

From: brian rose
Sent: Sunday, 22 February 2015 8:09 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: CHCC special variation (rate increase) application

Dear Sirs,

I understand that CHCC have lodged a special a (rate increase) application with you. IPART restricted CHCC's previous application to 1 year because of their failure to consult ratepayers adequately.

I am writing to advise IPART that CHCC has just completed a ratepayer survey composed of 3 elements: Unbelievably

1. Postcard survey.
2. Internet survey
3. Random panel survey.

The percentage of ratepayers AGAINST the increase ranged from 71.4 to 88%. Despite this CHCC have gone ahead and made the special variation (rate increase) application. This is not meaningful consultation. I think if you consult someone you have to listen to what they say. This then appears to be a cynical attempt to pay lip service to a consultation process and shows contempt for both ratepayers and IPART. I would be incredulous if IPART are taken in by this absurd (and expensive) "consultation process".

IPART needs to be aware that:

1. The consultation process was a sham.
2. CHCC are not listening to ratepayers.
3. More than 2/3 of those surveyed oppose the rate increase.

Unbelievably CHCC have just approved a \$20,000 bonus to the GM, how this can be justified as external consultants had to be brought in to find cost savings that he could not is beyond me. Is IPART able to assist CHCC with financial advice, it seems that such advice is sorely needed.

FYI I have attached a jpg of just 2 of the letters in the local paper on this subject.

I have not seen any IPART advertising asking for ratepayer responses but presumably this will happen soon. Please accept this as a formal submission to that process.

Best Regards
Brian Rose (ratepayer)

ing potential Coffs Harbour experienced in 2011, 2009 and 1996.

Safe stay and please share your weather shots with us as we continue to monitor the gauges and share emergency warnings on the website

- Matt Deans, Print Editor

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over this will be about all the

Beach earlier this week.

editor@coffscastadvocate.com.au. Send your photographs an attached jpg or gif, 600x60 or bigger

No bonus for council GM

I WAS very disappointed in the general manager of CHCC for his lack of leadership in accepting the bonus of \$20,000-plus that the council recently gave him.

In my opinion the GM should have thanked the councillors for their support and showed leadership by saying "Thank you but no, as I have not kept the council within budget. Either this is my fault or my team is not performing well enough."

The council is now asking ratepayers to accept a further increase in rates to pay for their inefficiency. Some of this increase will go towards paying this bonus.

I am also disappointed in the six councillors who voted in favour of the bonus - it is very easy to give away ratepayers' money.

My highest praise goes towards the three councillors who voted against the bonus as they showed guts and fortitude, in facing the fact that the money is not there.

John Robinson

Protest extra money

TO THOSE 70% of ratepayers who voted no to the extra rate rise that six councillors ignored - don't give up or let them put their hands in our pockets.

It's obvious that they didn't take note or care as to what we were telling them.

We can all get together and protest and ask the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to overturn their decision. All we need to do is email or write a submission with at least three good reasons why the extra rate rise should not go ahead. One good reason is over 70% were against.

Let's show those six councillors we have had enough of them wasting our hard-earned rate money. Noel Noakes

YOUR SAY

Email letters to advocate@coffscastadvocate.com.au or send your letters to The Editor, Coffs Coast Advocate, PO Box 534, Coffs Harbour, 2450. Please include your full name, daytime phone number and suburb for verification.

We let in hepatitis

ON THE anniversary of Reza Berati's murder, Australia still keeps out asylum seekers fleeing persecution, but, as a commercial fiefdom of China, we let in hepatitis.

Mary Forbes

No room for ships

AS A retired ship's captain, I was surprised to see the subject of Coffs Harbour being raised for cruise ships being suited again.

Unfortunately Coffs Harbour is just too small and too shallow for the average cruise ship. Get their length and draught and then look at a nautical chart of the area. You need a minimum of a clear circle diameter of at least three times the length if the ship is to anchor as they swing with wind and tide, and add a very minimum of at least a metre to the draught as ships pitch. This is for flat calm weather and how often can you guarantee this as cruise ships plan their itinerary over a year ahead.

The present wharf is just not designed for large vessels.

Errol Stevens

Anchor ships offshore

I totally agree that Coffs Harbour should target the very lucrative cruise ship market.

However, while it is a great idea, logistically the only way we can achieve this is for these enormous cruise ships to be anchored offshore and the passengers being ferried in to the jetty. In addition to target this market and make it financially viable, Coffs Harbour tourism operators would have to get their act together and plan some fantastic all-inclusive day excursions to highlight the beauty of the Coffs Coast and offer tourists a unique experience that they won't forget.

However, and in addition, an even better idea would be a car and container ferry service similar to the Princess of Tasmania, which could make a weekly trip from Sydney via Coffs Harbour to Brisbane and back.

Such a ferry could also carry a tremendous amount of freight destined for Coffs Harbour or Brisbane, with back loading on the way south.

Loading could be achieved from a special terminal specifically built, with government and private funding.

Perhaps Coffs Harbour City Council, Coffs Coast Tourism, Chamber of Commerce, tourist operators and our local politicians should discuss this idea very seriously and come up with a plan and funding.

Ziggy Koenigseder

Weeds an eyesore

HAVE you driven along the new highway from Sapphire to Arrawarra?

It's fantastic, but what about all the weeds, overgrown gardens and shrubs that you pass along the way?

SMS TO ED

Send your gripes, opinions or thoughts to 0428 634 025. Start message with 'COFF', leave a space and then write your message. Include first name or initials and your suburb.

It is an absolute disgrace so why is the landscaping not being maintained?

The weeds have totally taken over, so that if it is eventually sprayed, it will kill all plant creepers (pig face and gazanias for example) and smaller plants that have been put there.

Why hasn't there already been a plan in place for this? I like to be proud of where I live.

Kylie Wood

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

What local issue do you feel strongly about?

It may be development (or lack of) in our area, perhaps it's barking dogs, vandalism, rubbish on our beaches, poor service or great service, bus timetables, the environment or a few words on the sport v culture debate.

If you have something to say, this is the place to let loose. Letters can be emailed to advocate@coffscastadvocate.com.au faxed to 6651 5345 or mailed or dropped in to our office at 53 Moonee Street, Coffs Harbour 2450.

(Note: all letters are subject to editing and preference given to those under 300 words.)