



18 April, 2022



Dear Ms Hall,

**Hunter's Hill Council Special Variation (SV) Application 2022-23**

In its response, Hunters Hill Council has made no attempt to address the issues raised in my submission. It has further made no attempt to discuss whether any of the capital expenditures to which the SV are intended to apply can be cancelled or postponed – a 5% reduction in these capital expenditures would obviate the need for the SV above existing rates.

I reiterate that the proposed SV is

- Contrary to the stated intention of the largest group of respondents in the Survey undertaken by Council;
- Contrary to Mayor Zac Miles' statements in the recent council elections opposing the SV, and to voters' intentions in electing the Mayor on the basis of his statements;
- A burden on the 27% of residents who are retirees, seniors and elderly and to others whose incomes are not rising as fast as rate increases over the past ten years.

Council has been dismissive of all the concerns raised in my submission. The proposed SV is a confiscation of private property, undertaken against the stated preferences of residents.

I therefore request that IPART decline the SV and instead retain existing SVs. This is the clear preference of respondents in the Council Survey. I further request that Council consult with residents before proposing any similar increases in rates in future, including possibly by submitting them as candidates' platforms in the next council elections.

I would be prepared to work with Council as part of a panel, committee or other forum, to determine a reasonable path forward, addressing the "balance between increased costs and

maintaining level of services/infrastructure" which was the express preference of the largest group of respondents in the Survey.

Yours Sincerely,

