



Port Macquarie Branch
Country Labor

P O Box 503
Suite 1, 157 Gordon Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
P 02 6584 5988
F 02 6583 2150
E countrylabor@tsn.cc
President: Narelle Rich
Secretary: Jeff Condron



20 December 2011

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box Q290
QVB PO NSW 1230

Dear Sir

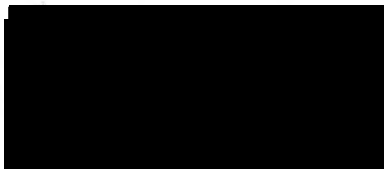
Re: Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Proposed Rates Increase

Please find attached a copy of a completed survey regarding the proposed rates increase by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, submitted by the Port Macquarie Branch of Country Labor.

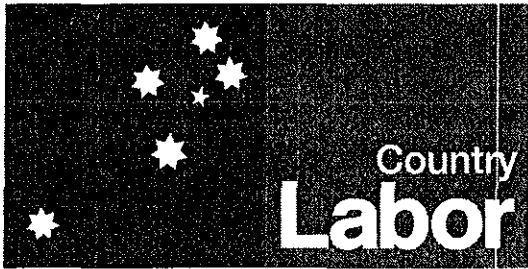
You will note from the enclosed copy of our covering letter to Council that we have proposed to Council that any further increase should be left for the decision of the newly elected Council as from September 2012.

As you would be aware, Council has been in administration since the last four years and will be until following the 8 September 2012 Election.

Yours faithfully



Jeffrey J Condron
Branch Secretary



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The General Manager
Port Macquarie – Hastings Council
Burrawan Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

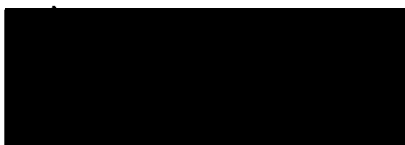
Dear Sir

Re: Survey – Have Your Say, How Will Council Fund Future Services

At a recent meeting of Port Macquarie Branch of Country Labor, it was resolved to lodge a submission to Council on behalf of the Branch in relation to the proposed rates increase by Council.

Please find enclosed the completed survey form. You will note that the Branch supports option 1. It is our view that the decision on future increases should be left to the Council which will be elected in September 2012.

Yours faithfully



Jeffrey J Condron
Branch Secretary

HOW WILL COUNCIL FUND FUTURE SERVICES?

OUR RATES IN ACTION
CLIFTON DRIVE
Asphalt
Resealing Works
\$400,000

have **YOURSAY**

SURVEY

Have your say on a rate increase for Port Macquarie-Hastings

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council faces significant financial pressures on its future budgets.

Council's general rate fund could be reduced by almost \$2.5 million in July 2012 as a result of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) only granting a rate rise guaranteed for the current financial year.

Council is considering a new application to IPART in order to secure long term rate funding that would deliver the infrastructure and particularly roadworks that the community has identified as priorities.

To make any application to IPART it is vital that Council knows what the community thinks of the financial plan and the proposed options for a rate rise.

Council has developed rating options in response to the financial situation and taking into account the community engagement carried out over 2010/11.

Options Snapshot:

- Reduce rates to base level and cut \$2.5 million in services.
- Secure funding – permanently apply the 7.3% rate increase that is in place this financial year, minimum change to residential rates from current charges.
- Additional rate rise for five year dedicated road funding program:

Option 1 – approximately \$50 a year increase to rates to generate \$1.68 million for road maintenance and transport works.

Option 2 – approximately \$75 a year increase to rates to generate \$2.52 million for road maintenance, transport works including parking strategy.

Option 3 – approximately \$100 a year increase to rates to generate \$3.37 million for road maintenance, transport, parking and road construction works.

Find out more:

- Download the Future Services brochure,
- Read the Fact Sheets that further explain the Rate Options, Services at Risk and Previous Consultation, or
- Join the Community Reference Group to participate in a workshop.

Tell us which option you support:

- Complete the survey to lodge your opinion on the options and go in the draw to win an iPad.

Important Additional Information:

- Future Services brochure
- Fact Sheet - Services at Risk
- Fact Sheet – Rate Options
- Fact Sheet – Previous Consultation

COMPLETE THIS SURVEY ONLINE AT:

www.pmhclisting.com.au/futureservices



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS

SURVEY

Information collected in this survey is confidential and will not be used or shared by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for any other purpose other than this consultation exercise.

Tell us your preferred rating option by completing this quick survey:

1. What is your postcode? 2 4 4 4
2. Which answer best describes where you live?
Our Organisation represents all the LGIT
 Urban (Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Camden Haven)
 Rural (Comboyne, Kew, Beechwood etc)
3. What is your age?
 Under 18
 19 - 25
 26 - 35
 36 - 45
 46 - 55
 56 - 65
 Over 65
Most Members Ages are from 36 years to over 65 years
4. What is your gender?
 Female
 Male
Members of Both Genders are Members of the Port Macquarie Branch Country Labor.
5. Are you a:
 Tenant / renter
 Business owner
 Property owner / ratepayer
6. Which best describes your work status?
 Student
 Full time
 Part time
 Retired
 Other

7. In the last two financial years Council has had a 7.3% rate rise in place to fund major road maintenance projects. Some of the projects that have been completed include:

- a) Ocean Drive resealing
- b) Hastings River Drive resealing
- c) Additional maintenance grading crew
- d) Clifton Drive resealing
- e) High traffic intersections resurfaced

Were you aware of these major road projects?

- Yes
- No

8. Have these projects had any impact on you?

- Yes
 - Positive
 - Negative
- No, as I don't use these roads

9. The services that Council provides are directly related to the amount of funding available. Which of the statements below meet your expectations for the services that Council could provide next financial year and into the future?

- I would pay the same level of rates as previous two years and want Council to continue to dedicate funds to road maintenance. (Go to Q 11)
- I would pay more rates compared to the previous two years so that Council can invest in more road maintenance and new transport works. (Go to Q 10)
- I want to pay less in rates and understand that this means road maintenance and other Council services will have to be reduced. (Go to Q 11)

10. In order to achieve more than road maintenance Council is considering a five year financial plan that would involve borrowing money and increasing rates to generate funds specifically for road infrastructure. Considering the impact on your rates and the impact on services, which of the three options do you prefer?

NOTE: All of these options include maintaining the 7.3% increase currently in place for 2011/12 plus the standard 3% rate pegged increase.

- Option 1** – approximately \$50 a year increase to rates to generate \$1.68 million for ongoing road maintenance and transport works.
- Option 2** – approximately \$75 a year increase to rates to generate \$2.52 million for ongoing road maintenance, plus bridges, parking and road construction works.
- Option 3** – approximately \$100 a year increase to rates to generate \$3.37 million for ongoing road maintenance, bridges, parking and road construction works.



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS

11. What other information have you reviewed about Council services and the rates options?
(You can select more than one answer)

- Future Services brochure
- Fact Sheet - Services at Risk
- Fact Sheet – Rate Increase Options
- Frequently Asked Questions
- News items
- None of the above

12. If you want to go in the draw to win one of three iPads please complete the details below

Australian Labor Party
Port Macquarie Branch
P.O. Box 503

Name: Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Contact Number: 65 84 5988

Email: COUNTRYLABOR@TSN.CC

THANK YOU

Thank you for your feedback. Further discussion forum questions are available online at www.pmhclisting.com.au/futureservices

You can complete this survey online at www.pmhclisting.com.au/futureservices until Friday, 23rd December 2011.

Completed paper copy surveys should be returned to:

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
REPLY PAID 84 (No stamp required)
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Please return by Friday, 16th December 2011.