

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Submission to Rating Review (East Gippsland Shire Council)**

Currently a Shire when budgeting creates its wish list and then sets rates accordingly to achieve the outcome that they want. No business in the world has the luxury to operate like this.

The System of using Capital Improved Value as determining rates required must be stopped, otherwise farmers and other primary production businesses will be out of business and food imported etc.

Currently councillors in our shire serve no useful purpose and are at the behest of the Shire CEO and council staff and have become nothing more than a rubber stamp.

Whatever happens, the monolith structure of council staff must be stopped. There is no equity in the amount of rated paid and the services received. The lowest ratepayer receives the same benefits as the highest ratepayer.

A grant system of funding has been suggested which could be funded by GST on income tax through the Federal Government. Pensioners and retirees could be given dispensation through the Centrelink system. After a brief discussion about this with one of our local councillors the comment was that we will be out of a job – staff included. This surely must help the cost of running a Shire.

A source of income that the Federal Government could adopt would be to copy Norway and buy back the Oil Industry, as they have done, and become one of the wealthiest countries per head of population in the world. (However international politics may not allow this).

Another wrought that must be stopped by the Federal Government is the system that allows companies to have Shelf companies overseas that charge their Australian Companies huge interest and other costs which allows huge taxation losses to Australia.

Although some of these statements may appear radical in our conservative population it seems to me the country would benefit greatly.

To keep a check on expenditure and procedures of a council, independent auditors appointed from interstate should be standard procedure and be changed every two years. Hopefully this would make councils more accountable.

Government waste is extreme, a classic example being the grants made to investigate the Gippsland Lakes System – the result being nothing done over many years to fix the salt problem.

Yours Sincerely

