

**From:** [IPART](#)  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tamworth Regional Council - Special Events Business Levy  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 March 2019 4:27:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to IPART.pdf](#)  
[Letter to IPART \(002\).pdf](#)  
[Letter to Council.pdf](#)  
[Letter to NDL.pdf](#)

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 March 2019 11:45 AM

**To:** IPART <ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** Tamworth Regional Council - Special Events Business Levy

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see attached.

Kind regards

  
*Office Administrator*

For and on behalf of

**Edward M Leyden**

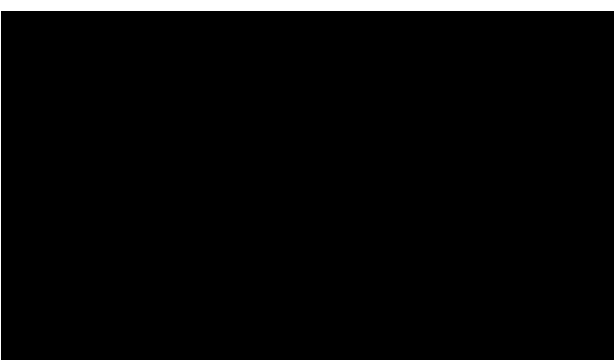
Solicitor

  
MANILLA NSW 2346









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Edward leyden  
[REDACTED]  
MANILLA NSW 2346  
[REDACTED]

5 March 2019

NL:ss:55959

The Manager  
IPART  
P O Box K35  
HAYMARKET POST SHOP 1240

*Email: [ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au)*

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL – SPECIAL EVENTS BUSINESS LEVY**

Your email of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant is acknowledged.

I note from the press that this Special Events Levy is now before your tribunal and I presume it is now appropriate that a submission be made.

I therefore enclose a further copy of my letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> December last and note in your letter that you would already have copies of my prior letters to the Council and the Northern Daily Leader on record.

By way of summary the levy is an extraordinarily selective impost.

It is proposed that it be levied on business zoned properties within the Council area. As you would be aware this area encompasses not only Tamworth but smaller outlying regions such as Manilla, Barraba and Nundle.

Premier larger events attracted to the Council area would no doubt be centred in Tamworth. There may be some benefit to food, beverage and accommodation outlets. It is extremely doubtful that there would be any benefit to the owners of business zoned property in the outlying areas.

It is noted that it will not be levied on residential rate payers nor will it be levied on the owners of rural land and I do not for a moment suggest that it be levied on these ratepayers. The owners of rural zoned land are of course in business and even if their businesses were not hurting as at currently with the drought conditions, I am of the view that it should definitely not be levied on that area of rate payers.

It would be appreciated if you would take the matters raised in this letter and the earlier correspondence forwarded to you into account and use your discretion to veto this proposal.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
**Edward M Leyden**  
Encl.

Edward leyden  
[REDACTED]  
MANILLA NSW 2346  
[REDACTED]

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6 December 2018

EML:ss:55959

The Manager  
IPART  
P O Box K35  
HAYMARKET POST SHOP 1240

*Email: [ipart@nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipart@nsw.gov.au)*

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL – SPECIAL EVENTS BUSINESS LEVY**

I note from local media that Council has formally lodged its bid to raise rates for its controversial Business Levy with your Tribunal.

To ensure that the Tribunal is aware of the issue raised by the writer, we attach herewith a copy firstly of my letter to the Council of the 15<sup>th</sup> November last and also my letter recently published in the Tamworth Northern Daily Leader.

The issues I have raised would appear to be self explanatory, however if you wish for any clarification my telephone number is as above.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**Edward M Leyden**  
Encl.

Edward Leyden  
[REDACTED]  
MANILLA NSW 2346  
[REDACTED]

The General Manager

Tamworth Regional Council

### **SPECIAL EVENTS LEVY**

The proposed Special Events Levy on business rated properties is a very unfair impost. The levy would at least, in part, flow through to the business proprietors themselves who are probably finding things difficult enough as it is.

I can give one local example, and then, make a suggestion to Council. The Mackenzie Chambers building across the road has three shop frontages and therefore attracts three rates notices totalling in excess of \$6,000.00. Presumably this levy will be added to all three notices. Grossly unfair.

#### **Some suggestions:**

1. Council have a good look at its own financial management.
2. Council (as I believe it was years ago) become collaborative and work with Developers and Consultants on residential subdivisions instead of being obstructive.

**A case in point:** It took six years for the first stage of the Baringa Gardens subdivision to be approved in South Tamworth. This, despite many consultative meetings with Council and staff, (I was present at many), when all obstacles were verbally overcome, only for some officer in Council to have a rethink later and further delays.

Once released, this first stage of the twenty seven Lots sold quickly, houses were built and Council had twenty seven more rate payers. It should have had the benefit of these additional rate payers' years earlier. Let's hope Council's attitude becomes more helpful with the next 50 Lot stage.

No doubt there are similar stories. If Council and its professional staff worked with Developers and their Consultants, and pooled their skills, these developments would be through in half the time and Council would receive the benefit of hundreds of thousands of dollars of extra rate income.

More focus in this area would increase Council's coffers and make unfair additional imposts such as this proposed levy, unnecessary.

[REDACTED]

**EDWARD M LEYDEN**

**Ed Leyden**

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To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Special Events Levy

The Editor  
NDL  
TAMWORTH

Dear Sir/Madam

The well attended Special Events Business Levy meeting at Manilla recently clearly saw the majority of attendees opposed, and with good reason.

It is an unfair selective tax which will flow through to the Business Proprietors as well as property owners.

Three things were made clear at the meeting:

1. The Council is in a sound financial position.
2. A \$600,000.00 "events pool" is mooted.
3. If the Levy comes in, it is in for good and no doubt will keep rising.

If it is really needed, this pool should be set aside from Council revenue. Better management, in particular a more collaborative approach to Residential Subdivision Developments would see Council very quickly raise this pool. It has been my experience and that of Planning Consultants, that the Council's approach to such applications has changed from what was formerly a collaborative approach to a defensive one bordering on the obstructive.

In one instance, a Development took six years to be approved and once approved, the blocks sold quickly and dwellings were quickly constructed. This time period should have been many years shorter, costing Council hundreds of thousands of dollars in rates revenue.

If Council and its Professional Staff worked with Developers and their Consultants and pooled their skills, these Developments would be through in half the time and Council would receive the benefit of hundreds of thousands of dollars of extra rate income.

More focus in this area would further increase Council's coffers and make unfair additional imposts such as this proposed levy, unnecessary.

Yours faithfully

Edward ~~W~~ Leyden  
Manilla

[REDACTED] (not for publication)