

Robert & Carolyn Baker

March 12, 2018

Objection to Hawkesbury Council 31.29% rate increase (SRV)

APPARENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OAKVILLE RESIDENTS

In the years 2016/17 our rates were \$ [REDACTED].

In the years 2017/18 the new rates became \$ [REDACTED]!

When a vote was held two years ago to decide if Hawkesbury and Hills Shire council were to be amalgamated, we voted to stay with Hawkesbury as we were assured that Hawkesbury was a **VIABLE COUNCIL**. With the outrageous increase in rates in the past two years, and a further proposed increase, we sincerely regret our decision.

The rate increase is not spread evenly across all Hawkesbury residents. This council is clearly not in control of its finances when some residents have no rate increase, some even have a slight decrease, and we face huge rate inflation. It seems that rate structures have been changed to gain support of urban areas while neglecting the needs of long-term residents in rural areas.

We were both born in the area – Robert in [REDACTED] and Carolyn in [REDACTED] nearby. We built our home and have lived in it for the past fifty one years. We have paid our taxes and brought up our family here. Now, as pensioners, we face these disproportionate rate increases, which add to the normal stresses of life over 70 with its various serious health issues.

We write this to add our voices against the new SRV - Special Rate Variation - which would add to our already vastly inflated rate increase.

Sincere regards

Robert Baker

[REDACTED]

Carolyn Baker

[REDACTED]