

**From:** John Blackburn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 June 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Objection to rates increase for Mid Coast Council.

Dear Sirs : please receive my views on the suggested RATES INCREASE for Mid Coast Council , a recently merged operation of 3 northern coastal councils.

As an aside , I recommended a MERGER between 3 Councils as a cost effective method of providing these services. Whilst my views were sent to Great Lakes Council & published in local media , the response from Great Lakes was that they did not want to merge with anyone & that it would not produce the savings I suggested.

Would like to point out that I am recently retired as Director of some 8 public companies , Deputy Chairman of 7 & a 40 years career as owner of a Stockbroking business & with experience in Mergers & Acquisitions (M & A ) plus experienced record of turning companies around that were struggling financially .

Then all of a sudden , the GM of Great Lakes Council was in print to agree with a two council merger & eventually a three Council Merger, which we now have .

Clearly one could assume that he had "received the whisper", if the Merger went ahead , HE would be to new GM with all the personal benefits that this would bring .

This view cant be considered as a "CONSPIRACY THEORY" when we then add the HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS manner in which the MCC was suddenly the only MERGED COUNCIL in NSW that will be allowed to INCREASE THEIR RATES income for this new year . The manner in which this happened should be investigated by authorities to find out how someone living well south of Sydney could be interested in Councils well north of Sydney being granted this one off benefit of being the only one allowed to increase rates. All the dogs are barking in this area & no one believes that this happening should not be investigated.

I live in retirement at NORTH ARM COVE , previously in the Great Lakes Council area , now being in the very bottom (south east) corner of the three merged Council areas which make up the new Mid Coast Council (MCC) .My rates NOW are \$2400 PA (quarterly \$625 X 4 ) . One of my neighbours with a holiday home here says he is paying MORE RATES here than his Sydney home only a few doors from retired Prime Minister John Howard in one of Sydneys best suburbs .Hard to justify when you consider that residents of North Arm Cove DO NOT HAVE Council supplied SEWERAGE , DONT NOT HAVE Council provided RETICULATED WATER ,we are at the end of an electricity side line where blackouts & brown outs are a fact of life.Even our area has been bypassed by the NBN so phone & internet connection is problematical.

If we lived in Tea Gardens , Hawks Nest , Forster etc , not only would we be paying less in rates : we would also receive sewage & water connected to our homes .

In fact the previous GLC has now refused for over 40 years to allow a trailer boat ramp to be built at NORTH ARM COVE despite on at least 2 occasions the NSW Government has offered to FUND IT & every authority needed to give it the tick of approval has said YES : EXCEPT the Great Lakes Council which simply hates this area & its residents . UNFORTUNATELY that same Great Lakes Council is now the TOP DOG in the 3 way merger called Mid Coast Council .

As a resident of North Arm Cove , I cannot perceive with any CONFIDENCE of receiving fair treatment , let alone any benefits or services being delivered by the Mid Coast Council : all that has happened since I bought here in 2000 was: Council CLOSED THE PUBLIC LIBRARY & left the rest to ROT . A BLOODY DISGRACE .

So we are paying MORE in rates each year & receiving ABSOLUTELY NIL in the way of services or even consideration by this Council.

I am totally against the level of RATES that I now pay & receive nothing for that expenditure & find it totally OFFENSIVE that a HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE SYSTEM that thinks that of every Merged Council in NSW , that WE should be the only people have to PAY MORE again for NOTHING .

MY answer from 40 years in business in this State , + every State in Australia & some 9 overseas countries in the world in which I operated on a daily business , is for COUNCIL to MANAGE BETTER with what they have , stop the extravagances & incompetences we experience .TRY LIVING WITHIN ITS MEANS.

John Blackburn . 