

**From:** Onan Gunoz  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Submission - special variation application for Randwick City Council  
**Date:** Friday, 23 February 2018 8:23:36 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident and ratepayer in Randwick City Council. I understand the Council has applied you for a special variation of rates far above the peg increase rates, increasing our rates by 20% over the next few years.

I would like to express my strong disagreement with the proposal, and bring to your attention the fundamental flaws in the community consultation process and the lack of genuine community acceptance:

- \* the ratepayer survey used to legitimise the variation was conducted during school holidays when many families would be away for extended periods of time
- \* it was designed to be highly manipulative - with a bold "recommended" option prominently displayed. I have never taken part in a survey with a 'recommended' option before - certainly not a genuine survey of opinion!
- \* the survey falsely implied that no investments at all could be delivered without excessive rate increases. This is very misleading given that all previous Councils successfully delivered several capital projects while remaining within the rate peg (examples from the last 6 months include new facilities in Coogee Beach or a new walkway across Malabar Headland).
- \* the survey omitted key information regarding proposed new infrastructure, including options on how these could be built with minimal ratepayer burden, such as via partnerships with private enterprises or NGOs.

Despite the above flaws, most induce a clear bias to favour a maximum rate increase, the survey resulted in only 5% of all ratepayers responding positively to it.

I question whether this ambiguous result gives a legitimate claim to vary the rates so drastically, and burden the future generations with debt. I would expect if Council ran another ratepayer survey with the option "should we reduce your rates by 20% and leave more money in your pockets?" being prominently noted as the recommended option, it may be favoured as well by 5% of ratepayers!

I submit my concerns to you for your consideration, and remain available to discuss them. You may publish my submission. As I had difficulty submitting this through your website, I would appreciate a reply email confirming its receipt.

Best Regards.

Onan Günöz