

Pindimar/ Bundabah Community Association.  
c/- B. Economos

 NSW 2324

28<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

I.P.A.R.T. - NSW Government

Dear Sir,

Re. Application from Mid Coast Council for a Special Rate Variation. 2017

I am writing on behalf of members of our Community Association and other ratepayers who live in our three villages to object to the Special Rate Variation that Mid Coast Council has applied for.

This new law to allow Mid Coast Council to apply for this Special Rate Variation was engineered by our Administrator, Mr. Turner. The MP who put it forward comes from south of Sydney with no connection to this area

Most of our members are retirees who are living on a fixed income and this huge hike in Council rates, on top of our normal quarterly rates will be extremely difficult and puts a very heavy burden on them. Those who work are also finding it difficult to pay electricity (poles & wires) and make ends meet on limited budgets.

Great Lakes Council ratepayers (as we were) have always paid a Special Rate Variation on top of normal rates. We are still paying it now.

What we will not accept is the back flip (error) by Great Lake Councillors to agree to the forced merger between Great Lakes, Gloucester and Greater Taree Councils. This has now put Mid Coast Council (the merged super council) in extreme debt because of works that need to be done in the Gloucester and Greater Taree shires. The State Government now expects ex Great Lakes ratepayers to pay for this work instead of the State Government.

Great Lakes Council had a backlog of 12 million dollars, while Taree and Gloucester Shires between them have a backlog of 180 million dollars.

This is a cynical political ploy by The State Government to make ex Great Lakes ratepayers pay for the other council's backlog such as roads and bridges. Did they ever pay a Special Rate Variation and if so how much?

This requested Special Rate Variation is to pay for roads and bridges. A debt put onto our shoulders (Great Lakes ratepayers) because of the forced merger.

Our members will not accept this Special Rate Variation to pay for the back log of these other two Councils. They will not accept extra hardship in order to catch up on works in areas that are more

than 1.30 hours away from where we live. State Govt should address the infrastructure required by funding this backlog themselves – not expect Great Lakes residents to do it  
The CONSULTATION MEETING WAS A FARCE. It was a token meeting so Mr. Turner could say it was held. Mr. Turner completely ignored the protests and objections by residents and immediately went ahead and applied for this Special Rate Variation.

THE NUMBER STATED OF RATEPAYERS WHO ACCEPT THIS RATE RISE 80% WAS A BEAT UP. 55% in the survey stated such a rise would make things difficult for them, but somehow the number of 75% was produced. This was rounded out to 80%. This NUMBER should be investigated by ICAC

Ian Treharne, President

Betty Economos, Secretary