

Author name: Name suppressed

Date of submission: Monday, 21 February 2022

Your submission for this review:

Based on the discussion above, I do not support this increase. I do not believe that this rate increase is reasonable nor is it warranted. I do believe that it is time we had an independent administrator brought in to conduct a forensic audit of the annual financial reports for the last five years and identifying the factors leading up to this proposed increase, where the rates could be reduced for ratepayers and also the impact of this reduction. So far we have nothing but a "smoke and mirrors" approach with the different council factions at odds with each other. I have some hope with the new council Mayor and Deputy Mayor but unfortunately there are people on the previous council who are out to destroy any good work that could be achieved.

Your comments on Criterion 1:

This seemed to be a "rush job" with community consultation sought as an afterthought. It is my view that the council rushed this application through knowing full well that any final decision and fallout would be left to the new council to face. The raise is massive and will affect many people. I feel that we were given a "take it or leave it" message. There was talk about reduced resources and projects at the broad level but not deeply enough for ratepayers to appreciate how this would affect them in "real time".

Your comments on Criterion 2:

I had to dig for this. The Council gave us the option of seeing this though an Excel Spreadsheet . I do not have Excel (it does cost money to get) and had to ask the council for projections for my land. This is entirely satisfactory as many would have given up trying to get the actual cost to them. COVID made it impossible for people who were not connected to the Internet to "drop in to Council" to view the implications for them. This seemed to be a "rush job" with community consultation sought as an afterthought. It is my view that the council rushed this application through knowing full well that any final decision and fallout would be left to the new council to face. The raise is massive and will affect many people. I feel that we were given a "take it or leave it" message. There was talk about reduced resources and projects at the broad level but not deeply enough for ratepayers to appreciate how this would affect them in "real time".

Your comments on Criterion 3:

I do not believe that this rate increase is reasonable nor is it warranted. I do believe that it is time we had an independent administrator brought in to conduct a forensic audit of the annual financial reports for the last five years and identifying the factors leading up to this proposed increase, where the rates could be reduced for ratepayers and also the impact of this reduction. So far we have nothing but a "smoke and mirrors" approach with the different council factions at odds with each other. I have some hope with the new council Mayor and Deputy Mayor but unfortunately there are people on the previous council who are out to destroy any good work that could be achieved.

Your comments on Criterion 4:

As outlined above, I had to dig for this. The Council gave us the option of seeing this though an Excel Spreadsheet . I do not have Excel (it does cost money to get) and had to ask the council for projections for my land. This is entirely satisfactory as many would have given up trying to get the actual cost to them. COVID made it impossible for people who were not connected to the Internet to "drop in to Council" to view the implications for them. This seemed to be a "rush job" with community consultation sought as an afterthought. It is my view that the council rushed this application through knowing full well that any final decision and fallout would be left to the new council to face. The raise is massive and will affect many people. I feel that we were given a "take it or leave it" message. There was talk about reduced resources and projects at the broad level but not deeply enough for ratepayers to appreciate how this would affect them in "real time".

Your comments on Criterion 5:

I do not recall reading this in any council communications. I do not believe that this rate increase is reasonable nor is it warranted. I do believe that it is time we had an independent administrator brought in to conduct a forensic audit of the annual financial reports for the last five years and identifying the factors leading up to this proposed increase, where the rates could be reduced for ratepayers and also the impact of this reduction. So far we have nothing but a "smoke and mirrors" approach with the different council factions at odds with each other. I have some hope with the new council Mayor and Deputy Mayor but unfortunately there are people on the previous council who are out to destroy any good work that could be achieved.