

[REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2019 10:31 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Tamworth Regional Council Levy

[REDACTED]
To Whom it may Concern,

We would like to voice our objection to the proposed "Event Attraction Strategy" fee for businesses by Tamworth Regional Council.

We live & own a business in Barraba, one of the smaller communities, forced to amalgamate with TRC in 2004.

We were made aware of the Levy last year, at a meeting to discuss the proposal. It was organised very quickly & quietly, & very few businesses were even aware of the meeting or proposal.

Our region is in the grips of a very severe drought, one like never seen before & to impose any extra form of fees/charges only seems to be a kick in the guts for small rural businesses.

We have had no form of help at all throughout this devastating time, from any tier of government, & now TRC want to burden us with more fees.

They propose that the levy will be distributed among all communities & events will support the development & growth for all of us. Can you tell me how the local Funeral Director, Hardware store or Solicitor will benefit from the levy?

They promote "Destination Tamworth..... the name itself doesn't even include the smaller communities, it's always all about Tamworth.

Being a smaller community, Barraba does not have suitable infrastructure to hold a large event that can hold thousands of people & only limited accommodation options for visitors to stay overnight or longer, so we would be disadvantaged in attracting larger events.

We attract very little extra business during the annual Country Music Festival in January. A few years ago our local Chamber of Commerce applied to TRC to help subsidise buses to try & attract people to visit Barraba while the festival was on, only to be denied any help at all.

We feel that a levy will be too much for most local businesses to bear at this time & with little benefit to us, we totally object to this, now & in the future.

We would prefer to start up our own fund, keep it all local & promote our lovely town ourselves.

PLEASE don't let this happen.

[REDACTED]