

LG Submission Form 2021-2022 - Applications

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IPART Special Variation Submission Form - Applications

Industry	Local Government
Review	(LG) Special Variations & Minimum Rates 2021-2022
Document Reference	
Council	Central Coast Council, Special Variation Application

If you have any general feedback regarding your council's proposed SV, please leave your comments in the comment box below.

It is hard to see how a rate increase will actually improve the functioning or improvement of the Central Coast Council area. The roads are in such a deplorable state (I live in a busy road, [REDACTED], which has had nothing done to it in over 26 years, despite submissions and representations over the past 2 years to which I never even received a letter of reply). Funds are diverted to deal with emergency events such as fires, flooding and beach erosion, leaving needed infrastructure elsewhere deteriorating. Then we find out we didn't even get any Fire Relief Money. THIS WOULD HAVE HELPED OUR DEBT.

As an outside resident it is hard to see how such a populated area with many minor roads, bordered by beaches, rivers, inlets and bush can survive with the current level of resourcing and skill levels managing our Council's finances. Additional State and Federal resources should be allocated to take account of the differing variables facing Councils, such as happens with the Fiscal Equalisation Formula. Why should rate payers cover inefficiencies, poor decisions and it appears incorrect processes?

Also the average rates paid does not reflect the very differing Land Values for any properties near a beach where there are retired and long term residents who will bear the brunt of rate increases. The wealthy on beach fronts and water ways no doubt can afford the increases. The forced amalgamations have not proved a cost saving measure and I would suggest de-aggregating again with better account taken of the variations between Councils and their responsibilities. Travelling around the State one comes across excellent roads in other Council areas but less facilities to look after. The whole funding formula appears flawed.

Your comments on Criterion 1:

I have seen no break down on Council's proposed revenue path when searching the updates. Only that if we don't have a rate increase, we will have even fewer maintenance and improvements. Fancy just increasing the staff at the expense of needed maintenance.

Your comments on Criterion 2:

I dislike the given that there needs to be a rate payer increase to fund the debt. These survey don't seem to take any account of the thousands who have protested and the NSW Govt. appears to have born no responsibility for forcing an amalgamation. It appears to have been evident that the two Councils were not managing finances and needs properly prior to the amalgamation so why assume that by combining them, they will cope any better? What is the point of all these surveys?

Your comments on Criterion 3:

As above.

Your comments on Criterion 4:

Your comments on Criterion 5:

Indeed we would all like to know the productivity improvements if there is a rate increase as the past record is a poor indication of what may happen in the future without some new staffing with good qualifications.

.....

I have attached two letters I wrote to Council, the first had supporting photos and the latter a petition. I received no reply to either of these letters, an example of how local residents have been treated. Since then Lakeside Drive has had no improvements. Through the Federal Minister it was established that it was on the programme for 21/22. I wonder now if this will ever happen. I have made submissions in other Council areas and not only received good replies but actions were taken as a result. This is the worst Council with which I have dealt. In a previous residence in the area, a four year submission effort gave no results. Always a blockage. Will a rate rise make it any better?

If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.

[Lakeside Drive letter to Council 2019.doc](#)
[Lakeside Drive original letter Feb 20.doc](#)

Your Details

Are you an individual or organisation?

Individual

If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.

Anonymous - my submission can be published but my name should remain anonymous

First Name

Last Name

Organisation Name

Position

Email

[REDACTED]

IPART's Submission Policy

I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy

3rd February, 2020

Mr Gary Murphy
Chief Executive Officer
Central Coast Council
49 Mann Street, Gosford 2250

Dear Mr Murphy

Re: Attached petition regarding Lakeside Drive, MacMasters Beach and lack of correspondence from Council to my previous letter on this issue five months ago.

A detailed letter and photographs outlining the many issues facing Lakeside Drive residents was sent to Council by me five months ago (Reference No. 1909 12-000140, September 12, 2019). ***There has been no reply to this letter*** despite telephone follow ups by me which only identified that matters were being considered.

Verbal information from Council officers indicated that the speed issues were being addressed but so far nothing has been done. The MacMasters Beach Progress Association made an independent attempt to address the speed of traffic, following a motion put forward about Lakeside Drive at a meeting, by organising for a radar speed sensing unit to be hired and monitored by local residents. This attempt failed as apparently only Council can do this monitoring.

Since I have had no response to my original letter and photographs, both of which took considerable time to prepare and send, perhaps the **attached petition** with active support from other residents and users of Lakeside Drive may add weight to my original requests on behalf of all Lakeside Drive residents. We are not attempting to obtain hundreds of signatures but merely a sample of people who supported this petition over the past week. In reality such a petition should not be necessary after my detailed letter last year. No-one has refuted the facts outlined. Even Council road staff who used Lakeside Drive while sealing a section of Scenic Road said they were embarrassed by the condition of Lakeside Drive.

Why Lakeside Drive has been neglected for over 26 years baffles long term local residents.

I understand from my follow up telephone conversations that **Lakeside Drive is so deteriorated it can no longer be placed in the resurfacing budget but is now in the restructure budget** apparently further delaying repairs. It is equally baffling why over the years relatively new roads like Newell Road, or more minor roads like Warri Crescent and Three Points Avenue have been resurfaced but Lakeside Drive ignored. One 80 year old wants to lie in front of the next Council vehicle resurfacing nearby roads. **Perhaps media attention is what is required.**

A child was killed in Three Points Avenue reinforcing the need to address traffic speed in this whole area, as per the original letter in September 2019 and the attached petition. Lakeside Drive has become **a speed track** along its straight section between Three Points Road and Scenic Road, something staff has been alerted to but has failed to address. This is particularly hazardous since **two vehicles can hardly pass each other**, let alone when a bus comes along. There is no proper place for buses to stop at designated signs should a resident wish to catch public transport.

MacMasters Beach seems a very neglected area by Council compared with other neighbouring beach areas. Its popularity is increasing with considerable building and renovations taking place, all of which increases traffic and speed. The more tranquil and less commercialized environment in MacMasters is highly valued and residents are particularly keen to slow traffic down and merely have road surfaces which are not so bumpy and destroyed that trucks and trailers have to bounce along terrible roads like Lakeside Drive, or slosh through water troughs. They are not asking for major curb and guttering but a widening and repair of the road to comfortably allow two vehicles to pass safely with enough room for cyclists, prams and walkers. Suitable humps, signs or pot plants (as done in Europe) to slow traffic to the 50 speed limit (or lower) would permit all these activities to take place safely. **Lakeside Drive is a major access to the beach and lake for walkers, residents, holiday visitors and tourists.** Other similar beach areas have methods to slow traffic down to appropriate speeds.

As I have had no response from Council staff, this time I will also include relevant Councillors in this correspondence to see if they can also assist in a more prompt and positive response to address the neglect for over 26 years of Lakeside Drive and to particularly deal with the current speed of the traffic.

I appreciate Council has many demands but it is surely reasonable to expect at least a reply within a six month period and hopefully some action we can look forward to before the end of the current year.

I look forward to a prompt and positive reply.

Yours sincerely



On behalf of Lakeside Drive residents and other people who utilize this road.

Copy to: Councillor Jane Smith
Councillor Rebecca Gale Collins
Councillor Jeff Sundstrom

Mr Gary Murphy
Chief Executive Officer
Central Coast Council
49 Mann Street, Gosford 2250

Dear Mr Murphy

Re: Urgent attention for improvement of Lakeside Drive, MacMasters Beach

It would be greatly appreciated by the residents of Lakeside Drive, MacMasters Beach, if urgent attention could be given to the improvement of this road. The reasons for this request are as follows:

1. The seriously deteriorated condition of the road.

Some long term residents report that **Lakeside Drive has not been resurfaced during their 26 years of residency.** This is in contrast to the resealing of more minor feeder roads (Newell Road twice, Three Points Road and a few other roads with less traffic in the areas). Photos attached show the condition of Lakeside Drive. There are *numerous pot holes, no gutters* or edging and *very poor drainage* with water *blockages*. This is particularly bad for the first half of the road adjacent to the lake. This section of the road receives considerable run off from the steep descending slopes with houses above. Due to the lack of gutters or drainage, large puddles of water lie on the road for many days, further deteriorating the bitumen, as does the current volume of traffic.

2. Speed and Volume of Current Traffic

Lakeside Drive is now a major thoroughfare servicing 288 houses, eight public buses a day, 4 school buses, building activity and considerable holiday and visitor traffic. There are nine roads accessed via Lakeside Drive, most with permanent residents (Newell Road 45 houses, Stone Place 18, Wallace Street 18, Veness Close 12, Daniel Close 8, Three Points Avenue 34, Tudibaring Parade 75, Tungara 18, and Bounty Hill 7 while Lakeside Drive itself has 71. This indicates the amount of normal residential traffic let alone the additional traffic mentioned above. There is no other suburban road in MacMasters servicing as many houses. Yet this is a road which has had no repair let alone any upgrades.

In addition, Lakeside Drive has one of the longest straight section of road in the suburb besides Scenic Road, recently resurfaced in part. As a result it is a section of road where many drivers put their foot down on their car accelerator. ***The only 50 sign is as you enter Lakeside Drive from Scenic Road.*** This sign is either ignored or not seen. Consequently traffic generally exceeds this speed limit, some driving at considerable speeds presenting a number of dangers. The buses seem to use this stretch of road to make up time while vehicles associated with building or trades are always in a hurry. There are no signs or prompts to warn of the required speed. In contrast, Scenic Road along the lake section has numerous 50 signs as well as 50 written on the road but there are no residences near the road and few pedestrians except at the cafe.

3. Safety Concerns

There has already been one child killed in Three Points Avenue off Lakeside Drive, and *the safety of all walkers, particularly those pushing prams and/or walking dogs is of particular concern (see photo)*. Lakeside Drive is the main pedestrian access to Cochrane Lake and MacMasters Beach north. Many people walk their children and dogs along this road, as do other locals. Since there are *no side paths*, walkers need to step off the road and into the grass or bush to avoid cars and particularly larger vehicles like buses and trucks which invariably do not slow down or change their path. It is also dangerous for cyclists since they have nowhere to go other than in the path of cars since the road is narrow.

Solutions

As a result of these problems, discussed with me by various residents and also discussed in response to a written motion put forward about the speed of traffic on Lakeside Drive at the MacMasters Beach Progress Association, a number of solutions have been suggested which would improve the living conditions for residents considerably.

- *The road needs to be widened and resurfaced.*
- *The road could be widened sufficiently to allow for a white line on the lakeside with spare bitumen for walkers, prams and bicycles.* This would alleviate many safety concerns, particularly in the first straight section of Lakeside Drive which receives all of the traffic heading to the feeder roads and beach.
- *A separate path for pedestrians could be built, preferably sealed.*
- *Lakeside Drive needs more 50 signs* both written on the road and on side posts. There are other more effective methods for slowing traffic as adopted elsewhere such as humps and even concrete pot plants placed in strategic positions, a method used in Europe. An inexpensive measure to slow traffic has been adopted to protect the endangered Tasmanian Devil by placing plastic raised strips across the road at intervals. *Residents would be most grateful if methods to slow the traffic could be incorporated into any road upgrade of Lakeside Drive.*
- Placement of a *Variable Message Sensor* to notify traffic of speeds being driven.

Summary

We are aware that Council has many roads to attend to with varying priorities but it is with some amazement (and expressed annoyance) that other more minor roads are being resurfaced while Lakeside Drive receives no attention yet it is now a major traffic corridor, especially during peak hours, school hours, weekends and holiday periods. One Council employee driving a Council road repair vehicle informed me he was ashamed to drive along Lakeside Drive in a Council vehicle with the road so bad.

Given that funding is always a concern for Council, I have contacted both State and Federal local representatives about Lakeside Drive and they have informed me that the NSW Government has allocated \$500m for the "Fixing Local Roads Programme". In addition, the Federal Government has provided \$70m to upgrade roads across the Central Coast. It is

evident that Central Coast Council is indeed undertaking considerable road works. Hence this letter is to request that a high priority be given to improving Lakeside Drive, for the reasons outlined above. Council road work is currently being undertaken in our area right now, so this is a request to incorporate Lakeside Drive in this work.

We would be most grateful if you could deal with this matter as quickly as possible. I look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely

PH 11/9/19

[Redacted signature]

(if unavailable for contact, please contact [Redacted])

Cc Lucy Wicks, Federal Member for Robertson
CC Mr Adam Crouch, State Member for Terrigal
Cc Shelley Hancock, NSW Minister for Local Government