

Sent: Monday, 2 March 2015 3:27 PM
To: Ipart Website Feedback
Subject: Unacceptable Rate increase in the Gwydir Shire

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Dear Sir,

This is a report of the meeting the local Bingara Branch of NSW Farmers had with the Mayor Cr John Coulton regarding rate increase above the peg.

A delegation from the local Bingara branch of NSW Farmers meet with the Mayor John Coulton who generously gave up his time to discuss a wide range of topics, but most importantly the 32% increase in the Gwydir shire rates over two years.

This is the position that Council has now adopted which was the least favoured by the ratepayers according to the results of the survey commissioned by Council. The results have fallen on deaf ears.

As the Mayor explained for Council to remain viable an increase of this magnitude is necessary. This however is not very comforting for farmers in the district who are going to be carrying the brunt in terms of thousands of dollars for such a decision. **We are not happy with this decision mainly because it won't fix the problem of Councils waste and inefficiencies.**

We spoke frankly with the Mayor about sustainability and that Council is like any other business and must live within its means. This does not appear to be happening.

Governments all over the world who have been living in a fools paradise, and Gwydir Shire Council is no different, are now in panic mode exercising blunt austerity measures. Council has only its self to blame by building a top heavy administration empire with over generous salary packages, car and house packages. The age of entitlement has long gone. For a business to be successful it must maximise the workers or foot soldiers while having a bare minimum of supervisors and administration staff.

We regard it a privilege to live in the Gwydir Shire and it is a great place to live. We are small in numbers and ratepayers need to get back as much as possible for their hard earned dollars and the only way this can happen is if Council correct their inefficiencies as they publicly stated they would at their community meetings early last year.

Don Mack
Bingara Branch Chairman NSW Farmers
23 February 2015