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14th March 2016

Local Government Team
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Reference to Singleton Council Special Rate Variation

We wish to make a submission against Singleton Council's application for a 9.75% increase to the total rates revenue each year for four years commencing in the 2016/17 financial year. We do not believe that council management or councillors have listened to the community in their surveys for this special rate increase. This is obvious from the results supplied to your office as below-

Random phone survey

65 per cent residential ratepayers supported base case and 35 per cent supported special rate variation. 60 per cent of business ratepayers supported the base case and 40 per cent supported

Online survey

91 per cent supported the base case, 9 per cent supported the special rate variation.

Formal written submissions

87 per cent supported base case, 13 per cent supported special rate variation.

With mining on a downturn and people not sure of their jobs, we have pensioners living in this shire as well as single parents and people without work as well as people on much lower wages than mining, it is difficult enough for people of the shire to pay their existing expenses without adding to their problems. The rural areas do not benefit from paying huge increases in their rates we only watch while council wastes more money on unnecessary projects.

We do not believe this special rate rise to be necessary and hope you will listen to our community.

Thank you

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