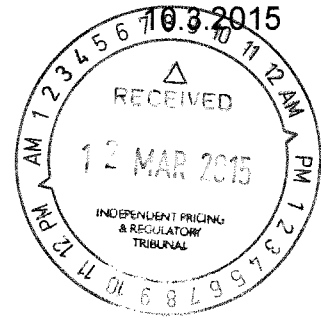


Eric West,  
[REDACTED]



NSW State Government  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Re; Coffs Harbour proposed Rate Increase

Dear Sir,

Almost 6000 residents responded to Council's postal and web-based survey and 71% did not support a rate rise! More than 20% of our local working age population is in some way welfare dependent therefore it is no surprise that affordability is the main concern.

As an age pensioner any rise in expenditure is bad news but I also object to Council's financial management. My concerns are:

1. Council tries to secure acceptance for the rate rise through a reduction of water and or sewer charges! Council has still outstanding loan repayments for water and sewer accounts and must recoup the discount at a later date. I also strongly believe that water and sewer charges must not be used for any unrelated purpose The proposed "discount" for rural residential properties who are not connected to water and sewer services was discussed at Council's rate rise meeting without being resolved. I had the impression that some Councillors and residents in the public gallery did not understand the issues involved. .
2. Coffs Coast Tourism & Marketing operating expenses are \$1,726,392.00 This account is fully rate payer funded. Council should recoup the money through a levy. It works in Queensland.
3. Council is wasting funds subsidising the operation and maintenance of the Bunker Cartoon Gallery.
4. Council has constructed and fully maintains the Harbour Boat Ramp near the Coffs Harbour Fisherman's Club. A user-pay system was first proposed over 20 years ago.
5. Approximately \$2.5million including funds from State and Federal Governments designated for the construction of the Bakers Road Flood Detention Basin were reallocated in 2006 to finance unrelated pet-projects. After the March 2009 Coffs Harbour flood disaster Council refinanced the construction of the Basin, through reducing funding of other projects. Local Government regulation may have been violated. This issue demands an independent investigation.

Yours truly

*Eric West*