

From: Juergen Seil [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 June 2017 10:36 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Myall Coast Council Rate Increase

Subject: Rate increase proposal / submission by Mid Coast Council.

Before the amalgamation with Gloucester and Taree Council Mid Coast Council was in reasonable financial shape.

We all know that Gloucester and Taree Council did not manage their financial affairs properly. Any amalgamation calls for a total review of operating and personal costs with subsequent cuts in order to operate a sustainable business model.

Mid Coast Council should be requested to table a rationalisation program with drastic cuts to all current overheads, e.g. operating programs, personal department reductions, amalgamation of job duties and equipment sharing amongst Taree, Forster and Gloucester and disposal of surplus properties.

Where is that requirement of rationalisation and cost saving? Like all normal businesses there needs to be a business plan.

Current politician seem to go the easy way and ask State Governments to approve a rate increase for a number of years using alarming forecasts.

This should be totally rejected by the NSW Government.

Proper business and rationalisation plan first and presented to all Rate Payers would be the intelligent way to go.

Local resident John Alterator outlines some hard facts in addition to my comments published in local newspaper Messenger. Here is an extract.

1. There have been no elected representative on council, representing the ratepayers.
2. There has been no discussion regarding the current Special Rate Variation proposal. (SVR)
3. The Act was mysteriously changed to exempt MCC from the Act, that restricted merged councils from applying for a rate increase over 4 years.
4. Results of the survey indicated that 20% of ratepayers, including renters, could afford an increase, 55% indicated that they would be "inconvenienced" meaning "burdened". MCC has accepted this as 75% can afford the increase. This figure now has been rounded up to 80% (nearest 10%). I believe this blatant manipulation of figures cannot go unchecked.
5. In February, MCC, miraculously found savings and indicated that an increase would not be necessary.

Over the past 20 years, GLC has received numerous increases well above the CPI, in some years, thrice the CPI. It's time to take a stand.

In my Corporate life, each time we took over other companies we established a firm business plan to justify a takeover and amalgamation.

Please take above comments into consideration when evaluating MCC application.

regards,

Juergen Seil