



19/3/2021

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing in objection to my land having the council rates increased and would like to give you our opinion on the reasons why it should not be increased and the differences in properties in our area and more realistically our rates should be reduced.

Gosford City Council has mismanaged rate payers and developer's money for years and they have acted [REDACTED]. Council officers have lied to cover up their own mistakes and actions, councillors have voted on DA's some passed that shouldn't have and some declined that should have passed all based on false information from officers. I can state this as fact as it happened to me and my family which not only stop us developing our land but it cost the community as it was development that would have benefited the whole community.

I made a formal complaint with evidence to the general manager at the time, who had 4 other similar complaints and employed an investigative corporate company at councils cost to look at the complaints. The company found in my favour and that the officers had lied and covered up things deliberately. I asked for the matters to be rectified but no action was taken against staff and the matters were not rectified.

At that time the state government had stepped and dissolved the council and appointed an administrator. I took my case to the administrator and new management and claimed that council had acted [REDACTED] and caused us damages. I also notified the new management that council had also constructed a development on our boundary that did not comply with its own DA or the flooding engineers designs and this has damaged our land and increased flooding to hundreds of properties downstream. Management again did nothing even though I had a report that proved [REDACTED]. This further added to our damages the council down zoned our land to cover up its actions and then the RMS came along wanting to widen the road and took our land at a fraction of its worth because of council's action. Coincidentally council up zoned all of its land in the new road corridor so it could capitalise on ripping off the state government with the sale, council rezoned a cemetery from road reserve to residential and a swamp to a zone that could have commercial uses.

Unless you are going to address the culture of [REDACTED] and mismanagement within the council why should it be a constant burden to the rate payers or local business. You need to look at the inconsistencies zonings and uses in different suburbs as well, some suburbs are zoned different even though they have the same physical characteristics. If council wants to increase rates our land should be rezoned to justify the increase.

We live on [REDACTED] there are only three properties on this road and we own [REDACTED] 1 being vacant. This land was old potatoes farms but Council has rezoned this land E3 conservation one of the most restrictive zonings there is, even though we offered the land to be bought by Council for reserve it was declined we also offered the land as an environmental offset for a development else where and it was also declined yet council thought the land deserved to be rezoned without any investigation.

Our land uses are limited yet other suburbs like McMasters Beach hinterland have the same environmental characteristics and coastal ridgelines yet they where zone E2 or zones with a lot more uses to be able to utilise their land especially environmental tourism which would allow us an income off the land but still protect it at the same time.

Our land is serviced by Awabakil road which is a council road but we have been arguing with council for 25 years to get them to maintain the road, it is a dirt road with no drainage. I have had to maintain and repair this road at our cost for 25 years and all attempts to get council to act have failed. In wet times the road is scoured by rain water which flows down the hill and floods our land and in dry times our house and cars and garden are covered in dust this also contaminates our water tanks as we are on tank water.

When our neighbour put in a DA to build his house he had to do a fire report for bushfires. The person doing the report stated that the driveway must be upgraded as it didn't comply with fire regulation, he was then told that is not a driveway that is Awabakil rd. He could believe it and stated that council's road didn't even comply with there own policy for bushfire access and driveways.

I was arguing with council about the road at that time and informed them in writing what had been stated by the person that was doing the fire report and the local bush fire brigade had issue with using the road as well. I also informed council that if they didn't act after being informed of this and a fire comes, they will be legally liable. Still No Action and that was over ten years ago, my solicitor believes we have a legal case against council.

I have notified council multiple times in writing and verbally, I even refused to pay rates until they fixed the problems nothing has worked. Apart from the problem with the road we are on tank water with no access to town water or sewer, and we had to install an enviro cycle sewer system and we have to pay to have it maintained and then have to pay council a fee to be aloud to have our own sewer system even though they can't supply access to the sewer.

We have no town water no town sewer and the council road that gives us access to our properties we have had to maintain for 25 years and the state of the road has cost us more for maintenance on our cars.

If Council was to rezone our land, I would be happy with a rate increase as my land would be more valuable. But council has devalued my land by rezoning it and we already have been paying more than the average rate payer because of the above.

If council increase my rate, I will take legal action.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.