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Submission: Many councils contribute to economic development by working with local businesses, coordinating economic development groups/ activities/events and providing tourism services and facilities. Dungog Council does not do this. There was a Tourism and Economic Development Officer employed by Dungog Shire Council but he has recently been retrenched. Tourism in Dungog Shire is virtually non existent despite a previously prosperous tourism industry that is now in decline due to lack of support by the Council.

At no time in the 23 years that I have owned land in Dungog Shire has a councillor ever contacted me, spoken to me or sought my opinion. The recent phone poll was, I believe, selective in that only known supporters were phoned. Neither my daughter or I were phoned

The recent closure of the Williams River Carvan Park at Clarencetown came as a total surprise to everyone but Dungog Councillors.

Most councils have Facebook pages which can be updated continually to reach community members.

An increase of the magnitude this Council seeks imposes an unsustainable burden on Shire residents who are facing increased unemployment.