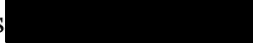





Dungog Council Rate Increase

My name is  and I have been a Farmer my whole life. I am writing to you to let you know I can't believe Councils decision to double my rates.

I only discovered in January that such a huge rate increase has been approved by council when I received a letter from the Council general manager letting us know that our rates were going to double. This was also written in the February issue of the Gresford newsletter. This was the first that my wife or I knew about our rates increasing.

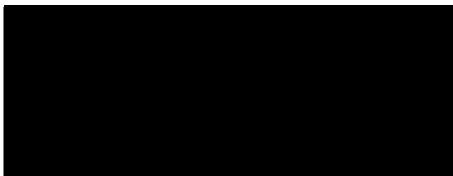
When I discussed this with my neighbours, some told me that they received some survey about a rate rise with their rates notice last year, but none had any idea that it was to double our rates. Most thought it was just a increase each year for a few years. Not doubling our rates. When I looked at the survey a neighbour had it looks like an increase each year on what we pay now and then the other increases each year.

I own  acres of farmland and my wife and I get a full couple's age pension. Our farm whilst being productive does not turn over a great profit yearly and the situation has got worse over the years because of the cost of grain.

When I discussed this with one of my local councillors he told me that you can only approve this, but said that some councilors can't see a problem for primary producers or pensioners and if we struggle with this rate increase we can always sell of our farms or some of it. He also told me that council has a plan that if I can't afford my rates I can pay them off. This has to be a joke for sure.

If this rate rise goes ahead it will kill farming in this area and given that most farms in this shire are pretty poor for cattle production except for river flat land just watch the 150 acre sub divisions go through the roof. Me for one and then all its good for is putting another house on it and running a couple of cows.

Yours Sincerely.



26 February 2019