

From: Gen Catling
Sent: Sunday, 22 February 2015 2:14 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Local Gov't

Re. Proposal by Coffs Harbour City Council to raise rates by 16%

I believe that it is the Council's duty to represent the wishes of the ratepayers. During the Consultation period results from the online survey and postcard was 89% opposed while the phone poll was 71% opposed to a rise in rates. The Council has admitted through a Public Meeting that it is in debt and that it has not acted on any recommendations of improved efficiency. The council over the years has had a record of litigation with subsequent large legal fees. The people of Coffs Harbour still do not know why the previous General Manager was sacked with a large payout. Also, if the Council is so far in debt why did the Councillors agree to a pay rise. The General Manager now receives \$330,000. a year plus a car.

It is a known fact that Coffs Harbour is a low socio-economic area with a large welfare dependence. This also was pointed out during the Public Meeting by one of the Councillors opposing the rate hike. The Councillor went on to state that most businesses in the town centre would struggle to keep afloat. The people of Coffs Harbour deserve better than this.

G. Catling, A Coffs Harbour Ratepayer.