

Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2015 8:49 AM
To: IPART Mailbox; Sandy Doolan
Subject: re Coffs Harbour Councils special rate variation

I am writing to formally reject Coffs Council application for a special rate variation on the basis that

1. They commissioned an efficiency report which gave 32 recommendations with the potential to save \$3.2 million per year with no information given to ratepayers on the implementation of any of the recommendations.
2. Our roads are a total disgrace and in many places unsafe - their solution splurt some road tar in, again again again
3. There are large areas where there are no footpaths at all
4. Having attended the last council meeting it was obvious that their sums don't add up - one of the councillors asked what the bottom line cost of rate rise would be to ratepayer and was told it would be \$14
5. Ipart requested council consult with community - 88% of respondents were against rate rise - also there were many who made practical suggestions to councils dire financial problems. However council summarily rejected results saying they weren't representative of the general community and the mayors headline in the local paper said " councillors have to bite the bullet and raise rates" Consequently the application to ipart was voted for 6 to 3.
6. Incidentally I would be shocked to find that ipart would task council at great expense to consult with the community then not take any notice of how the community responded
7. Considering this councils dire financial shortfall (\$6 million per year) they still though it ok to give the general manager a bonus (for performance??) and pay rise. They also commissioned a draft design, plans and glossy photos of the proposed new town square (where was the community consultation on this project - is it even in councils responsibilities ???) not to mention the fact that the town square has been totally renovated within the last 6 years so is unnecessary

The council appear to have no idea of how to budget or what their areas of responsibility are which is of great concern. They have management that's very good with the slick sayings " tranfer to sustainability " and " fit for the future " (bandied about at the council meeting, but no solid facts/ figures to attempt to show they

were plans that could work) no real idea about how to achieve these except by hitting the ratepayers for another rise. [REDACTED] actually asked the mayor - if ipart grant the rate variation what will happen if the extra money isn't enough? will you hit the ratepayers for another rise and she replied " I have no idea" It will never be enough as they are not working out how to live within their quite substantial means.

I ask ipart to reject this application for the special rate variation on behalf of myself, my husband, my elderly parents and other concerned residents who don't have the ability to contact ipart themselves.

Sandra Dollin