

Author name: J. Burton

Date of submission: Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Submission: Where a Council proposes to raise a special rate to cover the cost of Fit for the Future this additional charge should be disclosed now so that the community can clearly see the following:

- The option to the fee (ie merging with another Council - Goulburn Mulwaree Council - that would lead to support from the State Government (and what this support would amount to).
- The proposed additional charge, overall and per rate payer each year and over the course of the special payment period.

It is also noted that the Council has proposed to change, presumably raise, other charges. The proposed increases that are tied to 'Fit for the Future' should be disclosed before other changes or merger opportunities are made or forgone.

Citizens and other ratepayers should be given the transparency of impact of all additional costs they face and the potential (option) to avoid these charges through mergers with other councils. It is then vital that the community be given a direct say in this choice.