



WEATHERALL ENGINEERING

PTY LTD

GENERAL ENGINEERS

- ♦ MACHINING
- ♦ WELDING & FABRICATION
- ♦ PLANT INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE
- ♦ OXY GEAR REPAIRS

17th February 2019

IPART
PO Box K35
Haymarket NSW 1240

To Whom it may concern;

We are a business in the locality of Tamworth Regional Council, and we have been the owners of this business here at the same location for 45 years. In that time, we have never experienced a worse time for work availability and continuity and with a major drought ongoing affecting not only our business, but a majority of businesses and the council think that it is ok to add further hardships to all business in the forms of another levy on the rates of business property holders.

This rate levy, if approved will be a permanent cost burden on already struggling business property owners and general business owners renting said properties, with rent rises to cover any increases in costs. It will have a detrimental affect on any business wishing to start or expand in the region.

Council's method of communication left a lot to be desired, appearing to play the proposal to their desires, rate payers had no published input portal. We did object to them in writing to the General Manager, as requested to do so by reception at the council chambers, and we are still waiting on a reply. There was no information on how to submit a formal objection.

The Chamber of Commerce has thrown their support behind the levy, but the president is a director of a company that has some major accommodation premises and developments within the town and would benefit greatly from any major event coming into town. It would appear that the chamber is hand in glove with the council and as the president would gain a benefit, would not give rise to be a pecuniary interest. The Chamber of Commerce's role should be to look after ratepaying business, by not supporting rate increases for a never to be known return to a very limited section of the community, anything can be added and figures put down, but where is the proof. If someone gets an extra shift to work at a time when an event is happening, how can they prove that the extra money is going to be spent in Tamworth or surrounds and not on an online purchase? There is no incentive being put forward to bring in business that compliments what the community needs or wants, just added hardships on the ones that here already.

The whole of the North West area is in a mini depression, not just Tamworth, and there is little prospect of this changing, with no rain on the forecast, things are only going to get worst not better.

Established industries that have been running for decades are closing down and leaving. On a walk down the main street of the CBD, all 3 blocks, you can count a minimum of 15 shops on both the street and in arcades empty, this does not include office premises, way too many to justify an increase in any rates. All this and council continue to work on a non-profitable projects in the town at ratepayers costs, for example Fitzroy Street, that not too many people utilise on most days as there is not shade or seating, this has not been finished as the per the original scope as the costs blew out above what was originally costed, not a good look going forward to how they have costed what the rate levy will be used for?

A rate levy to attract events will be something that no one can control and really positively come up with who will benefit from the input, we are only hearing from those who expect returns at a cost to ratepayers. A rate levy for a positive project, properly costed and administered is a different matter, the input and result will be visible and there shouldn't be

Those sections of the community who want to run events, and always have successfully run these events, a few to mentioned, Nundle has run the Go for Gold Easter Festival, Nundle Dogs races, Kootingal Pumpkin Festival and tractor and Machinery show, Bendemeer & Manilla Fergie tractor days, Dungowan Machinery weekend, Dungowan campdraft weekends in February and September, Frost over Barraba art exhibition, and then the sporting events, Peel School Carnival, various Hockey carnivals, Netball, softball, Oztag, Touch football, cricket carnivals, and all these events are run by the associated body or sporting associations through which the carnivals are held. The AELEC and the AQHA run their own events and get an extremely good turnout, not to mention the horse racing and trots and dogs, which brings into town competitors for the races.

All these events are run with minimal input from council and they can bring in to town a sustainable amount of money, does the council want to take over the running and organising of all these events or does it want to let the same people organise and run them and then claim credit, or are they going to double up on the organising which is totally unnecessary?

Tamworth Regional Council needs to manage it's finances better then what it appears at the present time, they need to live within their means as does everyone else in the community, instead of loading more expense on onto property owners. As a residential and business property owner, all I see is funds being wasted and another rate levy being added on. When Peel Street was originally upgraded, a levy was put on all rates to improve that street, they planted Plain trees and since they have been constantly pruning, digging up roots and trimming and making unbearable bird sounds to keep the starlings away, just one little area of how they have wasted funds, as on numerous occasions the engineers where informed that the Plain tree was the wrong selection for the area, but they knew better and would not listen.

With the reasons above I request that the levy on this occasion be rejected.

Kind Regards

Kevin Weatherall