

From: Judith Rourke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 March 2017 8:43 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Fwd: Rate rise for Shoalhaven area

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judith Rourke [REDACTED]
Date: 8 March 2017 2:58:35 pm AEDT
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)> [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)>
Subject: Rate rise for Shoalhaven area

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to information received re the above subject I would ask have you and your team considered the following -

As an aged pensioner with a partner who is in receipt of a disability pension it now takes us a period of at least three fortnightly pension payments to afford to pay our combined rates. This leaves us a period of another six weeks before it is necessary to repeat this process. We have spread our utilities bills, insurance and any other recurring bills out over the year in fortnightly payments. When I endeavoured to include our combined rates in the process we were left with an amount that left us unable to cover our personal needs spending for health, recreation and family contact. This was without the increase you and your team are proposing.

In a week (I.e. Seniors week) this is causing me and my partner considerable anxiety and stress. We have endeavoured to maintain financial security through many "cost cutting" measures already and the prospect of these increases is creating instability in our lives.

This raises the following questions for you -

Have you done any research amongst ratepayers in the area of the impact this extra cost would have on their lives both health and finances ?

The requirement to receive the pension is "full and transparent" disclosure of finances etc. on the recipient's behalf before the pension is paid. Have you provided to ratepayers the same disclosure prior to asking for "payment" of extra rates ?

Do you realise that by reducing the disposable income of a large number of members of the community you are reducing the trade to local businesses and the sustainability of local communities ?

I would appreciate a reply to these questions and some feedback concerning discussion of these points with your team and other councillors supporting this rate rise.

I would also like to offer to make myself available to discuss this situation further.

Judith Rourke
[REDACTED]