

APPENDIX E

To the Office of Local Government,

I write to you today about the proposal for Kempsey cinema, from the perspective of a teenager. I am a young teenager part of many throughout Kempsey that would love to see Kempsey have a cinema as there are many benefits that I believe override the negatives.

The Kempsey Cinema would advantage local businesses and residents, especially teenagers. All young people I know that travel to Port Macquarie or Nambucca Heads to watch a movie also eat and shop and spend most of the day there, therefore supporting out of town businesses. When you go to the movie's you don't just see a movie, you also might have lunch at a local café and browse the streets. I see this as a huge loss for the Kempsey community as people are putting their money into different towns instead of our town. If there was to be a cinema in Kempsey, I believe it would help and support local businesses.

Young people enjoy the experience of the movies as it is very social and a chance for them to develop friends. In Kempsey we have great sporting facilities but for the un-sporty kids the cinema would advantage them in having something to do. It would also employ teenagers seeking work therefore benefiting us again.

I have been a strong and supportive resident throughout the cinema debate. I attended the extraordinary meeting on Tuesday the 27th of June and followed the debate. I understood the debate and believe that there would be a greater financial risk not to do it than to do it.

In closing I ask for a positive outcome for the Kempsey community and young teenagers in the valley. There are many benefits that definitely out-way the negatives. I believe the money is a great investment for the whole community. Please consider the younger generation when making a final decision.

Yours sincerely,
Georgia Hollis
Melville High Student

[REDACTED]

From: John Bowell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 July 2017 9:55 AM
To: Kempsey Shire Council
Subject: PROPOSED CINEMA.

The Acting General Manager,
Dear Sir,

I continue to object to the proposals of Council in respect to,
a) the provision of an interest free loan, from Reserves which will mean an annual loss of \$50,000 in interest,
b) the waiving of Development Application Fees, of in excess of \$500,000,
c) the annual payment of Management Fees.

I do not consider there has been adequate community consultation, particularly in view of the report of the Independent Consultant, coupled with the future financial risks.

I do not consider Council has taken into account adequately the overall situation in so far as the population of the Macleay is concerned due the socio-economic status of the area, and when considering proposed increases in rates and other charges as well as the substantial increase in electricity charges.

John Bowell OAM.
South Kempsey.
11 July 2017.

[REDACTED]

From: John Cruickshanks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 9 July 2017 4:20 PM
To: Kempsey Shire Council
Subject: KEMPSEY THEATRE PROJECT
Attachments: Cinema on demand.pdf

To the General Manager,

With worries about the ongoing burden on ratepayers of the proposed movie theatre project in Kempsey with regard to getting any return or repayment of the loan, I would like to submit the following for council's consideration.

Regards,
John Cruickshanks.

Submission to Kempsey Shire Council re Movie Theatre Loan(Grant)

May I express my concern and opposition to Council's intention to extend a \$2 (or \$4) Million dollar interest-free loan towards the establishment of a movie theatre in Kempsey.

As I understand it, the loan may (or may not) be repaid over 10 years, depending on profitability of the enterprise. It is a great incentive to Gowing Bros for the building and Majestic Cinemas to locate in Kempsey, but potentially a massive debt burden to shire ratepayers for an enterprise which seems to have nothing to do with council's core business.

Council's extensive refurbishment of Kempsey CBD seems to have fulfilled ratepayers' commitment to the business area, surely it is now up to business to take full advantage of the area without further commitment by ratepayers to prop up business.

Council's consultation with the public has been a number of press releases and a six-minute 2014 phone survey of 406 households, of which 58% participated. At the very least, council should call a public meeting of ratepayers to ascertain their support or otherwise of this scheme over and above other public amenities more in keeping with roads, rates and rubbish.

While most ratepayers would agree a movie theatre in Kempsey is a good thing and spending \$100,00 or \$200,000 of their money could be acceptable — \$2 or \$4 Million in a 'dodgy' loan is a very different proposition.

We live in a time of great change where what is solid one year can be gone the next, so it is important to keep

our major and constant opportunities to the fore, which seem to be, for the Malceay, Agriculture and Tourism.

Whilst we give tourism a great deal of weight (rightly so) it is a frivolous industry — when things get tough people stop travelling and spending on entertainment.

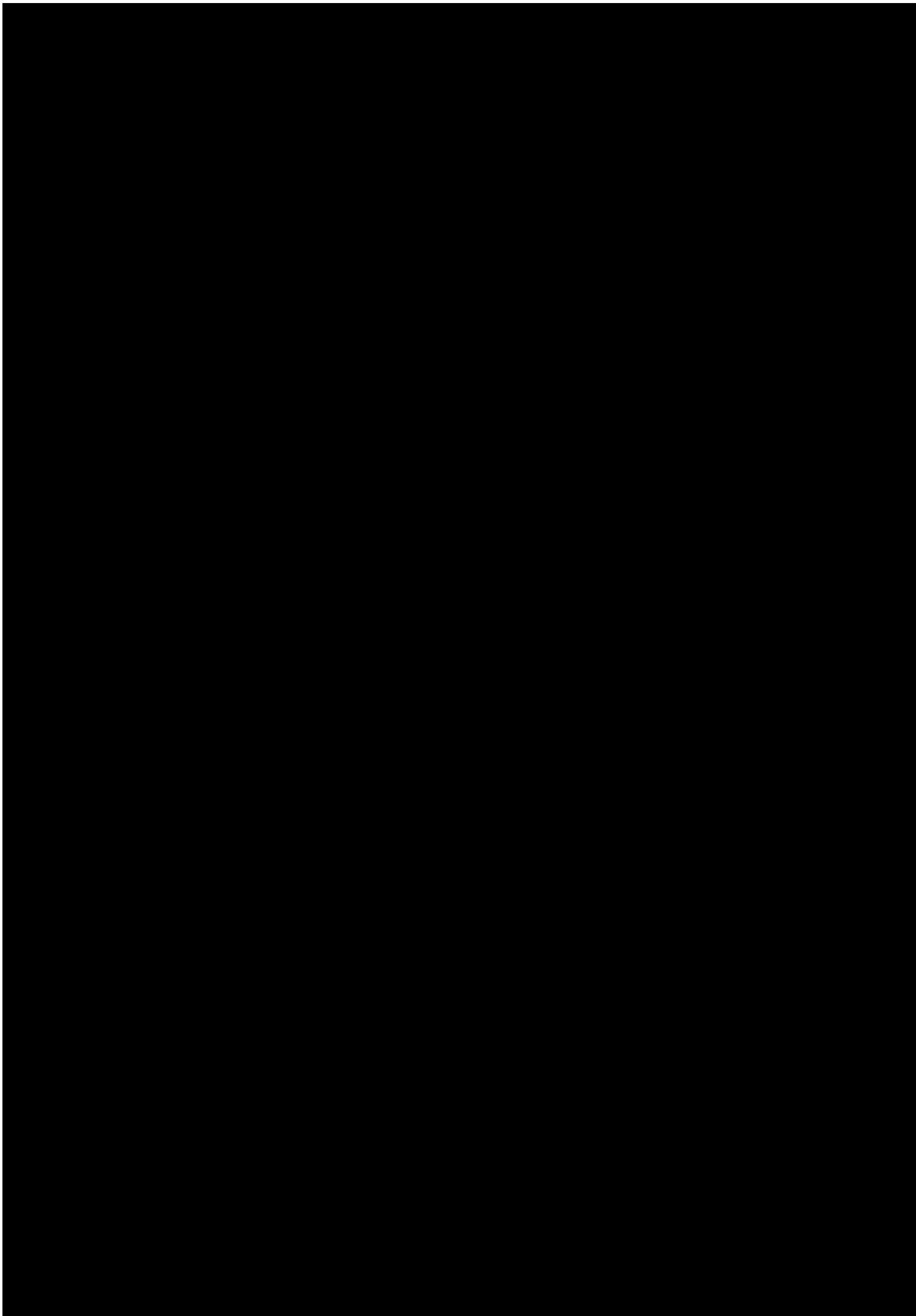
The Macleay is a very beautiful place with many natural attractions to offer, but we seem to have missed the boat when it comes to attracting people to live here. We are a low socio-economic area, which means ratepayers who do live here are under extra financial pressures to meet the necessities of life without the indulgence of possibly wasting several millions of dollars on a scheme which offers somewhat doubtful advantages.

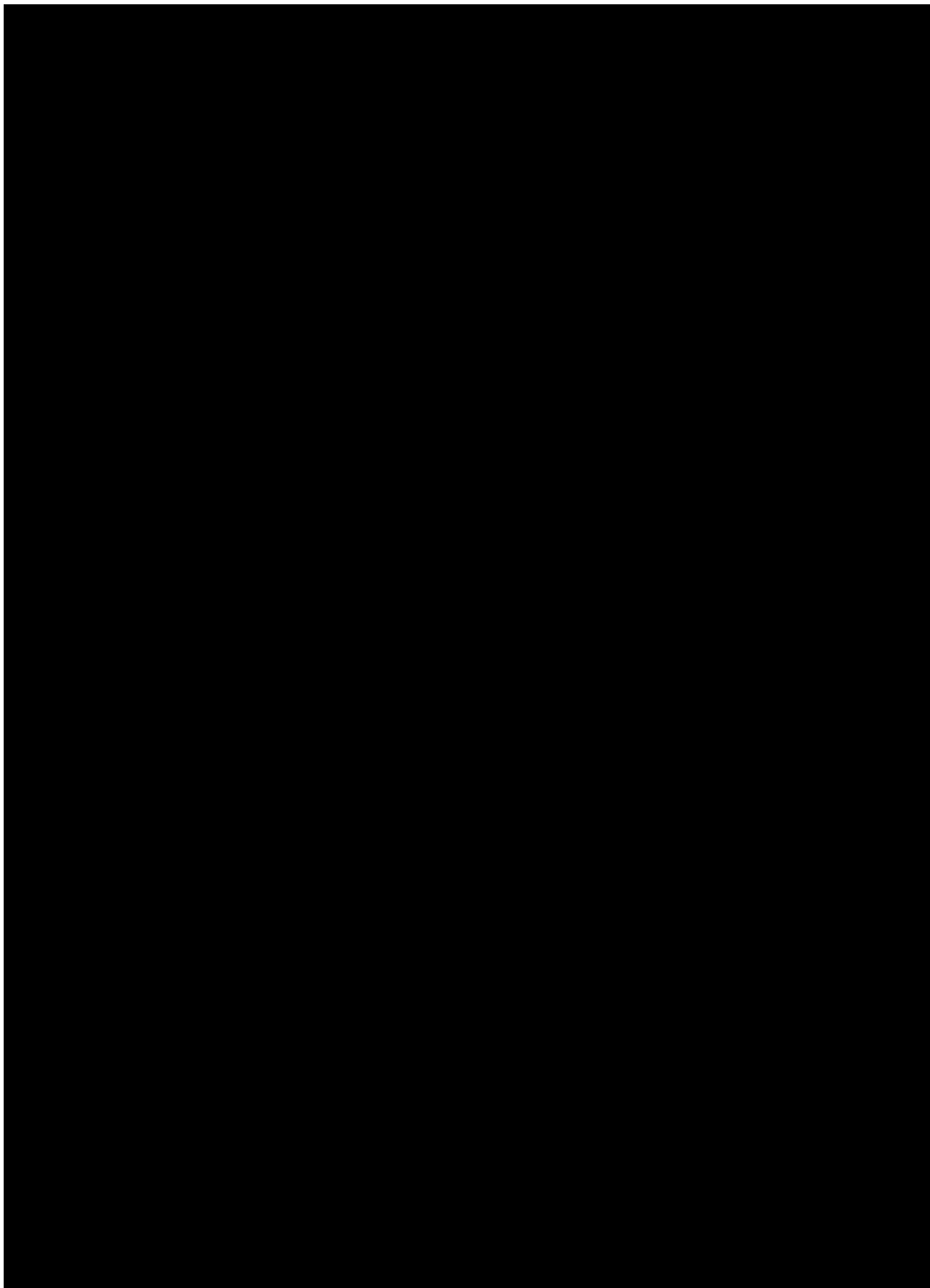
Included below are highlights of my limited research (due mainly to the short timeframe allowed by council) into movie theatres and also a recent interview with the MD of Daimler Benz on future trends, which makes interesting reading.

May I earnestly request council to consult widely and act wisely in the true interests of the people you serve and end by asking one question:

Would you honestly invest any of your own money in a proposal where there is a very good chance of losing everything or not getting any return for many years?

John Cruickshanks,
95 Sea Street, Kempsey





[REDACTED]

From: Lynne Whitmore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 7 July 2017 10:08 PM
To: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Bruce Morris
Subject: Kempsey Shire Council Cinema Project

I would like to express my concern about the Cinema project that Kempsey Shire Council is proposing with Majestic Theatres and Gowings Company in Kempsey on top of the existing Coles building.

Even though it would be a wonderful thing to have a Cinema in Kempsey, in my opinion they are approaching this in a completely impractical way.

Kempsey is a town lacking in lots of infrastructure and business's that provide jobs for growth and young people leave school and have to leave the area for work and further education, so those left in town would not be able to afford to go to movies very often, as they are usually on Centrelink payment.

On good authority the proposed theatre would only employ two or three people at the most with the technology available today. Also with things like Netflix's etc. people can stream movies straight into their homes very cheaply and as Kempsey is a town where wages are very basic, young families would tend to use this type of entertainment because of the cost - going to a theatre would mean children would want popcorn etc. which would be prohibitive.

South West Rocks has the Roxy Theatre that is run in the local School of Arts hall by Andrew Mikardo. It is wonderful and he brings all the latest movies there, and they open the same day as other parts of the country.

The Bandbox Theatre in Kempsey could be run along the same lines as the Roxy, once the equipment there was updated, it would be a more practical approach, as I have been to both Port Macquarie and Nambucca Cinema's and have found that they are sometimes empty as well.

Really hoping that sanity prevails as Kempsey need a lot more things other than something that needs a \$2million dollar loan that will never be paid back.

Regards
Lynne Whitmore