

**From:** jennifer little [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 June 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox  
**Subject:** Re: MCC SRV2017

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

I can't believe this council managed to use a questionable change in legislation to apply for a 28.5% rate increase over four years.

What say have I had in these changes and how come statistics are always fiddled in Council Management's favour? 80% in favour of a fund rise - what a joke! Why is Management top-heavy so that necessary works are drained of funding?

It was bad enough that after being told that the old Great Lakes Council was viable and would not undergo a merger then suddenly to find this had been forced upon us against the wishes of rate payers - we now find the merged council is "suddenly poor" and needs to bleed us dry.

What makes you think I can afford this rate rise? A widowed pensioner of three years I have already had to tighten the purse strings in all areas - necessary maintenance and repairs to my home. For instance, as a 69yr old female I climb on the roof to do my own gutter clearing every 6 weeks as I can't afford someone else to do this, not if I want to budget for electrical, plumbing, tank maintenance etc (because we are not on town water & sewerage). Depending on expensive bottled gas I scrimp on heating, not using it unless the temperature inside drops below 11% & then only keeping it at 16% maximum for as short a period as possible, often just for an hour or so! I do all outside maintenance myself. Very time consuming and labour intensive, lifting and carting stuff which I shouldn't be doing at my age & with my chronic injuries and arthritis. I shop from the Op Shop, have cut down on groceries, use oldstyle cleaning methods and products because commercial ones are too expensive and harm the environment. Have not been able to save for needed dental work, a holiday, social activities and have almost cut out gifting to family. I limit using the car (live 10mins out of Tea Gardens) to save on fuel - We have no public transport.

My late husband and I fought hard for 10yrs to get Bundabah Rd sealed (we were told one of the last in the state to be done) - at least he lived long enough to see it completed! However it's only weeks since the sealing/semi-sealing of our village streets, plus some needed drainage work has almost been completed. Some of the work has been poorly done. eg. The school bus has to use private driveways to drop off the children because if they stopped in the previously designated bus stops the kids would have to jump four feet into a drain! Why? - because the Council has made the roads too narrow and not installed covered drains in places where they are particularly needed. There have already been accidents - how serious do they have to be before Council takes action?

What does Council really do with our rates as they are? Not much considering we are fighting apparent Council approval for a private Quarry. This on land which should have been retained as National Park because of it's important Environmental, Historical and Heritage significance and which has already been abused by unapproved works by the current owner. This Quarry would be located 600m-700m from our Homes in peaceful, quiet Bundabah and would be seriously detrimental to our health and wellbeing & amenities of the area. Check out the response to the DA269/2017 for which objections closed yesterday (26/06/2017). I think you will find it is a record for this area.

"The Natives are Rising" - No way can we afford or want another rate rise. No way do we have faith in the integrity of many of our Council members. Much change is needed but not by "bleeding us dry".

Hopefully IPART can start this change by rejecting the extremely questionable rate variation.

Jennifer D E Little

