

**From:** Greg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 June 2017 9:06 AM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox  
**Subject:** Re MCC SRV2017

Re MCC SRV2017

I refer to the above Special Rate Variation as proposed by Mid Coast Council.

The Council has managed to secure a legislative change to allow it to apply for this increase, 28.5% over four years. This was done in questionable circumstances and should be viewed as an impediment to the democratic process. I note the following as points for consideration:

- 1) The ratepayers have had no representation in this action. The council has been operated by the Administrator since amalgamation.
- 2) A survey purportedly taken of residents showed that just 20% agreed they could afford the rise, 55% indicated they would be inconvenienced (financially strained). 55% is a majority in any language but the Administrator and General Manager managed to turn this into 80% acceptance by some statistical creativity.
- 3) Community (ratepayer) consultation has been extremely poor, if actually taking place at all.
- 4) The council is overburdened with "management" and consequently has a huge "administration" cost in any of its works.
- 5) Works actually carried out by council can only be classed as poor and of low quality (Recent example is tar sealing in Bundabah).

The way the legislation was changed gives rise to questionable integrity of those involved and should be investigated by an independent body. The fact that in February, when the General Manager thought a rate rise was blocked by legislation, Council announced that its finances were strong and a rate rise wasn't needed. A couple of months later Council has found a \$160+ Million hole in funding. This also raises questions as to the integrity and competency of Council Management.

As a ratepayer I find it abhorrent that questionable political machinations were able to have legislation changed. Legislation that, I believe, was in place to prevent this type of money grab. Additionally it leaves ratepayers with a huge lack of confidence in the ability of council to effectively and efficiently manage OUR resources.

As a consequence I implore IPART to reject this questionable rate variation.

Regards

Greg Mutton  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]