

**From:** Elissa Skinner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 March 2017 12:06 AM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Rate increase Shoalhaven.

I strongly protest to the upcoming 30+% rate rise proposed by our council.

Please read the below posting by a concerned local citizen who has done more research than myself.

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Last night I attended the public meeting, organised and personally paid for by our independent Councillors, regarding the intended rate rise. I accessed the Shoalhaven City Council's web site, and the CCB Executive Meeting Council Financials, Budget Performance and Rating Increase document, what a piece of diversionary fluff this document is. Yes there are figures and graphs, but NO specific information on where our rate payer money has gone. Is this document supposed to be the independent audit legally required to be presented to the public?

Apparently our Council has donated millions of dollars to a Federal Government project, already funded by the Federal Government, WHY? The council is crying poor mouth, yet squanders our money, the roundabout in South St is another example. Council has been offered FREE assistance by qualified financial experts to assist Council in balancing the books, but refused. What are they afraid will be discovered, maybe their incompetence.

This proposed rate rise has a cumulative effect, in that not only will our basic rates be increased but also incidental charges like sewerage, garbage etc, which may burden rate payers and average of \$185 on top of your basic council rates. This is based on rates of \$1000, if your rates are more than \$1000 then you will pay more.

Council has called an "information night" next Monday, this just happens to be the day for final submissions to IPART (Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal), to object to the proposed rate rise.

Council may argue that other council rates are higher than ours, but they choose as examples areas with more affluent populations. We have a significant percentage of residents who are pensioners, self funded retirees and people earning a basic wage.

Council is spending money on projects costing huge amounts of money, the new sports stadium at Bomedary (\$100million plus), we need to get our finances in order and spend within our means, not try and build fancy monuments to our Councillors.

The financial mismanagement has not happened overnight, in the last 10 years council rates have increased by 40%, do you think you have been given value for money? Now if this application is successful we will be paying another 30+% on our rates and charges.

If you object to this rise in our rates and want Council to step back and review a long term strategy, please write a submission to IPART, email address [ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au) alternatively PO Box K35 Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240.

I also have a petition regarding objection to the rate rise, which we have 3 weeks to submit,

please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] if you or friends and family are interested in signing.

thank you so very much for your patience in reading this post, most appreciated.