

From D.J. HELSON

14th December 2011.

Port Macquarie/Hastings
Burrawan St.
Port Macquarie 2444



NOTE:

SURVEY
Attached

Dear Sir: Re: SURVEY - HAVE YOUR SAY
"How Will Council Fund
Future Services"

I deliver Completed Survey to your offices by hand on Monday 19th December 2011, with some comments thereon in Question 9, as well as noting the apparent discrimination against NON ONLINE Ratepayers, as to date of return, and also noting that Council did not put about this SURVEY CONSULTATION until well into the November part of the 2 Month consultation Timeframe.

Further to the Survey Form itself, I make these comments:

Council needs to prune waste and inefficiencies, prioritise to attend to Council/Ratepayer CORE BUSINESS, Streamline Management and get rid of overlapping duplicated Departments and excess Managerial Staff; prune entertainment and catering costs; require USER PAY principles with regard to Sporting and Tourism events and use of Sporting Fields, Skateparks, "The Glasshouse", in particular, and leave the Chamber of Commerce to fund pure TOURISM events (USER PAYS principle) - such a "Principle as is constantly being applied to the Ratepayers

W. Note: SKATE PARK \$700,000 Capital Cost
ongoing cost \$? - Running/Management
costs and Public Risk Insurance
and Maintenance

"GLASSHOUSE" - Servicing of Interest (and
capital) \$37M still owing
Plus at least \$6M per annum
running costs (and increasing?) / 2

SCULPTURE at Highway Entrance

(The Egg Timer ??)

\$24,000 Cost to Ratepayers

what meaning? what relevance?

what artistic merit?

ongoing maintenance \$? pa

OXLEY Oval (in particular) as well as other Sporting Fields

Cost to Ratepayers of maintenance, preparation and RESTORATION due to purely TOURISM events:

BONDS Required - USER PAY principle!!

What IS Council's CORE BUSINESS?

Just Catering to TOURISM? To Chamber of Commerce OR to Ratepayers standard CORE Services.

As to the FORCIBLE FLUORIDATION of our Drinking Water Supply:

Why is Council picking up the TAB in bearing of considerable Capital costs, as well as probably \$1M per annum in running costs to forcibly deliver to ratepayers in a measure which can only be seen to be a "HEALTH" measure (or so THEY say) - to which should rightfully be at the cost of the State and/or Federal Health Departments, and DESPITE the same Ratepayers so forced notwithstanding the 71% who voted AGAINST having the POISON Sodium Silicofluoride put into their drinking water.

Further. Re the OCEAN DRIVE Resealing:

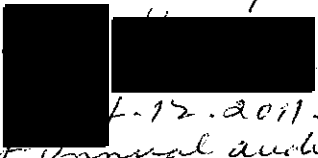
(funded by part of the 7.3% increased Rates last year)

This would seem to have been carried out at an early unnecessary timeframe, once again to cater to TOURISM, i.e. the TRIATHLON. Once again "USER Should PAY"

This is a Socioeconomically disadvantaged area.
A third of the population is Aged.

Scant regard seems to be had to their needs
after gathering in the funds from their rates!!
Their needs are; good roads, footpaths
and affordable accessible parking & day-to-
day CORE needs, not TOURISM Agendas
etc and ^{the} wasteful spending associated with
that. Get Back to Basics please.

(Sgd)



4.12.2011.

P.S
NOTE

I call for an independent annual audit and publishing
of Councils' finances and a report on the appropriateness
and efficiency of Councils' activities.

Copy to:

- ① Hon. Don Page NSW Minister for Local Government.
- ② Leslie Williams M.P. Member for Port Macquarie
- ③ IPART (Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal)

HOW WILL COUNCIL FUND FUTURE SERVICES?



have **YOURSAY**

*See accompanying
letter*

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?

- 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

4. What is your gender?

- Female
 Male

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 *SOME*
- 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)

see affected sheets

Why? Not Necessarily. Prune waste and excess inefficient and duplicated work/jobs and Management. Attend to Council CORE BUSINESS. Leave Tourism to Chamber of Commerce. Apply "USER PAY" principles to them as applicable all the time to us. Rate payers

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 *- a lot asked in Media - Newspapers (P.M., News etc)*
- News items *Letters to Editor etc.*
- None of the above

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

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email: _____

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

*Discrimination against
NON ONLINE RATEPAYERS*

Please return by Friday, 16th December 2011.

Not stated as "closing Date" - Meeting November not available due to Council not starting process of information & "consultation"