

Name and address withheld, to avoid recrimination
Available to iPart on request
9 March 2015

Dear iPart -

I write to ask you to reject the submission by BMCC for rate increases at all, and certainly above the above the pegged limit.

The options presented to ratepayers in the "community consultation" were designed to elicit most support for the most expensive option. They were designed in the usual marketing way of:

Option a: So bad, no one would choose it.

Options b and c: What we (BMCC) really want, and make the dumb ratepayer choose between two options they think are different but are really the same. And the council got their desired response: the Armageddon option a was rejected.

"Dear ratepayer – Would you like reduced services and maintenance (by choosing only a rate peg increase) ? No ? Thankyou, goodbye." – Amazing how many people voted for the 40% increase.

This does not represent support in any way for a 40% rate increase, and to present it this way is a fraud. Who in their right mind would choose that ?

None of the options included cancelling non essential spending (eg cancel travel beyond the BMCC/Sydney area).

None of the options included no rate increase. Why not ? That should certainly be an option.

The council has taken the easy way out, come up with a glorified plan assuming little cost constraint, and proposed that as the only viable options, and transferred the cost to ratepayers.

Wages in the private sector have not gone up by the same amount over the past period of BMCC special rate variations that have been approved by iPart. Nor will wages go up by 40% in the next period.

My own income has been static since 2011, and has now had to be reduced to 25% of that, due to mental health carer needs for my spouse - and I am the only income earned in our house of three adults, another of which is disabled.

iPart: Please do your job deliberately and with ruthless precision. Take your sword of authority and rip this proposal to shreds. You are our only defence.

If you had the power to dissolve the council, I would ask for that as well.

I am at a loss for further words.