

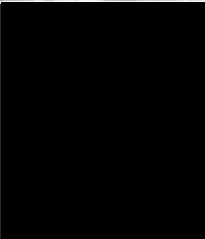
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – PHASE ONE – WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Attached are copies of the written submissions that were received by the Council (as redacted)

Community Engagement - Phase One - Submissions

Name	Submission	Council comment
[REDACTED]	<p>The Chamber acknowledges the Council's budgetary pressures and the significant work that has been done to reign in expenditure. However businesses are doing it very hard due to a depressed market in many areas. There are many empty shops in the town and most businesses are struggling to survive based on feedback from business owners and sales representatives. Businesses must absorb costs due to pressures from customers to cut prices and there is no ability to increase prices for risk of losing customers. Request that there be no rate increase until the local market picks up.</p>	<p>Council's financial sustainability and the services it provides will suffer without the extra rate income.</p> <p>Compared to the other seven Mid North Coast councils, Nambucca has the fourth lowest average business rates and the average Water & Sewer bill is the lowest.</p> <p>The additional yield from the Business category under the original Scenario 3 (excluding the annual rate peg of 3.0%) would be \$65,318. This represents 11% of the total extra yield of \$572,659.</p> <p>This burden is considered to be minimal when compared to the other rate categories and the impact is further lessened as the rates are tax deductible.</p>
[REDACTED]	<p>Objection to rate increase as it is difficult enough to keep up with the cost of living. There must be other ways for council to reduce costs eg sale of assets, close one of the libraries and reduce staff numbers. Increasing the bills to be paid shouldn't be the preferred option.</p>	<p>Council is continually seeking to improve efficiencies and maximise other revenue sources. These however are only sufficient to cover factors such as standard rate peg deficiencies, funding reductions and cost shifting. The only other alternatives to a rate increase are to either reduce services or service levels in council's general operations or do nothing and allow infrastructure assets to deteriorate.</p> <p>Council has strived to maintain financial sustainability through a number of initiatives, including the sourcing of additional grant revenue, loan borrowings, containing employment costs, improving asset management and the sale of assets.</p> <p>Not addressing asset maintenance needs now will only result in accelerated deterioration of assets, placing a greater burden on future generations.</p>

	<p>Objection to the proposed rate rise as the shire is one of the lowest income areas in NSW and the vast majority of residents cannot afford the ever increasing council rate rises. Increases in electricity costs, schooling expenses and health expenses make it increasingly hard to live. Noticed that both the Federal and State governments are looking at options other than increasing taxation and therefore council should be willing to make the hard decisions to reorganise funding or introduce economic cuts to other less important areas of council funding like libraries and tourism marketing. Suggest that Council consider asset sales or redundancies like the Federal and State governments. Two libraries with a population of 12,000 is very extravagant compared to the USA where there is one library for every 33,000 people.</p>	<p>The demographic and rating profiles for the shire suggests that the ratepayers have a capacity to pay.</p> <p>The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage is comparable with other Mid North Coast councils. However the Index Rating of 9 is the second lowest in the region.</p> <p>Compared to the other seven Mid North Coast councils, Nambucca has the third lowest average residential rates, fourth lowest average business rates and the fifth lowest farmland rates.</p> <p>The percentage of outstanding rates has reduced from 6.16% (2011) to 4.88% (2013).</p> <p>The 2013 Community Satisfaction Survey rated library services as having higher importance and higher satisfaction. In contrast tourism and tourism promotion were considered to be of higher importance but lower satisfaction which indicates that this service requires greater attention and more funding.</p> <p>Council has strived to maintain financial sustainability through a number of initiatives, including the sourcing of additional grant revenue, loan borrowings, containing employment costs, improving asset management and the sale of assets.</p>
	<p>Community Forum held at Bowraville was very informative and the situation that Council has placed itself in is understood. It is time that something is done in relation to the roads and bridges as some have passed their use by date or are in a bad state of repair. Support Scenario 3 as it will be benefit to all ratepayers and Council. A thank you for allowing ratepayers to have a voice and it was a pity that more people did not attend the forums.</p>	<p>Submission supports the Scenario 3 option to increase the ordinary rates by 6% in both the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.</p>

	<p>Cannot afford to keep paying these constant rate increases. This is a low income area with little opportunity to increase it. Rely solely on farm income to survive and income is already below the poverty line and costs cut as much as possible. Constant price increases cause more hardship. Eventually will be forced to sell the farm and move into town.</p>	<p>Council's financial sustainability and the services it provides will suffer without the extra rate income.</p> <p>The demographic and rating profiles for the shire suggests that the ratepayers have a capacity to pay.</p>
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SF1842
29017/2013.

E-mail Message

From: Chris Townsend
To: council [SMTP:council@nambucca.nsw.gov.au]
Cc:
Sent: 15/11/2013 at 9:05 AM
Received: 15/11/2013 at 9:06 AM
Subject: FW: Propose Rate Increase

Attachments: rate increase.doc

From: Chris Townsend
 Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2013 5:08 PM
 To: 'council@nambucca.gov.au'
 Cc:
 Subject: Propose rate increase

Please find attached letter from Macksville Chamber of Commerce re the proposed rate increase.

Chris Townsend

Mobile Ph: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

MACKSVILLE

-----Safe Stamp-----
 Your Anti-virus Service scanned this email. It is safe from known viruses.
 For more information regarding this service, please contact your service provider.

Macksville & District Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc

P O Box 311, Macksville, NSW, 2447.

Email: mackvillechamber@bigpond.com



Chairman:

Chris Townsend

Telephone: XXXXXXXXXX

Thursday, 14 November 2013

**Rhonda Hoban,
Mayor**

Dear Robyn,

With regard to the meeting tonight requesting feedback on Council's proposal to increase rates, we would like to offer the following comments.

The Chamber understands the budgetary pressure Council is under and the significant work that has been done to reign in expenditure, however just as Council is facing cost pressures businesses are doing it very hard due to a depressed market in many areas. We have many empty shops in the town and most businesses are struggling to survive. This is reported to me by many business owners on a daily basis. We get similar information from sales representatives who are travelling up and down the coast.

Businesses must absorb costs as we are continually under pressure to cut prices by our customers – we have no ability to increase prices or we risk losing more customers.

We would ask that when considering this rate increase the situation of businesses in the Valley be given weight. We would hope that no rate increase be requested till the local market picks up.

Yours faithfully,

**Chris Townsend
Chairman**

SF 1842
30028/2013



22 November 2013

General Manager,
Nambucca Shire Council.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the proposed application for a special rate variation for 14/15.

I do not agree with a rates increase. It is already difficult enough to keep up with the cost of living. I have already had to cut back on [redacted] [redacted] There must be other ways for council to reduce their costs; sale of assets, close one of the libraries, reduce staff numbers?

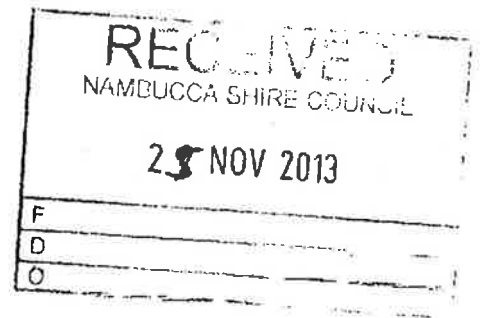
Increasing the bills I have to pay shouldn't be the preferred option.

Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

[redacted stamp]

SF 1842
30030/2013



22 November 2013

General Manager,
Nambucca Shire Council.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the proposed application for a special rate variation for 14/15.

I would like to voice my opposition to this proposed series of council rates rises. This shire is one of the lowest income areas in NSW and quite simply the vast majority of residents can not afford these ever increasing council rates rises.

With the recent jump in electricity costs and the growing expense of having [redacted] it is becoming increasingly hard to find the money for everything, we already have had to cut back on [redacted] and [redacted] for our children and whilst I am saving for [redacted] myself I have had to postpone much needed [redacted] for myself due to the high cost.

I have noticed that the federal and state governments are looking at other options other than increasing taxation and surely the council should be willing to make the hard decisions to reorganise funding or introduce economic cuts to other less important areas of council funding like libraries and tourism marketing, maybe the council would like to consider asset sales or redundancies like the state and federal governments have implemented to achieve the required funding. 2 libraries in a population of 12000 is very extravagant, in the USA they have one library for every 33000 people, surely the Nambucca shires rate of libraries to population is unsustainable being funded by such a small rates base?.

Please look at other available funding options rather than taking the lazy increasing rates/taxes option.

Yours sincerely [redacted]

TRIM SF1842
30283/2013

[REDACTED]
BOWRAVILLE NSW 2449

Ph:- [REDACTED]

Mob:- [REDACTED]

Email:- [REDACTED]

26th November 2013

REFERENCE:- PROPOSED RATE RISE

Mr. Peter Wilson.

Manager Special Projects

Nambucca Shire Council.

Dear Sir,

My wife and I attended the Community Forum held in Bowraville on Monday 11th November at Grants hall and found it to be very informative and do understand the situation that the Nambucca Shire Council has been placed in. Yes it is time that something should be done in relation to the Roads and Bridges as some of them have passed their used by date or are in a bad state of disrepair. We believe that Scenario 3 Multi – Year > 12.0% Rate Rise will be of benefit to all, ratepayers and Council alike.

Thank you for allowing us, the ratepayer to have a voice. It is a pity that a lot more people do not attend these forums where they too can learn about these situations instead of sitting back and whinging. Once again many thanks for the opportunity.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

E-mail Message

From: [REDACTED]
To: council [SMTP:council@nambucca.nsw.gov.au]
Cc:
Sent: 29/11/2013 at 10:54 AM
Received: 29/11/2013 at 10:55 AM
Subject: SRV 2014/15

30443/2013

To The General Manager

To put it bluntly we can not afford to keep paying these constant rate increases. This is a low income area with little opportunity to increase it. We are one of the few farmers on our road that rely solely on farm income to survive. Our income is already below the poverty line and our costs cut as much as possible. Constant price increases (not just rates) cause us more hardship. Eventually we will be forced to sell (if anyone would want to buy a large farm that just means lots of work for no money) and move into town. I put this to you; You, Councillors and Council staff go back to the wages you were all paid 30 years ago and survive in the present day.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]