

Author name: Anonymous

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Your submission for this review:

I am just an average employee. I work for NSW Health permanent part time. That means that my wages rises have been capped at below 2.5% for many years. Last year my wage rise was just 5 cents an hour. Let that sink in. 5 CENTS. I struggle to make ends meet. I struggle to pay my rates atm with the hefty combination of rates harmonization and increase which is way above 15%. I am a little behind on both my water and normal rates. I am constantly being sent threatening letters. If you try and get into a payment arrangement one department says that should be ok the next one that puts it in says its insufficient. Even though your already paying \$300 extra a quarter!! I shudder to think how I will manage an extra 34% on water rates. Let alone electricity, phone and food plus care for my pets. Council seem to think that the ratepayers are cash cows with bottomless pockets!! Its exorbitant, excessive and highway robbery. They keep telling us "but we are back at 2018 levels". No we are not. Wages have not gone up to that extent, nor has inflation. I am sure there has been a regulatory inflation increases each year since then. The demographic of the area has high unemployment. High pensionior base. They are absolutely in panic mode trying to put back funds by any means fair or foul so we have reserves. It wasnt the ratepayers stuff up. It was theirs. But we get punished and put into poverty due to it. 45% rates and 34% water rises in the space of 12 months is excessive. Council need to find the leaks in their boat and plug them up first. It is noted that while staffing levels are back to pre merger levels it had been noted that wages are STILL up some 34%. Where does is stop? When people move away as they cant afford to live there? The 10 years will be up and they will still want more I am afraid to say.