

Randwick Council's (RCC) plans for a rate hike is unconscionable. This decision comes after Randwick Council has mispent rate-payer funds by awarding \$300,000 on the K2K design competition promoting ideas of mass development in Kensington and Kingsford. No motion was passed by Randwick Council for this award, indeed no Motion was passed at any stage by Council to conduct the design competition. There was also RCC's expenditure on promoting and building a case for the Kensington & Kingsford Draft Planning Strategy that the local community are vehemently opposed to. There was also \$68K spent on the light rail. Why? After-all this is a state govt project. Then there was \$500K spent by RCC on a Council amalgamations survey which failed objective standards. If RCC is spending rate-payer's money without proper and fair consultation of the community or accounting to the community how rate payer funds will be spent before spending rate-payers money, why would anyone in the LGA approve a rate increase of 7.64% for 2018/2019 and then 5.2% for later years? After the sort of ignorance demonstrated by RCC of it's community members, how can rate-payers rest assured that RCC will spend the increased rates in good faith and with proper community consultation? What assurance do rate-paying residents have from RCC that the rates will return to the current level of rates charged? Absolutely none because historically, any increases have been maintained permanently and have never resumed to the former reduced rate charge. I am a single parent of two young children with a mortgage. Any form of a tax increase is felt much more than a household with two incomes and I therefore strongly object to the rate increase. I simply cannot believe for a second that local rate-payers would vote to pay an increased tax. With the healthy financial viability of RCC, more is the reason why a \$27M loan from the State, with interest charged, is absolutely unnecessary.