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Submission: In recent years my rates have increased 28% and sewer supply charges have increased some 27.7%. My income has fallen in those years and my pension has been increased only by CPI and quarterly earnings and this is significantly less than 10%. LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHARGES ARE NOT THE ONLY INCREASES THAT CITIZENS ARE FORCED TO WEAR. We have increases in state taxes and charges, fuel costs, road taxes, electricity and Federal Government charges. All of these charges are far in excess of salary, wage and pension increases. Summarily, the entire population of the Shoalhaven is losing purchasing power and savings ability.

Enclosed is a summary of my local council costs against my federal pension increases over recent years. As well as local council increases the public have endured state government tax increases and increases in utility costs (gas, electricity) and insurance costs (over 200% with no claims). However for the purposes of this discussion I have only provided local council costs.

YEAR Rates % increase Sewer supply costs % increase Pension increase
attached to water bill

2010 \$1053 - \$585 - on Wage

2011 \$1090 3.5% \$615 5.1% on wage

2012 \$1134 4.0% \$645 4.9% On wage

2103 \$1204 6.2% \$678 5.1% Start Pension Feb 13 increase 0.6% Jul 13 (CPI)

2014 \$1303 8.2% \$714 4.7% 1.5% Jul 14

2015 \$1339 2.8% \$750 5.0% 0.9% Jan 15 and 0.4% Jul 15

2016 \$1383 3.3% \$772 2.9% 1.1% Jan 16 and 0.4%. Jul 16 Increases since 2013 when I started my pension are below:
20.5% 17.6% 4.3%

Taking the numbers back further cannot be compared against my own pension, but it does affect others when CPI was at similar rates. The rises equate to 28.0% 27.7% and 7.6% respectively. Council should be made to adhere to the IPART rate increase.