

From: Martin
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission - Randwick council special rate variation
Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018 2:29:31 PM

Hello

As a regular attendee of the Clovelly precinct meeting, I was distressed to learn that none of the other regular attendees at the 5th of March 2018 meeting were aware of the council's intention to borrow money in addition to increasing rates.

This is after a council representative attended the December meeting - post the consultation workshop I might add. I encountered the **same** lack of knowledge when I spoke with other locals. Such a significant change in the council's strategy can only gain legitimacy if the public is fully informed. The public is not fully informed.

The consultation period extended through Christmas - a time that most people are preoccupied. Committing the ratepayers to debt should have a much more intense consultation process. No effort should be omitted. The effort so far has not been adequate.

The council should err on the side of caution and expand the consultation process so that it is 100% certain the public understand.

The council should go back to the public and explain the:

- strategy and disclose the selection criteria for the projects
- projects that were rejected and why
- level of public engagement in selecting the projects in the first instance
- implications of potential interest rate increases on future rates should be explained
- strategy for managing risk should be explained (the gentleman representing the council on finance could not explain this when asked at the consultation workshop)
- costings for the projects (costs for a number of the projects were not known according to council representatives at the consultation workshop yet the council)

To do other than go back to the public would be a perversion of democracy, for their significant proposal will affect generation to come.

I, therefore, raise concerns in relation to the special rate variation lodged by the Randwick council and the to intention to borrow money.

In addition, I attended the workshop and felt the outcome was materially misrepresented.

The council representatives were polite. They revealed that an increase in fees from a facility (I did not record which one) would contribute to the repayment of the principal and interest yet they could not explain why that extra revenue was not available for options one and two? That is a remarkable factor that has to be explained to the public.

The community deserves to be better informed before the council commits to significant debt and I urge you to direct the council to reconsider its risk management strategies and ensure the public is fully informed of the intentions and alternatives.

Please do not approve the rate increase.

Warm regards,
Martin