

# MEETING 6<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST

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HANDS OFF OUR RATES



# MISSION

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Our Mission is to

- Achieve a balanced budget by controlling council's spending
- Reduce the massive council debt position
- Cap rate / fees / charges to CPI

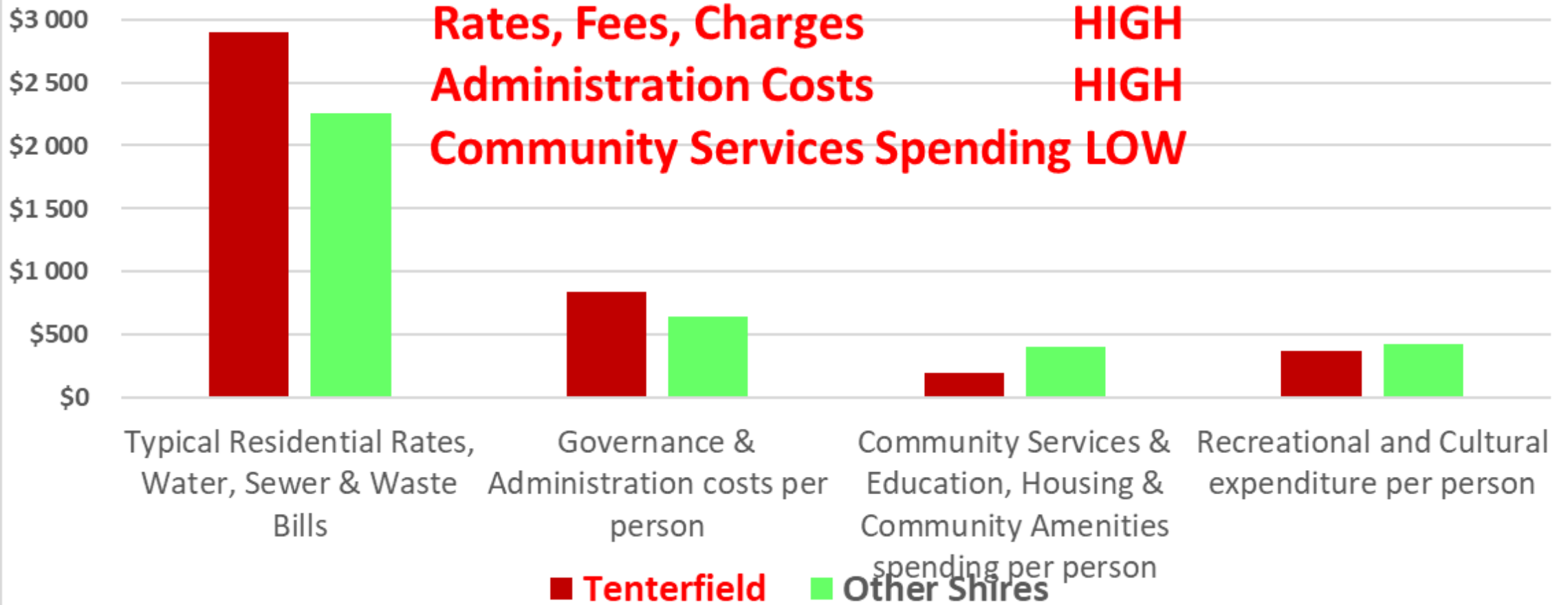
In order to assure the Tenterfield Shire remains an area that residents can afford to live in and get value for their money they give to the council.

# HOW DO WE DO THAT

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- Undertake initiatives and Speak Up
  - Examine the business papers put out before each council meeting
  - Identify and red flag items – inform the members
  - Organise short term actions (peaceful protest)
- Find breaches in the TSC conduct (LG Act) and raise them with the Authorities
- Ensure Councillors and Council Staff are accountable – reveal undue actions
- Initiate corrective actions – reverse wrong decisions

# ADMINISTRATION HEAVY



# HOW MANY COUNCIL STAFF ARE NEEDED?

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**2018 – 81 staff**

1 staff member for every 82 residents



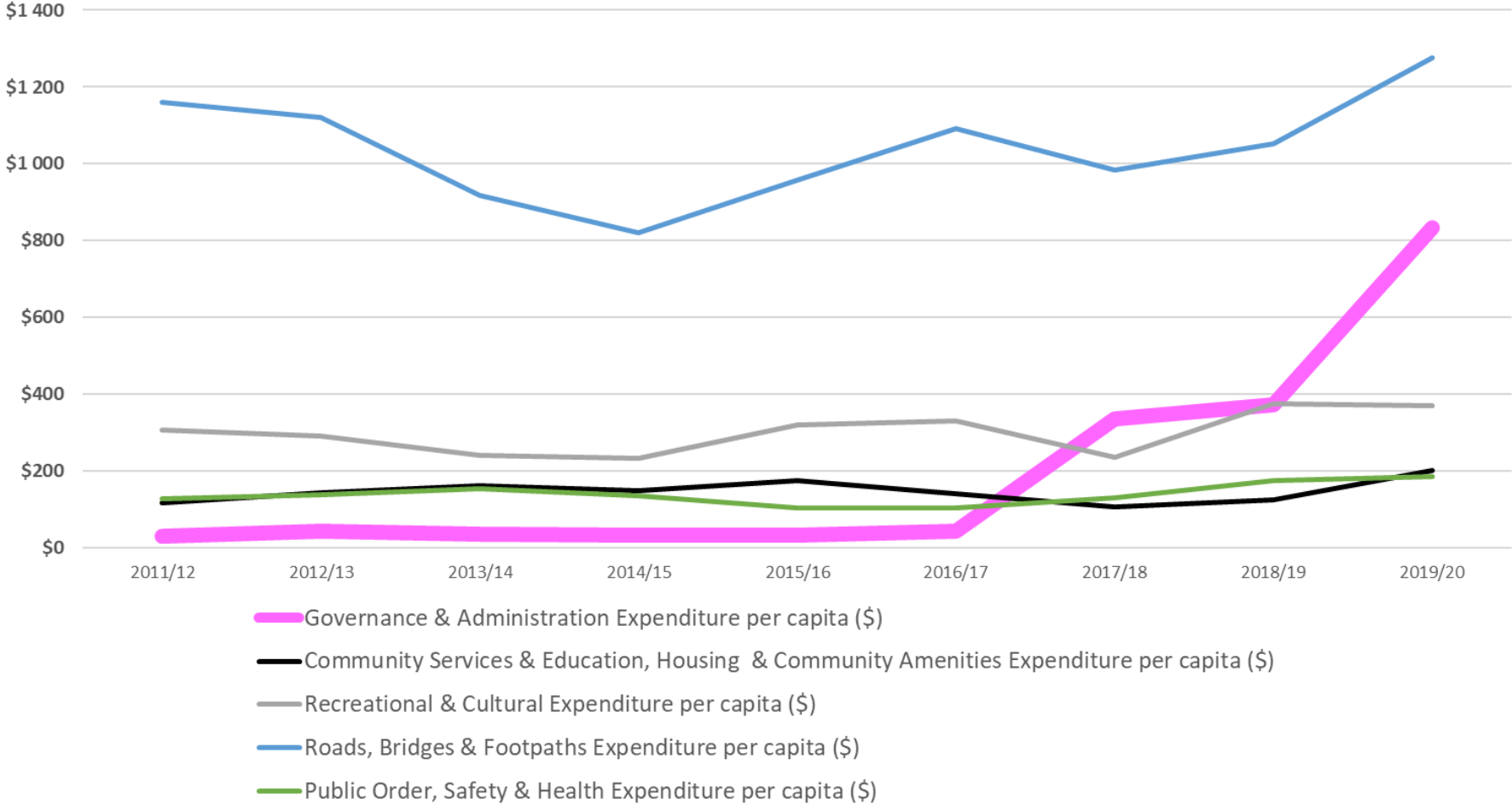
**2021 – 115 staff**

1 staff member for every 59 residents



# ADMINISTRATION "BLOAT"

**Tenterfield Shire Council Expenditure per Person 2011 to 2020**  
**During this period, real wages rose by 0.1% per annum -**  
***so why did 'Administration' bloat by 148% from 2017 to 2020?***



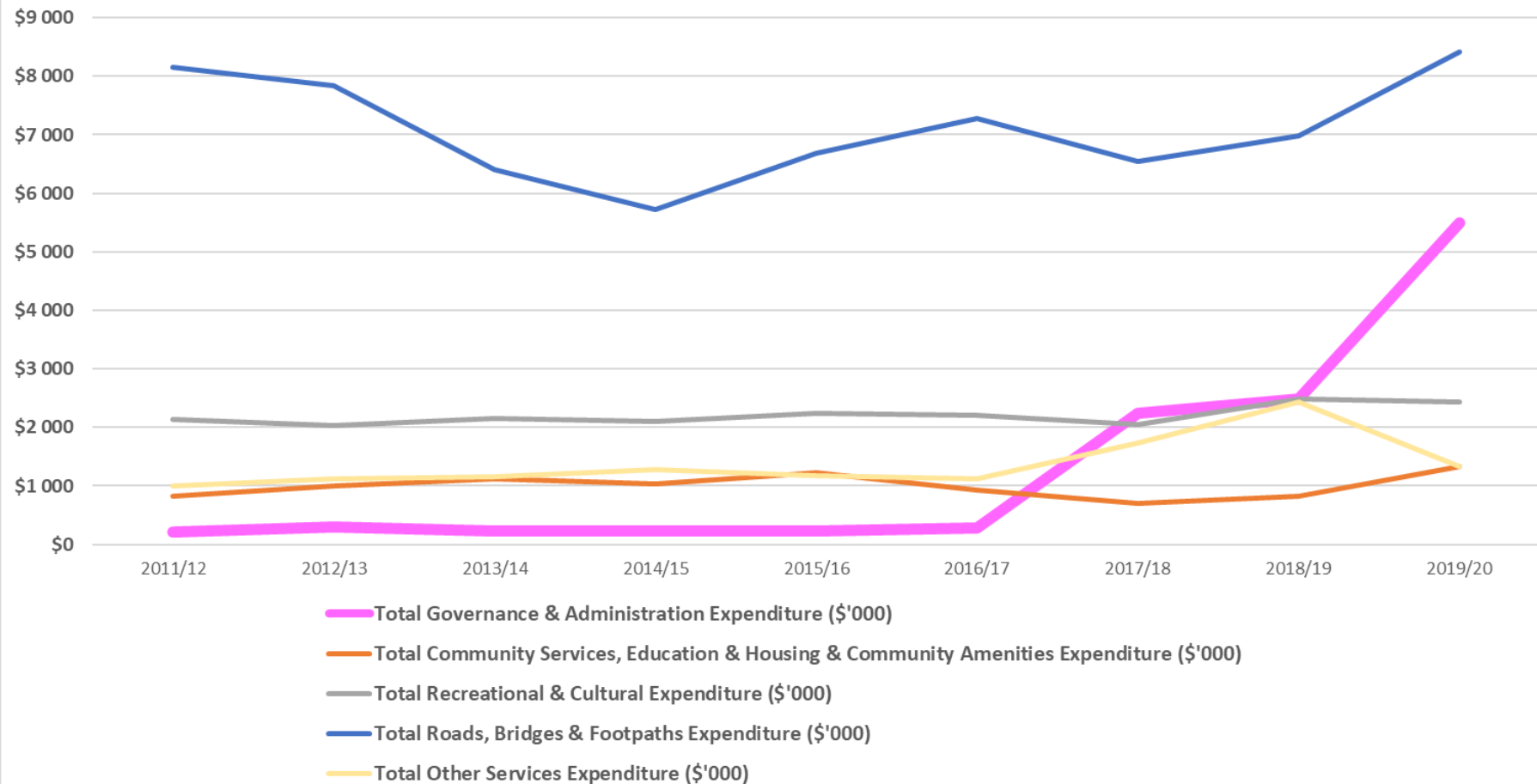
# WHY?

## Tenterfield Shire Council Expenditure 2011 to 2020

**2017 - Administration was 1/3 of Roads spending**

**2020 - Administration was 2/3 of Roads spending**

**Why spend \$5.5M to 'administer' us and only \$8.4M on roads?**



# WASTE? – WELCOME TO TENTERFIELD

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New sign on a dead end road...

*Net benefit to the community: \$0*

*Net cost to the community: ???*

How many of these are there?

And why wasn't the time and money put into fixing the road?





# FIX THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM

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Council says:

**We have “only four options available to resolve the operating deficits:**

- 1. Reducing service levels,**
- 2. Sell and/or dispose of assets that will reduce the associated on-going expenses,**
- 3. Increase income raised through rates, user fees and charges,**
- 4. A combination of the above options.”**

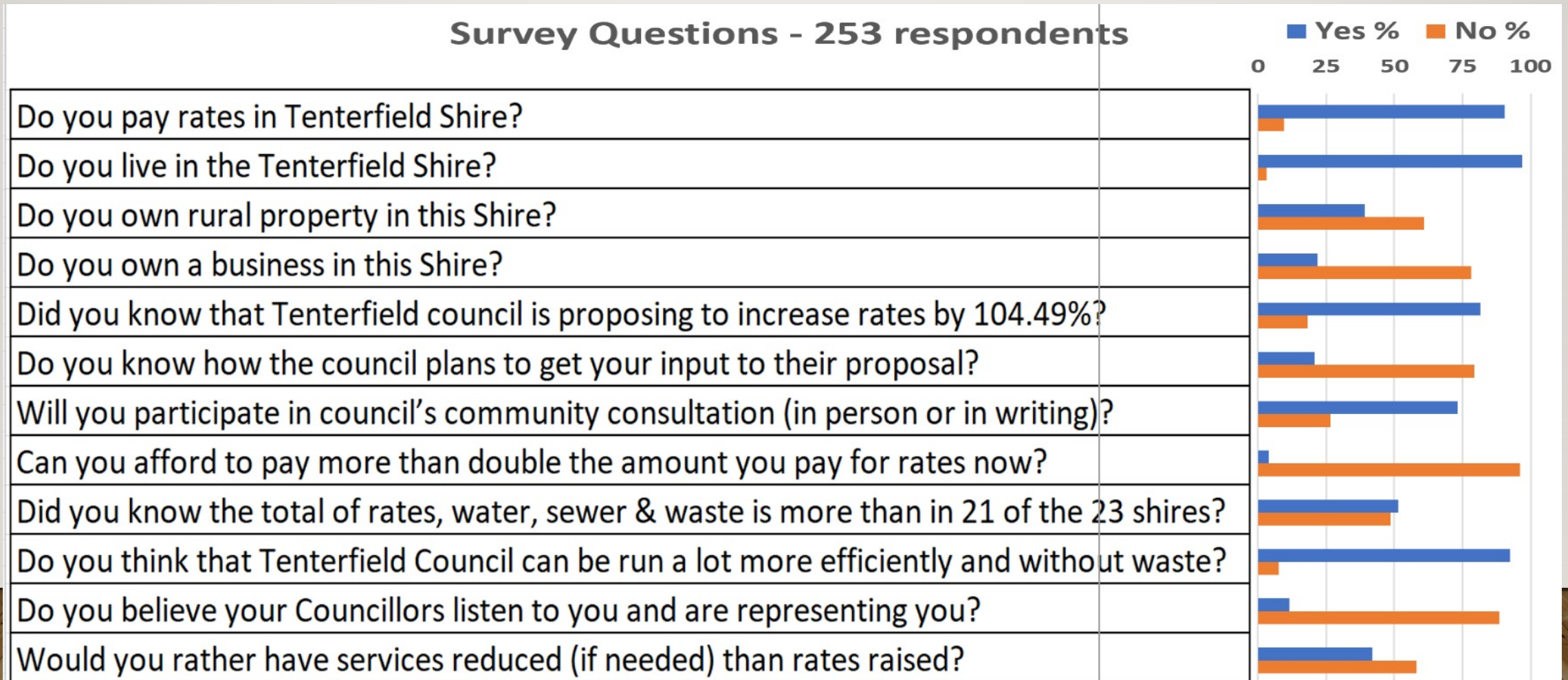
This is low-level, blinkered thinking – looking for an easy way out – and not worthy of a \$300,000 CEO. The operating deficits are a *Symptom* – not the *Problem*

What about:

- 1. Increasing income by other means**
- 2. Cutting expenses by reducing waste and becoming more efficient**
- 3. Reducing activities to Council core function**
- 4. Eliminating non-value-adding roles and excess managerial levels in Council Administration.**

# WHAT RATEPAYERS THINK

- 96% say they cannot afford to pay more than double the rates they pay now
- 92% think the council can be run a lot more efficiently with less waste
- 88% do not believe their councillors listen to or represent them.



# ACTION PLAN TO ENGAGE

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- Participate in the “consultation” and ask the council to reduce the administration spending by 50%

Sign up to OSOCI – [www.osoci.org](http://www.osoci.org)

- Become involved and actively work on CHANGE
- Next Council Election – prepare yourself as a Councillor
- Participate in the Economic Development