

Author name: G. Colley

Date of submission: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Submission:

I am very concerned that the people of Bellingen are not being served by the senior staff of the council. They are asking for another Special Rate Variation, when we have seen very little progress or service improvement made from the 2014 8% rate increase, and now they want a 1.5% rate increase with an additional 4.5% SRV as well as another 3.2% salary rise!

We cannot readily find out where our rate payments go, as there seems to be different figures every time we ask. They profess to ask our opinion, with various consultations, and glossy surveys to fill out, but fail to act upon this information, or do the opposite, as when in the Community Strategic Plan, the suggestion by the public was "more trees and parking for Church and Oak Sts." Council is now contemplating cutting down trees and removing about 10 parking spaces for Church St.!

We used to have clean streets, now the gutters are choked with leaves and litter, and potholes are unattended, but the parking space lines are crisp and repainted! Very strange priorities.

It's not just the town that is suffering a lack of care. The gravel roads around the Shire are in a terrible state of disrepair. The people of Glennifer have not had their roads touched for 2 years. The road to Kalang is terrible. We were lucky enough with Boggy Creek Road to get the road graded, again after 2 years, but have not had any gravel put down, which will make it very hazardous when we get the rains. And don't get me started on the condition of some of the wooden bridges around the Shire, positively dangerous.

I am just one voice, but talking to others around town, and reading the local paper, I know that this Council is losing the trust of its ratepayers, and doesn't seem to care. We need help from someone with the authority to ask the questions and get a straight answer. Can you please help us?