

Ken & Sandra Dodimead



9th March 2017

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Email: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Shoalhaven City Council – Special Rate Variation

I wish to object to the application by Shoalhaven City Council for a Special Rate Variation.

My understanding from Council's application is my rates will increase from June 2017 by 13.2% and from June 2018 by 14% which will result in an effective increase in my rates of 29% within 15-16 months (and that excludes any increases due to land revaluation)

I object on the basis that:

1. Council have not provided me with clear evidence of Council's claim in the application that within 10 years Council will be operating at a \$116m loss;
2. Council's statements on the expected increase in my rates is misleading - Council is quoted in the media (Ref:2ST News 8 Mar 2017) as saying that the average rates of \$1000/year will increase by \$20/mth by the end of the second year (a 24% increase). My understanding is a \$1000 rate will increase by \$24/mth (\$290/year) or 29% from June 2018;
3. This compares with the standard "rate peg" increase of 1.5% in 2017/18 and 2.5% in 2018/19.

4. I understand that not all councilors are in agreement with this increase. As recent as last week those Councilors objecting to the rate hike held a community meeting, at their expense, seeking the community's support in influencing only another 2 of 12 Councilors to vote against the proposed increase and they would have the numbers to overrule this decision
5. Council has scheduled information sessions to the community commencing 13 March, the same day submissions to IPART close. Could IPART please extend the closing date for submissions to at least the end of March 2017?

Thank you and Regards



(K Dodimead)

(S Dodimead)