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Submission: From: CATRIONA HELLICAR [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 June 2017 1:57 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox; ipart@ipart.n
Subject: Proposed rate increase (SRV2017) for Mid Coast Council

Dear Mr Boxall,

I wish to make a submission against the rate increase proposed for Mid Coast Council (MCC) for the following reasons:

1. The majority of ratepayers in my Council area are either self funded retirees like myself, or pensioners and neither group can afford a rate increase when on a fixed income. Our water and electricity rates plus general living expenses are continually increasing and we already need to watch every cent of our expenditure.
2. There has been little or no consultation with ratepayers over this issue, and since the forced council amalgamation, we no longer have any elected representatives on council representing our views on this or any other matter. This is undemocratic.
3. The proposed rate increase will ultimately see us paying rates higher than many Sydney ratepayers with far fewer amenities or services to show for it.
4. I do not understand why MCC has received an exemption from the Act which restricted merged councils from applying for a rate increase for four years. On what basis has this exemption been given, other than on the say so of an appointed Administrator.
5. Over the past 20 yrs, the formerly known Great Lakes Council has received numerous rate increases well above the CPI. Perhaps it is time for these funds to be more prudently and skilfully utilised before the ratepayers are asked to contribute greater and greater amounts in Council rates.

In any case, there should be no exemption from the Act for MCC and any reasonable excuses for a rate increase should be put forward by elected representatives, and only after open and wide community consultation.

Yours sincerely,
Catriona Hellicar
Tea Gardens