

**From:** Touie Smith Snr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 July 2015 3:00 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** 310715 Fit for the Future IPART submission no2.doc

31/07/15  
John Comrey,  
IPART  
PO box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop  
NSW 1240

Dear Mr Comrey,

I have already provided a submission to IPART as to why Yass Valley Council is not "Fit for the Future" but I beg your indulgence as the waste disposal voucher that arrived in the mail today exemplifies what is wrong with our Council.

A few months ago a Councillor or two came up with an idea to provide two waste tip visits be included in a Ratepayers rates.

The General Manager was asked to provide a report, it was tabled at the March Council meeting and the recommendation is as follows.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***Given the costing impost of providing ratepayers with (2) two domestic waste vouchers and the impact on the remaining funds in the waste reserve it would be considered unviable to proceed with providing free waste vouchers with rates assessment from 1 July 2015.***

Councillors and management discussed the vouchers at open council and a vote was taken.

**RESOLVED that -**

- 1. Council provides ratepayers with 2 domestic waste vouchers valid for 12 months with the 2015 rates notices;***
- 2. A service review on waste is conducted;***
- 3. A review is undertaken of the 2015/16 fees and charges for waste.***

***(J ones/ W are) 53***

**FOR:**

***Councillors C Burgess, G Butler, G Frost, J Jones and G Ware***

**AGAINST:**

***Councillors R Abbey, A Daniel, M McManus and D Needham***

So now we have a situation where the General Manager, his Director and four Councillors disagree with a majority of five.

We then see a rescission motion by Councillors Mc Manus, Needham and Daniels as not all campers were happy with being beaten by a democratic vote.

***Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council  
held on 22 April 2015 RESCISSION MOTION***

***We the undersigned rescind resolution no. 372 which RECOMMENDED that –***

***“ 1. Council provides ratepayers with 2 domestic waste vouchers valid for 12 months with the 2015 rates notices;***

**2.A service review on waste is conducted;**

**3.A review is undertaken of the 2015/16 fees and charges for waste.”**

**RECISSION MOTION LOST**

Motion stands, the deal is for Council management and staff to implement what Council had resolved.

1 Create a system to provide waste vouchers.

2 The dreaded service review.

3 Then another review of service waste and charges?

Phew, this is a lot to ask, do something and then tell us to have a look at what we have been doing all in one resolution.

Obviously a rescission motion was needed to stop such folly.

The events surrounding the rescission motion and Council management's objections to the idea showcased the animosity of Councillor to Councillor, Management to Councillor and Councillor to Management.

I sat at a council meeting where a Councillor asked how things were progressing and if a copy of what is proposed could be made available. The Councillor was told that they would see it when they were posted out.

So here we are at the end of July, this all started in February, and Council management still has difficulty getting it right.

- The validity dates on the top of the flyer don't match the actual dates on the voucher.( Council provided clarification and an apology in the local newspaper)
- The vouchers state "Domestic" yet commercial rate payers get one in the mail. Is this an oversight, has this been thought through or is Council actually giving the commercial end of town a voucher they can't use.  
The voucher says "Domestic Household Waste Only"
- Council is yet again showing no capacity for savings as mail merging seems to have no place in Council culture. I have complained / mentioned numerous times that sending my wife and I eight envelopes with eight rate notices and eight lots of council literature and now with eight waste vouchers of which four are commercial and of dubious value.
- Could I also suggest that ones rate notice should not be received with retailer's advertising flyers as it enhances the risk of a ratepayer including a bit of Council literature with it when on its way to the bin.

The problem that needs highlighting is the waste of resources and money by management and staff to implement what seems like a sensible and doable idea.

Upper Lachlan seems to have no problem with a non glossy, non paid advertising girl, single sided, two colour system that has a set of instructions and all Council has to provide as an ongoing cost is a hole punch and a smile.

See attachment Folder 0001

Let's compare the Yass Valley Council's model that has been designed not to be simple or cheap, needs voucher numbering and the follow up recording of useless information on voucher numbers and the report that will be provided to show whatever it is to be shown.

No doubt those who didn't like the idea will glee when it is found that giving costs so much and no doubt a recommendation will come next June to do away with the scheme.

See attachments Folder 0002 and 0003

This whole fiasco highlights a number of issues.

- Councillor to Councillor, Management to Councillor and Councillor to Management bickering and power play.
- General Manager and staff who are prepared to design in failure on things they don't like.
- A council that is dysfunctional when attempting thing at the simplest level.
- The unwillingness of management to accept assistance or advice if asked to implement something or to provide detail of what they are doing.
- Council can't even get the numbering of minutes right as since January the numbering of minutes has dual referencing causing confusion and difficulty with transparency. Council has been notified but is yet to respond which is not unusual as most letters go unanswered at Yass Valley Council.  
(motion 53 and recession motion 372 numbering is not correct)

I ask that IPART take a good look at Yass Valley Council's submission in regards to being Fit for the Future as we are not fit and can only be made fit if we exorcise those who hold us back.

Please give us a bad report card and provide assistance as to how to sort out the mess.

Touie Smith snr

