

To whom it may concern,

After reading the Acting CEO, Central Coast Council letter dated 13th January 2021 and the Administrator's 30 Day Interim Report 2nd December 2020, I am compelled to write to you and others to express my disbelief and anger of the current financial failure of the Central Coast Council.

More importantly, I am concerned as to how this situation was allowed to evolve over a three to four year period despite the supposedly governance checks and balances that are in place to identify and prevent these issues from happening in the first place.

Despite the council being externally audited for the last three financial years by the NSW Auditors General's audit, it is breathtaking that three audits did not reveal any unlawful activity as indicated by Dick Persson in his report.

In addition, the lack of oversight and the inaction of our elected body is astounding, and it is clear from Persson's report that many do not competently understand their responsibilities as members of the elected body.

Since the amalgamation in May 2016, there has been no attempt to achieve efficiencies, in fact it has produced the opposite – a grossly inefficient elected body supported by an equally incompetent senior administrative management team delivering a financial mess.

To make matters worse the Council has rewarded incompetent behaviour by giving the outgoing CEO, Gary Murphy, a \$380,000 severance payment.

I think the average Australian rate payer is fair minded and expect to pay their rates to support the services they receive as well as provide for essential infrastructure and services for their community.

But when the council comes cap in hand asking that they need the ratepayers' help to tidy up a financial mess caused through gross incompetent, dereliction of responsibility and total apathy towards improvement and efficiencies, I am not prepared to support their request.

The actions, or rather the inactions, of this council over the last four years and the failure of the governance systems in place to identify noncompliance is a disgrace and it has completely eroded my confidence and trust in this body both now, and in the future.

Furthermore, and most importantly, there has been no indication as to how the Acting CEO and others will address the very fundamentals of rectifying this broken system, other than financial address.

What will be done to ensure that this will not happen again in the future?

Until they provide that undertaking, council's request for the rate payers of the Central Coast to pay a 10% or 15% rate increase cannot be supported.

Yours sincerely

Graham Heath

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