

M. Robinson

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I wish to *object* to the proposed raising of Campbelltown Council Rates by 11% as a permanent increase. Originally the council was proposing this as a “one off” increase for the 2014/15 year when they posted out their community information last year 2013. Now we find that they have changed their proposal to one of being a permanent increase. This means that the annual increases from now on will continue to be applied to a base which is 11% higher than it is now.

I don't believe that Council has adequately addressed all areas where they could be making cost savings. I will give one example where I perceive there being waste.

I have lived in this LGA since 1983, and in years gone by, the Council allowed each ratepayer 2 *scheduled* kerbside waste pickups per year. Now, and for some years past, ratepayers are allowed 4 kerbside waste pickups per year *on demand*. Not only would this be more expensive running a constant waste pickup service every day, but has resulted in a constant view of kerbside rubbish everywhere in the LGA. The old scheduled service would have resulted in better planning of pickup runs and better utilisation of resources on a scheduled basis. This current practice is wasteful. This is just one example which would seem to indicate over servicing and waste. I'm sure there would be more.

The level of the rates in Campbelltown LGA does not currently reflect the middle class nature of the area. Our rate levels have been consistently higher than other councils for a number of years.

As an example, I own some investment properties in other LGAs. One property is in the Baulkham Hills Shire and is the same land area as my current property in Campbelltown. The Campbelltown property is 749m². The Hills Shire property is 750m². The rates for the Hills Shire for last quarter was \$340. The Campbelltown property where I live is \$429.90. This is a difference of \$90/quarter or \$360/ year more in Campbelltown LGA.

In summary, the rates in Campbelltown LGA have historically been much higher than other comparable property sizes in other LGAs. I see examples of waste and over servicing which I feel that Campbelltown Council has not addressed before reaching the decision to apply for an extraordinary increase. Therefore, for the above reasons, I oppose the application for any rate increase.

Martin Robinson