

From: alison kerridge
Sent: Monday, 2 March 2015 8:53 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: CHCC rate increase plan

Dear Sirs,

Please do not approve the CHCC rate increase. CHCC ran 2 surveys at some expense and 70-80% said no to the rate increase. Even CHCC's ratepayer panel was 70% against. In addition a petition with 3000+ names on it opposing the rise was presented to CHCC, most people were not even aware the petition was circulating (I wasn't) so the real number of names would be much higher. All of these surveys and petitions have been ignored. Instead emphasis has been placed on a previous (pre rate rise survey) in which ratepayers stated that they wished existing service levels to remain as they are.

Most people here look on the surveys as a cynical attempt to give lip service to the requirement by Ipart that ratepayers be "properly consulted".

CHCC have wasted money on expensive surveys and literature only to ignore the results, this is hardly the mark of a competent council. What is more disturbing is that CHCC has gone to great trouble to produce misleading documentation to attempt to justify their position. I urge you to consult "Your Council - Your Community Funding the Future". This is a document in which distorted and selective information is presented in order to gain agreement by ratepayers to the increase - it didn't work. An example: in the section "Average Residential Rate 2014/15" the gross amount is used for comparison instead of the more correct Rate/\$value of property.

Our base rates here without the increase are some of the highest in NSW. I have friends in Sydney whose properties are worth double mine, yet they pay 30% lower rates - how can that be right? CHCC's external auditors identified a "pervasive belief within the council that the only solution to the financial situation is higher rates".

Nowhere in the document is detailed information given about which services will be reduced or lost without the extra 3% increase.

I urge Ipart to consider this submission, and to examine the activities of CHCC before even considering an increase.

Thank You

Alison Kerridge

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