

I am writing to you opposing the rate rises applied for by Hawkesbury Council in a special SRV to you. Please note my last two rate notices. An increase of approximately 105% from one year to the next. We have a lot of residential subdivisions occurring across the road in Baulkham Hills Shire. Our area is not zoned for that, but it has had the effect of pushing our values up. Council has responded by dropping the base rate from 50% to 30%. So instead of being charged 50% base 50% values, we are now charged 30% base 70% values. To compound the problem Council has also abolished the rural residential zoning to residential. It doesn't mean we can subdivide our properties. What it does is push us into paying a higher percentage in the dollar. And now they are applying to you for a 30.3% SRV on and a top of this, when our rates have more than doubled in 12 months. It is a total travesty and so unfair. A large proportion of people here are either in pensioners, or self funded retirees on a limited income. Yet we face a further 30.3% increase over the next few years on top of the doubling of our rates over the last year. Hawkesbury Council was recently subject to a Council amalgamation with Baulkham Hills Council. Due to the agitation of a noisy minority who insisted that they were 'Fit for the future'? and 'Could stand alone'? the amalgamation did not go ahead. We contend they are not 'Fit for the future' if they have to treble the rates to a selective part of their community. There is no way people in this area should, could, or be expected to pay these exorbitant increases. Council does nothing in the way of services in this area, except pick up the waste. We plead with you to look carefully at this SRV and reject it as being totally unfair. Yours Sincerely John and Margaret Berenschot

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