



I am writing to you to express my concerns about the proposal of Campbelltown Council to increase the Council rates by 11% for the year 2014-2015.

In my opinion, this amount is too excessive (almost 4 times the allowed increase).

I believe that the majority of people from Campbelltown Local Government Area are going to be subjected to a shock if this increase is approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) due to the fact that our council in their submission to IPART alleges (part B, page 28, fig 6) that the average rate is \$ 980.00 per year and "with an average one-off increase of 11% would bring up this rate to \$1088", an increase of \$108.00/ year or they say "an increase of \$2.00/ week".

I have been living in the Campbelltown LGA for the last 31 years and I have seen how new suburbs have been cropping up during this time, many of these suburbs are comprised of large lots of 700- 1000m<sup>2</sup> or more, that means higher rates,

In my case, we live on a lot of 749m<sup>2</sup>; my last rate bill is \$429.90/quarter, or \$1720/year. If the approval goes ahead, I'd be having an increase of \$190.00/year, \$3.70/week and not just \$2.00 as the Council argues.

I have also under the Campbelltown jurisdiction, an investment property which is just a villa with 2 bedrooms for which my rates bill is \$903.20; if the proposed increase goes ahead I'll be paying an extra \$100.00/year.

Therefore, it seems to me that the Council average rates in the submission are underestimated.

My concerns are that after this increase of 11% in 2014-2015, the new dollar amount is going to be the base for the following increases 2015-2016, and so on. Taking this into account I am afraid that Campbelltown Council rates are going to become one of the most expensive rates in Sydney. I am not saying this just lightly, but my grounds are by making comparison with other Councils such as Baulkham Hills Council, my daughter lives in Kellyville in a lot of 750 m<sup>2</sup> and her council rates are just \$340.0/quarter or \$1360.00 and they have the same facilities and services as Campbelltown Council.

During the time that I have been living in this area, the rates have been already higher than other councils and I always wondered why.

I have read the Council submission to IPART (Part B) and I noticed that they say that they have considered all other options including savings, but I am afraid that they may have to look harder. In my opinion it's wasteful, when our council allows each household up to 4 times/year kerbside collection service at any time of the year in other words, council has to do arrangements for personal pick ups. Some years ago, we had only 2 kerbside collections in dates determined by the Council, of which we were properly warned. I believe this is the modus operandum of most councils, which seems more efficient, because only on those days people are allowed to put their unwanted goods on the kerbside and not at any time, day, month of the year, which makes the suburbs' streets look messy on a daily basis.

My conclusion is that this 11% increase is too harsh for the community which has been hit already with too many increased burdens such as electricity, water and, food prices and now rates (soon gas price increase ?)

In any case if Council let the backlog creep to the \$29 millions plus, and they didn't act, now is the moment for the council the find savings, stop waste and if there is any increase of rates, this ought to be in small increases (may be half of the proposed) in a sustainable way and spend our money more wisely. I also know that the there is massive residential development in this area and in the very near future, council will have more rate payers. The State Government is the instigator of these developments and it should financially assist our council in infrastructure building.

Yours truly,

Cira Robinson