

From: Mary Richard
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: : Rate increase 19.85% Randwick City Council
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Randwick City Council has falsely claimed that the Majority of Households approved their leading questions about "Council's preferred course of action" Option 3 a 19.85% rate rise over 3 years. A tiny pool of 600 residents & ratepayers (being 150,000 residing in the Municipality) were contacted randomly by phone or interviewed at shopping centres. How many of these people were actual ratepayers and actually care? The fact that 5,700 ratepayers returned a written survey and 51% said "NO" to a 19.85% increase has not even been highlighted by Council but instead the 49% that said "Yes" were !!

Falsely stating the \$1,186 rates that a 1 bedroom apartment pays is cheating and not indicative of the great majority of ratepayers increased costs (many paying around \$3000). Clearly it has been done to get approval for a big-spending Council and is deceptive and misleading, totally unfair and unethical to boot.

There are awful precedents for local governments going into debt, (especially as RCC has it's own funds available) to pay for what is 'maintenance' in many cases with few New Projects with many already funded.

RCC have sold the increase on the basis of putting electricity wires underground, but it can only be a trial, or just main street, as nowhere near sufficient funds (nor is it really Council's decision as they are privately owned) to put wires underground. The promise to plant New Trees (Saplings at best) does not fool anyone either especially seeing the 100's & 100's lost due to Council's backing of the CDB/SE Light Fail.

The reason the State Government introduced rate-pegging was precisely to stop local government from deciding to tax excessively to fund its own lavish ideas. Yes, there will be exceptions in new high-growth areas, but not in established areas, where the better practice is to spend what is raised, and to not go into debt to pay a whole lot of pie in the sky schemes.

I have personally spoken to around 50 - 100 people, attended Councils two workshops and my local precinct meeting and have only found 2 in favour of having an extra 19.85% Tax burden inflicted on them. The Majority are unaware and quite shocked when they realise the Councils intentions.

With rising Power bills, health fund increases, extra travel costs via more tolls, higher education fees and soon looming interest rate rises this will put extra burdens on the rate paying Community this Council is supposed to assist.

Haven't we suffered enough with the Light Rail debacle that stole approx \$65 Million of our money while destroying our Environment?

Mrs Mary Richard,

