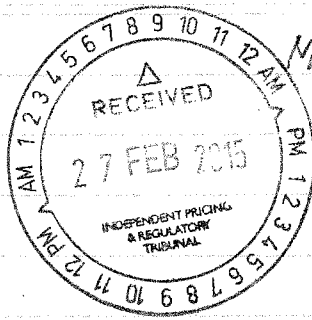


I.P.A.R.T

P.O. BOX K35

HAYMARKET POST SHOP

W 1240



MR M. MURPHY



Dear Sir/madam,

My letter is in reply to Coff's Harbour's Council's approach to you for Council rate increases. I am not denying that services by sections of govt. are allways in need or need to be expanded for demand. What I am saying is that this council allready has more than enough and is either lazy or corrupt in it's application. My connection with Coff's council apart from being a rate payer included 10 years spent on their Tidy Towns committee, so you could say I do understand how things are funded and process's required to have things achieved by council.

My current position with council spending has come in responce to legal costs of over \$250,000 being paid by council to the environment court for a developers application to build over ~~sensitive~~ wet lands with an increase of building sites from councils recommended 36 to the developers 280. Council failed on three occassions to show evidence to prove their point (who goes to court <sup>3 times</sup> without proof) and then sends an email with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I made one phone call after reading the story in the local paper and found I could obtain copies of said ground works, council had not. I contacted.

the Council's general manager's secretary and requested that the G.M call me in response. That was Nov. 2013, I'm still waiting.

The last thing this Council needs is more money. What they need is a fine toothed brush from the anti-corruption commission. Attached is some positions from our local paper, raised by others. I hope your judgement is appropriate and not just political swipe.

(more than 70% of people surveyed don't want any increases in rates)

Yours thank fully.



# Call for inquiry into council's finances

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rate variation and reported an increase in it across two financial years, which, in my opinion, it is in the eye of all residents," Cr Cowling said. Cr Keith said Cr Keith and Denise Knight had opted for a larger 2014 pay rise for the GM than originally debated by the General Manager's Performance Review Panel and the mayor used her casting vote to oppose the pay rise after

the vote was locked 2-2 in the four-person committee.

Cr Cowling said the final proposed pay rise was opposed by the other two committee members, deputy mayor Cr Sally Townley and herself.

The pay rise was subsequently approved by a 4-3 vote of seven of the nine councillors in open council.

Cr Cowling said yesterday that large bonuses paid to senior executives in private industry were different. They were in recognition of large profits, whereas the

council had a \$12 million deficit.

Among other complaints by Cr Cowling are inconsistent voting procedures for mayoral minutes; failure to follow some Office of Local Government guidelines on the procedures for the general manager's performance review committee, and late delivery of annual key performance indicators for the general manager.

A spokeswoman for the council said yesterday as the Office of Local Government and the Minister's

**“The final proposed pay rise was opposed by the other two committee members.**

Office were undertaking an investigation into allegations raised to them, it would be inappropriate for

anyone from the council to comment until proceedings had been completed.

Previously, media outlets were told the General Manager's Performance Review Panel had full delegated authority under Section 37 of the Local Government Act, as resolved by the council, to make all decisions regarding the outcomes of the general manager's performance review process, and the general manager's salary was publicly available in the council's annual report.

Are you a ratepayer of the Coffs Harbour local Govt area? YES  / NO

Tell us which option you prefer (please tick one)

In our previous engagement with the community on service levels, the message that came across most strongly was that Coffs Harbour residents want to keep Council services at their current levels. With that in mind, at the moment there are two options for you to consider:

**Option A:**

**The Further Deterioration of Public Assets**

**Approximate 3% rate peg increase - for general ordinary rate income**

Option A would be no additional rate increase to general ordinary rates for the next two years other than the estimated rate peg increase of 3% each year. This would mean no additional investment in public asset maintenance and renewal. This would result in the further deterioration of these assets and a corresponding reduction in the level of service they provide.

**Option B:**

**Increase the Investment for Maintenance and Renewal of Public Assets**

**Approximate 8.14% rate increase for 2015/16 and a 7.75% increase for 2016/17 (including rate peg, for general ordinary rate income)**

Option B would be an approximate 8.14% increase in general ordinary rates for 2015/16 with another increase of 7.75% for 2016/17 (including annual rate peg increase of around 3%). All additional funds above the rate pegging increase would be used to fund the shortfall in Council's current asset maintenance and renewal expenditure. These additional funds will be sufficient to prevent the further deterioration of public assets.

If you would like to receive email updates on the outcomes of this consultation, please provide an email address:

*BOTH SHOULD BE BLUE*

*27 FEB 2015*

*STREET LIGHT POSITION*