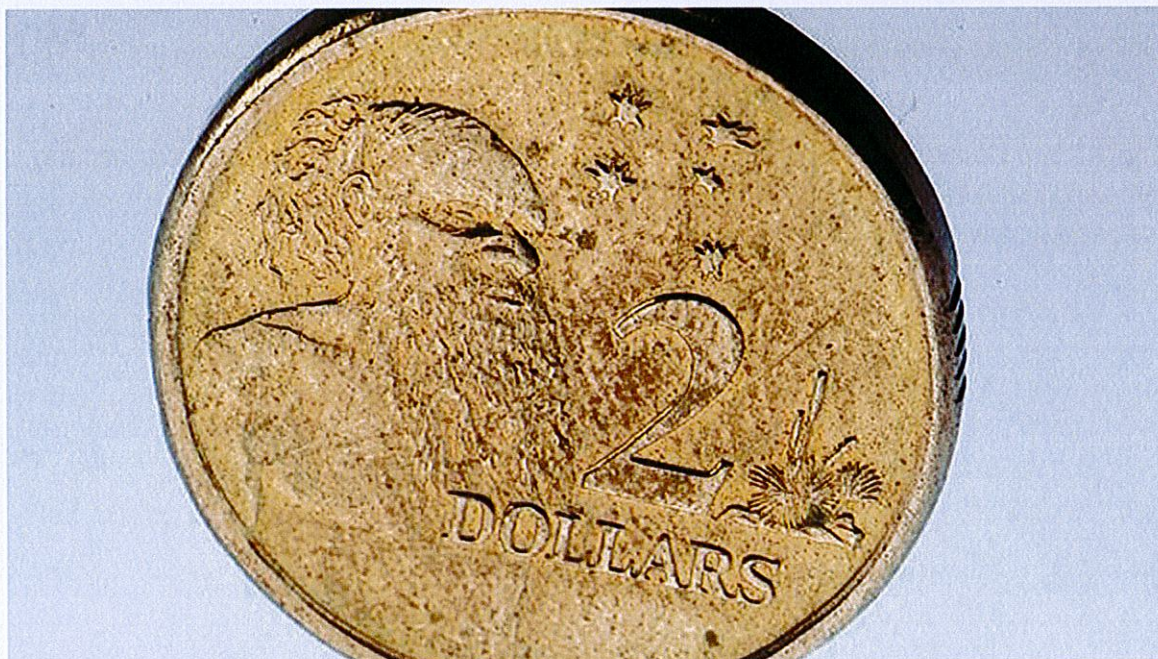


NEWSLOCAL

Campbelltown Council considers rate rise of \$2 per week

AMANDA PARTRIDGE MACARTHUR CHRONICLE CAMPBELLTOWN OCTOBER 30, 2013 10:15AM



Campbelltown Council wants to raise rates by an average \$2 per week. *Source: News Limited*

TWO dollars per week may not be much to some, but Campbelltown Mayor Clinton Mead thinks it's too much to ask from our residents.

Campbelltown Council asks for residents' view on proposed 11 per cent rate rise

AMANDA PARTRIDGE

MACARTHUR CHRONICLE CAMPBELLTOWN

NOVEMBER 08, 2013 1:32PM

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CAMPBELLTOWN residents are urged to speak up about a proposed 11 per cent rate rise for the 2014-2015 financial year.

Last week the *Chronicle* reported the average ratepayer would fork out an extra \$2 per week, \$108 per year, under the proposed rate variation.

Campbelltown Councillors have stressed the need for the rate variation and encouraged residents to have their say.

"This proposal is about securing the long-term viability of our assets, which is fundamental for our city's future - and we want to hear from our residents on what's important to them," independent Deputy Mayor Paul Lake said.

Labor Councillor Rudi Kolkman said the rate variation was needed to reduce the maintenance and infrastructure backlog.

He did not believe privatising services such as childcare centres and public swimming pools was the answer.



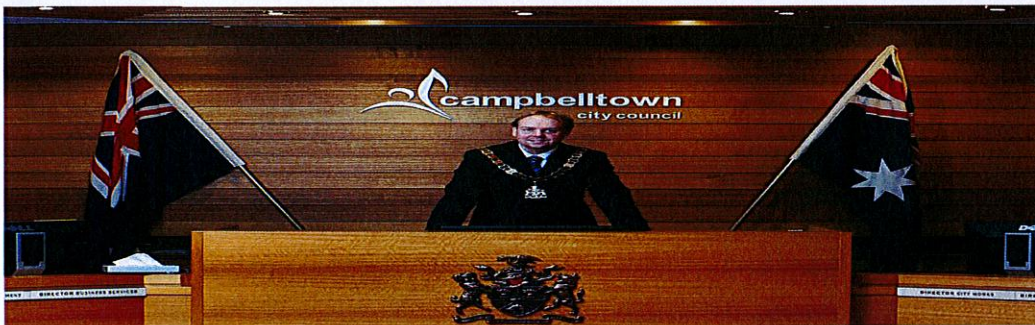
Campbelltown residents may need to pay an average of \$2 extra a week in rates. *Source: News Limited*

Advertiser ⁽¹⁾

MAYOR v COUNCIL: Clinton Mead's opposition to proposed rate rise angers colleagues

By Megan Gorrey

Feb. 11, 2014, 2:53 p.m.



Clinton Mead. Picture: Jeff de Pasquale

Clinton Mead was handed the mayorship last year in a controversial back room deal by some councillors. Now he's at war against those same councillors over a planned rate rise.

In doing so, he has created the bizarre scenario of being both the council's leader... and its opposition leader.

"I am not the problem".

That's the message mayor Clinton Mead wants to send Campbelltown residents as they face a proposed 11 per cent rate rise.

Cr Mead has raised eyebrows after he very publicly slammed his own council's consultation process — designed to inform ratepayers about the planned increase — as "one-sided" and "distorted".

His views have put him at odds with other councillors who have backed the hefty rate rise as necessary to maintain local infrastructure and services.



online.

"To do that in the mayoral robes and chains I think is way out of line."

Liberal Cr Ted Rowell said council had carried out a thorough consultation process.

Independent Bob Thompson said Campbelltown had "never had someone straying away so much as mayor".

"I didn't like it," he said.

"I'd prefer him not to be there, but we put him there I guess, and he should discuss things with us and get a bit more experience."

Cr Paul Lake said it was rare for a leader to so loudly drive a particular point home against his colleagues.

"I think he's basically trying to create a debate between the other councillors and in the community so he can create a platform to run for the Upper House."

But Cr Mead said his role as mayor was to represent the people of Campbelltown: "I'm a politician, not a public servant."

"If traditionally the role of mayor is just to not speak up with anything and just be a puppet for council — well, I'll buck that trend."

Independent Fred Borg said the mayor "lacked knowledge".

As part of the rates consultation process, the council distributed 60,129 Your city, your future brochures to residents. It also engaged more than 600 people in telephone, online and in-person surveys and held several community forums.



Macarthur Advertiser

11 February 2014



Join the discussion...



Shaun · a month ago

It's good to see a politician taking a principled stance for once. The weak, petulant responses of the councilors only serves to strengthen the Mayor's case; none of them addressed his core points of the alleged bias and one-sidedness of the consultation process.

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Karen Hyslop · a month ago

Finally we have some one for the people. Why have some council members turned against him now? Did they think that they had a puppet? Makes you wonder!!!!

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



A Rouen · a month ago

Isn't the "I am not the problem" sign a form of protest used by hundreds (if not thousands) against the Sydney CBD 2a.m. lock out laws?

Not only is that the only way I've seen it used before, I'm also pretty sure that the Facebook page against the law is where I first saw that particular picture of the mayor.

I had hoped that taking things out of context was beneath the Advertiser, it sure looks like I was wrong.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Sarah Reid · a month ago

I think the Mayor is doing at least partly the right thing. With all the other bills going up he is looking for a way to help us constituents out. Council needs to look at spending on main st committees that don't seem to work and the many fireworks displays put on thru the year that might not be necessary. The mayor also previously mentioned the waste of time info centre that could be all put on the internet. I also disagree with the many glossy council brochures we get thru the year, we should at least be able to opt to get them via email.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Ryan Beesly · a month ago

The "I'm not the problem" photo was taken for the "No Lockout NSW" Facebook campaign. Bit more research should've been done before taking something out of context – I hope not deliberately, but it wouldn't surprise me.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Democracy · a month ago

The I'm not the problem sign is about a different issue - the recent NSW Govt Lock Out legislation - see <https://www.facebook.com/NoLoc...>

I'd also review the Mayor's blog about the surveys and the concerns around that process.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



TerjeP · a month ago

At last a major that wants the people's voice to be represented.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

18 February 2014

Rate-rise closer as the mayor is out-voted

By Megan Gorrey Feb. 18, 2014, 2:13 p.m.

CAMPBELLTOWN residents are a step closer to having to fork out for an 11 per cent rate rise.

The majority of councillors supported the proposed fee hike at last week's council meeting.

This was in spite of mayor Clinton Mead's very public campaign against the rate rise in recent months.

He slammed the council's public consultation process for the proposed rate rise as biased and one-sided in a mayoral minute tabled at the meeting.

Cr Mead favoured a review and cuts to services over a rate rise.

However, the council said the rate rise is necessary to maintain local services, facilities and infrastructure.

In a surprise move, Labor councillors George Bricevic, Meg Oates and Wal Glynn joined Cr Mead in voting against the rate rise, despite early support for it.

They were beaten 8-4, after Liberal and independent councillors backed the rise.

The council will now apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal (IPART) for the rate variation by February 24.

IPART will make a determination in June, which will then come back to the council for a final vote.

If approved, the rate rise would be effective from July this year.

Details: yourcityyourfuture.com.au.



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18 March 2014

Macarthur Chronicle

Rate rise opinion

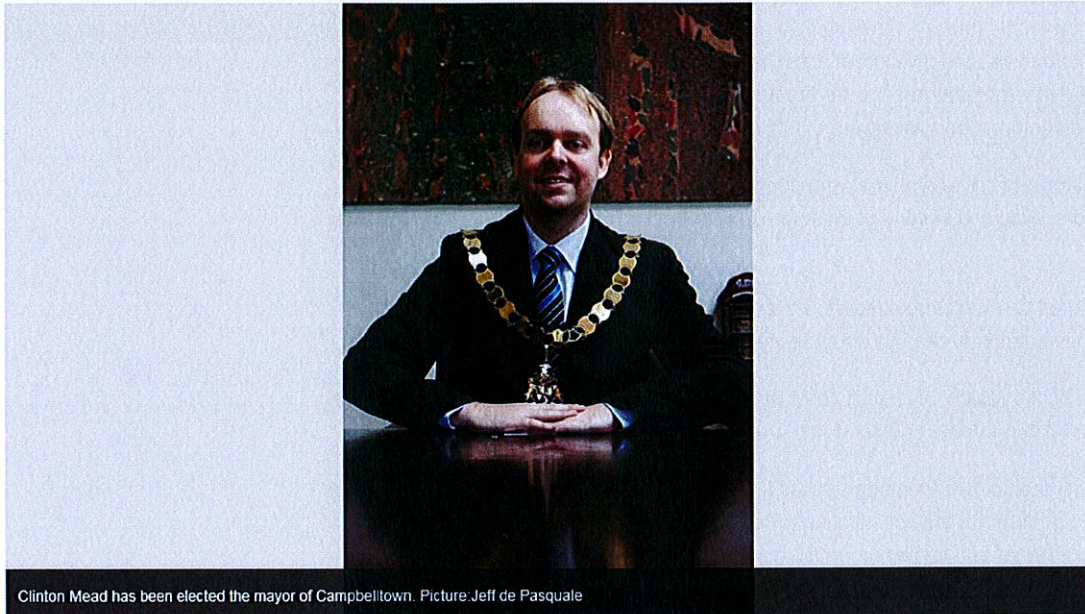
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As the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) considers Campbelltown Council's 11 per cent rate rise request, residents are encouraged to have their say. People can make submissions to IPART before March 24. Details: www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

Choice: cut services or cop rate increase

Oct. 16, 2013, 9 a.m.



Clinton Mead has been elected the mayor of Campbelltown. Picture: Jeff de Pasquale

INCREASED council rates or big cuts to council services.

That's the choice Campbelltown mayor Clinton Mead wants to offer residents.

"It's not responsible to say we will never cut anything."

In his mayoral minute, Cr Mead suggested management of childcare and leisure centres could be outsourced to non-government organisations, and the tourist centre and CD/DVD recycling program could go.

However, he said any decisions would be made by the appropriate staff.

"Some services are more obvious than others," he said.

"Surely we are wasting money on things like the CD and DVD recycling scheme.

"Other councils outsource [childcare and leisure centres] to not-for-profit groups — it's not a radical [idea]."

However, Cr Fred Borg said in a city this size, with so many needs, any cuts to community services should not be an option.

"We should have increased rates two or three years ago," Cr Borg said.

"And if we adopted the policy in 2004 then it would have only been slight rate increases each year, rather than an eight per cent now."

He also said he was disappointed Cr Mead chose to raise the issue in his mayoral minute.

"To me the mayoral minute — and I've been on council for 15 years — is to be used to compliment someone, or honour someone that passed away, not promote oneself."

Deputy mayor Paul Lake, who supported Cr Mead in his bid for the mayorship, would not confirm or deny whether he would support cuts to services, however he said he was unsure whether handing over management to leisure centres would be appropriate or practical.

"Who would be buying it and who would want to lease it and run it?," he said.

"Council stays open on a hot day, but would a private operator?

"If we don't do anything [about the black hole] we aren't carrying out our duties as councillors."

Liberal councillor Paul Hawker, who also supported Cr Mead into the mayorship, said he moved an amendment to review council services — but that didn't include cuts to services.

Campbelltown rate rise a farce

Liberal Democrats

10/02/2014 6:00:15 AM

"Campbelltown Council's special rate variation consultation process has been a farce", according to Councillor Clinton Mead, the Liberal Democrat Mayor of Campbelltown.

"The only option presented to the community was the rate rise, and the literature mailed to residents at ratepayer expense only presented that point of view."

"In addition, the telephone survey was one sided and biased, insisting a rate rise would make Campbelltown 'a better place to live', before asking the ratepayer whether they supported the special rate variation."

Cr Mead has used his mayoral minute to document the bias in the consultation process. He will present it to the Council meeting on Tuesday 11th February, and it is currently part of the agenda on the council's website.

Agenda: <http://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/CouncilMeeting11February2013>

Mayoral Minute: <http://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/Assets/9109/1/MM140211.pdf>

Cr Mead said, "It's quite clear to anyone who looks at the literature and survey report that this was designed as a ratepayer funded propaganda exercise, not a proper consultation with the people of Campbelltown."

In October Cr Mead sought to amend the proposed consultation process by including a second option that didn't involve a rate rise. This was defeated 13-1. Mr Mead said the only conclusion is that both the Labor and Liberal party councillors have decided that they don't want the community to even hear about another option."

"Despite the one sided nature of consultation, the mean level of support on a scale of not at all supportive (1) to very supportive (5) was 3.19, which is only slightly above average. I suspect an unbiased survey may have delivered a different picture."

"Indeed, of the 53 submissions council received, 42 were in opposition to the proposal."

Cr Mead believes Council is spending too much of ratepayers money already.

"There is plenty of money in the budget for infrastructure maintenance, but Council has been neglecting it. Instead it's been extending itself into a variety of non-core areas where it is not providing ratepayers value for money. We don't need a rate rise, we need to review and refocus."

As part of the rate rise, a review is being conducted before the 2015/2016 budget. Whilst Cr Mead welcomes this, he believes the review should have been completed before the rate rise was proposed, not after.

He said "I'm skeptical about how much a review in the middle of a state election and a year before the Council election will achieve, particular after the ratepayers have already bailed Council out".

Cr Mead said, "Considering the farce that this process has been, I believe Council has no mandate to continue with this rate rise, and I will be encouraging my fellow councillors to oppose it on Tuesday night".

.....
Comment:

Cr Clinton Mead 0402 693062

Senator-elect David Leyonhjelm 0418 461431
