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22 March 2015

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

I am writing concerning Newcastle City Council's application to increase rates beyond the cap set by the NSW Government.

It is known that the Council has sought to increase the rates by 46.9 per cent based in part on its public consultation. The problem however is that the public consultation process found more people favoured a 37.5 per cent increase that was also provided to ratepayers by the Council as another option.

Except for the last couple of years the Newcastle Council has an appalling spending record. The Council is not trusted by its ratepayers. The Council has never sought a mandate from its ratepayers for a massive rate increase with the consequent cumulative impact in future years.

I don't believe that the Newcastle City Council has met your requirements for the grant of increased rates as sought and I would believe that it is incumbent on you to refuse the request.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Paul Welsh