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Date of submission: Friday, 21 March 2014

Submission:

I Gilbert Texier of [REDACTED], vehemently oppose the move by Liverpool Council to raise the council rates to 12%. The council sent us a survey late last year asking us whether we would prefer a rate rise or a status quo. As far as I am concerned, the majority of people who returned the survey opted for the status quo, meaning, no rate rise. So I was surprised to see that sneakily they had submitted to IPART for a rate rise of 12% which I consider outrageous as it goes against the wish of the people. This is the same council which said they have enough reserve in the bank when the proposal of merger was raised. When it came to save their skin, they clamoured high and loud that the money is there and they don't want any merger with another council. Now that the danger of merger has passed they are crying poor. I would ask IPART to have a thorough look at their resources before granting this lot their wishes of fleecing the people of Liverpool who are among the poorest in NSW. Oh I forgot to mention that this is the same council which has put parking meters in their CBD to raise revenue so that a visit to your doctor or even the hospital cost us a further five or ten dollars every time we go to Liverpool and they had the audacity to cry poor ! This is a council who in spite of all the previous scandals which had all their councillors removed previously have not learnt from history. They cited the need to fund and deliver infrastructure and services but let institutions like a school in Bigge Street built some additional classes without any council permission and let them get scott free without penalty. If they really were in need of money to fund infrastructure, they could have imposed a fine and as such fill their coffers which they pretend empty. But of course they prefer to pick up on the most vulnerable. This is an easier way to make money. In the light of all I have put forward, I would urge IPART to not grant their wishes to this council and take into consideration that there are many people who will find an extra \$150 a heavy burden to carry particularly when times are so hard and homelessness is on the rise according to the last OECD report.

Gilbert Texier