

From: [REDACTED] Lyn Gunter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2017 4:51 PM
[REDACTED]
Subject: Rate Capping Committee

Dear Customer Services Officer,

Last year I placed a submission on Rate Capping in Murrindindi shire and requested to speak to the Committee.

I contacted your office late last year as I hadn't been advised of when I would have the opportunity to speak to the committee.

The officer said that they had finished hearing for the year and they would check my submission and let the committee know. I am following up as to when the Committee may wish to hear from me.

Further to this item I ask that you provide the following information to the Committee.

In the December 2016 issue of our Local Paper I read with dismay that the Essential Services Committee had rebuffed comments from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and was appalled to read they said that Murrindindi council had undertaken community consultation.

I must provide the facts as I know them to clarify this comment by the ESC as I would hope the committee would not be misled by such statements.

The consultation the ESC spoke of that was provided by Murrindindi council was taken from the Infrastructure Renewal Strategy which had been undertaken a number of months previously and had nothing whatsoever to do with the then current variation of Rate Capping. IT WAS NOT the extensive community consultation required and outlined in the information booklet provided to councils.

I undertook a Petition mid-February to gain a view of community thoughts and had nearly 500 signatures against a rate increase above CPI which I presented at a Murrindindi council meeting in March prior to the dead line for submissions to the ESC. I spoke to the council about their lack of consultation and I also received an email from the then Mayor confirming that **no consultation** on this matter had taken place.

Prior to the ESC making a decision on this matter I presented the Petition with over 1000 signatures to the ESC along with information taken directly from councils Budgets and Rate decisions and the email from the Mayor. In the Budget of 2015/16 council had increased the General Rate by 9.9% but had told the community it was 6%. Yes it was 6% for the Residential Rates but the Local Government Act is very clear that the Rate percentage is the overall General Rate not individual Rated sectors.

It is my belief the council misinformed the ESC and that the ESC even though they were provided with contrary information did not take into account **ANY** of the facts provided to them prior to their decision to allow a rate increase above CPI, (I do acknowledge that the variation was lower than that requested by council).

Upon raising this matter with the ESC, after the increase was given, I was amazed to find out belief that the ESC was not allowed to take into account public information/documents when making a decision on this matter.

I would be more than pleased to speak to the Committee on this item at their convenience.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Gunter

[REDACTED]