

[REDACTED]
4th March 2014

IPART

Electronically Submission

RE: Kempsey Shire Council Ref: 483 Notification of proposed rate increases

Dear Sir/Madam

Regarding council seeking rate increases we would like to point out the following.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] leaving council to clean up the mess, which included contaminated waste. Where was the supervision from council? The cost of this clean up must surely be at least as much if not more than one year of the requested rate increase!

This was a major error in judgment by someone at council and rate payers are footing the costs. Has council looked closely at its processes and management to review both and act accordingly to ensure this never happens again. What has been done to recoup these costs? Council operational staff knows what happened and who is responsible but employment conditions do not allow them to speak publically. One councilor has been approached but is unable to influence operational matters due to the local government act.

In many instances the quality of the road works is so bad that after one decent downfall of rain the road is as bad as ever. An example is the work that was done in front of the nursing home in Gregory Street where it took council weeks to repair the road and within weeks it was a disaster zone. A private contractor was called in to re-do the job and in a few days it was completed and is still good after more than a year. What was the entire cost to the ratepayer? We can't find that information and council staff again are not allowed to divulge this.

These two extreme examples are what we believe is the tip of the ice berg and only in South West Rocks. What other money wasting works have been implemented that we don't know about within the rest of the shire.

Yours faithfully

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