

9 March 2019



TO: John Madden
IPART
PO BOX K35,
Haymarket Post Shop 1240

RE: North Sydney Council Rate Rise

Dear Sir,

I strongly object to the North Sydney Council application for a 7% pa rate rise for five years starting in 2019/2020.

I live in Cremorne Point and am actively involved in my local community. I volunteer for my local bushcare group and for two of our community gardens.

I also am involved in many of Council's activities. It is for this reason that I wish not to give my name. I would usually support North Sydney Council, but on this occasion, I must strongly and loudly object.

None of us knew anything about this rate rise until it was brought to my attention by a neighbour. It had only been brought to her attention as her son saw a flyer talking about a rate rise for North Sydney Council asking people to send in objection to you. Now that we know about what the Council's intentions are, there appears little that we can do given that Council has already made up its mind.

Previously, North Sydney Council has always conducted excellent community engagement and awareness campaigns. The forced amalgamations are a recent case in point where the community was kept well informed by the Council at all times.

Things seem to have slipped lately and I am so very disappointed that my Council would seek to sneak this rate rise through and hope the community don't notice until it is too late.

Life is very difficult for many of us at the moment with higher costs of living and electricity bills. We are all dreading winter and are putting money aside so we can have our lights and heaters on in the months to come. We are on limited fixed incomes.

It saddens me to say that Council seems more focused on itself than the community of late but also, their standards have deteriorated markedly from previous years.

For example, the roundabout up the road is being re-constructed for the third time. The Mayor herself has acknowledged that the Council got it horribly wrong. Why should we the ratepayers be punished for the failings of the Council?

The Council should be looking at being more efficient and less wasteful before they ask the ratepayers for more money. The Council is still in surplus and has lots of new buildings going up which means more rates and more developer funding. I can see no basis for this increase. I just can't afford it and there are many others just like me.

I therefore ask that the rate rise not be permitted to go ahead and that Council be asked to tidy up its act and stop wasting our money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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