

Some reasons against rate rises are:

Council mislead the public with their service choice survey - Due to it being based on either reduced services or just getting back more of the same. Which includes gross mismanagement and waste of our rates. Also it only gave a choice of very bad to basically getting more of exactly the same. Selfreplicating of their own past inefficiencies.

In other words they never took into account their poor handling of services and expenditure in this survey statement which makes up much of our rate waste within the shire. If they create millions in waste and mismanagement all they'll do with more rates its fuel more of the same. There's no need to raise rates when they only intend to self replicate more of the same.

Examples:

Council year after year has secret: **"In Confidence Contracts"** , in which they refuse to list the ratepayer portion of "payments made" grossly misleading our town. Millions have been paid out and wasted out over the years without the knowledge of ratepayers. They always need more rates to cover this waste over. This is already one of the "differences" in dollar terms between rate rises! Money paid out on event and business deals gone bad.

The extreme waste on building 18 million worth of retainment basins which they themselves state wont stop flooding in those areas. Nor will those works stop flash flooding in the city areas due to drain sizes being too small.

The extreme waste of buying up useless flood prone land and not revealing what was paid to individuals. [REDACTED] Why pay for that land which already flooded anyway? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The ratepayer portion of any money paid out should always be revealed. Not kept secret from ratepayers as this council is doing.

The museum waste being some \$800k and then to spend a further \$650k on just a house for a museum. They have already gutted the historic home taking away its historic appeal. The building is totally unsuitable for its use. They've ruined a heritage building.

Its just an old house and they're already destroyed the heritage value of it by gutting the inside of it. The building is a fire risk, and theft risk and is too small for the purpose use of this "city". A lot of money that could have been used in a more responsible way at another location for a purpose built building. Its all been a major disgrace and a white elephant. Rates and taxes wasted here. This should be totally investigated from the time of purchase as that was already very suspect. This is our rate money being wasted here.

The fact the council is supporting millions in payments every year to pay for some community services which could be placed into the private sector taking

the burden off ratepayers. Spending over \$600,000 on a small shire town community pool that barely gets used for example. The Jetty Theatre is another example that should be in the private sector. There are other ways this can be organized and still get the same level of use by the community. The ratepayer can't be expected to prop up failed losing businesses year after year? Especially if its only being used by a very small portion the shire over time.

The money wasted on our roads and infrastructure is being wasted each time due to the way they maintain these actual services so poorly. Like fixing the same roads and potholes over and over in short time frames. Sealing some roads that don't need doing when others do. [REDACTED] Spraying the road with tar that does nothing at all. That's out rate money.

Using council services inefficiently for street sweepers not doing areas needed and then doing areas that don't need doing at all, and lawn mowing while just mowing through rubbish and leaving it there. That costs us the ratepayer if they don't perform well.

The council fleet of vehicles is well over stocked for the amount many get used. That costs us in employed operators, maintenance and lease payments sometimes just for occasional use. Its an added burden that has to be paid for by the ratepayers and taxes.

Council distribution of grants from our rates isn't targeting the projects in the community that really need doing first. Like sealed footpaths, gutters, keeping our streets clean, cleaning our waterways, making our pedestrian crossings and school crossings safer etc. Better signs. Safer roads and streets.

Making bad planning decisions to pass applications that ratepayers have to foot the bill for later down the track. Its costing us millions over time just for doing this. And they're still doing more of the same some with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. How else could they do that?

The excessive use of ratepayers funds for non essential trips like that of recently to Japan by the Mayor and some colleagues.

Money used to refurbish major office space some time back to the tune of one million. The spending without ratepayer knowledge in many other areas always kept on the quiet. Sometimes they get found out but other government departments then protect them and their actions. They can always claim stupidity and they get away with it to do more of the same.

Money wasted on legal fees for bad council decisions affected by outside influences regarding building permits that were already approved. Costing the ratepayers many 100's of thousands of dollars.

- The overall over costing of some projects so they can divert funds from one to others. Money skimming has been going on for years.
- Misdirecting the use of government grants.

- Not using the full amount of government grants for their specific purpose. Yes its all going one but as a ratepayer we can't take action for this. [REDACTED]

The fact that the Mayor and others pay using ratepayer funds to run some events gambling with these funds to try and make a profit. Like that of the Mayors Ball for charity costing ratepayers thousands. Yes they claim they made \$4,000 profit but used ratepayer funds to gamble on its outcome. That should also be highly illegal. But they did it and get away with it.

Paying out huge sums for events saying they'll benefit the community when in fact all they do is create more town debt. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ratepayers have to pay for this debt.

[REDACTED] land deals conducted around the councillor system like that of the house being built on a public reserve behind a housing estate right next door to the largest Bat Colony in our area.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This site also features photos and more information. This was done outside the councillor approval system. Does that sound right to you to approve firstly the change of use from a reserve and wildlife corridor and then to be opposite a huge Bat Colony? A colony they state can spread our deadliest Hendra Virus? That should have went through the councillor process without doubt but it didn't. No one asks why not or to whom that property was sold too? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Its dead dangerous to live there. A flood zone and next to the bats. Imagine the liability on council and ratepayers if someone their gets the Hendra virus?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Buts its costing the ratepayer millions every year.

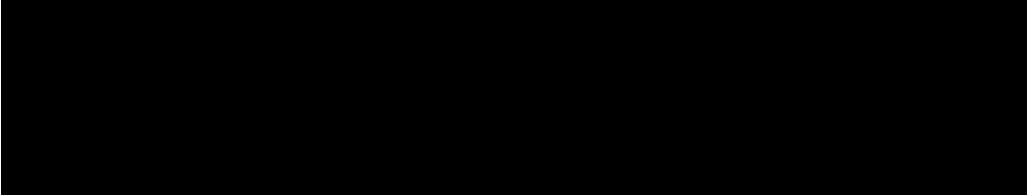
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]


Distribution of funds [REDACTED] but not in areas where most needed by the community. [REDACTED]


But the proof is in their operations all around the town.


The gross waste and misdirection created by Coffs Harbour City Council spending and wasting ratepayers funds and not using those funds for the best outcome for the community is gross negligence [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- They shouldn't be given any more rate money to waste.
- They should be totally investigated for all past and present spending.
- Their actions and motivation for taking actions should be investigated.
- Their operating procedures should be investigated.
- They're not accountable to the ratepayers by their secretive actions like that of "In Confidence Contracts".
- They haven't any set programs in place to build public infrastructure like that of Sealed Footpaths around the town and they refuse to take action on this even though they know the risks to the public using some of these busy roadsides to walk on. Beryl Street a main City thoroughfare street is a perfect example. We are a "City" but are only being treated like a small town.
- No rate rises should be met until all their operations have been totally investigated by an administrator with a first hand knowledge of proper town service supply and at affordable prices.

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I use  to show the people of Coffs Harbour some of what goes on without their knowledge. I'm a retired Private investigator and I try and show some actions that this town takes with many matters some of which are very suspect to say the least. You have to ask what is their motivation to do those things?

The council system is totally open to outside interference  at the highest levels. In many cases the councillors can be effected even without their knowledge by mates by the way their decisions are being made. This also effects town spending and again the financial outcome from all ratepayers.

If the council undertakes million in jobs and contracts others stand to make a lot of money from those contracts. So its stands to reason if decisions are manipulated in their favour 


It may not be intentional on the part of councillors but its happening.

The council system itself is so flawed by allowing councillor groups to control the votes made within council. By influencing one another certain expensive job contracts can be very lucrative for some around the town.

Contractors, buildings suppliers all stand to make millions from an "easy" council. Ratepayers have to wear that burden [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The council system is so flawed its bleeding the town dry in over charging by locals and mates. Millions wasted over the years. This effects our rates and is just one of the reasons they're always needing more money. To line someone else's pockets. From suppliers to assessors are all bleeding us dry.

Many of the locals in Coffs Harbour are retired, unemployed or are on some form of benefits and these are the very people that have to pay for the higher rates and services. Many can barely survive these days as it is. Our town has record unemployment for this area and its not likely to improve with this councils performance.

If rates go up it makes businesses already struggling go to the wall because they too have to find that extra money and must somehow pass their extra costs on to these above ratepayers that are struggling to pay their way now already. So these higher rates are sending businesses broke too. I've been living in Coffs Harbour for the last 9 years and I've never so many businesses go broke than in this town. Their overheads are too high and they can't recoup it from the ratepayers.

To say council costs are going up is of their own making because they're the one's making it that way by employing more staff to do little more. I've outlined some of their huge areas of waste and mismanagement. Their suspect behaviour all of which threatens the ratepayers dollars spent within this city. Many of their staff could be outsourced into the private sector for the amount of times we need them.

They employ council people to do qualified position jobs they can't do because they don't even have the funds for them to undertake those jobs. What sense does that make? Employing people to sit there all day that can barely do their jobs? Our rates are paying these people and for this waste.

Around half our town rates are just being squandered away into areas they shouldn't and there's huge room for improvement in those areas by a more competent team of leaders to solve those issues and deliver a better quality of services than they currently do.

Making everyone pay more in Coffs Harbour for more self replication of all of this just doesn't make any sense whatsoever and would be a huge burden on the businesses that employ many within the town that must some how pass those costs on as well. Our town is already broke due to overcharging for things we just don't get. If we see more businesses go broke that will put more people out of work at the same time and we just can't afford that.

Make the council system more accountable and honest and get them to deliver what the community needs first before all their petty hidden agendas. Sealed footpaths, gutters, safer road crossings, better signage, more street lighting, keep our town clean from pollution and rubbish, make our streets safer, provide better free services for some community groups and clubs, etc

This Coffs Harbour City Council has drained our community dry and isn't providing incentive for employers to come here. They don't listen to the community needs. And they just listen to a few mates and give them what they want at any cost. We have councillors in place that shouldn't be there at all as they're operate in collusion for agendas that don't suit our town except their own personal agendas. Its not right and our city has suffered enough.

Our city is not getting back the best possible value for its rate dollar. Say no to all rate rises and have the council investigated by non government investigators. The truth can be seen all around our town.

Regards
John Boom

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]