

22 February 2015

Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
Level 15,
2-24 Rawson Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Re: Eurobodalla Shire Council, Special Rate Variation Application

I support the Special Rate Variation submitted by Eurobodalla Shire Council.

Eurobodalla Shire and its residents need the works and services the SRV will fund.

As a retired engineer I have noted over the last ten years the progressive deterioration in the maintenance of and the absence of upgrades to facilities and amenities not essential to the health and safety of our communities, and commend our shire in the balancing of its responsibilities with the income it receives, which is obviously manifestly inadequate to fulfilling its roles adequately.

In recent time it has become obvious that some visible to me facilities (e.g., the Candalagan Creek Bridge on Coronation Drive, Broulee) that should have been replaced by now are having their lives extended unnecessarily at major cost to maintenance budgets because funds for full replacement are unavailable. This costs the shire (and me) more in the long run, and results in a markedly deteriorated infrastructure in the shire when the rate revenue is inadequate. If this is obvious to me in visible assets, then it follows invisible assets like water reticulation and sewerage handling are also deteriorating.

As the coordinator and organiser of the Eurobodalla Walking for Pleasure group I regularly travel up and down the length of the shire for the group's walks that occur every Wednesday at a different location. We currently have 56 walks spread throughout the shire, and none are repeated in any given year, so you can see I have ample opportunity to see and if I desire inspect the shire's assets regularly. I have to be aware of what is happening generally in the shire in case it affects our scheduled walks and necessitates changes to our walk schedule.

If it's obvious to me that facilities are deteriorating, the corollary is that there are insufficient funds for maintaining let alone improving the amenities or well-being assets in the shire.

Please grant Eurobodalla Shire's request for a Special Rate Variation.

Yours sincerely

Peter Haughton