



Local Government Team Independent Pricing
& Regulatory Tribunal of NSW

P.O. Box Q290

QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Sirs,

I wish to express my concerns about the application of special rates increase by the Kempsey Shire Council.

As a pensioner with a disabled wife to look after, the proposed rates increase will place a further burden on my resources of which I can ill afford. I feel that this town has a large population of disadvantaged people with no jobs or living on welfare and pensions.

My concerns extend to an article written in the local paper (Enclosed) and if correct does in fact point to the correspondence being sent out to the ratepayers as being an attempt to incorrectly identify the increase in rates.

I would ask that you investigate this matter and take into consideration when deciding whether the residents of this area can afford the rates increase as proposed by the Kempsey Shire Council.

Regards,

Robert Guyer

2/03/14

Clever tables in rate rise letter

LIKE, I suppose, all ratepayers, I have had a communication from the Shire Council which claims to explain the impact on our rates of the increase they are applying for.

It is set out very cleverly.

It has tables for different classes of ratepayers.

These give the cumulative percentage of the increase, adding up to 37.54 per cent over the four years.

But when it comes to the increases in actual dollars, it does not add them up. For instance, for the average residential assessment it gives an annual increase of \$44.12 for Year 4 - which sounds little enough.

But it does not explain that this is on top of increases of \$77.57 in Year 1, \$91.18 in Year 2 and \$100.29 in Year 3. (I like the precision of the odd cents!)

So you will actually pay \$168.75 extra in Year 2 and \$269.04 in Year 3.

Only some paragraphs later does it sum them up and admit that the cumulative increase by the fourth year will be \$313.16 for the average residential assessment - which is a different matter from the \$44.12 in the table.


