

Sent: Sunday, 8 March 2015 12:01 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Eurobodalla Shire Council SRV considerations.

8/03/2015

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

Dear Chairman

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) have been asked to consider a Special Rate Variation of 6.5% by the Eurobodalla Shire Council. Submissions from the Eurobodalla Shire Council signed by the Councils General Manager have been received by the IPART and are available for viewing etc on the IPARTs web pages via the Internet.

It's clear when reading the submissions that are in two parts "A" and "B" what the Eurobodalla Shire Council is asking the IPART to support as an ordinary rate rise above the 2.3 or 2.4% CPI increases will not rectify what they claim are shortfalls in rate revenue over the next 5-10 years, more significant increases will be required over the coming 10 year period for the Council to be able to deliver on the matters they identified in the submissions for the SRV and the IPARTS support on the matter. Clearly local Councils require revenue to remain progressive and financially viable and be able to continue to employ people to assist local economy's remain viable as well. The problem with the Eurobodalla Shire is there are many people on aged and other fixed incomes already struggling to survive financially. They are the majority, who cannot generally afford more costs of any sort.

During the public consultation processes about the planned rate rise at no time did the Council alert the shires ratepayers and residents the present submission for the SRV if approved still won't be sufficient to keep the council financially viable in the immediate coming years, something in the order of a 10% + increase is what's required to do that .

Under that circumstance the request for the SRV as presently presented should not be supported. The Council really needs to go to the community with a more factual and honest financing proposal that could be acceptable over a ten year period or become more efficient with peoples hard earned resources.

Yours Sincerely
Allan Brown

Sent: Sunday, 1 March 2015 7:37 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Eurobodalla Shire Council, SRV

1/03/2015

The Chairman, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

Dear Sir

The IPART has received a submission from the Eurobodalla Shire Council containing a part "A" and part "B" sections for the IPART's evidence in supporting an Ordinary Rate Rise in the Eurobodalla Shire if it chooses to do so. Clearly the final decision in relation to an Ordinary rate rise in the Eurobodalla Shire will be made by the elected councillors at some time after the IPART considers the submissions made to it by the Council and others.

The Eurobodalla Shire councillors recently resolved to make a submission to the IPART seeking the IPART's support for an ordinary rate rise even though over the last budgets significant increases in Council fees and charges as well as water pricing have occurred because of councillors support and decisions, dividends from returns on the water pricing formula's are paid to the Council's General Fund for distribution on what ever is needed. "It's likely most if not all the councillors don't know what the submission details are " !

It's clear from reading the Council Submission for a Compounding Special Rate Variation for the next 3 Council budgets, if supported and implemented the projected financial position of the Council gradually gets worse. More rate rises or other sources of revenue streams will be required to maintain the council simply because of the administration costs. The residents of the shire should not be required to pay for the compounding administration costs because of inefficiency's and the guaranteed superannuation returns some receive.

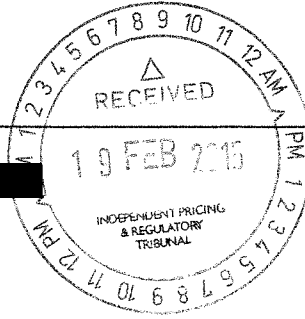
The Councillors need to support actions with in the Administration and Service delivery operations of the council that reduce cost, not increase them. Financially drip feeding the operations of the council with invented needs attempting to justify ordinary rate rises in the Eurobodalla Shire will not rectify the empire building that is occurring within the Local Government System in the shire, which is causing the problems.

Many in the Eurobodalla Shire Community are not aware the proposal to increase the ordinary rate through a Special Ordinary Rise doesn't stop this time, more will be required with in the coming 5-10 period because the root of the financial problems haven't been dealt with. An Ordinary rate rise shouldn't be supported at this time. The council should make decisions to operate the Council in a more efficient and affordable way.

Yours Sincerely
Allan Brown

Ann&Allan

From: "[REDACTED]"
Date: Saturday, 14 February 2015 7:43 AM
To: <ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Eurobodalla Shire Council (SRV)



February 14, 2015

The Chairman Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)

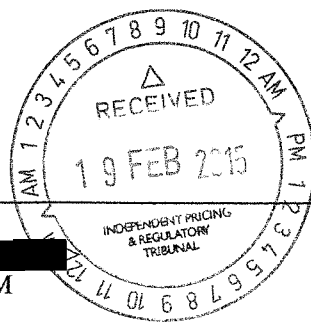
Dear Chairman

At the Eurobodalla Shire Council meeting of February 10, on a 7-2 vote the Councillors resolved to make a submission to the IPART for its consideration and support of a 6.5% Special Rate Variation above the estimated CPI increase. During the council meeting where the decision occurred about making a submission to the IPART one of the Councillors, [REDACTED] suggested or implied council had complied with the requirements of the IPART in relation to making submissions for Special Rate Variations to the letter.

Obviously that is his opinion not opinion of a very large percentage of the shires residents and ratepayers. Public consultation and public involvement in the process was extremely poor. The Council's interpretation of public consultation was mainly associated with media releases and mail outs with a council wish list, practically no face to face involvement occurred. The council cannot expect to collect more and more from the community when it decides they are have trouble managing. One Clr, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] tried to justify his support for the 6.5% hike by saying "revenues are down costs are up". Surely its the responsibility of the council, Councillors, to have some understanding of financial management and not see the ratepayers and residents as people with unlimited financial resources. Government involvement in Local Government funding processes needs to be amended so local Councils get a fairer share of all tax revenues. Governments cannot expect local councils to continually [REDACTED] [REDACTED] their residents and ratepayers.

Although in the end it's up to the Councillors to decide on a hefty rate rise, supported by the IPART, it's my opinion the IPART shouldn't support a 6.5% general rate rise as proposed by a majority of the Eurobodalla Shire Councillors.

Allan Brown
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Ann&Allan

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 17 January 2015 8:39 AM
To: <ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Eurobodalla Shire Council

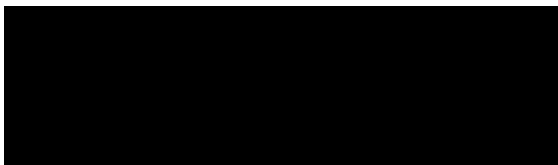
January 17, 2015

The Chairman Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Dear Chairman

I understand the Eurobodalla Shire Council has made a submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, IPART seeking the IPARTS approval for a general rate increase of 8% over three year which equates to about 26% in fact over that time. Unfortunately though it doesn't cease at the end of the nominated three year period or time frame but goes on indefinitely adding to the General Rate Base. The shire has a low Socio Economic Base compared to New South Wales shires or councils in general. Average weekly earnings and disposable incomes are below average despite the number of people working in Government employment (Council) and other Government funded agency's in the Eurobodalla Shire which bolster or inflate the majority's average weekly earnings and disposable incomes. A very high percentage of residents in the shire rely on superannuation returns which are not the same as those received by people who worked for government agency's. The shire has been promoted as a place to retire to. Employment opportunities are almost non existent. The cost of living in the shire is relatively high, the Council has increased fees and Charges over recent times some increasing well in excess of the CPI, applying a significant increase to water which is an essential commodity for everyone. The council is able to deliver services more economically but choses to jack up prices to ensure those working in the Shires Local Government System are guaranteed of receiving salary packages and living standards that exceed those of the general wider community who actually employ them all. There are opportunity's for the council to make real savings and be better economic managers, that's what should be occurring instead of seeking support for a general rate rise via the Governments established IPART to secure the futures of those working in the Eurobodalla Council System. I do not support the Special Rate Variation as proposed or supported by seven of the nine Eurobodalla Shire Councillors at this time. The IPART needs to look and question the Council submission for a Special Rate Variation particularly carefully, and refuse it in my opinion.

Yours Sincerely
Allan Brown



21/01/2015