

Mareeba

SHIRE COUNCIL

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Council Ref: TJG:CL GVT-LIA-FED

Your Ref:

Mr Michael Callaghan
PRRT Review
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600
Email: PRRTReview@treasury.gov.au

Dear Mr Callaghan

SUBMISSION - PETROLEUM RESOURCE RENT TAX (PRRT)

Mareeba Shire Council supports a "Royalties for Regions" type policy to ensure an equitable re-investment of PRRT in regional, rural and remote Australian communities. Mareeba Shire, as with many regional communities are held back by critical infrastructure needs, as evidenced by the results of the Northern Australia Audit (Infrastructure Australia, 2015). There are significant opportunities on the horizon for the Shire's agricultural, tourism and mining industries, in large part driven by Chinese markets. However, without financial investment in critical infrastructure to unlock these opportunities Mareeba Shire will be held back from economic growth and in turn its livability suffers.

Mareeba Shire strategically borders all major inland and coastal far northern locations, with the exception of the Cassowary Coast. It borders the region's major centre Cairns, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York Peninsula and Atherton Tablelands. As an inland location close to a regional centre it has suitable land for future development without limiting environmental and coastal constraints.

Due to these geographic advantages Mareeba is at the centre of major routes that connect these regions to markets along the eastern seaboard of Australia through to Melbourne and Adelaide. Consequently, Mareeba is developing as a regional logistics and services hub, particularly for the agricultural sector and its suppliers. National companies such as Elders, Landmark, Visy and Lindsays have expanded their operations to far north Queensland, choosing to be based in Mareeba. Others are diversifying their operations into value added processing e.g. MSF Sugar bio-fuel. Other recent developments include solar, plastic recycling and tourism accommodation.

While Mareeba Shire Council is limited in its capacity to support the development of critical infrastructure due to its low rates base Council has identified critical infrastructure needs within the Shire and also strategic infrastructure needs in Far North Queensland that could be supported by the PRRT.

Critical Infrastructure Needs

Roads: Upgrades to major routes to improve current freight connectivity for existing industries, agriculture and mining, and to enable future development i.e. Ootann and Burke Development Roads and Mareeba Western Bypass.

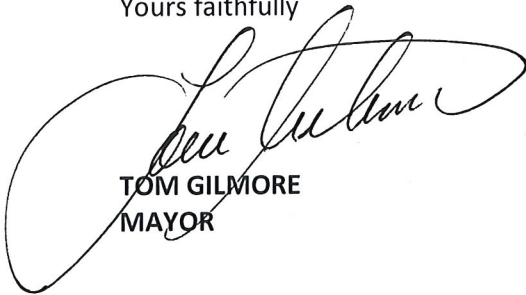
Water: Development of future supply to enable future agricultural and industrial development including value-added manufacturing e.g. food processing and packaging.

Waste management: Development of sewerage and waste recycling infrastructure to support population growth and industrial development.

Health and education: Planning and development of facilities to cater for future growth needs.

While the Mareeba Shire has competitive advantages and a diverse economy public infrastructure investment would position the shire to take advantage of emerging long-term opportunities. A "Royalties for Regions" type policy would be a key enabler for the Mareeba Shire community to grow and prosper and ensure the long term sustainability of the shire.

Yours faithfully



TOM GILMORE
MAYOR