

Mr D.J. Casey

21/06/2017.

Dr Peter Boxall
IPART Chairman
P.O. Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop
N.S.W. 1240.

Dear Sir,

RE: Mid Coast Council – Proposed Rate Increase.

We write to you today as retired **pensioner** residents, (modest fixed incomes) living in Tea Gardens NSW, which we believe is about to be burdened with a 28.5% rate increase, over 4 years. We strongly object to this proposal on many grounds, the main ones being:-

1. This was never on the table at Amalgamation Consultations, and in fact statements have indicated that Council saw no need for any rate increase. They announced that “Councils Finances were in good shape”
2. Now we are told – by an unelected body – that there is a big hole (\$150 Million?) in the funds and **somehow this Council is Exempt from the Liberal Governments legislation that supposedly froze rates for merged Councils for 4 years.** How many other Amalgamated Councils have this Government allowed to bypass their stated position?.
3. We then have an unelected Public Servant pulling strings somewhere, spinning Consultation figures (how did he turn 55% of residents “concerned” into 85% “approved”) to his advantage and coming up with this huge impost, all against Liberal Governments stated promises.
4. The **amalgamation was against our best interests**, and it now seems that after September elections, being a small population area; we will have no representative on MCC. The larger areas of Taree- Forster/Tuncurry etc will hold sway and presumably that’s where these extra millions will go. This rate rise will be **another decision** against our best interests.
5. If any part, hopefully not all, of this rise is being seriously considered by IPART then we feel it is incumbent on you to make Council publicly announce why the money is now so desperately needed, and where it is to be spent. All we have so far is “Backlog Works” – what & where?.
6. A better option would be **deferral of any action** until properly elected democratic representatives can get into this organisation and properly manage it, in the ratepayer’s interests.

Please sir, seriously consider rejecting this, over the top, proposal.

Dennis J Casey

Lucy C Casey