

Sent: Friday, 13 March 2015 2:08 PM

To Who it May Concern

Subject: Objection to Rate Rise For Jerilderie Shire

Jerilderie Shire is applying for an application for a rate rise of 10% for 15/16 year followed by a further rise of another 10% for 16/17 year which as a rate payer I strongly object.

Jerilderie Shire is a small rural shire in southern NSW in the Murray Darling Basin and very fortunately serviced by one residential town. It is surrounded by agriculture land which is worked by both small and large extremely hard working farming businesses. The shire provides a high standard of services and many up to date infrastructures with in the town with no accumulated debt. At the same time maintains and improves the local roads for the rural rate payers. The shire is also lucky in that we have the Newell Highway running north-south and the Kidman Way east-west both funded by the state

Town Residents Ratepayers with a 10% rate increase will only be hit with a rise of \$20 - \$30 (a meal at the local pub) compared to a non-resident ratepayer who are the rural family farming businesses will vary from \$1000 - \$5000 for a 10% rate rise and then be asked for another 10% the following year. It is just unacceptable. These same rural ratepayers were hit with the 100 year drought and are now facing reduced water for agriculture with implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

I understand the reasoning for these rises is to maintain the shire's excellent services, maintain our roads and new infrastructures such as cycle ways into the future. At the same time our shire population is decreasing and amalgamation is a real possibility which will present other issues and a probable rate rise. Everyone from federal to state is being asked to curb their spending and so should our Jerilderie shire council.

Therefore as a ratepayer asking for an increase of a total of 20% plus over the next two years is unacceptable and I object to it strongly

As a Ratepayer I would like your organisation IPART to listen to the concerns of Jerilderie shire ratepayers themselves and their objection to this rate rise.

Yours faithfully
Robyn Arnold