

 ENTERED



13 May 2015

Local Government Rates Capping and Variation Framework Review  
Essential Services Commission  
Level 37, 2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Mr Ben-David,

This is a submission in response to the advertisement, 'Essential Services Commission Act 2001 NOTICE OF INQUIRY Local Government Rates Capping Framework' in the March 11, 2015 edition of the Herald Sun, and the, 'Consultation Paper April 2015'.

### **The attitude of Bass Coast Shire Council**

Enclosed please find an extract from the agenda paper for the Special Meeting of Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) on Wednesday 11 March 2015, being item B.2, for the "Bass Coast Rating Strategy Discussion Paper".

Also enclosed please find a BCSC flyer, "Rating Strategy" obtained on 11 March.

Further, enclosed please find a printed version of the "Bass Coast Rating Strategy Discussion Paper" mentioned in the agenda and minutes of the 11 March meeting, obtained at a BCSC 'consultation session' on Thursday 26 March 2015.

In addition, the enclosed "Rating Strategy Feedback Form" was obtained at the 'consultation session' on 26 March 2015.

The "Bass Coast Shire Rating Strategy April 2015 13 pages" is also enclosed.

Of all the enclosed BCSC material for its 'Rating strategy', the only mention of the government policy to cap municipal rates is on p.13 of the document, "Bass Coast Rating Strategy Discussion Paper" and p. 11 of the document "Bass Coast Shire Rating Strategy April 2015 13 pages".

There is **absolutely no mention whatsoever of the Essential Services Commission** in any of the enclosed BCSC documentation.

Further, there is absolutely no mention whatsoever of the Essential Services Commission in the Minutes of the meetings of BCSC (obtainable from the BCSC website).

For your information enclosed please find a BCSC document, "Long Term Financial Plan".

I draw your attention to the comments on "rate capping", and in particular the use of "If" on the first page, in relation to the government policy to cap municipal rates.

The abovementioned documents indicate a poor response by Bass Coast Shire Council to clear government policy, expressed in the 27 February 2015 Media Release, "TOWARDS FAIRER RATES FOR VICTORIANS" (enclosed).

### **BCSC graphs and Council groupings**

You will note that the graphs and tables contained in the abovementioned BCSC documentation have no source.

The BCSC grouping of 'like Councils' is not compatible with the groupings by the Essential Services Commission.

### **Latrobe City Council**

I refer to the enclosed extract from Budget Paper No. 3 'Service Delivery' for the Victorian Budget 15 I16.

I draw your attention to the mention of Latrobe City Council.

For your information the CEO of BCSC is the former CEO of Latrobe City Council; the General Manager Sustainable Development and Growth at BCSC has spent the last nine years at the City of Latrobe; and the General Manager Healthy Communities at BCSC joined the City of Latrobe approximately six years ago.

Yours faithfully,



Maurice Schinkel

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