



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into Local Government funding and services

Hearing Date: 19 September 2024

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Indigo Community Voice

Received Date: 14 October 2024

1. **Gaelle BROAD, Page 42**

Question asked:

Gaelle BROAD: We did hear from farmers when we were down at Traralgon, and they talked about paying \$75,000 in rates. They are actually paying more in rates than they are taking home.

Herb ELLERBOCK: I have seen those examples, and I am aware of some of those examples in Indigo shire as well.

Gaelle BROAD: Okay. Can you express what you have heard?

Herb ELLERBOCK: I should have come with some case studies with me, but those numbers are in the calculations that I have done. I have basically driven it off the average rate increase and then extrapolated that to a property that is worth 20 times the average value and then extrapolated that into a rate increase. I have come up with those sorts of numbers.

Gaelle BROAD: You can take it on notice too, so if there are any examples that you hear from people –

Herb ELLERBOCK: I can certainly supply some examples

Response: To provide the best possible answer, I asked Indigo Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer for the highest 2024/25 property values in the five property categories. But he could not provide that information. So, I have calculated reasonable approximations for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 by applying the rate of Average Property Value increases to the 2021/22 property values.

Annex A shows the rate increases for those properties. In the most extreme cases, rate increased by 6.6 times the Rate Cap for Rural 1 Properties in 2023/24 and by 5.9 times the Rate Cap for Commercial-Industrial properties in 2024/25.

2. **Bev McARTHUR, Page 48**

Question asked:

Bev McARTHUR: Christine, would you be able to provide us a list of all those new positions that you find egregious in the Indigo shire, on notice?

Christine STEWART: Yes.

Bev McARTHUR: Very good. Thank you.

Response: We now find that we cannot provide such a list.

Indigo Shire Council employs some 200 personnel, so we asked the CEO for a full list of employee positions.

He provided the organisational chart attached, stating that it is “thee most detailed version available for public distribution.”