

From: [IPART Mailbox](#)
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Rate rises
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:40:07 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 February 2018 6:39 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Rate rises

Ipart Manager

Below is a copy of email I recently sent to My Mayor and Councillors of Randwick Council. Concern at the transparency of a Survey residents were asked to fill out over Christmas. The Survey came from the angle of do we want to fund the following programs, :-

Building a woman's refuge Centre

Doing away of power poles and putting them underground Building an Arts and Cultural Centre Upgrading the La Perouse Museum Upgrading the Randwick Literary Institute Implementing anti terrorism measures to increase public safety Building an indoor sports Centre and gymnastics centre at Heffron Park

To do so we were given 3 Options

We had the option of prioritising the programs and choosing , one of three options of funding over the next 3 years

- a) no rise
- b) 11 or 12% , can't remember exact figure increase in rates
- C) 20% increase in rates

I feel that after listening to Channel 7 news last Friday evening, My Council deceived me, it already wanted to raise rates and used the survey as a tool to do so.

I had conducted a quick street poll of my neighbours in my street to gauge if they had completed the survey. The majority did not have time to fill out the survey as it was during busy time with Christmas approaching. Only myself and one other neighbour had responded. Most were shocked when I told them about the article in the Courier stating that the community voted overwhelmingly for rate rises.

Thus my response was to send the mail below to Council, re clarity of some issues.

BUT now, I feel their purpose was to raise rates, the survey was a massaging way of reaching this goal.

To
Mayor and Councillors

A Very concerned resident rate payer at the quick decision made to raise the rates up 20% over next three years.

According to the latest Courier , it appears that Councillors have voted for a 20% increase in our rates over the next three years based on the fact there was majority support for option 3 by the ratepayers of Randwick Municipality.

Courier :- pg4 "Residents want 20% rate rise"

" of the nearly 6000 ratepayers who responded to surveys, a majority backed the increase in order to fund new projects"

57% in phone survey and 49% in a written survey chose option 3 - "The Preferred Approach", which included the rate increase."

Background Information

From a recent street poll , only 1% of neighbours filled out the survey in my street. Response by neighbours about completing survey was:- “ I’m busy with work, children and Christmas no time to fill it out”
My concern if my street is typical of other streets, how did we get a majority in favour for a rise of 20% in our rates.

As a resident ratepayer of the [REDACTED] could you provide clarification for:-

1.The Processes used to support the community to make informed decisions when asked to complete this survey and how transparent were they to ensure reliability of data.

2.Besides a list of programs and 3 options in the survey,what relevant information was provided to help rate payers make informed decisions when responding to the survey.

3.What time frames were put in place to allow for those rate payers who were absent or busy over Christmas period to respond to the survey?

4.The Courier stated nearly 6000 ratepayers responded to the survey, how many ratepayers in total live in our municipality, and are these the 6000 referred to by the Courier.

5.Did tenants , despite them not paying rates, have the opportunity to respond to the survey ,as many of the programs would be of interest to them?

6.What feedback was provide to the community about the outcome of the survey besides reading it in the Courier and were ratepayers given an opportunity to respond before council voted on the results of the survey?

7.Where is there evidence of Forward and Budget Planning in the Annual Report 2016/17 .Has the projected planning and budgets for these projects listed been allocated providing ratepayers with timeframes and costs.

Besides the income raised from rates, what other sources of income has Council sought to fund these projects and future programs.

The Heffron program has already had a lot of money allocated, in the millions, with now the indoor gymnasium, etc, proposed, has Council applied for regional grants to help fund the program from state funding, what was the outcome of that application?

With the La Perouse Museum project , again has council applied for a heritage grant from state govt ,again, what was outcome of that result?

The Courier also stated there were amendments put forward by Councillor [REDACTED] . Have these programs been costed, or will ratepayers be asked for another increase in rates?

How many councillors voted for the rates to go up by 20% ?

Will council still apply for the next opportunity the state government gives to raise rates?

How will pensioners be supported by this hike in rates going up or will they be forced to sell their homes?

From my reading of the Annual Report 2016 - 2017 and Budget reports, Council has been working very hard and should be congratulated but there are still many projects not finished. Is it not wise for Council to finish them first before it begins new works.

With the construction of the light rail, Kingsford , Kensington and Randwick have been hit with excessive damage, to footpaths, gutters, and shop fronts Who will be paying the costs to repair them once the light rail will be finished.

Have funds been allocated to this already or will ratepayers be asked to foot the bill.

Outcomes

Could you please provide me with:-

A copy of the last council minutes

Clarification for each issue raised

Copy of budget costs with timeframes for these projects Copy of Survey response for each option by community of Randwick

I will need to forward a copy of this email to the Courier as well since I have quoted them in my email to you.

[REDACTED]

Resident Ratepayer

[REDACTED]

From: [IPART Mailbox](#)
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: IPART Website General Enquiry Submitted
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:40:21 AM

From: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au [mailto:ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au]

Sent: Saturday, 24 February 2018 6:09 PM

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: IPART Website General Enquiry Submitted

First
Name [REDACTED]

Last
Name [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Contact
Number [REDACTED]

I reside in the [REDACTED] of Randwick Council, Friday night Channel. 7 news
Your informed it's viewers that some councils were raising rates as much as 30%.
Message Randwick Council was one of the Council mentioned.i have valid reasons why
Council should not be given approval, see email re reasons.