

A submission to IPART regarding a request from Central Coast Council for a rate variation

I oppose the proposed Central Coast Council's application for a rate variation. My reasons supporting my position are outlined below.

I have been a resident and ratepayer on the Central Coast since 1975. I have been a business owner on the Central Coast since 1975.

I wish to draw to your attention to the following:

- A history of poor financial decisions and budget mismanagement has led to our council, Central Coast Council, having a projected operating loss for the current financial year of \$115m, which follows 2020's loss of \$89m. How can our councillors think this is sustainable?
- No-one knows where the money has gone. No-one knows how this has happened. No-one has been identified as responsible.
- Some of our councillors are denying they had any idea about the current financial situation, despite recorded Council meetings suggesting otherwise.
- Amalgamation is being blamed. The recent amalgamation has been mismanaged. Instead of a reduction in staff numbers, employment numbers have grown by an equivalent 242 full-time staff. Council is still maintaining two Council Chambers buildings.
- Some councillors have not demonstrated concern for the impact such a rate variation will have on their constituents and the local community.
- Central Coast ratepayers have lost faith in the current administration and councillors. There needs to be a legal and viable reporting system with balanced budgets a top priority. At present and under the proposed 'road to recovery' there is no guarantee funds will be spent wisely.

It is for these reasons I am not in favour of a rate variation in any form.

Sincerely,

Bob Rowland

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11 February, 2021