

Randwick City Council, special variation application.

I understand that Randwick Council has applied to IPART for an annual rate increase of 5.52% pa over the next three years. The justification for this increase was based on the results of a direct mail and telephone survey conducted by Council. The survey structure and results can be summarised based on the "Community Consultation Results Summary" as follows:

1. Structure

**(a) Mail survey**

41804 surveys sent to ratepayers,

9546 surveys sent to Real Estate agents for property investors

Total returned 5713 (11.13%)

**(b) Telephone survey**

600 local residents conducted by Micromex

2. **Results**

The results which it is claimed support option 3 (5.52% inc) were 57% from the Telephone survey i.e. 342 and 49% from the mail survey returns i.e.  $49\% \times 5713 = 2780$ .

For ratepayers therefore only 2780 from a total of 51350 supported the rate increase. This is 5.4%. If the Telephone survey result is included it becomes 6%.

**(NB** there is probably some duplication between Telephone survey participants and ratepayers).

**This level of support surely cannot be used to justify a rate increase of this magnitude.**