

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IPART submission re North Sydney Council Special Variation Application
Date: Monday, 11 March 2019 5:41:04 PM

Dear IPART,

I have followed the format of the online submission for your convenience.

- I am an individual resident and ratepayer.
- I wish for my submission to be treated as "Anonymous" - "can be published" but my name must remain anonymous.

SUBMISSION:

As a ratepayer, and North Sydney electorate resident, I strongly object to the submission of the North Sydney Council to IPART to increase rates on the bases of either/both of "Scenario 2" and "Scenario 3" as per its IPART submission.

The North Sydney Council has submitted 16 detailed documents - a tsunami of data - designed to overwhelm and dissuade ratepayers from engaging with the content, to ensure they submit to its will. There are no executive summaries, no simplified summations. The intention is clear - to crush opposition to the Council's increase of more than 40% in the coming 5 years.

I reject the [REDACTED] false and misleading premises on which it is based, and the [REDACTED] attempt to overwhelm objections using obfuscation. The use of excessive and opaque data to confuse and misdirect anyone who tries to understand it is an effective tactic.

The North Sydney Council ran a "survey" on this, by "recruiting" people to respond, of whom 619 responded - less than 1% of the residents, on the basis of which they conclude that ALL residents support this [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This is a naked attempt by the North Sydney Council at carrying out the contemptible practice of "**demographic cleansing**" - to aggressively rid the LGA of the demographic of elderly people on fixed incomes. It is an ugly policy that will attract national media attention and condemnation, as it should.

I totally reject "Scenario 2" and "Scenario 3" of the submission as extreme ambit claims by the North Sydney Council to manipulate the IPART process in its favour. Both "Scenarios" would will destroy the livelihoods of elderly residents on fixed incomes to the detriment of their health requirements, their ongoing living costs and transport costs.

I urge IPART to reject this submission by the North Sydney Council in its totality, and to send the Council back to commence the process again.

The Guidelines assessment criteria include (at 4.1.3):

The Delivery Program and Long Term Financial Plan should:

- clearly show the impact of any rate rises upon the community
- include the council's consideration of the community's capacity and willingness to pay rates, and
- establish that the proposed rate increases are affordable having regard to the community's capacity to pay.

The North Sydney Council has failed on 3 out of 3 criteria:

- There is no credible impact analysis, as rate rises ignore Australia's 2018Q4 inflation rate of 1.8%, exceeding that rate by more than 2,200%. The massive negative impact upon the community, especially those who are elderly and on fixed incomes, will be devastating.
- The incomes of the residents have not increased and will not increase by 40.3% in the coming 5 years. Where do they imagine the residents will obtain this funding?
- On what basis does the Council [REDACTED] presume upon the residents' "capacity to pay"? The Council has no credible data on residents' incomes, and so has proceeded with disregard of their financial circumstances.

The North Sydney Council's intention is clear - to "demographically cleanse" the municipality of its most elderly, respected and financially vulnerable citizens, and replace them with wealthier newcomers as more lucrative targets to squeeze.

I call upon IPART to reject the North Sydney Council's submission in full, and direct it to start again - this time in real consultation with real residents - not just employees and acolytes of the Council.

I also call upon IPART to pursue its stated mission "**to protect and promote the ongoing interests of the consumers, taxpayers and citizens of NSW**", by rejecting the North Sydney Council's submission in its entirety.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]