

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2015 7:33 AM

Subject: Submission - Ashfield Council Special Rate Variation

TO: IPART Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal

In regard to the application by Ashfield Council for a special rate variation I wish to make a supportive submission. I have lived in the Ashfield Municipality for over 35 years and have seen a dramatic increase in population in the area which has led to a massive increase in the use of our roads, footpaths, public buildings and parks and this has put enormous financial pressure on our local council to maintain them.

It is a battle to keep roads and footpaths in good repair as the increased traffic causes constant damage and deterioration. As the density of our housing increases there is and will be less open space and so the risk of flooding is greater – upgrade and maintenance of kerbs, gutters and our drainage system is also of more importance than ever before.

Ashfield Council has always prided itself in its well-maintained public parks but these are suffering also due to over-use and this will be heightened when the proposed huge number of units are constructed along our main roads such as Parramatta & Liverpool Roads. Council needs to maintain its public parks in a good state of repair for public use. This is a reasonable expectation by residents - but this requires funding.

Ashfield Aquatic Centre has been a focal point for as long as I remember, used by thousands all year round. Sadly it has reached a point where it needs a complete overhaul or rebuild as it is in a bad state of repair. Much funding will be required to provide an aquatic centre that the community wants and deserves, which will enable our residents a place to learn to swim and enjoy the activities it provides.

It is understandable that many residents will object to increases in their rates due to personal financial reasons however, they will object more, when their municipality does not maintain its infrastructure and services. The loss of a level of good repair and maintenance will be of greater cost to the community than a shared increase in rates. Please approve Council's application for a rate rise as it will help preserve the future of infrastructure in our local area.

Yours sincerely

Ann O'Connell

[Redacted signature]

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