



Bruce and Nataly Cleary

10-3-2014

Re: SRV Bellingen Shire Council 2014> Submission and petition.

202 Signatures

Local Government Team
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear IPART,

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

We are writing on behalf of the Bellingen Shire and the Dorrigo community ratepayers in particular. The residents of our Shire are totally opposed to any rate rise especially any rise above the pegged limit which was introduced to protect ratepayers from excessive demands by councils that can not live within their means.

As we represent hundreds of people who have signed our petition against the SRV our submission is longer than the 500 word slot available that you provide electronically.

It is also very much shorter than hundreds of individual submissions against the SRV but should be read as having the same strength of community support.

First and foremost it is unacceptable for the people of NSW to have the recognition of local government at State level undemocratically foisted upon them in the NSW State Constitution. This was in direct contradiction to the 1974 and 1988 Federal referenda on recognition of local government in the Australian Commonwealth Constitution 1901. This was an abuse of State power against the express will of the people, without mandate or referendum.

Secondly the Local Government Act 1993 NSW in effect removes the paramount proprietorship of all our land title deed agreements at section 550 (5) when it overrides section 42 of the Real Property Act. It must be noted that all title deed agreements permanently alienate the Crown from interests in a title except for interests that are specifically reserved in favour of the Crown such as minerals etc. Overriding statutes impose a theft on what has been lawfully purchased and as they are not registered interests they have destroyed the Torrens title system. We are now exposed to ambush from statutory theft and extorted out of our earnings for so called services that we do not want or receive. This is particularly the case on farms, which directly receive no services at all. Why do fuel taxes, registration / licence fees, motor vehicle import taxes and the GST not contribute to roads, parks, libraries etc? It is self evident that we are being double taxed to support a bureaucracy that no one recognizes or needs.

Thirdly many of the people in our shire voted for a council candidate (Gordon Manning) who ran a no rate rise campaign only to have this very candidate betray the constituents that elected him. Also the Mayor Mark Troy ran as a councilor and as the Mayor and when he won the Mayoral position he then passed on the votes he got to be a councilor to two other local candidates that had only a few direct votes for themselves. Both of these situations reflect undemocratic practice and it is argued that this council does not represent the community or the interests of the community.

Fourthly it is also noted that Bellingen Shire Council has an undue influence over the local paper where it is a major source of revenue. It is well known that Bellingen Council withdrew advertising from the Bellingen Shire Courier- Sun news paper, a few years ago because the paper was airing issues not to the Council's liking. In the resolution to this the Fairfax paper toned down it's editorial and regained the council revenue. It is said that the Council now has editorial input on all issues to do with council before they are published. It is note worthy that we were awash with propaganda articles on what the council does for the community around the time of the proposal for an SRV.

Finally the most important issue is that the concept of councils as local governments has failed miserably and no third level of government is constitutionally provided for. We are looking at extremely poor long term sustainability and total system failure as recognized by the IRP.

Direct federal funding is unconstitutional, re the Pape and Williams High Court cases and when this is put into the context of the current Bellingen Shire financial position, being external grant dependent (as defined by T corp) this council is actually not viable now and it is certainly not fit for purpose.

An SRV will only unfairly burden the community but it will in no way resolve the inherent underlying structural and legal deficiencies.

The so called Independent Local Government Review Panel (made up of members with long standing council relationships) identifies many of the problems but being so close to local government it is incapable of an independent definitive solution. They recommend a range of incremental changes for increased revenue and economies of scale, which will only create a bigger uglier monster and not address the fundamental problems.

The fundamental problem is that councils no longer perform a primary function and they have moved so far away from the provision of utility services and into social services that there is no longer any correlation between the cost of the rate tax and the provision of the services that people actually receive.

So what is it that IPART is actually measuring when they refer to an infrastructure backlog. Are they measuring the actual monetary amount that has been removed / redirected from the provision of infrastructure and maintenance and put toward the employment and administration of staff undertaking social services because this is what the problem is and where solution is also. Bellingen Shire has the financial resources, it just needs to spend them on infrastructure and not on unnecessary staff performing unnecessary tasks.

Our community demands that our rates, are only spent on infrastructure and utility services which are the primary function of a council. ***Please find our petition attached.***

The IRP recognizes the primary function problem but is so captured by the expansionist, empire building ambitions of the local government lobby, that it fails to make the most appropriate recommendations. It is apparent, councils the servant creature of the State, through the power of the insatiable local government lobby, have now become its master.

For genuine economies of scale all councils need to be amalgamated right back to the State and local representation and need can be registered through strategically placed regional committees as the IRP recommend for the Far West. We recommend this as the only long term sustainable solution and should be applied across the entire State.

WHY THE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION MUST BE REJECTED!

This SRV has been previously rejected by the Minister a few years ago, at the time before IPART was made responsible. It was then applied for as an SRV to pay for an upgrade to the Raleigh Works Depot but the minister identified it as not having merit and the SRV was rejected. In our opinion, ***it is now being fraudulently represented as a roads and bridge maintenance infrastructure backlog which it is not.*** Bellingen Shire Council was forewarned and duly notified in the Wayne Butler engineers report on the proposal for the Raleigh Works Depot upgrade 28th Oct 2010. That if it was to proceed with the massive \$4.528 million loan: *“this strategy will have an impact on the delivery of other services over the next twenty years as it is a significant expenditure line item.”* **Please see attachment enclosed.**

So the reason we have a roads and bridge infrastructure backlog is because Bellingen Council against the wishes of the community and the former Mayor Gordon Braithwaite, on recommendation of senior staff and the current Mayor Mark Troy went ahead with a totally unnecessary and overpriced project. They then removed \$440,000.00 per annum from the FAG's road component, \$66,000.00 /pa from the water and sewage fund, \$60,000.00 /pa from working funds. A total of \$566,000.00 /pa has been removed from roads mainly and redirected to make repayments on an unnecessary project. It is well known that councils can resource share and it is recommended and common practice. **\$4.5m for a shed! \$0.2m was enough.**

The Raleigh Works Depot upgrade was totally unnecessary as it is only 15kms from Coffs Harbour where any necessary works and maintenance could easily have taken place. The Council could also have made incremental upgrades when finances were available.

The ratepayers were totally against this waste of our funds.

It is evidenced in the Butler report at the Sustainability Assessment that *“failure to implement significant improvement to the Raleigh Depot may result in the eventual loss of this service to Bellingen Shire, and may conceivably compromise the viability of the Council itself”*.

So in effect the Raleigh Works Depot upgrade was about maintaining a small unsustainable council and the mini bureaucratic empire that feeds of it. This is a perfect example of a waste of ratepayers money and why the Review Panel recommends amalgamations to achieve economies of scale and curb duplication of unnecessary infrastructure. In effect it was a very costly turf war for self perpetuation. Bellingen Council is now trying to cost shift this onto the ratepayers of the shire who were opposed to the Raleigh Depot upgrade and this SRV cost shift con.

THE BELLINGEN COUNCIL SRV IS A FRAUDULENT CLAIM! AS IT IS NOT REALLY A CLAIM FOR AN INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG ON ROADS AND BRIDGES BUT A CLAIM FOR THE LOAN REPAYMENTS ON THE RALEIGH WORKS DEPOT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REJECTED. THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG HAS OCCURRED BECAUSE FUNDING WAS REDIRECTED AWAY FROM ROADS AND BRIDGES AND THEN SPENT ON THE DEPOT UPGRADE LOAN. THE COUNCIL HAD FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT IN DOING SO IT WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES. COUNCIL IS TOTALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PROBLEM NOT THE RATEPAYERS. IPART MUST RECOGNIZE THIS FACT.

Please see attached engineers report on Raleigh Works Depot.

Please see attached T corp report page 14. Community opposition to Depot upgrade and the Admin Building extensions.

IPART SRV APPLICATION CRITERIA

Criterion 1: Need: *The SRV is not fit for purpose!*

As has been exhaustively detailed above there was never any need for the works depot upgrade and it was implemented with total disregard for the ratepayer and community in general and specifically it removed funding from roads with full knowledge that it would result in the deterioration of infrastructure. The need disguised as an infrastructure backlog is a fraud and a slight of hand means of making the community pay for a depot upgrade and admin building extensions that were totally unjustified. This is a self inflicted financial crisis that was easily avoidable and can simply be corrected by council, but no they want the home owner to pay for their mismanagement and incompetence.

We have hundreds of signatures from local residents that are totally opposed to any rate rise and especially any rise above the pegged limit.

We presented our petition to the council on the day the council decided on the amount that it would apply for in the SRV. A copy of the petition was placed on each councilors desk before the meeting took place. The Mayor Mark Troy with full knowledge of our petition asked if there were any matters with notification knowing that we had not pre notified the council that we wanted them to consider our community concerns with the SRV. He also knew that it was an extraordinary meeting to discuss the SRV a meeting with short notice.

They all looked at our petition and then chose to ignore it. The meeting became quiet rowdy because the Council was deliberately ignoring genuine community concern.

Councilor Gordon Manning the candidate who ran on a no rate rise campaign then stood up became quiet aggressive and tore up his copy of our petition. This is typical of Bellinghen Councils approach to community awareness and engagement.

Then they have the front to deny that community representation was even there.

We were not there at the time of preparation but we were there at the actual meeting, why did the council ignore our concerns and then deny that we presented with them.

BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL – MINUTES - EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 13 JANUARY, 2014
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4 PUBLIC ACCESS/PRESENTATIONS

There were no public access or presentations requested at the time of preparation of this Agenda.

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

There are no Mayoral Minutes for this meeting.

6 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notices of Motions received at the time of preparation of this Agenda.

The council has not adequately examined alternatives to a rate rise!

Why can't the council use the interest from the investment fund to pay for the backlog?
They have published an article in the paper that tries to justify their maintenance of their \$27+ million investment fund and they rely on external and internal restrictions for not using this fund to resolve the so called infrastructure backlog. The IRP recommends that the system and guidelines for assessing restricted funds must be reviewed and this opens an opportunity to access these funds, council has not explored this to its full potential. We need IPART to inquire how it was possible for Bellinghen Council to redirect FAG's for roads away from roads to pay for

the depot loan and this also goes for the redirection of water and sewage funds and the redirection of working funds. Are there any other funds that are not restricted and why can they not be directed to the backlog instead of an SRV. We note T corp identifies \$1.0 m as unrestricted in the investment fund what happened to this money.

Council can simply return to the provision of it's primary function that is utility services. It can simply declare that all social services are the responsibility of the two legitimate levels of government and make redundant all social service activities and the costs that go with them. Our community demands this the IRP recognizes this as the major fundamental sustainability problem. A simple honest return to utility service provision and nothing more will easily provide the funds for all infrastructure backlogs. Council are resisting the obvious answer because they are hell bent on empire building and higher wagers for the senior staff and elected representatives. Has Bellingham Council fully considered the approach of living within their means and conducting their primary function only, we don't think so. If council has self inflicted a financial problem let them take responsibility for it. IPART has a fiduciary duty to protect ratepayers from incompetent council an SRV will not induce a change in council culture.

Bellingham Council's current sustainability is grant dependent, long term sustainability is simply non existent. Direct Federal grants are recognized as unconstitutional via High Court determinations. So in effect this council can not justify its existence financially and is fundamentally unfit for purpose. An SRV will not change this fact and it can not be justified as a remedy for an infrastructure backlog because council transferred this cost to infrastructure by redirecting FAGs away from their allocated purpose thus creating the problem. This is not a community induced backlog it was self inflicted by deliberate decisions of council and senior staff. They must cut social services, over servicing and waste then redirect funds back to the primary function.

Council has published information that blames cost shifting from the State on its financial problem this argument has been determined to be insignificant by the IRP. Council can simply refuse to undertake cost shifting tasks but they always opt for empire building. It also blames increasing expectation with respect to services, this is untrue most people want council to confine its costs to utility services and end spending on social services. It is obvious that the State has an agenda to increasingly push costs onto property owners, look at LLS.

Criterion 2: Community awareness and engagement

Bellingham Council only ever presented token gestures toward any real alternatives to the SRV In fact they disguised the depot loan repayments as an infrastructure backlog we consider this to be a fraudulent representation of the true situation and have discussed this in detail above. At the 3 public meeting held by council to promote the SRV there was only tokenism offered as an attempt to reduce spending on administration costs that were not related to infrastructure and utility service. Bellingham Council is not interested in genuine change or representing the needs of the community. The overwhelming majority of community members at all three meetings were absolutely opposed to any rate rise and especially a rise above the pegged limit. So the council ignores the community it presented only 4 options the pegged rise and three percentage options above the pegged limit. It was presented as a predetermined outcome. The only alternative option offered, was that infrastructure would be further neglected and the tar roads would be run down and returned to gravel. This was also presented in a manner with the threat that this would be inflicted on the community if we did not accept the SRV.

The Council always played down the affect of the SRV on the community especially for those people on fixed incomes and tried to present a case as if it was affordable.

Council ignored the fact that we are already paying a permanent 5% road and a permanent 4% environmental levy and the fact that this road levy was introduced to remedy infrastructure backlogs on roads.

They also refused to inform the public of the IRP recommendations, which if implemented will compound the rate burden by another 5% each year on top of the SRV 11.8%.

We would suggest that Bellinghen Shire has not been entirely honest with the public as to the effect of the SRV and IRP recommendations on the cost of rates.

From the 3 public meetings held by council and our petition it is obvious that there is no community willingness to pay and Council refuses to acknowledge this.

The Council in house survey and the farmed out survey were both framed with a particular outcome in mind and neither of them could withstand robust statistical scrutiny, and thus should be ignored. Our petition is a much stronger representation of community sentiment and more accurate because no one wants a rate rise and that is a fact.

Criterion 3: Impact on Ratepayers

There is nothing reasonable about an SRV to bail out a council that deliberately created the problem in the first place. There is nothing reasonable about a council misinforming the public and IPART as to the true nature of the infrastructure backlog and how it was created and continues to exist. There is nothing reasonable about an 11.8% increase in rates when it is known that there is an existing recommendation by IRP to allow councils an increase of 5% per annum on top of the 11.8% SRV, in light of these facts the SRV must be rejected!

When all compounded together the 5% road levy, the 4% environmental levy, waste access and other charges and costs, added to the pegged limit, the 11.8% plus the 5% IRP pa recommended increase, NO IT IS NOT AFFORDABLE. Not on top of the spiraling cost of living.

Bellinghen Council is a high end statistical anomaly with regard to staff numbers. They have greater numbers and costs than surrounding similar councils. The ratio of indoor to outdoor staff is also high and the way they measure it is also skewed to make it look like there are more outdoor staff.

The long term outlook is unsustainable/nonviable especially in light of their dependence on grants and the fact that it is unconstitutional for direct federal funding.

Criterion 4: DP and LTFP assumptions

The assumptions and projections in the 10 Year Road Capitol Works Program seem to be misleading because they have not listed the Financial Assistance Grant (road component). Where is the Financial Assistance Grant (road component)? Why has it not been listed as an income source for roads? Has it been diverted and put into something else and why was it not restricted externally or internally for exclusive use on roads? Is Council hiding something from IPART and the public with regard to road infrastructure funding? Is there diverted funding that could have been used on road infrastructure and would if not diverted have replaced any perceived need for an SRV?

Why can't the council use the interest from the investment fund to pay for the backlog?

Criterion 5: Productivity and cost containment strategies

The primary function of council has always been the fundamental issue. It should now be evident to IPART that Bellingen Council has a self inflicted financial problem. The route cause of this financial problem is that councils have strayed away from their primary function. There is now no correlation between the cost of the rate tax and any service that is delivered to the property, and this is especially so on farms that receive no direct services at all. With the unnecessary shift away from infrastructure and utility service provision to social services a councils ability to perform its primary function is being lost on unnecessary staff doing unnecessary tasks. This SRV is totally unnecessary Bellingen Council has an opportunity to reprioritize service provision, it can reduce labour and move back to a sustainable level of employment, concentrating on the provision of utility service, infrastructure and maintenance, there is no real problem unless Council is unable to snap out of its empire building delusion.

One major obstacle to a positive change is the remuneration criteria for the GM and Deputy Managers. There is a conflict of interest being that they are remunerated on the size of the budget and the number of employees amongst other criteria and this conflict encourages over employment and unnecessary employment. This needs to be addressed and the remuneration criteria should be changed to reward efficiency and reduced cost to the ratepayer. All social services must be returned to a legitimate level of government.

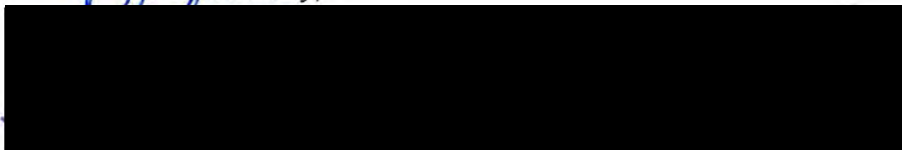
The problem of chronic consultant use, is a major waste of funding and Bellingen Council is a serial offender. The council has staff employed to perform certain tasks but in order to avoid responsibility they routinely have the work done by consultants there is a lot of room for improvement in this area, enough to deem the SRV unnecessary.

Bureaucratic capture is also another problem where councilors are employed to undertake a lot of committee work to the extent that the councilor becomes economically dependent on the bureaucracy. Thus the bureaucracy exerts a strong influence over the councilors and in turn the councilors tend to represent the interests of the bureaucracy at the expense of the community. We would suggest this has happened with regard to the Raleigh Depot upgrade and the SRV.

With amalgamation and other rate rises recommended, would it not be appropriate to review an SRV after these decisions have taken place.

**THE BELLINGEN SHIRE COMMUNITY SAY NO TO THIS UNNECESSARY SRV
IPART MUST REJECT THIS UNREASONABLE SRV RATE HIKE**

Yours sincerely,



Bruce and Nataly Cleary

on behalf of our community and the people who signed our petition.

Was \$3,000,000-00With \$314-00 per year taken from Roads to repay Loan

Now \$4,557,131-00....With \$440-00 per year taken from Roads to repay Loan

\$66,000-00 from Water and Sewerage. (Overcharged ratepayers in the first place to have such a loose surplus)

\$60,000-00 from Working funds, (What do we have to delete to make this money available)

Will have an impact on services, (Some would say 'What Services' over the next 20 years as this is a significant expenditure item.

'Reduction of dust nuisance emanating from the site' what about all the roads that will remain or return to dust as a result of this proposition?

'Consultation' 'Public Meeting' What a story, I did not see any halls filled with people to hear of such waste.

I have said all along and was supported by a consultant at a meeting held in the S.E.S. building at Bellingham, that we should do things in stages each year and pay as we go.

This will go down as Bellingham's 'Glass House' and those Councillors that supported it will be identified as those who did not support the views of the majority of the citizens of the Bellingham Shire.

There is a lot I would like to say, but I am restricted by protocol at this Council meeting,

People won't forget.

ARGUMENT AGAINST R. DEPOT AT THE C. MEETING

BY

C. G. BRAITHWAITE

WHERE IS THE FAGS ROAD COMPONENT

10 Year Road Capital Works Program with 11.8% Special Rate Variation (Utilising Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme)

Income Source	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Special Roads Levy	303,590	313,305	323,330	333,680	344,355	355,375	366,750	378,485	390,596	403,095
Special Rate Variation Loan Account	1,325,010	643,295	711,270	665,920	615,245	570,225	482,850	201,115	269,004	156,505
Roads to Recovery Funding	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400	390,400
Roads & Maritime Service	489,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income Source	2,508,000	1,347,000	1,425,000	1,390,000	1,350,000	1,316,000	1,240,000	970,000	1,050,000	950,000

FAGS ROAD COMPONENT

846,580 ?

Works Expenditure Program	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Additional Road Maintenance	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Shire Road Resurfacing Program										
Sunny Corner Road	100,000									
Kalang Road Section 1	150,000									
Darkwood Road Section 1	150,000									
North Bank Road Section 1	150,000									
Hydes Creek Road Section 1		100,000								
Dome Road Section 1		100,000								
Gordonville Road Section 1			200,000							
Dome Road Section 2			100,000							
Summervilles Road			200,000							
Yellow Rock Road			200,000							
Muldiva Road Section 1				140,000						
Deer Vale Road Section 1 and 2				230,000						
Maynards Plains Road				200,000						
Mylestom Streets, Selected Sections				210,000						
Old Coast Road					300,000					
Valery Road					250,000					
South Arm Road Section 1					200,000					
Promised Land Road						200,000				

Table 11: Options for Non-Metropolitan Councils

Note: †As projected by DP&I without boundary changes or mergers. ‡As defined in the NIEIR cluster-factor analysis (see references). *Grants as percentage of total revenue in 2011-12. High if >40%, Very High if >50%. ^Based on availability and proximity of a suitable partner. Councils shown in *italics* urgently require a revised long-term asset and financial management plan plus an updated sustainability assessment (see section 15.2).

Council	Popn. 2011	†Popn. 2031	TCorp FSR (Apr 13)	TCorp Outlook (Apr 13)	DLG Inf. Audit (May 13)	‡Rate Base	*Grant Dependency	^Merger Potential	Options (preferred options shown in bold where applicable)
Group A: Western Region Councils (see section 16)									
<i>Balranald</i>	2,361	1,700	Weak	Negative	Weak	Low	Very High	Low	Joint administration or merger with Wentworth
<i>Bourke</i>	3,085	2,300	Weak	Negative	Weak	Low	High	Medium	Rural Council; joint administration or merger with Brewarrina
<i>Brewarrina</i>	1,895	1,700	Weak	Negative	Weak	Low	Very High	Medium	Joint administration or merger with Bourke
<i>Broken Hill</i>	19,150	15,100	Very Weak	Neutral	Weak		High	Low	Council in Far West region
<i>Central Darling</i>	2,108	1,800	Very Weak	Negative	Weak	Low	Very High	Low	Unincorporated with Community Boards
<i>Cobar</i>	4,931	4,800	Weak	Negative	Very Weak	Low	High	Low	Council in Far West region (review by 2020)
<i>Walgett</i>	6,860	5,900	Moderate	Negative	Moderate	Low	Very High	Medium	Council in Far West region (review by 2020)
<i>Wentworth</i>	6,787	7,000	Weak	Negative	Weak	Low	High	Low	Council; joint administration or merger with Balranald
Group B: Projected 2031 population below 4,000; 'High' merger potential (2014 referrals to Boundaries Commission)									
<i>Bombala</i>	2,458	2,000	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate	Low	High	High	Merge with Cooma-M and Snowy R or Rural Council in South East JO
<i>Boorowa</i>	2,469	2,700	Moderate	Negative	Strong	Low	Very High	High	Merge with Harden and Young or Rural Council in Tablelands JO
<i>Conargo</i>	1,585	1,800	Sound	Neutral	Strong	Low	Very High	High	Merge with Deniliquin and Murray or Rural Council in Mid-Murray JO
<i>Gundagai</i>	3,753	3,400	Moderate	Negative	Distressed	Low	Very High	High	Merge with Tumut or Rural Council in Riverina CC
<i>Harden</i>	3,680	3,600	Moderate	Negative	Strong	Low	Very High	High	Merge with Boorowa and Young or Rural Council in Tablelands JO
<i>Jerilderie</i>	1,534	1,200	Moderate	Negative	Weak	Low	Very High	High	Merge with Berrigan or Rural Council in Mid-Murray JO
<i>Murrumbidgee</i>	2,338	1,700	Moderate	Neutral	Not avail.	Low	High	High	Merge with Griffith or rural Council in Murrumbidgee JO
<i>Urana</i>	1,180	800	Weak	Neutral	Very weak	Low	Very High	High	Merge with Corowa or Rural Council in Upper Murray JO
<i>Walcha</i>	3,122	2,800	Weak	Negative	Distressed			High	Merge with Uralla or Rural Council in New England JO
Group C: Projected 2031 population below 5,000; 'Low' or 'Medium' merger potential (2015-16 referrals to Boundaries Commission)									
<i>Bogan</i>	3,020	2,600	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate	Low	Very High	Medium	Rural Council in Orana JO or merge with Warren
<i>Carrathool</i>	2,668	2,100	Weak	Neutral	Weak	Low	Very High	Medium	Rural Council in Murrumbidgee JO or merge with Griffith
<i>Coolamon</i>	4,213	4,200	Sound	Negative	Very weak	Low	Very High	Medium	Rural Council in Riverina JO or merge with Bland and/or Temora
<i>Coonamble</i>	4,274	3,100	Sound	Negative	Moderate	Low	High	Medium	Rural Council in Orana JO or merge with Gilgandra
<i>Gilgandra</i>	4,534	4,100	Weak	Neutral	Weak	Low	High	Medium	Rural Council in Orana JO or merge with Coonamble
<i>Hay</i>	3,097	2,100	Moderate	Negative	Moderate	Low	Very High	Low	Rural Council in Murrumbidgee JO
<i>Lockhart</i>	3,082	2,900	Sound	Neutral	Moderate	Low	Very High	Medium	Rural Council in Riverina JO or merge with Wagga Wagga
<i>Tumbarumba</i>	3,440	3,200	Strong	Negative	Very Strong	Low	Very High	Medium	Rural Council in Riverina JO or merge with Tumut/Gundagai

<i>Junee</i>	6,091	5,800	Moderate	Neutral	Weak	Low	High	Medium	Council in Riverina JO or merge with Cootamundra
<i>Kyogle</i>	9,537	9,500	Weak	Negative	Moderate		High	Medium	Council in Northern Rivers JO or merge with Lismore or Richmond Valley
<i>Lachlan</i>	6,758	5,400	Moderate	Negative	Weak	Low	Very High	Medium	Council in Central West JO or merge with Parkes
<i>Liverpool Plains</i>	7,769	8,300	Weak	Negative	Moderate		High	Medium	Council in Namoi JO or merge with Gunnedah
<i>Narrandera</i>	6,123	5,300	Sound	Negative	Strong	Low	Very High	Medium	Council in Murrumbidgee JO or merge with Leeton
<i>Oberon</i>	5,207	5,400	Sound	Negative	Moderate			Medium	Council in Central West JO or merge with Bathurst
<i>Tenterfield</i>	7,024	8,500	Weak	Negative	Weak	Low	Very High	Low	Council in New England JO
<i>Upper Lachlan</i>	7,378	7,900	Sound	Neutral	Strong		High	Medium	Council in Tablelands JO or merge with Goulburn-Mulwaree
<i>Warrumbungle</i>	9,927	9,500	Weak	Negative	Moderate		High	Low	Council in Orana JO

Group G: Larger rural and regional councils (excluding Hunter, Central coast and Illawarra)

<i>Ballina</i>	40,753	45,400	Moderate	Neutral	Weak			Medium	Council in Northern Rivers JO
<i>Bega Valley</i>	32,999	37,100	Sound	Neutral	Strong			Low	Council in South East JO
<i>Bellingen</i>	12,886	13,300	Moderate	Negative	Weak		High	Medium	Council in North Coast JO
<i>Byron</i>	30,825	31,800	Weak	Negative	Weak			Medium	Council in Northern Rivers JO
<i>Clarence Valley</i>	51,252	53,900	Weak	Negative	Weak			Low	Council in North Coast JO
<i>Coffs Harbour</i>	70,933	80,500	Weak	Negative	Weak			Medium	Council in North Coast JO
<i>Eurobodalla</i>	36,993	43,400	Moderate	Neutral	Weak			Low	Council in South East JO
<i>Goulburn-M'waree</i>	28,285	31,800	Moderate	Negative	Very Weak			Medium	Council in Tablelands JO
<i>Great Lakes</i>	35,601	41,600	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate			Medium	Council in Mid-North Coast JO or merge with Gloucester
<i>Greater Taree</i>	47,955	50,600	Very weak	Negative	Very Weak			Medium	Council in Mid-North Coast JO or merge with Gloucester
<i>Gunnedah</i>	12,515	13,400	Sound	Negative	Very Strong			Medium	Council in Namoi JO
<i>Inverell</i>	16,614	19,600	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate			Low	Council in Namoi JO
<i>Kempsey</i>	29,188	28,500	Weak	Negative	Weak			Medium	Council in Mid-North Coast JO
<i>Leeton</i>	11,406	11,200	Moderate	Negative	Moderate			Medium	Council in Murrumbidgee JO or merge with Narrandera
<i>Lismore</i>	44,282	45,300	Moderate	Negative	Weak			Medium	Council in Northern Rivers JO or merge with Kyogle
<i>Lithgow</i>	20,790	20,700	Sound	Negative	Moderate			Medium	Council in Central West JO
<i>Mid-Western Reg.</i>	23,000	26,100	Sound	Negative	Weak			Medium	Council in Central West JO
<i>Moree Plains</i>	14,189	11,100	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate			Medium	Council in Namoi JO or merge with Gwydir
<i>Nambucca</i>	19,286	21,500	Weak	Negative	Moderate			Medium	Council in North Coast JO
<i>Narrabri</i>	13,475	12,400	Moderate	Negative	Very Weak			Medium	Council in Namoi JO
<i>Parkes</i>	15,047	15,600	Moderate	Negative	Weak			Medium	Council in Central West JO or merge with Lachlan
<i>Port Macq-Hastings</i>	74,949	89,400	Weak	Negative	Moderate			Medium	Council in Mid-North Coast JO
<i>Richmond Valley</i>	22,697	24,800	Weak	Negative	Very Weak			Medium	Council in Northern Rivers JO or merge with Kyogle
<i>Shoalhaven</i>	96,043	106,400	Sound	Negative	Moderate			Low	Council in South East JO
<i>Tamworth Regional</i>	58,351	68,800	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate			Medium	Council in Namoi JO
<i>Tweed</i>	88,463	104,300	Moderate	Neutral	Strong			Low	Council in Northern Rivers JO
<i>Wingecarribee</i>	46,042	51,000	Moderate	Neutral	Moderate			Medium	Council in Tablelands JO
<i>Yass Valley</i>	15,516	23,200	Moderate	Negative	Moderate			Low	Council in Tablelands JO

Attached copy of our petition

Please note that we have not had time to collect the petitions that we put out at Bellinghen and Urunga but these are true copies of the petitions and signatures against the SRV collected from Dorrigo.

We have the originals and expect to collect as many signatures again from the other two districts.

A.A.

BELLINGEN SHIRE COMMUNITY PETITION AND DEMAND NOVEMBER 2013

TO THE PREMIER The Hon. Barry O'Farrell.
TO THE DEPUTY PREMIER The Hon. Andrew Stoner. Member for Oxley
TO THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW –
The Hon. Donald Page. TO IPART

IN RESPONSE TO BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL'S PUSH TO INFLICT A
"SPECIAL RATE VARIATION" ONTO AN ALREADY SUFFERING COMMUNITY
WE THE BELLINGEN COMMUNITY DEMAND:

1. **THAT THERE IS NO COUNCIL RATE RISE ABOVE THE PEGGED
LIMIT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE!**
2. **THAT BELLINGEN COUNCIL IS PLACED INTO ADMINISTRATION
FOR IT'S FAILURE TO FULFILL IT'S PRIMARY FUNCTION AS A
UTILITY SERVICE PROVIDER!**
3. **THAT ALL RATE MONEY IS ONLY EVER SPENT ON THE DIRECT
PROVISION OF UTILITY SERVICES IF IT DOES NOT INVOLVE THE
COST EFFECTIVE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS,
WATER, SEWAGE OR WASTE DISPOSAL, WE DON'T WANT IT AND
COUNCIL DOES NOT HAVE OUR AUTHORITY TO WASTE OUR
MONEY ON IT.**
4. **ALL COUNCIL EMPLOYEMENT THAT IS NOT DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF UTILITY SERVICES BE MADE
REDUNDANT AS IT SURPLUS TO COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS**

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE



THE COMMUNITY SAYS NO TO COUNCIL RATE RISE AND CALLS FOR ADMINISTRATION

Bellinghen Council along with many others is bankrupt. They have relentlessly wasted our money on wages, holiday pay, super and junkets for unnecessary staff to do unnecessary jobs. Our community is being asked to fund and provide a sheltered workshop for the inadequate, as they are incapable of fulfilling their primary function.

Today councils exist as self serving, empire building corporations a burden on the community that are incapable of living within their means. They have absolutely failed in their primary function as a utility service provider. ***All rates are consumed by the now obese bureaucracy, and the only time utility services are provided or maintained is when they receive a grant from a legitimate level of government.*** Secondly councils are now used to cost shift State responsibilities onto land and homeowners. This has become an alarming trend with a new unspoken policy of making landowners pay for government thus breaching our common law rights of ownership. We can no longer own our home or farm without being forced into perpetual debt bondage, against our will and without mandate. This fact is highlighted on farms that receive absolutely no services at all.

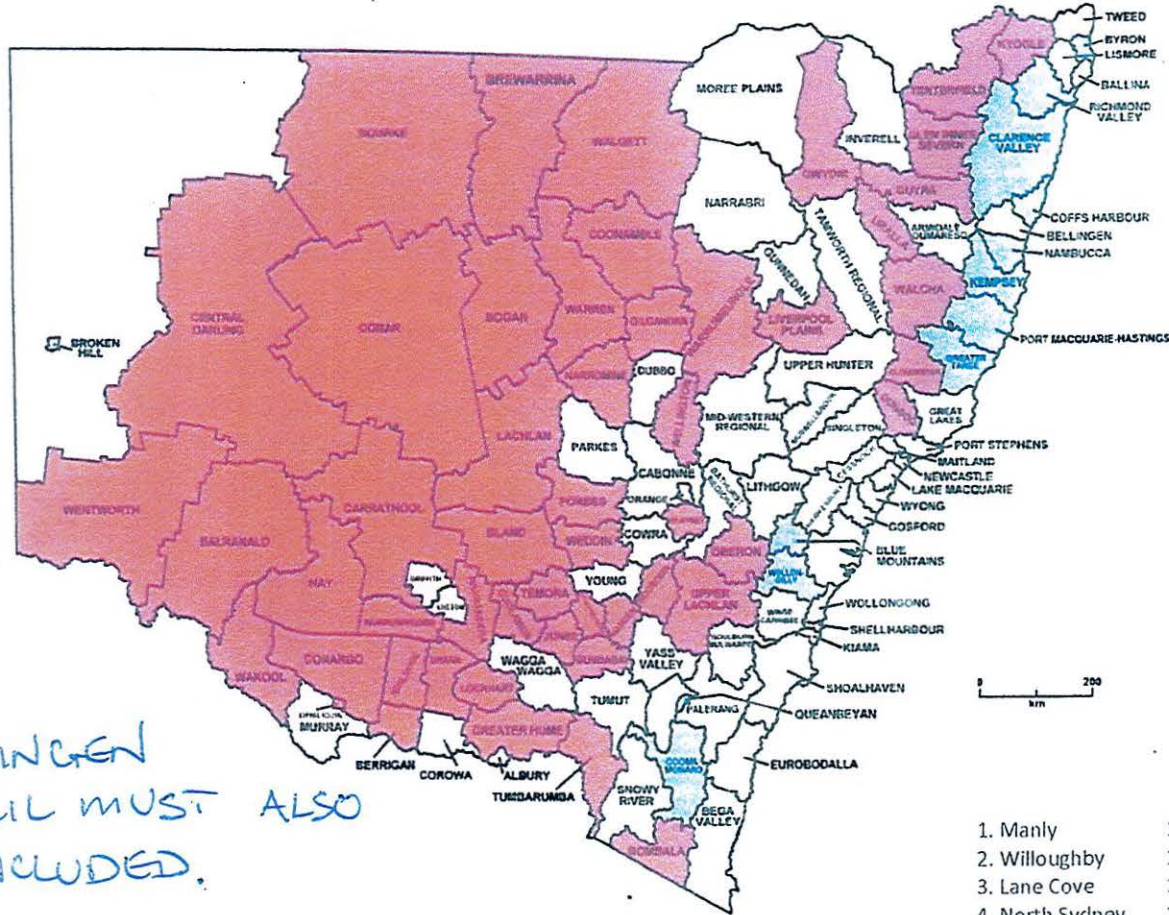
Roads, public lands and Libraries etc are all part of the State. We pay excessive taxes on fuel, registration, stamp duty and the infamous GST to cover State responsibilities. Why should we pay double the tax burden to fund an unconstitutional council bureaucracy that nobody wants or recognises? Rate payers should only pay the cost price of services that they directly receive to their property and nothing more!

AS BELLINGHEN COUNCIL HAS FAILED THE COMMUNITY AND FAILED TO FULFILL IT'S PRIMARY FUNCTION AS A UTILITY SERVICE PROVIDER WE THE COMMUNITY DEMAND THAT THIS DISFUNCTIONAL COUNCIL IS PUT INTO ADMINISTRATION

IF IT DOES NOT INVOLVE THE COST EFFECTIVE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS, WATER, SEWAGE OR WASTE DISPOSAL, WE DON'T WANT IT AND COUNCIL DOES NOT HAVE OUR AUTHORITY TO WASTE OUR MONEY ON IT.

NO RATE RISE

Map 1: Councils at Risk



- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Manly | 10. Ashfield |
| 2. Willoughby | 11. Leichhardt |
| 3. Lane Cove | 12. Sydney |
| 4. North Sydney | 13. Woollahra |
| 5. Mosman | 14. Waverley |
| 6. Hunters Hill | 15. Marrickville |
| 7. Canada Bay | 16. Botany Bay |
| 8. Strathfield | 17. Randwick |
| 9. Burwood | |
- - METROPOLITAN COUNCILS WITH WEAK TCORP ESR

BELLINGEN
COUNCIL MUST ALSO
BE INCLUDED.

WHY DO POLITICIANS PERSIST WITH
UNCONSTITUTIONAL COUNCILS THAT AUSTRALIA HAS TWICE REJECTED.
COUNCILS THAT CAN NOT LIVE WITHIN THEIR MEANS ARE A BURDEN
ON THE COMMUNITY AND ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE?