

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATE CAPPING FRAMEWORK REVIEW

SUGGESTIONS

1. *Making sure council ratepayers get good value for their money.*
2. *Giving communities more power in planning local development.*
3. *Giving communities more power over what happens in their neighbourhood*
4. *Planning reforms put power back in the hands of local residents.*
5. ***Infrastructure to be the sole responsibility of the Federal/State Governments.(NOT THE COUNCILS)***
6. ***Councils to cater to the community solely for essential services. 3 R'S (RUBBISH, ROADS & RATES CHARGES) ONLY FOR THESE ESSENTIAL SERVICES.***
7. *Rate notices with a breakdown of costs to be signed by an authorized council officer.*
8. *Commercial Confidentiality to be removed for councils for illegal misuse of ratepayers money. So that they do not hide under the guise of Commercial Confidentiality when ratepayers start asking questions & are banned under the code of council as **UNREASONABLE COMPLAINANT CONDUCT SUPPOSEDLY CAUSING HEALTH ISSUES TO COUNCIL STAFF.** (We need complete transparency of expenditure, fees charged on permits etc, fines & fixed contributions to the Developments Contributions Plans which in 2012 was upwards of \$161,000 per hectare by councils & the developers contribution towards the provision & construction of local parks) We seek the office of the Victorian Auditor General to verify/audit these issues.*

All in all council rates are abominable in the eyes of every ratepayer, be they pensioners, low-income workers or large families with huge home loans. Councils are like leeches, they do not serve the community for which they were elected , but just want to suck us dry immaterial of the hardship of ratepayers, which includes the high cost of gas, water & electricity.

These are our 8 main suggestions/policies which are crucial to the ratepayer who seems to have no rights whatsoever & therefore must be considered & tabled in Parliament.

Capping of rates will in no way be helpful to the ratepayers as the present rates have sky-rocketed in 10-12 years to more than 300%. Unless rates become tax deductible. (AN ARTICLE POSTED ON OCTOBER 22.2012 BY CHRIS SEIVERS) Which states: Commissioner issues ATO ID on whether council rates are an "Australian Tax" for the purposes of Division 81 of the GST Act. (We therefore seek further clarification on this subject)

Your faithfully.

On behalf of the Residents & Ratepayers of the City of Casey.

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