

First Name	Last Name	General comments regarding council's proposed SV	Comments on Criterion 1:	Comments on Criterion 2:	Comments on Criterion 3:	Comments on Criterion 4:	Comments on Criterion 5:
1	Anonymous	<p>I have lived on the Central Coast at Copacabana for 49 years and have been a ratepayer for 31 of those years.</p> <p>The roads, foot paths, general services are wholly inadequate and there has been no explanation whatsoever as to how this Council used or lost \$500 million.</p> <p>The administrator that has been appointed has written to the Gosford ratepayers advising that we are the stakeholders and that we are the stakeholders and that we are the stakeholders.</p> <p>We as ratepayers have very little input into what a council does or does not do and further, the administrator, who is appointed by the State government, gave this Council a clean bill of health less than three years ago and somehow this Council has lost \$500 million.</p> <p>No one has demonstrated where the money went nor have we investigated how this problem will be fixed in the future. We have simply been asked to pay more money.</p> <p>Before any further money is obtained from the ratepayers, an demonstration must be undertaken to determine whether \$500 million went and who will be responsible and accountable in the future for the utilisation of ratepayer funds.</p> <p>This is the second that Gosford Council has simply "lost" a substantial amount of money and no one has been held to account.</p> <p>The government owes a fiduciary duty to the ratepayers and the administrator is not complying with this duty. Simply raising money is not fixing the problem.</p> <p>I am angry that Central Coast Council are trying to increase the rates on my property live in an area of Central Coast Council named Mooney Mooney were only basic work is done. Apart from weekly rubbish removal, curb side bulk pickups and the maintenance of two small children's playgrounds, there is little else.</p>	<p>There has been very limited consultation with this community.</p> <p>This community, as with most community, have suffered economically as a result of the catastrophic bushfires and Covid.</p> <p>The request to increase rates ignores the proposal of the council to harmonise rates between Wyong and Gosford Council. There have been no benefits whatsoever arising from the merger of the two councils.</p> <p>The administrator has indicated that prior to any rate increase, Gosford ratepayers must pay the same as while ratepayers meaning that Gosford ratepayers must pay more to equal that amount that has been paid by Wyong. After this harmonisation process has occurred, then the administrator is seeking to increase rates by a further 10%-15%.</p> <p>Prior to the latest financial catastrophe, there was the loss of almost \$300 million by Gosford Council in 2008.</p> <p>Since 2008 this Council has lost a total of \$800 million and in doing so has managed to increase council staffing levels, increase in pay levels for Council staff yet there has not been any increase in services.</p>	<p>Other than the administrator indicating that as the stakeholders we are responsible for our Council, the administrator has not once demonstrated how the \$300 million dollars was lost and how it is proposed that this will not occur again.</p>	<p>The proposal for the increase is not reasonable especially in circumstances where the administrator is proposing to harmonise rates between Gosford and Wyong councils and then increase rates by a further 10%-15%.</p> <p>In some cases some Gosford Council ratepayers will be looking at a total increase in the vicinity of 35%-45% to their current rates.</p>		
2	Anonymous	<p>I am a resident and ratepayer of the Central Coast and to say I am appalled at the disastrous mis-management and subsequent financial failure of the Council, is a gross understatement. I strongly reject any of the special rate rise proposals they are chasing, apart from the 2% pegged rate rise. The incompetence and extremely poor management of this Council is beyond belief. I have worked for another large Council down in Sydney for many years and they have managed to provide adequate services and upgrade infrastructure and still remain in the black financially without stopping their ratepayers special rate variations. However, even the Council work for has major systemic faults in their organisations and business model that result in excessive spending and excessive rates. These faults include: Excessive levels of upper &amp; middle management personnel, managers who view Councils as a quasi private sector corporation instead of a local government agency, expensive company cars subsidised by Council, overly ambitious and high cost infrastructure projects, unaffordable beautification projects, insufficient monies allocated to maintaining and upgrading essential infrastructure and providing essential services, insufficient monies allocated to hiring base level workers to carry out the grass roads physical works, overly controlled and restrictive procurement policies which prevent the engagement of lower priced consultants, contractors and suppliers, poor supervision and follow up by managers allowing low levels of output from their staff. I could go on and on all I see this dysfunctional culture every day, and everybody's rates continue to climb higher and higher to unaffordable levels. Central Coast Council appear to have all the above faults on a major scale, hence the embarrassing position they now find themselves in. And once again, they want the victims of their poor management (or lack of management) to bail them out with more rates money, which will not be paid, but rather they will not pay. I sincerely hope that parliament enforces the people's will in this case and the task of re-building the Council remains with the Council. Thank you, Larry Cohen.</p> <p>We understand that our council is seeking a 15% increase in rates to pay for their incompetence. We strongly oppose the manner in which this is being proposed. If rate payers are required to assist all rate payers should pay the same amount. It should not be a % increase dependent on property value.</p>					
3	Larry	COHEN	<p>The Council needs to learn to live within it's means and not over extend to the point where they are constantly having revenue to meet off-indebtedness.</p>	<p>I do not support any SV rate rise, only the 2% pegged rate rise. The Council needs to find alternative funding including recovery of termination funds paid out to the offending managers.</p>		<p>I would hope that parliament gives those documents very close scrutiny and takes a hard line on the Council by rejecting their SV proposals.</p>	<p>The Council needs to take a good hard look at itself and it's culture, put their whole operation apart and re-structure it to operate efficiently and within it's means financially. It's time they became accountable instead of acting like executives in a private sector corporation.</p>
4	Anonymous	Anonymous			<p>We strongly argue that it is not reasonable to expect some rate payers to be paying more than others. The figure payable by rate payers should be the same for each home or business.</p>		
5	James	Ralston	<p>This special variation is both unfair &amp; unnecessary for the following reasons - 1. If awarded this will increase the base for future increases. 2. Council should be kept to hold rates that SPART actually regulated some years ago to a max increase of 6%. 3. Why should all rate payers bear the cost of this poor &amp; degrading effort by this council. 4. If I ran my house budget like council has to the detriment of having to lose my home through mortgage failure, will council fund my situation as they want their rate payers/homeowners to do? 5. Council are about to build a new Library in Gosford at the cost of \$8.5 million, this should not happen with the debt this council is in. 6. Council should be selling off as many assets as possible to repay this debt. This is what every person in Australia &amp; maybe the world would need to do to in a similar situation. 7. This is an Australian. 8. This council are also about to spend \$1,000,000 on a safety cage/ fencing on the ST Hubert's Island road bridge which locals don't want or need. So here is another million dollars saved if halted. How many more projects can be halted?</p>				
6	Amanda	Houghton	<p>Dear Mr Hart I note your letter of 13 Jan and the insert in the recent rates notice. I am writing to you on behalf of myself and my husband who are 65 and 66 respectively and have a property at [redacted]. This property is our retirement plan and when we bought it, we were very surprised to see that the rates for a rural block which is 60% bush were \$374 pa, which is way above the average figure of \$209 for a Wyong farming property that you quoted in your letter of 13 Jan. This figure is already very difficult to pay for retirees. I understand the difficulty you find yourselves however passing this on to people like myself who are already paying ridiculously high rates is not appropriate. A 10% rise would put the rates up to \$4161.96 which is far more than you quote in your communications and a 15% rise up to \$567.54 to \$4351.14. These figures equate to \$7.27 and \$10.91 per week which are again more than even the business rates you quoted. This is inappropriate when this property is essentially a residential property with some land. I checked the rateable value after I first moved in and it apparently is correct, though far more than any other properties near where I live so I don't understand that either. I totally oppose this method of raising funds to resolve the issues council has found itself in by its own mismanagement. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.</p>				
7	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I disagree with the rate rise for the Wyong Shire. We already had a rate rise and Gosford Shire did not. Now that CC Council has amalgamated, the rate rise will impact the Wyong Shire residents again. It is also fairly obvious that a proposal would have been made for the necessary Council funds had been used for their intended purpose, rather than illegally squandered. The letter I received states low dams (with all this rain??), floods (so dams are full?), bushfires (which received HUGE donations), coastal erosion (should have been dealt with years ago), Covid-19 and THE REALITY OF OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION. Why should I be paying for Council's mistakes??</p>	<p>The Administrator has stated that raising rates is the only option available after already identifying cuts such as the sale of assets. However residents are yet to see the full detail of these cuts. A full public meeting needs to be held so everything can be explained in detail that is not in the Administrator's reports. There has also been no explanation as to why no-one from the council has been investigated or referred for potential criminal activity or corruption despite illegally accessing and spending unrestricted funds, or why the former CEO was given a \$50,000 payout, adding to the bill for taxpayers.</p>			
8	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>This permanent rate rise should not be approved until the largest debt ever incurred by a council is thoroughly investigated and explained, including the role of the NSW Audit Office. The idea that raising the rates to the community of central coast will not make this council any better financially or provide better services, is not an idea I can agree with and all you are doing is fueling the fire that the same people that got us in this situation. I am aware that some staff have been terminated and made redundant, but this again adds more costs to the rate payers. You have a difficult decision to make, but sometimes one needs to look further into what has brought us to this dilemma. This request to increase rates well above what all the community can afford is not only going to force people to reconsider in how they can pay in these troubling times. Please do not allow this increase.</p>		<p>A letter was sent to residents explaining a 10-15% rise for the average ratepayer but it wasn't made clear that it was permanent.</p>		
9	Fortunate	Vesudri		<p>Central Coast Council was amalgamated by the NSW state government with no choice from the residents. Only a few years in it has been discovered that the council have extreme revenue pressures. The cause of which clearly relates back to the formation of the amalgamated council and the lack of governance put in place by the State government. The amalgamated council has been forced by recent events at Wamberal to incur great costs to remediate an erosion of the beach (and houses), the state government are directly responsible for policy relating to beach erosion and flooding. The clear revenue path for council is to the state government to fund the shortfall and the medium term - particularly since the state government by its own actions created this situation. The revenue path is NOT to slug its COVID stressed residents an additional tax.</p>	<p>I have discovered the intent for council to slug residents with this tax inadvertently whilst seeking information on a council MTB project.</p> <p>I read online news daily and have a timeline. It is highly likely that the majority of residents are not aware of the plan to slug a 10% tax on them.</p>	<p>As per my comments in criterion 1 - it is the NSW state government who in every way is the cause of the situation that the council finds itself. Therefore it is totally unreasonable for ratepayers to bear the burden of cost. The cost should be borne by the NSW state government as part of the ratepayers existing taxes.</p>	
10	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>It is not at all appropriate for a council lacking proper governance framework caused by the NSW state governments rushed amalgamation to be slugging COVID stressed residents an additional tax. The council should be making the funding request directly to the NSW state government and the NSW state government should be taking responsibility for the shoddy state of affairs they have created. The council has also made an absolutely appalling job of informing residents of no less than a 15% impending rate rise. Clearly the strategy is to sneak this through with little scrutiny. The Administrator has requested a special variation on the basis that even after returning staff head count and CAPEX to pre-amalgamation levels there will still be a significant operating deficit and a rate increase is the only solution to this. I disagree. The purpose of the amalgamation was to increase operating efficiency. Not only has the Administrator not been able to identify any such efficiencies, his Interim Report indicates that a significant level of inefficiency has occurred as a result of the amalgamation. No other reason for the need for a special variation has been presented. The Administrator has not been able to identify the reason for this drop in efficiency. I can help. I had a casual conversation with a council plumbing inspector recently. He stated that the maximum travel time to his next appointment was 30 minutes prior to amalgamation and is now up to two hours depending on time of day. This has significantly reduced his work efficiency post amalgamation. He expressed the view that a number of other council departments were significantly affected. The reason for this inefficiency is directly related to the geography of the amalgamated council, which is simply impractical. Before approving the special variation, SPART would need to be satisfied that there is no practical alternative to it. I submit that de-amalgamation would reverse the inefficiencies which have led to the need for the special variation. At the very least, the rate payers should be presented with these facts (which were not disclosed in the Administrator's Interim Report) and be given the opportunity to express their view on the matter.</p>			<p>have not been aware of any exhibition of IPMR documents.</p>	<p>Without the elementary governance framework being put in place for such a council to function any additional funding is likely to be spent in just the same unscrupulous way.</p>
11	GEOFFREY	CAMERON		<p>As detailed above, I submit that council's IPMR documents do not disclose the true cause of the need for the special variation, or the alternative solution to the operating deficit, which is de-amalgamation.</p>			<p>As detailed above, I submit that council's IPMR documents do not disclose the true cause of the decrease in productivity which has led to the need for the special variation and presents no plan for repairing that decrease.</p>
12	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I am from the old Wyong Shire, which was not broke. All these problems seem to have occurred since merging with Gosford Council. Why should the rate payers from the Wyong shire have to pay for Gosford council's incompetence? We have been told that when the merger took place they employed 200 extra staff that were not required. They now have to let go of 200 staff, so the council offered redundancy. So the staff who took the redundancy packages would have received more money than the 200 staff just employed. Another sign the council is wasting money. The council also paid out the CEO who authorised the spending of restricted funds. Why have these people not been charged? I do not believe the rate payers of Wyong Shire should have to pay more money for something beyond our control. In response to the proposal to increase rates to address the mismanagement of ratepayers' money at Central Coast Council: -We support a considered strategy to recoup the funds spent in mismanagement of public money by members of council staff however we do NOT support a 15% rate rise. This amounts to no more than a wealth tax and is unjust. -If the money is to be recouped, it should be by a levy payable by ALL residents in equal measure, not just property owners based according to the arbitrary judgement of the value of their property which often fails to reflect the owner's real ability to sustain a huge rate rise or the benefit of what they receive from council. Many of us on acreage holdings, already pay many times the average residential rate sum, receive almost no benefit in infrastructure from the money we pay and are expected to keep paying even more to account for the mismanagement by people who should have known better and were employed in good faith and well paid. -The ratepayers of the Central Coast deserve a thorough explanation as to how this disaster was allowed and how individuals were able to propel the entire Central Coast population into enormous debt with no apparent oversight by anyone with expertise. The current situation is difficult to believe and the anger of residents justifiable. Our fear is that there will be no consequences for anyone involved in the mismanagement and all of the repercussions will be ours to fund long into the future. -We must be told how a council was able to accumulate such enormous debt without anyone noticing or having oversight of such behaviour until it was too late and severe damage inflicted. Who should have been watching? How were staff members able to spend funds which should have been quarantined and secured? -What are the consequences for those involved or have they all been given a gold handshake, redundancy payment and gone off to another well remunerated position? If there are no consequences, including criminal charges where appropriate, where is the disincentive for this type of behaviour and what protection do residents have for similar issues in the future? -It is impossible to adequately express our disgust and rage at what has taken place by staff, employed and well paid by ratepayers. Not only have we been wholly let down by management, but we are forced to reach into our own hard earned savings to now pay for the "sins" of others - completely unjust and intolerable. -Whatever strategy is chosen to address this issue, the cost should be borne equally by all residents, not disproportionately by a rate rise. Many of the residents who pay very little in the way of rates, are those who benefit most from council expenditure in the way of facilities, services and amenities.</p>				
13	Anonymous	Anonymous		<p>There is no community desire for any increase in rates on the Central Coast. The residents and ratepayers have been badly deceived and let down by mismanagement at council with no clear explanation as to how this was able to occur.</p>	<p>The community is only aware that we are now being asked to pay for the shortcomings of people employed at council who should have known better and acted differently. An increase in rates is an inequitable means of obtaining the funds needed to address the mismanagement of money by council. The rate increase amounts to a simple wealth tax as those on larger properties will pay a much larger share of the burden despite the fact that they already pay more in rates, often receiving a much lower portion of council revenue in amenities and lacking even basic services such as street lighting and kerb and guttering.</p>		
14	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Why are we paying out people who have failed to perform the roles they were hired for?</p>	<p>Both Councils were financial before the amalgamation which was SUPPOSED to save us money. Why is a new revenue path required? First out what happened and fix the issues before throwing more money at them.</p>	<p>We are aware of the proposal and disagree with the investigation of the issue and the intent and the scope of proposed changes.</p>	<p>How can it be reasonable? There is no trust in the community that the Council will be either honest, reasonable or rationalised as it was supposed to be.</p>	<p>Where and when?</p>
15	Ashleigh	Deane	<p>Good Evening, I would simply like to express my disgust in Central Coast Council with regards to the abhorrent debt that they have created &amp; now the rate payers are required to pay more to bail them out. I have lived here on the Coast for 37 years, and work for a national business who is quite close with the council, and I am simply disgusted in how things have turned out. My rates are annually \$1800+. My family - who are pensioners (and have worked for 40-50 years paying taxes) they are paying between \$1400-\$1500 in rates per annum. I have no idea where they are putting the \$1100 figure from for my retirement, is a joke. I have submitted numerous requests over the years for improvements in the local community - never once a response. I would like that these councillors who get on the board of the council chambers to basically justify their own agendas &amp; grant the projects for their business buddies. Where the hell has the money gone???? They need to be audited &amp; jailed. I would really appreciate the state &amp; even federal government to investigate further &amp; not to put this on to the community to continue to pay this debt - FOR WHAT? I would love to have an annual bill for \$1194 as suggested in this letter (dated 13 Jan 2021) as my rates are nowhere near this. The figures aren't even correct. There needs to be an ICAC investigation here. Fraudulent business is going on &amp; laundering. I am sure of it. I look forward to a reply.</p>				



First Name	Last Name	General comments regarding council's proposed SV	Comments on Criterion 1:	Comments on Criterion 2:	Comments on Criterion 3:	Comments on Criterion 4:	Comments on Criterion 5:	
36	Anonymous	I hope this is the right place to comment on the rate increase proposed by CCC. I feel strongly that residents should not have to pay more and allow our current rates to pay for the poor financial management of the Council. Punish the many for the sins of a few, is a biblical response and not one from a modern society. The only options provided were varying degrees of rate increases. So where are the other options and what else can be done? I would agree to a rate increase ONLY if it is in line with other councils and IPART were considering a broad increase to rates across the state.						
37	Anonymous	I am a Council employee and I support the rate rise. Essential services and jobs will be lost to the region if it does not eventuate.						
38	Anonymous	Central Coast Council have illegally used restricted funds and paid ridiculous and unnecessary monies to consultants. We now have a massive debt. Rate payers should not be held responsible, nor should we have to accept a rate rise until Council can prove they can manage public money. We do not want any more of our money wasted by incompetent, illegal, irresponsible spending.		Council have not been forthcoming in advising of the amount of the proposed rate rise. The figure keeps being changed by them. Now they are withholding necessary services as a bribe to make rate payers agree to a rate increase but we don't know how much the increase will be.	would pay more in rates if it meant that we would have better services, clean public toilets, public parks that are maintained and mowed, council that is forward thinking and using govt funding where made available for significant community improvements but the central coast council does not uphold its duty to rate payers and has neglected to look after our beautiful area in the way in which we have entrusted them to do.			
39	Jeanine	Thomas	Please review extreme rate rise, unfair for rate payers. Mismanagement needs to be investigated not fixed by rate rise.	Please review extreme rate rise, unfair for rate payers. Mismanagement needs to be investigated not fixed by rate rise.	Transparent communication of total rate rise must be provided. Please investigate.	I am lightened the rate rise will be beyond what my husband and I can afford. I am concerned my children will leave central coast to find affordable alternative.		
40	Kelly	Stevenson	The increase is well over the 2%. It is not easy to find information on what this increase will cover, or what exactly will this 42% increase gain the local people.	The evidence of need of such an increase is not clear.	The rate rise is massive and although communicated some what we have not as far as my mail box has been - been sent individual costs of the changes.			
41	Aranda	Richardson	This Central Coast Council has proven itself financially incompetent and the community must not be penalised for that incompetence. Many of our Central Coast residents are elderly and retired and are unable to absorb the outrageous increases in Council rates being proposed by the Administrator who has quite obviously taken the "easy way out" in submitting to IPART a 15% increase. The entire community is outraged that no accountability has been demonstrated by the Council. In pursuit of the Ingot Auditors and no assistance from the NSW Government that ORDERED the amalgamation that neither local council sought or supported.	Alternative revenue streams and asset divestment need further detailed investigation and community consultation. Approaches to the NSW Government MUST be advanced.	The Council has been deceptive in its presentation of the alleged need for this rate increase and consultation - if it can be called that - has been dictatorial in not allowing all propositions to be considered.	inadequate in scope and initiative demonstrating a lack of innovative thinking and a cowardice in the failure to address a key feature supported by the community. That key feature is an immediate approach to the State Government to provide the financial resources necessary to remedy the current situation which was brought about by that Government's compulsory amalgamation of the two former local councils.		
42	David	Olsen	Further, little or no review has been undertaken in respect to the actions of the previous Administrator charged with implementing the merger of the previous Wyong Shire and Gosford City Councils. At the Central Coast Council meeting on February 23, 2021 the Administrator said with rates harmonisation and the proposed increase, the rates in the old Gosford Council area will go up 42%. This is a disgrace. We cannot afford it we have just come out of COVID and a fast economy before that. Please BLOCK any rates rises above 2.2%			No comment		
43	Anonymous	Anonymous	Please	Limit CCC to 2.2% self assets	We have been lied to the actual increase is 42% after so called harmonisation	There is no basis for the ratepayers to have to pay for incompetence, mismanagement, corruption and fraud.	We have been lied to. The Administrator said it was either a 10% or 15% increase. It's actually 42% after rates harmonisation. That is deception.	Not seen
44	Michael	O'Farrell	The central coast council has sent a letter to ratepayers stating that they have unlawfully accessed and used restricted funds. I completely reject any rate increase as a result of unlawful spending until a complete investigation has been held and the responsible people held accountable.	I require sewerage, garbage, water and road repairs from council. Rates have been paid on my block for 75 years. I live 2 km from the heart of Gosford and have no kerbs and gutters, no footpath, no provision for stormwater and one of the worst maintained roads in the entire area.	The government appointed administrator has lied regarding how much my rates will rise with a flyer stating much less than actual cost. Inaccurate information was also included in flyer regarding contacting council			
45	Gregory	Phillips	I will be unable to pay the proposed increase itself above my pay. I will be forced to sell and move. We the rate payers did not create this financial mess. The state government are an over-rear and have the power to disband or suspend a council for improper conduct. It's their ignorance along with CCC's incompetence that caused this mess. Rate payers have had enough.		Rates have been skyrocketing every year since purchase of this property.	Access to council is restricted.		
46	Karl	Housemann	Dear Sir, It is now painfully apparent that the highly paid yet under skilled council bureaucrats at central coast council have done a disastrous job of managing the budget for the Central Coast Council. My first question is how can so many of these incompetent individuals just walk away with a golden handshake with no consequence or retribution or financial forensic police investigation? Secondly, why is it up to the ratepayers many on low income, to now bail out the abysmal actions of a few highly paid yet useless individuals now sitting at home after receiving a golden handshake. None of this is the rate payers fault, no rate payer should be expected to pay more than the agreed 2% increase. Mr Pearson has just been on the radio saying there will be a 43% increase in rates for the southern end of the coast. This in anyone's language is beyond outrageous! I believe I approved making it the biggest rate increase in Australian history. SO what can the ratepayers do, my suggestion simply not pay the increase EN MASSE. Will the council go after every ratepayer and take us ALL to court? Now that the community petition has reached the 20000 signatures required for a parliamentary enquiry I am hoping some accountability will now be brought onto those who got us here in the first place. Raising the rate by more than the CPI will lead to hardship for many residents, a lot of whom are solely dependent on the pension as their only source of income. I would request that you NOT ALLOW any increase sought by the administrator. None of this was our fault and as such we are not liable to cover the costs of incompetency perpetrated by others.					
47	Richard	Leaman	Service levels have been unsatisfactory over the last 3 years and are currently worsening despite the massive council overruns. Limited council resourcing options to provide even basic, adequate service levels are a direct result of financial mismanagement. Increased community need/desire for service levels/projects is not a true factor in this case.		Central Coast Council has not communicated full details to all rate payers, in fact my husband and I have received no communications regarding the proposed SV. We have relied on the media and word of mouth to find out what's going on. There has been no proper consultation with rate payers.	It is unreasonable to increase rates and to effectively expect ratepayers to fund unlawful overspend without consequences to those who should be held accountable.	It has already been announced by the Administrator, Dick Pearson, that the rate increase of 15% is inevitable and will be ongoing, also that a rate increase was a condition of the latest \$100 million dollar loan he has arranged.	
48	Anonymous	Anonymous	As a Central Coast resident and rate payer for over 30 years I strongly object to the proposed rate variation until a thorough investigation of Central Coast Councils gross mismanagement of funds has been undertaken and the people responsible held accountable.	The Council has unlawfully accessed funds for development. It is not clear that each ratepayer has benefited from this unlawful activity of the Council - or have in fact benefited at all. How is establishing the occurrence of unlawful access of funds a basis for imposing a lawful liability on ratepayers to pay for the crime? It is not the individuals who have authorised the unlawful use should pay - Council must have insurance. Where is the list of capital works that the Council has used the unlawfully accessed funds to build?				
49	John	Stranger	No increase.	The Council does not simply "find itself" in the current situation. It has actively mismanaged its finances and the ratepayers should not have to pay an extra 15% in rates.				
50	Stephan	Coleman	The amalgamation of Gosford City Council and Wyong Council currently known as Central Coast Council is a diabolical disaster. As rate payers we question the motivation of the NSW Government and what part of the blame and damage should they shoulder and accept. It was sold to the rate payers as the answer to all of our woes and has turned out to be the worst managed organisation I have ever experienced. Where are the auditors reports and if there are any, why do they not accept responsibility for the abysmal process that they would have undertaken to allow such a massive debt led to be managed or revealed. If there is an audit company involved where is their professional liability insurance which should be liable for the current financial position not us as rate payers or as Dick Pearson suggests we are somehow shareholders. That is the most ridiculous comment or out burst I have heard and I do not believe it is competent for us to be liable for the actions of a CEO and 10 councillors supposedly responsible for this mess. CCC is over staffed and this has been a product of amalgamation. As rate payers of the former GCC we are faced with an expected 42% increase to satisfy rate harmonisation this is criminal.					
51	Gilbert	Lester	The people of the Central Coast don't deserve to be punished for the wrongdoing of a corrupt council, there needs to be a better way to recoup their poor management than to make us one of the highest rate payers in NSW.					
52	Anonymous	Anonymous	It's outrageous!		As you know, one of IPART's criteria for assessing Special Rate Variations (SRV) is "Council's need to show IPART there is community awareness of their plans."			
53	Anonymous	Anonymous	I believe that the proposed rate increase of 15% was falsely declared to rate payers. The actual increase would be 42% to Gosford Shire residents. An extremely excellent amount for individuals to have to pay for Central Coast Council's incompetence. We have no reason to believe that this rate increase will fix the problem with the council as no measures have been taken to ensure this will not happen again.		Central Coast Council has now admitted live on ABC radio this was not the case as you can hear in this clip: <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/radio/centralcoast/programs/readfast/rate-rise-revelations/13171706">https://www.abc.net.au/radio/centralcoast/programs/readfast/rate-rise-revelations/13171706</a>			
54	Danielle	Copeland	Central coast rate payers are not responsible for the debt so why are we being held responsible to bail the council out. On the back of everything last year this is going to send some families and businesses on struggle street but that's ok because as streets will me maintained beautifully... not		There is a longer version of the same interview on ABC's website. As you can hear in that clip, Central Coast Council now publicly admits the real rate increase in Gosfordshire will be 42%, not either of the 10% or 15% stated during the public consultation. Somewhat bizarrely (more clearly in the longer clip), the Council spokesperson appears to be blaming IPART for this misinformation by claiming IPART did not allow the Council to include the impact of harmonisation on the final percentage increase when communicating with ratepayers during the consultation. This doesn't seem to make sense given that they did include the impact of harmonisation on the weekly amounts quoted during the consultation - an increase of \$7 a week in Gosfordshire and decrease of \$5 a week in Wyongshire. If they had been unable to include harmonisation in the final numbers how come they were able to claim a \$3 a week reduction in Wyongshire? As it happens, they got the weekly amount wrong too - the weekly increase in Gosford will actually be \$8.13 and the weekly decrease in Wyong \$2.18 (as they now admit in the radio interview).			
55	Van	Rhoad	I just can't afford this rise in rates. I'm a self funded retiree struggling since before covid to meet my all my bills. I come from a family that were the second settlers in [redacted] and have been devastated by the incompetence of our local Council. We are in a major tourist area and virtually have had very little funds in our area to support our growth on the Central Coast. Our roads are in disgrace and the priorities of where money is going needs to be questioned specifically at this time e.g. new Library. It just upsets me too much thinking about the future of both the Central Coast and our life.		It is crystal clear from this radio interview that the community was not made aware of Council's actual rate rise plans during the public consultation, and that therefore a genuinely independent regulator could not objectively conclude they have met its first criterion. I am therefore asking you please put our community out of its misery and immediately reject this application which has caused so much grief and is literally tearing us apart.			
56	Anonymous	Anonymous	Central coast rate payers are not responsible for the debt so why are we being held responsible to bail the council out. On the back of everything last year this is going to send some families and businesses on struggle street but that's ok because as streets will me maintained beautifully... not		All rates are the same for everyone throughout the coast. Not someone paying e.g. \$2000 more than others areas due on the Central Coast.			
57	Anonymous	Anonymous	I believe that the proposed rate increase of 15% was falsely declared to rate payers. The actual increase would be 42% to Gosford Shire residents. An extremely excellent amount for individuals to have to pay for Central Coast Council's incompetence. We have no reason to believe that this rate increase will fix the problem with the council as no measures have been taken to ensure this will not happen again.					
58	Kristen	Barnford	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
59	Anonymous	Anonymous	Please do not approve this SV to the rates and tell the council NO harmonisation as a 4% increase in rates is just not affordable. I am writing as a long time Patonga resident in support of our progress association submission regarding the matter of rate increases. A gradual payment of increased fees is definitely the best way for people such as myself who no longer work and must manage our resources carefully.					
60	Christine	Stead	Just reading we are about to be robbed by the Central Coast Council, Old Gosford Council residents rates will rise by up to 42%. How can IPART allow this. At the time of the forced merger, at no time where we told we would have to harmonise (Subsidised) ex Wyong Council residents, their rates will fall. This is outrageous as the State Government has not stepped in and stopped this. We are being penalised for gross mismanagement and the lack of corporate governance and accountability. Someone should be charged and jailed over this. Now we have fewer assets, fewer services, and more debt and worse of all, MORE council workers. How can you merge and end up with less, and more staff? Think about the sheer hardship this will bring on families, even at the 15% rate that we were lied to was over the top.		the impact on ex-Gosford Council residents is absurd, most of the streets in my suburb don't have curb and gutters, to leave the raising of ex-money for the council to waste should be banned by all residents including the Wyong residents.	The Council is a shambles they oversee this mess, and don't mention the administrator.		
61	Anonymous	Anonymous	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
62	Anonymous	Anonymous	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
63	Warwick	Barnett	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
64	Julia	Berry	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
65	Joan	De Celis	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
66	Evelyn	Wicks	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
67	Anonymous	Anonymous	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					
68	Anonymous	Anonymous	The fact that the community has signed a petition to have a judicial enquiry must surely mean that there are a lot of people out there that want answers to questions that have not so far been answered.					

First Name	Last Name	General comments regarding council's proposed SV	Comments on Criterion 1:	Comments on Criterion 2:	Comments on Criterion 3:	Comments on Criterion 4:	Comments on Criterion 5:
69	Sharon Reberman	I just want to have my say regarding these rate rises. I am a pensioner and would like to know how I will be able to afford these increases. It boggles belief that such a massive rate rise could happen through such incompetence. I am against such a hefty increase. I think the increases are unfair and poorly thought out. The amalgamation started the problem, so I think the State government should accept some of the blame. Furthermore there were 3 Government audits which didn't pick anything up.					
70	Frank German	Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Central Coast Council's proposed SV. Our rates are increased on a yearly basis. PART has set the increase to 2% for 2021-22. But in fact, our rates will be higher than 2%. This is because we have recently received our land valuation and, as rates are based on this valuation and the value of our land has considerably increased, our rates will reflect that increased rise. Central Coast Council has asked for an additional 13% SV in addition to the 2% making our rates 15% higher than this time last year - with the addition of costs due to our recent land valuation. I'm not sure how much that will add to the total, but it will be a significant amount. My husband and I are on an aged pension. The cost of living has increased. Our health care premiums have increased. It seems that most things have increased. Except for one thing - Our pension has decreased! This is due in part because we have been very frugal with the money we receive and attempt to save what we can for the future. Why should we be penalised for good financial management? We live in a rural area of the Central Coast. We have no curbs and guttering. My husband maintains the verge and roadside areas of our property. Our roads are narrow and full of pot holes. We have no reticulated water, yet we pay water rates. We do not receive the same garbage services of our town neighbours. It is assumed that we will manage any green waste that we might have. This is neither equitable nor possible on a small acreage. We are involved in our community. Part of this commitment is the maintenance of community property such as the local fire brigade and other community sites. Central Coast Council does not carry out any maintenance for these community-based assets (and to our knowledge never has). So along with other like-minded people, we do it. That we will still be charged additional fees just for looking after our own home and yard. Will the extra costs to Central Coast Council residents put a damper on the number of people volunteering to maintain community resources? We are informed that without the 15% increase to our rates Council services will have to be cut. We have very few services left to be cut! I do not believe that Central Coast Council has shown that its application for this SV will have a reasonable impact on rate payers. I appeal to you, not only for myself and my husband, but for all pensioners who are "doing it tough" to reject Central Coast Council's request for a 15% SV increase to our rates. Thank you.	Council has not been honest with the rate payers regarding the size of the increase.	No real communication. The administrator has not been open with the ratepayers.	Central Coast has the highest level of pensioners in NSW. A big increase as proposed would put them in a dire situation, and could cause mental health issues.	It was only decided on by the administrator.	don't think this has been honestly done. The figures given to the rate payers have all been smoke and mirrors, and very hard to understand.
71	Anonymous Anonymous	Where are the guarantees we won't just end up in this situation again in a few years? How are costs going to be managed better in the future? How do we get out of almost constant setup with over 20% of cost being overheads? Sounds like to me the gravy train just ran out of money What are the repercussions of a council ending up in a situation like this? The only rate rise I would support is one that funds a civil and criminal investigation into the last 15 years of council running costs and where money has been spent if our roads were pristine and service was great it might make sense, but this place is a mess Who on earth would throw good money at a bad situation?					
72	Benjamin Stewart	Same information sent to Council's feedback email.					
73	Anonymous Anonymous	The concept that ratepayers need to cover this council mismanagement is ridiculous. Currently my street has so many potholes it's like a waterpark for ducks when it rains. The people who mismanaged this budget should be held accountable. Not the hapless residents suffering standard council services and amenities.	Council need to stop funding unneeded projects and start providing basic services.	We understand that this council and the staff mismanaged our money. A 47% rate rise is extortion given their incompetence.			
74	Anonymous Anonymous	Lack of transparency. No confidence in current administrator. Lacks conviction & just focussed on massive rate increase & harmonisation to salvage losses. Issue demands full judicial inquiry.	Infractious disclosure & transparency to support this criterion.	The need & extent has been communicated but the circumstances that have brought us to this have not been fully disclosed. The problem is more than just dipping into restricted funds. The jobs for 'males' & personal expenditure needs to be investigated & made public.			
75	Anonymous Anonymous	I am writing to you as a central coast property owner in regards to your draft for rate rise. I totally disagree to increase the rates by any meaning as the current council crisis of budget shortage is 100% administration fault and unprofessional management from Central Coast City Council, so I am expecting to keep the services quality as is and no increase in the rates meanwhile local government should pay that shortage as we are tax payers and have all the right to have good quality services in case of any crisis specially if it is the government's fault.					
76	Anonymous Anonymous	Discarding the Council Land & Water Rate increases					
77	Anonymous Anonymous	The Central Coast council has knowingly broken local government laws/rules in relationship to how it funded itself over several years. While the council has been put into administration, it needs a full cleanout of all middle management and senior executive staff. This is malfeasance, and the executives should be brought to court, and stopped from working in any other council ever again. This submission by CCC is about covering up malfeasance, and is not needed. The council needs to learn how to live within its revenue means, without raising rates. Reduce headcount significantly, reduce services (other than maintenance of sports fields, rubbish removal etc which are critical services) and do not raise rates.	There is no need for a rate rise. The Council needs to learn how to live within its means. The council doesn't even take accountability for its erroneous/illegal acts in the submission, they pretend it was a simple error? There is no evidence that clearly articulates why this different revenue path is necessary.	There is no need for a rate rise. The Council needs to learn how to live within its means. Reduce head office headcount and reduce some non-critical services. No increase in rates required. All senior executives should be replaced, due to their creating this problem, and breaking the law. Replace senior executives with only 2 executives, the council is too top heavy, this will save significant costs.			
78	Steve Neavis	Ratepayers are not responsible for the financial situation Central Coast council finds itself in. They should not be made to bail out council or the state government due to their financial mismanagement.	Ratepayers are not responsible for the financial situation Central Coast council finds itself in. They should not be made to bail out council or the state government due to their financial mismanagement.	The administrator has not been truthful about the rate of the increase in communications with ratepayers. They claimed it would be 15% when in fact it will be 45%.			
79	Julia Clarke	Please make CCC accountable for their exorbitant, with nothing to show for it \$565-million expenditure! We the mum and dad homeowners should not be penalised with the proposed rate rise. Nothing short of ludicrous!					
80	Julia Clarke	Please look into the survey that was purported to be recently attempted by CCC regarding the proposed rate rise to cover the cost of CCC \$565million expenditure bungie. We the mum and dad homeowners believe in the community should not be held accountable for that!					
81	Anonymous Anonymous	I am in petition of Council rate rise					
82	Janie Debbis	How am going to pay for an increase as my wages only went up by 35% CPI last year due to the government blaming covid. How can anyone afford an increase atm, increasing this will take money out of the community that is desperate to get back to normal any of this. As a rate payer of the Central Coast I do not consent to any rate rise.	I pay my rates, they have more than enough revenue, mismanagement is not my mistake. It's like you giving a child \$2 and that \$2 is for lunch, instead they go and buy a car and then blame you and want you to give them more money. Come on really. The CEO should be claiming on his Directors and Officers insurance for their incompetence. I prefer the sale of some assets over an unknown rate rise.	There is no need for a rate rise at all, so much money is being wasted at the council with poor decisions and bad management. That includes the administrator. Umm where is staying and who is paying for that? What was the average cpi increase of the area for aged? I dont think it would be more than 1% due to covid. The full extent of the proposed rate rise has not been made clear to the public. Rate payers have a right to know where the money went No they are not responsible we are paying way too much for no return.			
83	Annamarie Sansom	This should not be happening. An enquiry needs to happen so the reasons for mismanaged funds can be investigated and it doesn't happen again. They must be investigated for criminal activities					
84	Anonymous Anonymous	I object to Council raising rates above the 2% rate pass. Why should we have to pay for Council's disastrous handling of funds they already received.					
85	Keith Taylor	I believe Central Coast Council have been deliberately deceptive in what they are telling the residents and IPART. I believe it borders on fraud. Firstly they did a survey which only allowed you to select 10% or 15% rate increase. This was later fixed after Community Outrage. Second they go to IPART requesting a 15% increase, when over 70% of residents selected no increase in the Council's survey. Then they admit that ratepayers in the old Gosford Local Area could be paying up to 42% as stated by Dick at a meeting last week after so called harmonisation. This is deliberate misinformation and only when challenged they admit it and confess to this misinformation. IPART should strike down any increase in rates to any ratepayer, beyond the 2.2% rate, which mind you is much higher than the CPI. The CPI in June 2020 in NSW was minus 1%. For the 12 months ended December 2020 the CPI was 0.9%. Take out the increase of 10.9% in tobacco, the real CPI increase for 12 months was 0.67%. So the 2.2% that IPART seems to think is right for Councils across NSW is already 328% higher than the CPI. There is no justification for IPART to approve any increase in Central Coast Council rates until a full analysis of what when wrong, who approved what and potential forensic audit and criminal investigations are completed.					
86	Richard Barfelo	I object to Council raising rates above the 2% rate pass. Why should we have to pay for Council's disastrous handling of funds they already received.					
87	Anonymous Anonymous	I believe Central Coast Council have been deliberately deceptive in what they are telling the residents and IPART. I believe it borders on fraud. Firstly they did a survey which only allowed you to select 10% or 15% rate increase. This was later fixed after Community Outrage. Second they go to IPART requesting a 15% increase, when over 70% of residents selected no increase in the Council's survey. Then they admit that ratepayers in the old Gosford Local Area could be paying up to 42% after so called harmonisation. This is deliberate misinformation and only when challenged they admit it and confess to this misinformation. IPART should strike down any increase in rates to any ratepayer, beyond the 2.2% rate, which mind you is much higher than the CPI. The CPI in June 2020 in NSW was minus 1%. For the 12 months ended December 2020 the CPI was 0.9%. Take out the increase of 10.9% in tobacco, the real CPI increase for 12 months was 0.67%. So the 2.2% that IPART seems to think is right for Councils across NSW is already 328% higher than the CPI. There is no justification for IPART to approve any increase in Central Coast Council rates until a full analysis of what when wrong, who approved what and potential forensic audit and criminal investigations are completed.					
88	Linda Wils	The SV increase applied for by the CC Council is well above what is reasonable. I believe this increase will cause financial hardship for many rate payers. The rate increase is due to extreme financial mismanagement by the council which should not be recognised from rate payers.					
89	Anonymous Anonymous	Council has grossly misrepresented the true SV increase, claiming 15% but when figures were checked and proven for many people to be up to 42% they acknowledged the discrepancy. The request needs to be rejected outright and the authors told to go back to learn primary school maths and get someone who can actually do maths AND give a true and honest, rather than false deceptive and misleading report! Here is my submission to IPART. I believe Central Coast Council have been deliberately deceptive in what they are telling the residents and IPART. I believe it borders on fraud. Firstly they did a survey which only allowed you to select 10% or 15% rate increase. This was later fixed after Community Outrage. Second they go to IPART requesting a 15% increase, when over 70% of residents selected no increase in the Council's survey. Then they admit that ratepayers in the old Gosford Local Area could be paying up to 42% after so called harmonisation. This is deliberate misinformation and only when challenged they admit it and confess to this misinformation. IPART should strike down any increase in rates to any ratepayer, beyond the 2.2% rate, which mind you is much higher than the CPI. The CPI in June 2020 in NSW was minus 1%. For the 12 months ended December 2020 the CPI was 0.9%. Take out the increase of 10.9% in tobacco, the real CPI increase for 12 months was 0.67%. So the 2.2% that IPART seems to think is right for Councils across NSW is already 328% higher than the CPI. There is no justification for IPART to approve any increase in Central Coast Council rates until a full analysis of what when wrong, who approved what and potential forensic audit and criminal investigations are completed.	They have fraudulently mismanaged what we already paid and now want huge amounts more paid to bail them out.	As above they have negligently and grossly misrepresented the true rise. I cannot find anything online on their website where I can find what my own personal increase would be. They have NOT ensured that people know the full and accurate information. Surveys never give any option other than 10% or 15% or no way to choose rate pag only.			
90	Anonymous Anonymous	I believe Central Coast Council have been deliberately deceptive in what they are telling the residents and IPART. I believe it borders on fraud. Firstly they did a survey which only allowed you to select 10% or 15% rate increase. This was later fixed after Community Outrage. Second they go to IPART requesting a 15% increase, when over 70% of residents selected no increase in the Council's survey. Then they admit that ratepayers in the old Gosford Local Area could be paying up to 42% after so called harmonisation. This is deliberate misinformation and only when challenged they admit it and confess to this misinformation. IPART should strike down any increase in rates to any ratepayer, beyond the 2.2% rate, which mind you is much higher than the CPI. The CPI in June 2020 in NSW was minus 1%. For the 12 months ended December 2020 the CPI was 0.9%. Take out the increase of 10.9% in tobacco, the real CPI increase for 12 months was 0.67%. So the 2.2% that IPART seems to think is right for Councils across NSW is already 328% higher than the CPI. There is no justification for IPART to approve any increase in Central Coast Council rates until a full analysis of what when wrong, who approved what and potential forensic audit and criminal investigations are completed.					
91	Mark Bostik	I strongly disagree with the suggested rate rise by Central Coast Council. There has been nothing put in place to stop this horrendous debt happening again. The Councilors who were involved have not been held but only stood down and expect to be reinstated and will continue their appalling mismanagement of funds. The administrator prepared and distributed an unfair survey that did not provide an option to disagree with the rate rise. The survey was NOT sent to every rate payer. When this was challenged by the public a second amended survey was sent to a different portion of the community BUT wait for it the results from the first survey were still tallied with the overall result! A phone survey/interview about the rate rise was supposedly done. I do not know one single person who received that phone call. Supposedly the handful of people who received the call got a 'scripted' one sided explanation of the rate rise!!!! The increase provided in actual numbers of the rate rise to residents is misleading and false and not an honest and true reflection of the enormous financial burden ratepayers will be forced with in a community that already is a low income area. I simply can not afford to pay a massive rate rise and have no idea why anyone thinks I should be burdened due to complete incompetence within Central Coast Council where the people responsible have paid no penalty. Please help us. It is not acceptable to increase spending and then slip the rate payers an additional hike above the acceptable norm. Central Coast council needs to be accountable for their spending.					
92	Anonymous Anonymous	It is not acceptable to increase spending and then slip the rate payers an additional hike above the acceptable norm. Central Coast council needs to be accountable for their spending.					
93	Barry Cole	There needs to be an enquiry.					
94	William Foster	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree
95	Anonymous Anonymous	Residents of the Central Coast already pay too much in rates, especially the northern end. Compared to other council areas. The residents of the Central Coast Council should not be liable for the mishandling of funds by said Council. We should not be required to pay for the overdraft the Mayor and Councilors have created through bad management and overspending. Not happy about the huge difference in rate rise we have been hearing - started at 15% rise now hearing up to a 45% rate rise for Gosford Council rate payers.					
96	Anonymous Anonymous	I believe Central Coast Council have been deliberately deceptive in what they are telling the residents and IPART. I believe it borders on fraud. Firstly they did a survey which only allowed you to select 10% or 15% rate increase. This was later fixed after Community Outrage. Second they go to IPART requesting a 15% increase, when over 70% of residents selected no increase in the Council's survey. Then they admit that ratepayers in the old Gosford Local Area could be paying up to 42% after so called harmonisation. This is deliberate misinformation and only when challenged they admit it and confess to this misinformation. IPART should strike down any increase in rates to any ratepayer, beyond the 2.2% rate, which mind you is much higher than the CPI. The CPI in June 2020 in NSW was minus 1%. For the 12 months ended December 2020 the CPI was 0.9%. Take out the increase of 10.9% in tobacco, the real CPI increase for 12 months was 0.67%. So the 2.2% that IPART seems to think is right for Councils across NSW is already 328% higher than the CPI. There is no justification for IPART to approve any increase in Central Coast Council rates until a full analysis of what when wrong, who approved what and potential forensic audit and criminal investigations are completed.					
97	Christine Macheden	There is no justification for IPART to approve any increase in Central Coast Council rates until a full analysis of what when wrong, who approved what and potential forensic audit and criminal investigations are completed.					
98	Anonymous Anonymous	The special variation is due to the complete inability for our local council to manage a budget. If they are provided additional funds without any checks and balances put in place we are going to be in the same place for years to come no matter how much extra funds they are given. The fact that the administrator found no corruption or illegal acts in the spending of 100s of millions of dollars or restricted fund is laughable and if increases are given the corruption and wrongdoing is only going to continue at a larger scale.	The council states that without this increase services would have to be reduced. But to see how this is possible when we do not get out council maintained areas (ie walkways, community centres etc) mowed for months/years at a time. We have no response to water main breakages on a Friday night until Monday morning as they don't want to pay overtime to the frontline staff... I just don't see how our service could be reduced.	Council are still yet to explain to the community how they passed away \$500 million dollars. I certainly don't see any improvements in the north end of the coast... It's all spent on board walks and at Terrigal.			

First Name	Last Name	General comments regarding council's proposed SV	Comments on Criterion 1:	Comments on Criterion 2:	Comments on Criterion 3:	Comments on Criterion 4:	Comments on Criterion 5:
99	Anonymous	<p>absolutely disgraceful and greedy application for SV to PPART by CCC, due to their completely inept, and criminal mishandling of their financial budget over the last several years. It needs to be looked at by PAC and people should go to jail.</p> <p>The proposed SV application will only harm ratepayers.</p> <p>The 15% proposed is a permanent increase - the council at this time hasn't been actively doing the job of maintaining the roads, paths, and parks.</p> <p>The previous council prior to amalgamation did this perfectly.</p> <p>For the extra 15% - the ratepayers get absolutely nothing.</p> <p>The pensioners and other disadvantaged residents will be far worse off impacting the region in other ways.</p> <p>The elderly will also suffer - less cashflow will result in them having to forego medicines and basic essentials.</p> <p>A temporary increase would be a reasonable option, of a lower value, more reasonable to the capabilities of the residents.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with a permanent increase. I mostly disagree with an increase.</p> <p>Please consider that the permanent increase proposed would only result in all ratepayers paying more for less for the long term. Council have failed to justify the permanent increase benefits to the satisfaction of ratepayers.</p>					
100	Anonymous	<p>I would like to object to the proposed rate rise on the basis that there is a very real risk that Central Coast Council will continue to mismanage their finances, and no SV should be granted until complete and total reform is applied across Central Coast Council.</p> <p>I am against the proposed rate increase above the regulated rate peg.</p> <p>The Gosford Council amalgamation with Wyong was meant to bring economies of scale. Instead it's been a debacle. The people responsible for this should be held accountable, and the ratepayers should not have to shoulder the burden for this.</p> <p>Our rate hike will be far in excess of the proposed, explaining this and also presenting a flawed survey to residents.</p> <p>My household is already stretched to the maximum. I am a single dad raising a primary school age daughter. I haven't had a pay rise in years, wages are continually costing more and more. Now because of management of funds within the council, I have been told that I have to choose not to pay for their mistakes out of my pocket, to make up for the incompetent employees who've got paid much more than your average person does. I am a trade qualified motor mechanic. How is that fair?</p>					
101	Anonymous	<p>I disagree with the rate rise being implemented from Central Coast Council. It should not be the rate payers responsibility to pay extra money to cover up and fix the mistakes made by councillors. I will not be able to afford to pay the rate rise.</p> <p>I would like our council investigated... I have lost confidence in the current council... we have been appointed an administrator who doesn't seem to be making the appropriate changes to the council. I cannot for the future... His answer is to make the community pay for the wrong doing of the current council... This Administrator is misleading the community... please we need help as most members including myself will not be able to afford the 45% rate rise.</p> <p>Why was the debt not found sooner if finances were being audited? Why is there no transparency of how they got into so much debt and no transparency for the plan to pay it back. If they get the rise this year will it be going back down again in the future? We had a significant rate rise about 7 years ago and they have still managed to spend all that and more. What's in place to ensure this doesn't happen again and that proper managers are put in place. Understanding the debt needs to be repaid and that leaves limited options except a rate increase however why should we all suffer for incompleteness. We are paying more rates than people in Sydney with land values worth at least 20x that here. It just doesn't make sense that this could be the happen.</p> <p>I am not sure if this is where I should give a comment about the Central Coast Councils intention to raise our rates to pay for the mistakes of the council but here goes. My wife and I are self funded retirees who worked hard all our lives saving our money for this time of retirement. We ensured we lived within our means and budgeted to be where we are now. It appears that council did not do this over many years and we are now having to pay for it. We don't use any community facilities but are happy for our rates to support our community but not happy for them to support the mistakes of people who are paid a lot of money to manage our rates. We are not confident that our rates will be managed correctly into the future if there has not been a proper inquiry into this current management. Once this is carried out and people are made accountable for their mistakes, if it is found that did make any, then rate payers of the central coast might be willing to accept a small rate increase, but at this moment we have received no correspondence explaining how council got into this situation and how in the future it intends to avoid it.</p> <p>Finally to expect the public of the central coast, who are on a very tight budget particularly during these stressful times to bail out an organisation that in private business would probably be in the courts due to this mismanagement is not fair or proper and we can not afford a rate increase of 15% and as I've said after the harmonisation of the rates for this area could be up to 42% in my area an outrageous increase when we have no confidence in the organisations ability to manage the money.</p>					
102	Anonymous	<p>I am against the proposed rate increase above the regulated rate peg.</p> <p>The Gosford Council amalgamation with Wyong was meant to bring economies of scale. Instead it's been a debacle. The people responsible for this should be held accountable, and the ratepayers should not have to shoulder the burden for this.</p> <p>Our rate hike will be far in excess of the proposed, explaining this and also presenting a flawed survey to residents.</p> <p>My household is already stretched to the maximum. I am a single dad raising a primary school age daughter. I haven't had a pay rise in years, wages are continually costing more and more. Now because of management of funds within the council, I have been told that I have to choose not to pay for their mistakes out of my pocket, to make up for the incompetent employees who've got paid much more than your average person does. I am a trade qualified motor mechanic. How is that fair?</p>					
103	Shuan	Aggett					
104	Brooke	Graham					
105	Anonymous	Anonymous					
106	Anonymous	Anonymous					
107	Anonymous	Anonymous					
108	Ray	Atkinson					
109	Carolyn	Omsby					
110	Anonymous	Anonymous					
111	Anonymous	Anonymous					
112	Anonymous	Anonymous					
113	Anonymous	Anonymous					
114	Jennifer	Rehbo					
115	Anonymous	Anonymous					
116	Anonymous	Anonymous					
117	Anonymous	Anonymous					
118	Maria	Pratt					
119	Anonymous	Anonymous					
120	Anonymous	Anonymous					
121	Anonymous	Anonymous					
122	Anonymous	Anonymous					
123	Anonymous	Anonymous					
124	Joanne	McSherry					
125	Anonymous	Anonymous					
126	Mark	Fletcher					
127	Debbie	Ryan					
128	Jeremy	Linon-Mann					
129	Dean	Tris					
130	John	van der Loo					



First Name	Last Name	General comments regarding council's proposed SV	Comments on Criterion 1:	Comments on Criterion 2:	Comments on Criterion 3:	Comments on Criterion 4:	Comments on Criterion 5:
147	Anonymous	Democracy is a loser in this process. With no councillors the decision to alter rates is being managed by one tier of government (state) for another tier (local) and as a voter we really have no choice but to go with the outcomes so please hear what the community is saying and act accordingly.  Pretty simple really. The Council significantly overpaid monies and should not be rewarded with a rate rise to compensate for their incompetence. Steps needed to be taken to give rise to a rate rise: 1. Implement policies that must be auditable to prevent this happening again to reduce the Council and councillors executive powers to overspend (or borrow) without going to the rate payers for approval. 2. Set the culture within the council of serving the community and not treating them with disdain. 3. Review how to reduce the debt levels by selling off unnecessary assets, review staff contracts, review efficiency of each department, reduce services if needed. As a rate payer I would prefer a reduction in council services rather than have to pay more to overcome debt. This should be managed by a multi disciplinary team which must have significant rate payer membership (not just councillors). 4. Give rate payers more say (and rights) in running the council other than through councillors. The current situation has come about as a result of no rate payers knowing anything. Make the council more open and accounts more visible.	The current claim is to recover debt and not to provide more community services. Until Council demonstrates the ability to manage it's finances no increases to rates should be permitted.	In pockets. Some very active people are aware. Council has done a very poor job of explaining the situation and the need to repay debt from the rate payers.	Rate payers should NOT have to pay off Council's debt due to mismanagement. The Council should work their way back to a credible position before asking for increased rates.	No relevant documents have been made available to me.	Not seen anything. As far as I know it's all about reducing debt brought about by Councils incompetence.
148	Anonymous	I strongly object to the CCC proposed SV as I do not believe the ratepayers should be asked to pay for the total incompetence of the CCC and its financial mismanagement. There is no history of responsible fiscal management by council so ratepayers should not be asked to hand over more money until the council can demonstrate their ability to balance a budget. The Reserve Bank has forecast a +2% CPI (which is keeping with the IPART rate peg of 2% for 2021-2022), given the year we've had with COVID how dare council consider such an outrageous increase in rates to pay for their own incompetence. I do not believe the CCC has adequately engaged with the community to inform them of their rights to submit their objections to IPART most of the information to me has come through small local action group on facebook. There has been no opportunity that I have been made aware of for genuine community consultation. Only a rather skewed on line council survey. One man, Council administrator Dick Person seems to have all the say and all the control. Who says his solution is the best!!! The administrator's solution seems to have been a knee jerk response, the council has run out of funds, let's hit the ratepayer to cover the outstanding debt. The council needs to work it's way out of debt using it's current budget and the 2% rate peg and sell off unnecessary assets (such as the giant white elephant of the Warramalle Airport, which when sold would provide not only funds but also annual income in the form of rates). The council needs to increase efficiency and become more transparent and completely accountable. IPART Please do NOT approve this SV. CCC must first demonstrate its ability to balance a budget and responsibly manage rate payers money before any increase is even to be considered.	Unit CCC can demonstrate an ability to responsibly manage public money no rate increase should be permitted. Essential services only with any new projects out on hold.	The community has been TOLD by Mr Person what is to happen with a small insert in their rate notices. There has been NO CONSULTATION, with the RATEPAYERS. Ratepayers have had to be very proactive in seeking information. I believe there is still a significant percentage of the CC population who are genuinely unaware of the impact of the rate rise and most importantly their rights to make a submission to IPART.	I do NOT believe a 10% or 15% SV is in anyway at all reasonable when The Reserve Bank forecasts the CPI to be +2% !! Rate payers should NOT be expected to pay off the CCC debt caused by its own financial mismanagement. The Council needs to work their way out of debt without a handout from the ratepayer. I do not trust council and how it will manage any IPART approved rate rise. In 2015 when IPART approved the then Wyong Council 5.9% SRV our rates increased by 32.7%. If IPART were to approve any SRV it needs to state that any rise would be applied evenly across the state. However I strongly recommend that IPART DO NOT APPROVE any SRV above the Rate peg of 2%. CCC needs to demonstrate its ability to manage public money before it gets any more.	I have not seen or even been made aware of where these documents may have been published.	Again, I have not seen any of these documents.
149	Anonymous	CCC must first demonstrate its ability to balance a budget and responsibly manage rate payers money before any increase is even to be considered.	We were told that the CCC rate increase would be 15% which was bad enough, given that the ratepayers of the horrendous financial mess the Councillors left us with but in the local paper we were told that, for ratepayers in the old Gosford Council region, the increase will be more like 42%. That is totally outrageous - nearly half again as much as we are currently paying. For that money we get nothing - we do not have cut and gubbed roads, we do not have roads that are smooth and easy to drive on - instead we have rutted tracks that constantly break up whenever it rains. We have the most dreadfully dirty and unpleasant tasting water, beaches that are collapsing and pathways on to them that are falling apart. Over the years that I have lived on the Peninsula in the Gosford Council region, it has become increasingly apparent that we are "the forgotten land", as far as Council are concerned and especially now that we have been forced to be part of the Gosford/Wyong Shire Area. I do not understand why these Councils are not up on charges of fraud and mismanagement of funds - they take happily grant themselves a pay increase - but can't bother to look at the books properly to see if their spending can be covered by available funds. These Councils should never be allowed to get back into power again and I would like to see if they could be held personally responsible for paying back some of the money they should be responsible for for their actions. Perhaps confiscation of some of their property would go some way to pay back what they have cost us. A full judicial enquiry should be held and criminal charges laid where appropriate.	I have not received anything from Council to show exactly what I would have to pay if the increase in our rates goes through. Instead, the local paper has the ratepayers in the Gosford region paying 42% more (not 15% which is bad enough). Are they right? Where are we as ratepayers supposed to get that money from. As it is we get nothing from Council. They spend money heavily and most (inappropriately) most of the time - they most certainly do not spend it on curb and guttering, on maintaining our roads or general infrastructure. They spend outrageous amounts of money on waterfront parks in Gosford that will only get a few people visiting them and they will not bother to maintain the area properly as well. Within a few months of the park opening, there will be broken fixtures and weeds everywhere, just like Ettalong Beach where they can't bother to maintain the area at all.	As a ratepayer in the old Gosford region, the proposed 42% increase to our rates is neither reasonable nor do I believe it can be justified. How are people, aged, pensioners, those that have lost their jobs due to Covid-19, supposed to be able to afford nearly a 50% increase on what they already have to pay.		
150	Ming	Say Not rise					
151	Dean	Goffis	As a resident on the central coast who has resided on the central coast for over 30 years I feel outraged that we are now being asked to pay for the mismanagement of funds by the now outed council. Please do not grant there application to increase rates. I know I speak for many who feel that such a rate rise would impose great hardship on themselves & there families. thank you				
152	Anonymous	Anonymous	This Council have is just being greedy, and causing grief for rate payers, because of their inappropriate use of Council Funds, and be stopped from raising council rates to cover their own miss use of rate payers monies				
153	Anonymous	Anonymous	We get very little for what we pay now and even less if you raise the rates	Fines should enforce many offences by residents go unreported	They can't handle many	We pay far to much for very little in return just garbage and water and sewer.	
154	PHILLIP	STAM	Being a resident of Central Coast Council I am totally against this extraordinary rate increase. Council own mismanagement caused this situation. Why should the Ratepayers of the Central Coast have to fund this. We have one of Australia's lowest wage demographics, yet have to fund the councillors incompetence. Let them trade out of this situation via 1. Reducing Council Head Counts 2. Reducing Councillor wages and Perks 3. Selling excess Council Assets 4. Sell and lease back the Council Offices				
155	Helen	Edwards	My husband has been made redundant from his job 17/2/21. As he is aged 59, he is finding it extremely difficult to even get an interview let alone a job. He has been told his experience and education is of enormous value but unfortunately on this occasion..... We are now on an income of \$700 per week and cannot afford any increase in any of our expenses. Our health insurance is going now which we have never seen before. Please do not make this any harder for us. I am unable to work due to a work place injury 2 years ago and therefore not receiving my pre injury pay. 20% of that which wasn't enough to live on before. People are doing it tough behind all the closed doors that you have no idea about unless we plead with you not to raise our rates.				
156	Beverly	Brown	I have already sent an email 'until' it would be to punitive rate payers for the incompetence of CCC. A lot of us, including myself, are pensioners who can not afford this substantial rate rise being suggested. Why should we. Also I believe all suspended councillors should be sacked & left start a fresh with Government helping us out financially. This whole situation is not the rate payers fault or responsibility. It is.				
157	Anonymous	Anonymous	Rate payers should not be forced to pay for incompetence. We are all suffering greatly as a result of Covid and this rate rise will break many families. If I had even the slightest hope that this rate increase would help to fix the regions third world infrastructure, I would support it. However, I do not trust the directors or leadership that are making vital decisions. It is also grossly unfair that the south of the region will be left with such massive rate increases, whilst the north is barely impacted. Particularly as the majority of future projects seem to favour the north of the region, leaving the south to slowly crumble!				
158	Anonymous	Anonymous	We have been waiting over 6 years to get a 500m stretch of road fixed. This isn't a side road, this is the main road that provides a single exit point from Saratoga and Davistown. Workmen, come, go and six years later it's a worse mess than when it was started. The PAMP that CCC produced (put together by a consultant) didn't even mention our region (Saratoga Davistown). We were left out of the strategy! Our drains are left open and this creates a mosquito infestation over summer, so bad that our kids can't play outside in the daytime. The Gosford swimming pool is so decrepit, old and dirty I won't take my kids there. Hand it to a private operator to build a world class facility with slides etc that makes the most of the facility being located in a world class location on the foreshore of Brisbane Waters. I have lived in developing countries that have their act more together!				
159	Anonymous	Anonymous	It is not just a case of changing the the Councillors..... the Director's role need seriously reviewing too. They have had the greatest role in the decisions that have led to this catastrophe. The area is simply too large to be run by a single Council. Many of the merged councils are struggling. CCC requires NSW government support to help reduce this mess they created by forced amalgamation. It does take a genius to realise that merging a Councils doesn't save money. The number of people that require services doesn't change, the km of roads and drains require repair doesn't change, the number of facilities that need to be managed remains the same. You may save a couple of directors salaries, but this certainly does balance the cost of the actual merger, the impact on staff and the need to manage all of these things over a much greater area. What an almighty mess!				
160	Moira	McKackay	CCC requires NSW government support to help reduce this mess they created by forced amalgamation. It does take a genius to realise that merging a Councils doesn't save money. The number of people that require services doesn't change, the km of roads and drains require repair doesn't change, the number of facilities that need to be managed remains the same. You may save a couple of directors salaries, but this certainly does balance the cost of the actual merger, the impact on staff and the need to manage all of these things over a much greater area. What an almighty mess!				
161	Allan	Border	I support the councils 15% Rate rise. If you want good services, you have to pay for it. Also without a rate rise, I believe many more jobs could be lost at council, so I am happy to pay a little more if it means more people remain employed.				
162	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				
163	anthony	Johnson	What an almighty mess!				
164	EJ	Murray	What an almighty mess!				
165	David	Hollingsworth	What an almighty mess!				
166	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				
167	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				
168	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				
169	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				
170	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				
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200	Anonymous	Anonymous	What an almighty mess!				

First Name	Last Name	General comments regarding council's proposed SV	Comments on Criterion 1:	Comments on Criterion 2:	Comments on Criterion 3:	Comments on Criterion 4:	Comments on Criterion 5:
168	Anonymous	<p>As a ratepayer of the Central Coast thank you for considering my submission. I disagree with the proposed special variation application. Please see my comments to the five criterion below. My general feedback is that the Central Coast Council is trying to unfairly influence the outcome of the SMART assessment process by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. restricting the questions/options in the first public survey to an outcome which only provided a rate increase as it did not contain a "no rate rise" option</li> <li>2. misrepresenting the outcomes of two separate surveys by combining the outcomes of the two surveys when there were two different surveys with two different sets of questions</li> <li>3. attempting to apply pressure on the assessment process by using a contract which presumed the decision of SMART to be to increase rates. i.e. "The loans were provided on the basis of Council seeking and receiving a 15% rate variation" (page 14 Special Variation Application Form Part B for 2021-22)</li> <li>4. breaching the Central Coast ratepayers with reduced services e.g. significant reduction in maintenance of facilities and infrastructure such as road, footpath and drainage if a rate rise was not agreed to.</li> </ol> <p>The Central Coast Council states that restricted funds were unfairly accessed and this needs to be immediately referred for investigation and prosecution if required. In addition the NSW Audit Office and the Office of Local Government failed to detect errors in local government reporting and mismanagement and it is therefore questionable as to whether there is a requirement for increased rates.</p>	<p>A different revenue path for the council's General Fund is not required as the Central Coast Council should obtain funding from:</p> <p>A. the NSW Government for its decisions and cost shifting activities including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. reduction in revenue of @ \$2.7m in the third quarter 2019-2020 and this has been ongoing since beginning of 2020. (Council Minutes 25.5.20: "There has been a decrease in application income fees for lodgement of applications) ... fees paid) directly to the Department of Planning Industry &amp; Environment ... Note that Council officers are still required to undertake assessment work for these applications". (Using the reported \$2.7m figure to the end of 2020-2021 Council would have lost \$16.0m in fees)</li> <li>2. establishment of planning panels and ongoing costs</li> <li>3. funding for emergency infrastructure work where the decision to zone the area was prior to Council establishment e.g. Bonding, coastal erosion</li> <li>4. appointment and costs of Administrator of the Central Coast Council and increased costs associated with the Administrator's decision making e.g. CEO payout, borrowings</li> </ol> <p>B. Increased Compliance and User Pays</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and raise funds on developments with no DA or not in accordance with DA.</li> <li>2. Charge two residential rates where there is more than one dwelling or overnight house structures on site e.g. over 2,500 holiday rentals online. This can be obtained by searching online, looking at how many waste bins and also looking at water usage (advantage to Central Coast Council who owns this utility). This of course would not include pensioners who are not self-funded.</li> <li>3. Charge for use of Council land e.g. numerous instances of everyday overflow parking on sides of roads on Council land.</li> <li>4. Charge business rates (where it is higher than residential rates) for properties whose sole purpose is conducting a business i.e. rental holiday market.</li> </ol>	<p>As admitted by the Central Coast Council it did not communicate the extent of the rate rise correctly. It has also combined the rate Harmonisation process into the rate rise which has made it confusing for rate payers some believing that the impact could be a 42% rate increase. It should be noted that other Council's have provided individual ratepayers with the amount relating to their individual properties not general figures.</p>	<p>If the impact on affected ratepayers is anywhere near 42% as reported it is not reasonable. In the Attachment F presented by the Council its opening line is "In determining capacity to pay..." and then it goes on to compare rates charged by councils. This does not show a capacity to pay. However the socio-economic data for 2016 the median weekly household income was \$1,256 per week (compared to \$1,481 for NSW and \$1,745 for Greater Sydney)" (sourced from the ABS) shows that there is no capacity to pay. With the low employment rate, impacts of Covid-19 and withdrawal of job seeker and job keeper there is most likely going to be less capacity to pay. The bottom line will be increased homelessness and suffering on Central Coast residents as some residents would be forced to sell as they would not be able to afford this increase.</p>		<p>This criterion cannot be addressed by Council as the proposed need for a rate rise has only come to light this financial year and no productivity improvements or cost containment strategies have been realised in past years.</p>