

**From:** [IPART Mailbox](#)  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to Hawkesbury Council 31.29% rate increase.  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2018 10:44:53 AM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 March 2018 8:43 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Objection to Hawkesbury Council 31.29% rate increase.

As long term residents of Oakville, we object to Hawkesbury Council increasing rates.

Hawkesbury Council decided to redistribute rates in 2017 and, as a result, what was a fair rates structure is now a very unfair rates structure. Consequently, some suburbs in the district have had increases of 180% and higher and 80% of the district was given a rate drop, specifically to minimise the effect of an SRV.

Council have stated in their IPART submission that they protected some suburbs so they only get an increase of \$90, while other suburbs will get increases more than \$6500. This course of action is the opposite of the intention in the Local Government Act, which intends rates to be evenly distributed to pay for services.

Furthermore, the Council have not been honest with the ratepayers and have been telling the community the rates structure they put in place is fair. Council also polled people and asked what new services we want, and implied we will get new services, but have NOT applied for new services or infrastructure in the IPART Submission. The submission is about retiring an \$80M debt accrued over decades by a failing Council.

It is well known that Council have been running operating losses for seven years, have not managed their fiduciary responsibilities, and have neglected our assets to the point where the State Government requires immediate action.

Council spending appears to be excessive and unnecessary, preferring to spend our money on frivolous things, pandering to minority groups, and neglecting the needs of long term ratepayers in rural areas.

It seems the Council have changed the rates structure specifically to gain support of the urban areas, and force the rural areas to pay for it. People in the rural residential areas are dealing with hardship imposed by Council, with people paying between \$4000 and \$9000 before an SRV. This is blatantly unfair and unconscionable, as residents of Oakville, particularly the elderly and the self funded retirees will be forced to make lifestyle changes.

Sincere regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [IPART Mailbox](#)  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to Hawkesbury Council 31.29% rate increase.  
**Date:** Friday, 9 March 2018 10:44:38 AM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 March 2018 8:26 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Objection to Hawkesbury Council 31.29% rate increase.

As long time residents of Oakville, we wish to express our concern about the proposed SRV Rate Increase.

Hawkesbury Council did a predetermined massive redistribution of rates and, the 500 odd residents of Oakville had \$1 million rates increase in one hit and 80% of residents of Hawkesbury Council received a rate drop. We accept council rates do rise, like all other expenses of day to day living, however the massive increase in Council rates for Oakville residents is blatantly unfair and unjustifiable.

We understand that Hawkesbury Council was deemed unfit by the State Government unless a 30% rates increase was implemented.

We raise the following questions:-

1. How can Council justify increasing the rates in Oakville by 180% to fund a rate drop for 80% of the district before an SRV? How is this fair and just for the residents of Oakville?
2. Why did 80% of the Hawkesbury Council district receive a rate drop if Council was deemed unfit by the State Government?
3. The massive rate rise has caused enormous hardship not only on ourselves personally but on the elderly people who live in Oakville. How does Council expect residents, particularly the elderly, to be able to afford another rates increase of 30%?
4. The formula Council has used for the redistribution is clearly unfair and unconscionable as long time residents of Oakville will be forced to make lifestyle changes. Why should we be forced to make lifestyle changes??

The current formula Council has used for the redistribution of rates has created a huge division within the Hawkesbury community. Under no circumstance should the application to IPART by Hawkesbury Council for an SRV be approved until a revised formula that is fair for all Hawkesbury residents is calculated.

We await to hear from you.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]