

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Tuesday, 18 March 2014

Submission:

As a resident / rate payer of the Campbelltown City Council area for fifteen years I oppose the proposed 11% rate rise. The reasons for opposition include;

1. During consultation the Council has not been transparent to the community on the proportion of the proposed rate rise revenue which will be allocated to increased operating costs compared to capital projects (infrastructure). They have created the impression that the entirety of the increased revenue (for all subsequent years) will be allocated to infrastructure, which I understand is not Council's intention.
2. The survey methodology used by Council is biased and does not conform to generally accepted survey methods. e.g. The "neutral" telephone survey option is "somewhat important" not "neither important or unimportant".
3. The Council has not engaged an external, independent consulting firm to examine the financial position and current operating costs of Council to determine potential expenditure reductions which may lead to lower revenue requirements. The Mayor of the Council has publically questioned the decision of Council not to undertake an external review. As I understand it the Council has only taken an internal review, which potentially would be compromised by conflicts of interest (maintaining the status quo) and union influence.
4. Over the years I have personally known persons who have been employed at Campbelltown Council and the majority have disclosed that the Council is overstaffed, leading to idle staff and I assume inflated operating costs. The Council is not in existence for the benefit of staff, it exists for the benefit of the community.
5. As a percentage of land values, Campbelltown Council already charges the highest rates in Sydney. Low land values are a reflection of low incomes.