

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
PO BOX K35
Haymarket Post Shop
NSW 1240

To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to the Shoalhaven City Council's application to IPART for a 26% increase in rates over the next 2 years.

The Shoalhaven City Council have not adequately shown where the increased monies will be spent, other than to advise there will be no new works or projects undertaken with the income the massive rates increase will generate.

The Shoalhaven City Council in the past has expended monies on 'luxury items' such as the purchase and maintenance of The Entertainment Centre, Arts Buildings, and land purchases in the centre of Huskisson etc. Whilst not funding adequately its core business, being maintenance of necessary infrastructure such as roads, footpaths etc. Any rates rise will no doubt cause extra funds to be diverted to the 'luxury must have' projects that are currently being planned by council.

The proposed 26% rate increase over 2 years is unfair and unaffordable to many ratepayers, and will lead to financial hardship, as a large percentage of our ratepayers are pensioners, low income earners and self-funded retirees on fixed incomes.

As ratepayers we realise that a small rate increases are necessary. The Shoalhaven City Council has shown little regard towards its ratepayers and we oppose the massive increase in our rates because it is unaffordable and unclear what the revenue raised will be used for.

Yours faithfully