

By Hawkesbury City Council rate payer :

David B Stimson [REDACTED]

The principal objection my wife and I have is with Hawkesbury City Council's methods of garnering support for a Special Rate Variation. Firstly (1), seeking feedback from residents about their satisfaction with the assets that Council manages, and secondly (2), the survey sent out to all ratepayers.

In addition, I would like to comment on a document titled "Key Projects" handed out to attendees at public meetings. This document gave some details of Council's intended spending of monies raised by Options 1, 2 or 3

(1) Comment on "Seeking Feedback"

At no time did the Council research staff add to the questionnaire "You realise that for Council to spend more money on assets your land rates will have to increase."

What resident would say "No, we want worse roads and less spent on services" ?

(2) Comment on the "Survey to all rate payers"

The survey was a disgrace. It was straight from Marketing 101 – choice of colours, use of words to diminish unwanted results and flowery description of the wanted result.

I have included a copy of the survey submission form sent to all ratepayers.

One can see Option 1 is to reduce service levels and is in a dark grey circle.

One can see Options 2 indicates Service levels Stabilise.

And Option 3 in bright yellow will result in Service Levels Improve.

No mention that Option 1 is the State Government rate peg amount of a rate increase of 7.69% over 3 years.

The wording of Option 2 is designed to confuse such that ratepayers will think this option is the current situation.

Option 3 is clearly the option Council desires ratepayers to tick on their survey form.

(3) Key Projects Document

Council continues using the colour scheme designed to turn people away from their least desired option – Option 1 is grey again and the expenditure tables are self evidently biased.

I draw IPART's attention to the last entry on the top left hand chart showing what roads would be sealed under Option's 1/2/3. It clearly states that Settlers Road would be sealed (post 2027) in Option 3 at a cost of \$8,500,000.

This planned expenditure for one road dwarfs and indeed exceeds the total planned cost of all the listed roads to be sealed !

Does Council really expect ratepayers (and IPART) to accept that, in excess of 10 years time, Council will have accumulated and put aside \$8.5M gleaned from the Option 3 SRV in 2018.

(If one takes out his \$8.5M from the table, the Option 3 list virtually becomes the same as Option 2).

I submit that Hawkesbury City Council conducted a biased ratepayer survey and IPART should dismiss Council's reliance on this survey as a primary indication of what the rate payers of Hawkesbury really desire.

The percentages sought under Options 2 and 3 exceed CPI increases (and indeed my retirement funds interest) so please disallow their submission.

Yours sincerely

David Stimson



**Submission form - Please tick your preferred option**

## It's your Hawkesbury - Have your say

My preferred option is (please tick one box):

- ☐ **1** Service levels Reduce    ☐ **2** Service levels Stabilise    ☐ **3** Service levels Improve

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this postage paid postcard by placing it in an Australia Post letterbox.  
No stamp is required.

Consultation concludes Sunday 13 August 2017.

Delivery Address:  
PO Box 146  
WINDSOR NSW 2756

No stamp required  
if posted in Australia



HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL  
Reply Paid 87095  
WINDSOR NSW 2756

# INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

*It's your Hawkesbury - Have your say*

Road	Proposed Works	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Evans Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	0	120,000
Godalla Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	0	286,936
Greens Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
Old East Kurrajong Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	928,000	928,000
Packer Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	2,306,000	2,306,000
Portland Head Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	850,000	850,000
Roberts Creek Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	182,000	182,000
Shepherds Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	280,000	280,000
St Albans Village Roads	Gravel Road Sealing	0	420,000	420,000
Stannix Park Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	330,000	330,000
Upper Colo Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	2,070,000	2,070,000
Whelbarrow Ridge Road	Gravel Road Sealing	0	500,000	500,000
Settlers Road (*post 2027)	Gravel Road Sealing	0	0	8,500,000
Total: Gravel Road Sealing Program : Northern District		0	9,366,000	18,272,936

Map Item	Road
1	Blaxlands Ridge Road
2	Coromandel Road
3	Creek Ridge Road
4	East Kurrajong Road
5	Freemans Reach Road
6	Kurmond Road
7	Mitchell Drive
8	Sackville Road
9	Settlers Road
10	Shephers Road
11	Spinks Road
12	St Albans Road
13	Stannix Park Road
14	Tizanna Road
15	Upper Colo Road