

From: Joan Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 February 2016 10:03 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: FW: Council Special Rate Variation.

EMAIL TO: - IPART

FROM: - Harrington Community Action Group Inc.

DATE:- 24 February 2016

REFERENCE:- "Another so called one-off Special Rate Variation (Rate Increase) sought by Greater Taree City Council".

We bring to your attention this stand-over situation up before council where it appears that the Greater Taree City Council is continuing on its course of self destruction through not being a progressive Council. The lack of foresight in attracting business over many years and the economics that follow prevents it moving forward proving that it is not a fit council for the future. This planning of the current "over and above" Rate Variation controversy is a typical example as they have left it till the last minute when the busy time of the year is confronting the community and there is no Council meetings held in January and where Council is closed from Christmas Eve till after the New Year holidays. We believe that the Council's in other areas have been working better by communicating with their communities.

The HCAG Inc Committee Members have very little resources to thoroughly investigate the council workings but are very concerned about the manner in which this Greater Taree City Council and current Councillors communicate or are allowed to communicate with the Ratepayer. The Councillors have a monthly Work Shop where they, we believe, discuss issues to go before a Council meeting. There are no formal minutes available from these meetings so therefore the Ratepayer has no idea of what discussion has taken place or how each elected councillor is performing.

The HCAG Committee has discussed the Agenda Business Papers and the result from the Council meeting of the 21 October 2015. Our general consensus was that council leave a lot to be desired especially in regards to the projected expenditure figures to justify the extra rate increase of 6% to 7% and when compounded with their all-in extra rises making expected rates rises over 10% compounded for 6 years plus the CPI increase. The standard of the infrastructure in the GTCC area is so far below acceptable standards apart from new road works that have been carried out over the past recent years that have now deteriorated to the extent that some need replacing which means that the Council are just chasing their tail and going around in circles. It appears that Council cannot build decent roads.

It appears that this Council cannot help itself without calling for Special Rate Variations – Please see 2 attachments of 2010 Special 12% Rate Variation sought. The results of this are not known and supporting evidence of monies gained or any infrastructure improved/updated to justify variation seems non existent or deliberately hidden.

The questions the Action Group are asking and require answers of the State Government is WHY the GTCC have been allowed to go along as it has been doing for so long and the reasons WHY the State Government have not taken any action previously to resolve this problem?

Joan Hall - Secretary on behalf of the HCAG Inc.