

I have been a resident and property owner of the Hawkesbury for over 32 years, I am 69 years old and believe I support the community holding many voluntary positions:

- President Zone 26 NSW Pony Club Association
- Competition Secretary Pitt Town and Districts Soccer Club
- President Rouse Hill Rams Little Athletics

The recent Rate increases from Hawkesbury Council have a serious effect on my ability to be able to support my family. The rates have increased from approximately \$1,800 to approximately \$4000 per annum due a land revaluation and a change from rural to residential. This rate increase and change to residential has come with no improvement in services, the only service I receive is garbage collection.

My property is approximately 3 kilometers from The Hills Council, when I enter my property value into their rate calculator, my rates would be \$[REDACTED] per annum, less than what I was paying before the current increase and before Special Rate Variation request. If The Hills can manage their shire for reasonable rates why can't Hawkesbury Council ?

Through my involvement in sport I understand that the Hawkesbury Council has many millions of dollars from land developers ear marked for sports field and community service development, I understand Hawkesbury Council has not released these funds and is using the interest from the funds to retire debt, the main reason Hawkesbury Council has increased rates.

I would like to a negative result to the Special Rates Increase and for the Council to be instructed to look at improved management practices and to produce the audited reports that shows how and why they got into their current financial state. Approving more funds is more money to be wasted.

Rates should be distributed fairly across the Hawkesbury, residents with a house should pay on the value of the house and also a higher portion on the services received. Hawkesbury currently has the higher weighting on land valuation. I do live on a five acre block classified as residential, however I can only have one residence on the property which defeats the purpose of the current zoning and negates a higher valuation. My property does have a potential for a high value sale in the future but unfortunately there is no plan for future land releases and hence no short term potential for financial gain which negates the current rates and special variation.