

I am opposed to the Shoalhaven City Council's application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal 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.

Many of our streets have no curb and guttering, our roads are pitted with potholes that get patched up occasionally. Despite our protests our waste management services have been cut but we still pay a waste management levy.

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. This massive rate increase will have a flow on effect to those who are living in rental accommodation because rents will need to be increased to cover the rate increases.

As ratepayers we realise that a small rate increase is 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 will be used for.