

**From:** Lloyd Cairns [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 March 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** [ipart@ipart.nsw.gov](mailto:ipart@ipart.nsw.gov)  
**Cc:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Ann and Lloyd Cairns  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Lucy and Eben Winleigh  
[REDACTED]

**RE: Shoalhaven City Council – Special Rate Variation**

We note that in 6 out of the past 10 years we had well above rate peg increases by Council.

People in the Shoalhaven will be significantly financially stressed if the rate rise goes ahead.

Pensioners and families, already struggling, will not be able to meet these massive increases. Those that can, barely, will have to tighten the budget. This will effect local business which will already have had to increase their prices to pay the rates and increased rent from landlords.

The subsequent rising costs in the tourism industry will also be passed on which again will slow tourism. The Rates Snowball from Hell ( yes I know, I know, there are no snowballs in hell ).

Last year Council employee costs rose by 12% whereas the private sector rose less than 2%. Is the Council only staffed with CEO's ?

We noted in the submission that Council budgeted for \$7,000,000 for new vehicles and equipment and that \$3,600,00 is for a 102 motor vehicles. It is not amusing to see the local building inspector arrive in a stretch limo !

We also noted that T Corps Financial Assessment ( done in 2012 ) came with a Disclaimer basically saying that they had no proof that the details Council supplied were correct and accepted no responsibility. Lets face it, without a current independent audit, this could be Council porkies.

Council have not provided the ratepayers with clear evidence of Council's claim in the application that within 10 years Council will be operating at a \$116m loss.

Councils statements on the expected increase in our rates is misleading - Council is quoted in the media (Ref:2ST News, 8 Mar 2017) as saying that the average rates of \$1000/year will increase by \$20/mth by the end of the second year (a 24% increase). Our understanding is a \$1000 rate will increase by \$24/mth (\$290/year) or 29% from June 2018.

Council have scheduled information sessions to the community commencing 13 March, the same day submissions to IPART close. Could IPART please extend the closing date for submissions to at least the end of March 2017. It is such a small ask from our Community.

Sincere regards

Ann and Lloyd Cairns

Eben and Lucy Winleigh