

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Exorbitant rate increase proposed by Warringah Council
Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2014 11:19:43 AM

General Manager IPART

Dear General Manager

We wish to object to any increase in our local government rates above the 3.1% determined by your Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for the reasons set out in our submission below.

Submission to IPART regarding Warringah Council's Application for a rate increase above 3.1%

1 IPART has set a realistic rate increase which is close to wage increases granted to ordinary workers in the State of New South Wales.

2 Both the State and Federal Parliaments are engaged in policies of fiscal restraint, while Warringah Council wishes to almost double the 3.1% increase allowed by IPART to an extraordinary high level of 6.1%.

3 In a Council brochure titled "Change for the Better" [undated] it is admitted that all rate scenarios given are only estimated rate cap adjustments. There is therefore no certainty as to the accuracy of the figures given by Council for future years

4 Warringah Council claims repeatedly that it is in a sound financial position and this is to be applauded. However, it would be foolish for Warringah Council as a result of a huge rate increase to become involved with over-expenditure on a wide variety of projects, which could change its financial position detrimentally.

5 Warringah Council Mayor Michael Regan makes light of the large increase in rates suggested by Council by stating that improvements can be made "for less than a cup of coffee per week". Apparently the Mayor is unaware that any rate increase affects the family budget of ordinary ratepayers, many of whom could face full-time unemployment because of financial uncertainties. As well as this, self-funded retirees and pensioners have been affected badly by falling deposit interest rates.

6 The two elaborate brochures received by us from Warringah Council, namely "Warringah Matters" and "Change for the Better" [undated] strongly support the large rate increase subjectively. The very use of the word "**decline**" for the rates-only increase in line with the rate cap set by IPART lacks objectivity. At least one full page advertisement in the *Manly Daily* 26 October 2013 followed in the same vein. Apparently at least \$56,892 of ratepayers' money has been spent on a Warringah Council publicity campaign to try and convince ratepayers to support their very top rate

increase.

7 We have been ratepayers of Warringah Council continuously since 1954. Never before have we experienced the suggestion of such an excessive rate increase. If the figure set by IPART is increased it will be yet another financial burden on ordinary ratepayers, which is not warranted.

George Champion OAM and Shelagh Champion OAM

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[REDACTED]

Date 25

February 2014