

Author name: Anonymous

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Submission: ATTENTION: Local Government Team

We would like to make an objection to the proposal for an SRV by Kiama Council of 6% for each of the next 3 years, the total rate increase by 2021 being 19.1%. In our opinion, this is unconscionable and outrageous.

Kiama has a large population of older residents and very many of them, like us, are on the pension. Many other permanent residents have young families who are struggling to pay off expensive home loans. It is very unreasonable of the Council to attempt to put such a burden on so many of its ratepayers.

Kiama is experiencing a large increase in the number of new homes, be they free-standing, duplexes or apartments, and a great many of these are on existing developed land on which houses have been demolished and/or sub-divided in order to fit more residences. There are other sites, such as at Bombo Beach and Munna Munnora estate at Easts Beach which are recent development areas from which the Council is already collecting rates. In addition, there are now many investment properties, a large proportion of which are short-term holiday rentals.

All these new homes and developments are yet another means of collecting more rates and increasing the Council's income.

The Council is enthusiastically and continually promoting Kiama as an exciting destination for tourists, which ultimately benefits the Council and local businesses but does very little, if anything, to improve the lot of the long-suffering ordinary ratepayers, whose grumblings are understandably, growing considerably. We would argue that our quality of life is being adversely affected because of the increase in road and people traffic and the ensuing greater noise level.

Progressively, Kiama Council and the local business community has been organising more concerts, larger fireworks on certain public holidays, sporting events and other attractions such as laser light shows, all of which benefit businesses and the Council. The big increase in tourism, as well