

Ratepayer submission in response to Bellinger Shire Councils SRV application 2018/19

1. CommunicationWe are told that everything should be open and transparent. Council should email us links to make it easier to understand exactly what they want to do with the increased rates. As a ratepayer I find that information from the council with regards to important issues is obscure , cloudy , generalised and never specific. It's always hard to get specific information from the council as there seems to be a culture of "the less information we give out , the less mistakes we might make".

There seems to be a culture of "us and them" and ratepayers are seen as children that need to be told what to do or just keep quiet.

2. Efficiency gains made by council we have all been made aware recently that a significant percentage of rates (in excess of 70%) goes on council wages , that there is a general manager on a very significant wage as well as , apparently, 2 junior managers under her supervision. Apparently there are more staff in Bellingham council than there are in other bigger councils and they have less people actually "physically working" on outside issues than the number of staff employed working within the council HQ offices. If they were running a commercial enterprise then I feel that it would "go broke". Surely this is non sustainable and this is using rates in a way that is not beneficial to the ratepayers?

22/2/2018