

8/11/2013

To whom it may concern.

Colac Otway Shire rating review

The purpose of this submission is to raise the fact of the unfair burden placed on agriculture through the rating system. Across Colac Otway Shire there are a large number of successful businesses operating from domestic properties or small blocks with low CIV, with rate costs from \$1300 to \$2000, whereas agricultural businesses that require large areas of rateable asset have a rate impost from \$5000 to \$25000. All of the businesses are similar being family businesses with possibly 1 to 4 employees. Clearly there is a disproportionate and inequitable rate burden placed on agricultural businesses despite the use of a 79% rate differential. The year on year percentage rate increases widens the disparity between agriculture and other categories of rateable properties.

It is my belief that the current situation is in breach of the Local Government Act Section 3C(2) 1989 F – To ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments. If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised please contact me on either my home phone number XXXXXXXXX or mobile XXXX XXXXXX.

Yours sincerely,

Alan R. Billing