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Date of submission: Friday, 14 March 2014

Submission:

Dear Sir/Madam,, I have lived / travelled / worked in the Cessnock Council area for many years , and although I live outside of that area now , I still own property in that LG area & still travel on those roads . For many many years now , Cessnock Council roads have had a reputation for being notoriously in bad condition , a view held by visitors & locals alike . As a regular motorist on those roads over many years , I have made these observations : Cessnock Council Works Dept has proven time & time again that they DO NOT possess the expertise and/or have the procedures in place to build a road of any lasting integrity , and in a timely manner . I have witnessed MANY of their road maintenance/ re-building projects , and it is my observation that they generally / constantly take AT LEAST THREE TIMES LONGER than their neighbouring Councils to re-build a comparable & similar length of road ,(notwithstanding , & allowing for different traffic volumes during construction) ,, yet invariably when the projects are completed , the roads start to "break up" , very soon afterwards . To my thinking , the situation is scandalous , and my conclusion is that CESSNOCK COUNCIL'S BACKLOG OF ROADS IN NEED OF UPGRADE , IS NOT ,, I REPEAT ,, IS NOT DUE TO INSUFFICIENT FUNDING , BUT MISS-USE / MISS-MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDING THAT THEY DO RECEIVE ! To that end , I believe Cessnock Council SHOULD BE DENIED the "permanent special rate variation" , at least until an investigation into their roadworks procedures , is carried out . TO CONTINUE ON IN THE MANNER THAT THEY ARE OPERATING , AND TO IMPOSE HIGHER RATE CHARGES TO FINANCE THESE PROCEEDURES , IS A BLATANT AND SERIOUS MISS-USE OF RATEPAYERS' FUNDS . Yours Sincerely , Mal Ritter . [REDACTED]