

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Special Rate Variation Application by Armidale Dumaresq Council
Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 2:32:43 PM

Dear Sir,

As an academic with a PhD from UNE, I am concerned at the sample taken by ADC suggesting that rate payers are in favour of the proposed 10% rate rise. As far as I can see, community consultation has been very minimal and the conclusion drawn is invalid. If councils wish to undertake such surveys they should be done under strict survey rules, rather than attending an occasional ad hoc meeting with groups, such as Rotary. In fact, while the Mayor states that the ratepayers are happy about the proposed rate rise, his own consultant who attended a public meeting in the Town Hall in Armidale, disagreed and produced statistic to show that the majority of the community were, in fact, against the rise. Since that meeting, the ADC has decided to apply for a rate increase of 10% (as opposed to 20% originally suggested) plus the normal peg rate, but to my knowledge, NO public consultation has occurred for this change. Surely, broad consultation with ratepayers is required for this to be proposed and once again, strict survey methods followed to gauge ratepayer opinion.

I thank you for your time in considering the above.

Dr Darrell Fisher

