

Mrs Patricia M Urquhart

28th July 2015.

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Submission re Glen Innes Severn Councils Fit for the Future

Dear Commission

The Special Rate Variation has afforded Council great opportunity to strengthen its tenuous position. A position it has maintained for the past decade and position that fails to ready Council as “FIT FOR THE FUTURE” as some would have us believe.

There are a multitude of issues that plague our Council, disadvantaging the very community that our Council is meant to serve. Granted, many are legacies/remnants of the Glen Innes Municipal and the Severn Shire council’s. Unfortunately many of those encumbrances remain, predominantly unchecked by an amalgamated Council, the product of a reactive management rather than the proactive prerequisite” Fit for the Future” model that we are to embrace if we are to regenerate as opposed to the degenerative model of the past decade.

While a decade of opportunity to stem the internal haemorrhagic flow of planning absences in infrastructure Backlog”, “Staff Fringe Benefits”, “Long Term Financial Planning”, Operational Strategies and Efficiencies”, “Self-Assessment”, “Service Delivery”, “Community Consultation”, “Budget Oversights”, “Projected Cost Overruns”, “Communities of Interest” and “Scale and Capacity” has been forfeited, Council’s needs to desist from its propaganda of publically declared self-acclamation and denial if we are indeed to be “FFF”.

Council’s FFF plan is fragile if not flawed. The document exhibits considerable reliance of three speculative and tenuous contributing factors.

Meanwhile, the Airport development balances on a precipice of disappointment with compounding effect to Water and Sewer Funds with an

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“Infrastructure Backlog” that will haunt council until it can find an effective solution to offset significant depreciation on the new State and Federally grant funded assets. The anticipated gains for the Glen Innes Aggregates too are recklessly speculative. It would be arrogant and wildly presumptuous to assume that the “White Rock” Wind Farm development benefit to Council would be anything but secondary.

Council’s proposed rates and charges are long overdue to be remodelled. There is serious disparity in Council’s Water and Sewer Models of charge. Water and Sewer availability charges mask the real unit charge and disadvantage low end users.

Water service availability charges must be replaced by a simple flat consumer rate at cost/kilo litre.

We trust you will give this submission your valued consideration.

The following pages provides further proof, direct from the Glen Innes Severn Council’s own documents, together will attachments from [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Patricia M Urquhart