


27 February 2015

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

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Ashfield Municipal Council Special Rate Variation

I would like to lodge an objection to Ashfield Council's proposed special rate variation.

Ashfield Council have a track record for superficial community consultation that is manipulated to come up with a predetermined result and ignores any objections. This was spectacularly demonstrated in 2013 when they heritage listed many hundreds of properties against the owner's wishes and without any attempt to respond to issue raised by the community about the process. This process was totally and blatantly a political agenda to thwart proposed State government planning reforms and this was openly admitted in public by one Labor councillor. The same pattern is being repeated in relation to this proposal to increase Council's rate income.

Ashfield Council also has a track record for empire building and poor financial management of projects as was demonstrated by the massive cost over-run on the recent Civic Centre redevelopment.

The option that was not put to the rate payers was to amalgamate with adjoining Councils and to save costs through economies of scale and the reduction of duplication of facilities and services.

Please keep me informed in writing of any decisions made in relation to the above issue.

Yours sincerely


Richard Denham