

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 11:05 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Submission MidCoast Council SRV

From Aled Hoggett

I have read the submissions policy and agree to have my submission published by IPaRT

- (1) There has been no effective public consultation surrounding this submission. I am a former Councillor and on MidCoast Council's mailing list and received no notification of the intention to lodge this submission or of opportunities for public consultation regarding MCC intention.
- (2) This submission has been made without the input of any elected representation. It simply reflects the views of staff and the administrator. Any SRV application should be developed under the guidance and oversight of an elected body. Put simply, there should be no changes to taxation without representation
- (3) We were promised lower rates and better services by both the Premier and the Minister for LG as a result of amalgamation. There were very specific commitments made regarding rate pathways. I expect those commitments to be honoured (irrespective of subsequent enabling legislation).
- (4) The Gloucester LGA has already seen rates rise significantly due to a current SRV. As a result of the detailed public consultation we undertook for that SRV I know that there is little or no capacity for many ratepayers to absorb a further dramatic rate increase. The tight financial situation is currently exacerbated by falling real incomes and increasing cost of utilities (particularly electricity but also water and sewer provided by MidCoast Water) combined with Gloucester's relatively low socioeconomic metrics (see recent Census results).
- (5) This SRV will hit farmers particularly hard in Gloucester as they pay disproportionately high rates compared to other rural landholders in MCC. This is a result of historical factors specific to Gloucester Shire, and now irrelevant in a larger amalgamated council. Unfortunately these historical factors cannot be adequately addressed in the present administrative and regulatory environment. It will be an unfair burden on farmers who have no real capacity to increase income to cover the a massive tax increase on their income earning asset.