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Submission: I have been a long term North Sydney resident and have generally been OK with past claims for rate increases, however I find the current application for rate increases by North Sydney Council to be quite unacceptable.

Just the fact that inflation and wages have not risen to reflect the residents ability to afford such an increase should provide sufficient reasons to put the application into considerable question. I have had to learn how to do more with similar funds and I don't see why this shouldn't also apply to the council.

I would also question some of the 'necessary expenditure' for additional works in the councils application that could be more creatively achieved without a such a steep rate increase.

I have been informed that the current North Sydney finances are in good shape and this does not indicate that such a large increase is required to maintain the current levels of services.

In council surveys, the majority of the residents did not support the higher level of increase that was submitted to IPART by the North Sydney Council and it seems that this dissent has just been summarily dismissed by the council without sufficient further community consultation.

In essence, why have a 'rate peg' system to protect residences from un-affordable rate increase, when it seems the North Sydney council want to clearly just ignore these boundaries and inflict substantial economic hardship on its residents.

Sincerely,

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