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Submission: From: John Fairhall [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2017 9:20 AM  
To: IPART Mailbox  
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation from Mid-Coast Council

Dear Sir

I am writing to express my concern and anger over the proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) being requested by MidCoast Council (MCC). The Council is asking for a 28% increase in rates over the next 4 years commencing with an 11% increase in 2017-18. This request is outrageous and well above the CPI. I live in the Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest area which is a small retirement community with the majority of ratepayers being pensioners and people of fixed incomes and there is no way that a 28% increase can be supported.

Over the past 20 years this Council (formerly Great Lakes Council) has received numerous rate increases well above the CPI with little benefit to the Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest area.

I find it remarkable that MCC would be requesting such an increase given that there is no elected representative on Council representing ratepayers and there has been no discussion regarding the current SRV proposal which is contrary to the Act.

How was it possible for the Act to suddenly and mysteriously change to exempt the merged Council (MCC) from applying for a 4 year rate increase?

I also have concerns about the way MCC manipulated recent Survey results to support their case – they must believe in fairies if they think 80% of the population supports a 28% rate increase. This increase, if approved, will take my rates to over \$3400 pa (not the \$1500.00 figure stated by MCC) which is well above what some Sydney residents are paying.

Submitted for your consideration.

John Fairhall  
[REDACTED]