

Re: Coffs Harbour Council Special Rate Variation Proposal

To Whom It May Concern.

We are Coffs Harbour Ratepayers and we are objecting to the proposed 2015/2016 rate rise Council has asked of IPART.

We say NO to a 16.5 per cent cumulative increase over two years to be retained permanently in the rate base. This is in addition to 7.9% already approved for 2014/2015.

Last year, IPART refused to permit Councils application for three consecutive rates rises above the pegged limit due to Council's lack of communication with the ratepayers of the likely impact. Only one was allowed.

This year, Council's recently completed mail and online survey of residents logged a 71% objection to Councils rebranded rate rise scheme, but Council ignored the survey results and has applied regardless.

Council has a proven record of waste and mismanagement which includes fruitless legal costs in cases which it lost and incurred massive judgements against it.

Coffs harbour has high unemployment rate and rising pensioner numbers. We have a low median income level and the rise will badly affect landowners as well as producing a major flow on effect to renters.

Council has for years been propping up unviable services not benefiting the community in a fair and Equally distributed way.

Many of our streets do not have footpaths and curbing. Yet they can find \$1.4million to erect a roof over a parking lot.

It collects nearly a million dollars a year in environmental rates yet has not allocated significant funding to reduce waterways pollution.

Council spends an inordinate amount on special events of a sporting, entertainment and cultural nature yet does not account for the ratepayers portion of these expenditures. The continuing subsidies of these events provide a cushion preventing the incentive of events to raise money through non-ratepayer means.

These are some of the reason for our objection and we would like our objection officially registered.

AD & DJ Davis

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