

Author name: R. Milne

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Submission:

As a aged pensioner and rate payer who maintains an active interest in my community and those who manage it, I wish to make strong objection to any special rate rise the Coffs Harbour Council may be seeking. I strongly believe financial decisions and negotiations to date have not been in the nature of 'best practice' or in the best interests of the ratepayers of Coffs Harbour, a small struggling low socio-economic regional area. We do not need huge loans to tide us over our current difficulties or buy things we simply cannot afford. What we do need is an astute business management team and intelligent use of the millions of dollars of investments we already have that could be made to work for us. We need to live within our budget and consider structural changes to the staffing arrangements which could provide us the relief we need without the threat of loss of essential public services and facilities. The Administration of Coffs Harbour appears to me to be top heavy and I am aware the General Manager's position costs us dearly. Surely in-house efficiency experts are on hand who could identify ways to rid the council of dead wood and unnecessary figureheads along with other refinements as necessary. In summary, I am very opposed to any rate increase. I live within my budget and I expect others to do the same or adjust their lifestyles accordingly. Thank You, Robyn Milne.