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13//06/2017

IPART,
NSW

Mid Coast Council - Special Rates Variation

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the council's decision to apply for a Special Rates Variation on the following grounds based upon my understanding of how our local councils have merged etc;

- During the period leading to the merger of *Great Lakes Council* (*Forster & Tuncurry* etc.) residents were advised during the consultation period that the council met the criteria for the "Fit For The Future" programme.
- It was also stated councils merging would not be subject to an SRV.
- Following a letter to the NSW government from the Mayor of Gloucester stating the they did not wish to merge with their appointed merger councils rather it would suit them better to merge with *Great Lakes Council*. Merger with *Great Lakes Council* with other councils was then progressed.
- There is currently no councillor representation until September 2017 which effectively leaves residents with no meaningful representation in the newly merged council. This is, in my view, unconstitutional.
- The newly merged council is now embarking on an SRV which will mean a 28.5% increase over a period of 5 years.
- The cap limits for councils is there to give residents some protection against inflated council rates increases and should be adhered to. Councils should operate within their budgetary means as families must do.

- A 28.5% rates increase (over 5 years) on the incomes of pensioners and those on fixed incomes will represent a significant burden on their incomes and cost of living.
- The need for an application of an SRV is contrary to what had been told to residents during the "Fit For the Future" process.

I do hope that you will consider the above points when making your deliberations and reject the request for an SRV.

Yours sincerely,

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