

Author name: B. Wilson

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Submission: -----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 16 February 2019 5:52 PM

To: John Madden

Cc: IPART

Subject: IPART - North Sydney Council special rate variation application 2019

Dear Mr Madden

We are emailing you, as IPART's representative, to submit our objection to North Sydney Council's Special Rate Variation application 2019.

When the increase was originally mooted we did not object in principle because our rates seemed reasonable and council's circular to rate payers suggested that our services would be cut substantially if the full 7% compounded increase was not implemented.

We are now aware that this increase amounts to a 40% increase over 5 years commencing July 2019 - extremely excessive in our view when council's finances are sound.

The North Sydney area is presently awash with cranes for both residential and commercial occupants all of whom will shortly be paying rates along with the thousands upon thousands of property owners that are crammed into this tight area of Sydney. Council coffers should be overflowing with money.

In December 2018 there were community consultation meetings held at council chambers but at this busy time of the year they were poorly attended. It seems to us that council hastened the process during a holiday period and if ratepayers were fully aware of the substantial rate increase ahead of them they would be marching the streets.

We request that IPART rejects North Sydney Council's Special Rates Variation on the basis that it is not warranted, ratepayers were not fully informed during a holiday period, and that many ratepayers on fixed incomes will struggle in what is already a tough economic climate.

Yours sincerely

David and Bronwyn Wilson  
[REDACTED]