

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Re: Warringah Council Application for Special Variation of Rates
Date: Thursday, 6 March 2014 11:55:22 AM

Warringah Council has applied to IPART for a special increase in rates of 26 per cent over a period of four years.

We wish to indicate our **utmost rejection** of this bid. It is excessive and would impose a burden on the ratepayers, many of whom are in our situation of being self-funded retirees who are already coping with increased costs brought on by aging plus looming increasing costs of health insurance, increased vehicle and home/contents insurance premiums, increased energy costs etc. These cost escalations are, of course, also severe on young families.

We don't want the Council adding to these burdens.

The Council say that they need cash to fix up the Aquatic Centre and drain the Narrabeen lakes. One resident has pointed out that when the lakes were last drained – some years ago - it was done without cost to ratepayers by a company that extracted minerals sands. Has Council looked at such an option?

One of the Councillors, who opposed the increase, says that a recent independent report on Competitive Information of Local Government, revealed that Warringah Council spends more on administration than most Councils. He points to high salaries paid to executives, high costs for employee benefits (more than \$57 million last year), large expenditures on advertising and various costs incurred (questionably) for public relations.

It is true that Council carried out some meetings and made some phone calls in relation to its proposed increases. But as *The Manly Daily* said last Saturday (1st March) “in a report presented to the council last year, most respondents’ preference was to maintain, rather than improve, council services.” Then why does the Council persist with something that ratepayers have not given their support?

We state again: We are opposed to the special variation in rates for which Warringah Council has applied to IPART.

Joseph and Elizabeth Knowles

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