

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 March 2014 9:28 AM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Gundagai rate variation submission

RE: GUNDAGAI SHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSED RATE RISE FOR 10 YEARS.

I do not agree with Gundagai Shire Council being granted the huge rate rise for Council rates it has applied to iPART for as it is just a total waste of money. Council pretended to consult with residents but then went against what residents thought at the same time saying the consultation process and survey was not very well designed. Council came out with a blurb re how much rates residents pay totally ignoring the town improvement fund rate for in town residents and claiming Gundagai has low rates where in fact we have high rates and now Council wants to make them even higher in a deceptive way. The Gundagai main street does not need a total redesign. One section of the side of one block has a wonky footpath that needs replacing and that is it. The Gundagai shops are not much and most people shop out of town so the shopping area use is declining as part of the normal evolution of shopping areas in small rural towns. People partly shop out of town for the outing but Wagga has far better shops and choice for shoppers and most people in Gundagai these days have cars. I don't have a car but there is very good public transport to Wagga three days a week for a \$2.50 fare so some people access that. If the imagined upgrade of the shopping area is to attract more tourists that is a furphy as Council appointed a tourism committee as part of Council operations headed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] declared in Council business papers recently as head of the local tourism committee, that Gundagai is not a tourism town rather it is a town that people transit through. So any tourism incentive re the main street is nonsense. If main street businesses want a new shopping area they should pay for it otherwise just that one section of footpath between Kitchener and Byron Sts needs replacing on the north side of the street. The incentive to get a whole new main street is an incentive of the local Chamber of Commerce (Gundagai Regional Enhancement Group aka GREG). They have had it on their long term plan for a long while and have recently been pushing Council harder re the issue with at least two councilors being GREG members, (Kingwell and Crane). Gundagai Council in my opinion waste money. They have too many staff on for the size of the shire and what it does. Many people in Gundagai are on very low income so cannot afford rate rises that are not required for the purpose they are sought. Gundagai's sewerage system is in a state of not being large enough to match land development with raw sewerage flowing down streets and into the river and it is THAT needs fixing as it creates a public health risk. Gundagai does not need the proposed flash main street upgrade at all and it is just a total waste of money and frippery but Gundagai does need an upgrade and fixing of the sewerage system. if Gundagai residents make adverse comments re what Council wants then they get targeted in the town. The town recently had a large bully rally against one resident who wanted to be paid for a small area of land that Council was weirdly wanting for free to facilitate the imagined main street upgrade, telling all sorts of porkies when the town maps tell the truth. Most residents have relatives in jobs, children at school etc and stuff happens. It is just wiser from that perspective that no one speak out publically against what the town movers and shakers want.

Best wishes.

Johneen Jones. (ratepayer and small property owner and pensioner),  
[REDACTED]