

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Sunday, 23 March 2014

Submission:

I oppose the application for the Special Variation. The size of the increase is unreasonable. In the last 6 years my rates/levies have increased by 35% while rate pegging for that time was just under 17%. Two valuations were the main culprit and there will be two more of these in the next 4 years. The price of housing on the Northern Beaches is skyrocketing and this will result in higher valuations and a windfall to the Council through higher rates. The experience of the last 6 years would suggest that the 26% rise that the Council wants will in reality be 40-50%. I could see nothing in the Council's submission that acknowledged the impact of higher valuations and I think that's dishonest.

I want the Council to live within its means. It is a wealthy LGA with a Council that regularly runs large surpluses (\$12M last year) but the "spending opportunities" seem grow at a faster rate. The increase sought by Warringah Council is completely driven by its spending plans rather than by its financial viability. A lot of the proposed spending is discretionary spending and not critical to the delivery of basic services - for example the upgrades of the Cultural Hub and the Aquatic Centre and the makeover of Dee Why.

I hope that IPART sends a message to the Council that it has considerable (and growing) means and should live within those means.