being very important)

1 2 3 4 5

10. How do you feel about Council applying for a special rate variation to be spent only on Roads, Bridges and footpaths? (1 being totally disapprove 5 being full approval)

1 2 3 4 5 *They can't manage the money they already have*

11. Do you support the percentage increase per year proposed over the next three years for Farmland ratepayers (excluding the rate peg)? If your answer is no, please suggest an alternative percentage.

~~YES/NO~~ *But they must be monitored.*

12. Do you support the one year percentage increase Residential ratepayers (excluding the rate peg)? If your answer is no, please suggest an alternative percentage.

~~YES/NO~~ *But they must be monitored.*

13. Like your own house and garden, Local Government's existing assets (which have a replacement value of \$362M) will not last for the next generation unless we spend more money on repairs and maintenance.

If you do not agree with the special rate variation which of Council's services would you suggest Council cuts.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Emmaville Library* | Glencoe Library | Deepwater Library |
| Environmental Management | Deepwater Landfill | Tourism |
| Events and Festivals | Public Halls | Red Range Landfill |
| Emmaville Landfill | | |

If you would like, please include your reasons:

We don't want to reduce the current services we have, just the over spending by council on needless things, like shaved zones and trees.

Re visit the rates with 5% Business, 5% Residential 5% Farms for 3 years,

Please attach any other comments and return to Council by 7 February 2014.