

To: localgovernment@esc.vic.gov.au
From: Mary-Ann Sargent
Date: 25/08/2015 07:40:04 PM
Subject: Proposed rate capping in Victoria.

Dear Sir/Madam

Unfortunately I was unaware of the meeting in Wangaratta last week and would have attended had I known it was on.

I feel very strongly about the proposed rate capping by the Victorian Government, it needs to be investigated more thoroughly as it is going to be a disaster for our small city and many others across the state, take note of what has occurred in NSW and the huge ramifications it poses, it is flawed thinking!!

Below are just of couple of things which I have identified, there are more and I hope that this does not fall on deaf ears.

1. rate capping is of great concern as it will mean a total change in the way councils deliver services, often they will be forced to use contractors, who on the face of it, will appear to provide council services more cheaply, but once they have won the contract, but will employ people at lower rates and with lower grade services.

2. Rate payers in general think that they will be saving money by having lower rate rises, they are failing to look at the big picture, as it will mean reduced revenue to carry out all the services they take for granted, like libraries, art galleries and information centres, these will all be peeled back and this is only the start of it, council workers will be forced out of secure jobs to save money, but services will suffer like home care and health and maternal centres and child care centres also, not to mention huge cuts to roads, bridges and general infrastructure.

I would be pleased to hear your response.

Kind Regards

Mary-Ann Sargent