

I write to support the council's application for a 6.5% SRV for the next 3 years.

Though many oppose this variation I feel that it is driven by both ignorance of council's role in the provision and by a vindictive few who oppose anything council does regardless of the benefits of the many services council provides. This council provides excellent facilities in the form of many sporting grounds, around 70 toilets throughout the shire, many community halls, well equipped and modern playgrounds not to mention the miles of cycle ways/walking tracks, 3 swimming pools and 3 libraries all of which benefit of the community. This list of course does not include the traditional "roads, rubbish water and sewerage systems that this council manages well and over recent years have vastly improved the capacities of.

The community continues to not only demand that the existing services continue to be maintained to a good standard but also be upgraded to current standards all at great expense. They also have a long list of new demands (egg Batemans Bay indoor swimming complex) all of which need large amounts of money though unfortunately many simply expect it to happen without paying for it. Reality is that the community continues to have many needs and with that comes the responsibility of contributing financially at a reasonable level to not only to maintain the current assets but to provide adequate funds to provide for future needs. It is unrealistic to demand extra without being prepared to contribute financially for such benefits.

Council needs to continue to look for real efficiencies within as has been set in place since 2011 however rate pegging simply does not keep up with actual rising costs let alone provide for continued improvements as demanded by community. This increase, though no one willingly asks for increased rate burdens, I think is affordable. Personally it will cost me \$350.00 p.a. after 3 years and though I do not use many of council facilities my siblings and grandchildren have the opportunity of a great variety of high quality facilities all of which needs to be both improved and maintained.

Thanking you for the opportunity to submit my views on this matter and I hope that you will allow and support the council's application for this Special Rate Variation which will provide for the long term betterment of this community.

Yours faithfully,

Keith Dance.

Resident in Eurobodalla since 1965.