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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 19 February 2017 10:40 PM

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: Proposed Shoalhaven Rates Increase

As an aged pensioner living in the Shoalhaven, I am disgusted at the proposed increase in rates for the Shoalhaven, and am opposed to the Shoalhaven City Council's application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a 26% increase in rates over the next 2 years.

As it is, there are few, and very inferior services, offered for the rates we already pay. The Shoalhaven City Council have not adequately shown where the increased monies will be spent, other than to advise there will be no new works or projects undertaken with the income the massive rates increase will generate.

Many of our streets have no curb and guttering, our roads are pitted with potholes that get patched up occasionally. Despite our protests our waste management services have been cut but we still pay a waste management levy. You do not offer a regular curbside service resulting in junk and rotting furniture being left on footpaths in some areas.

The proposed 26% rate increase over 2 years is unfair and unaffordable to the majority of ratepayers in the Shoalhaven and will lead to financial hardship as a large percentage of our ratepayers are pensioners, low income earners and self-funded retirees on fixed incomes. This massive rate increase will have a flow on effect to those who are living in rental accommodation because rents will need to be increased to cover the rate increases.

As ratepayers we realise that a small rate increase is necessary. The Shoalhaven City Council has shown little regard towards its ratepayers and we oppose the massive increase in our rates because it is unaffordable and unclear what the revenue will be used for.

I respectfully suggest that you require the SCC to detail what extra services the SCC plan on providing and the costs thereof, in a personalised letter to each rate payer. It is unethical to simply allow the SCC to make this massive increase in rates without justifying this in a credible way to each and every rate payer in the Shoalhaven.

Yours respectfully

Penny Westgarth
Shoalhaven Resident

Sent from my iPad