



D.R. WILLIS

I.P.A.R.T.

P.O. BOX K35
HAYMARKET POST OFFICE
N.S.W. 1240

INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL
DEAR SIR/MADAM,

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED
20% RATE INCREASE BY THE BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL.

I HAVE BEEN A RATE PAYER TO THIS COUNCIL FOR THE
LAST 44 YEARS. I LIVE 38 KILOMETERS OUT FROM

THE TOWN OF BELLINGEN & OF THE 38 KILOMETERS
15 GRAVEL ROAD BEING THE LAST STRECH TO MY PROPERTY

THERE ARE 14 LOW LYING BRIDGES TO CROSS ALONG THE
DARKWOOD Rd, IN TIMES PAST COUNCIL SATISFACTORILY
SERVICED & MAINTAINED THIS ROAD & BRIDGES. IN RECENT

YEARS THIS AREA BEING RURAL ALONG WITH OTHER RURAL
AREAS HAVE BEEN GREATLY NEGLECTED WITH LITTLE TO NO

PERIODIC SERVICE & MAINTENANCE. COUNCIL IS ALWAYS
USING THE EXCUSE THAT ITS TO EXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN

THESE RURAL AREAS, YET CONTINUE TO SPEND LARGE
SUMS OF MONEY ON NON ESSENTIAL MATTERS.

THEIR POLICY SEEMS TO BE WAIT UNTILL THERE IS A FLOOD
& WE WILL APPLY FOR A GRANT. WHEN THEY DO GET THESE
GRANTS, IT APPEARS THE MONEY IS NOT ALL SPENT FOR
THE PURPOSE IT WAS GRANTED.

THERE ARE TO MANY HIGHLY PAID CHIEFS & NOT ENOUGH
INDIANS. THE PEOPLE OF THIS SHIRE IN GENERAL ARE
ALREADY STRUGGLING TO AFFORD THE COST OF RATES,

NOT TO MENTION THE INCREASED EXPENSE OF VEHICAL REPAIRS DUE TO INFERIOR MAINTENANCE OF ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE.

ITS DUE TO THE LACK OF PERIODIC MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT THAT THE SHIRES ROADS & BRIDGES DETERIORATE SO BADLY & END UP AN EXPENSIVE PROBLEM E.G. THE DARKWOOD ROAD WITH ONLY 8 KILOMETERS OF GRAVEL ROAD HAS NOT BEEN GRADED IN OVER 2 YEARS OR HAD A BANK SLASHER TO MANAGE THE OVERGROWTH.

SOME REMEDIAL WORK DONE HAS BEEN BY INTERSTATE CONTRACTORS
1. TEAM FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY & ANOTHER BY A QUEENSLAND CONTRACTING COMPANY, NOT LOCAL WORKERS, WHY NOT PROVIDE LOCAL JOBS AT FAR LESS EXPENSE.

THOSE IN MANAGEMENT HAVE MOST TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE WHO PAY THEIR SALARIES & PUT THEM IN TRUST TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

SHOULD THEY ACHIEVE THIS GUEST FOR A RATE RISE IT WILL ALSO MEAN A SALARY INCREASE, THEY ARE ALREADY OVERPAID.

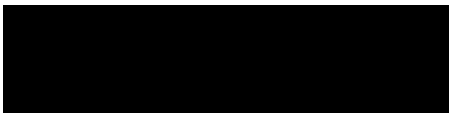
CONSIDER THAT THE GENERAL MANAGERS REMUNERATION IS AROUND \$240,000 YARN PLUS OTHER BENEFITS, COMPARE THIS TO THE AVERAGE WAGE EARNER & PENSIONERS' INCOME AT THE LOWER SCALE OF AROUND \$21,000 YR. NO WONDER WE ARE TREATED WITH CONTEMPT.

PREVIOUS COUNCILS THROUGH THE YEARS MANAGED THE ROADS & BRIDGES TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD. THEY WERE CONSCIENTIOUSLY DILIGENT IN THEIR MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT. I HAVE LIVED IN THIS SHIRE LONG ENOUGH TO NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE, THOSE PAST COUNCILS MANAGED ON FAR LESS RESOURCES THAN WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO THE PRESENT COUNCIL.

FINALLY I ENCLOSE A NOTICE BOARD BILL SHOWING LOCAL DISCONTENT, OF WHICH I AGREE TOTALLY WITH ALL SEVEN POINTS OF ISSUE.

I TRUST THAT THE INDEPENDENT PRICING & REGULATORY TRIBUNAL WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER HOW THEY VIEW COUNCILS REQUEST FOR A RATE RISE, IN FAIRNESS TO THE RATE PAYERS OF THIS SHIRE & THEIR GENERAL FEELINGS OF MISMANAGEMENT OF HOW OUR RATES ARE BEING SPENT.

YOURS SINCERELY



ARE YOU UNHAPPY ABOUT
COUNCIL'S PROPOSED 20% RATE INCREASE
THEN THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO
CLOSING DATE 10th MARCH

Write to I.P.A.R.T. (Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal)

PO Box K35

Haymarket Post Office

N.S.W.1240

Or email ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Just say why you oppose the rate increase- only need to give one reason but can give more.

For example:

1. The majority of rate payers are struggling to pay their rates now.
2. Council has shown it can't spend money efficiently or effectively.
3. Management treats ratepayers with contempt.
4. Too many indoor staff eg. 2 assistant general managers.
5. Spends money on social issues that are not relevant to Council.
6. Accepts grants funding for projects that require ongoing maintenance at ratepayers expense Eg Hyde Street upgrade.
7. Have seen little from recent large special rate variations for roads.