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Submission:

Dear IPART Commission Chairman,

I write to oppose the Warringah Council application for a special increase in rates.

Although many of us would like the extra infrastructure mentioned by the Council, and indeed some other works, the community have said that they do not want to pay extra rates to achieve this. I couldn't find in their long-winded application where they'd advised you of this. We are already paying higher personal expenses of electricity, gas etc. and the pegged council rates increase is already more than enough.

Warringah Council has a poor record of community consultation despite their claims to the contrary. They are inclined to put things out for "consultation" having already decided some factors. This happens even on large proposals such as the Dee Why Town Centre development. They had workshops for consultation but it became obvious that things such as traffic and parking were pre-determined. A professional planner who lives locally and was donating his time, withdrew in protest when it was obvious that some things were not up for discussion. Some of us in the community are far from happy about the proposed traffic arrangements in what could have been a world-class community area.

Senior Warringah staff are excessively compensated for the level of service they give. They are overpaid in comparison with other councils which give a much higher level of service to residents.

At a macro level the council finances look good but at the micro level they are likely to have "spending ratepayer funds" as their first option. eg. If we report a dumping offender their decision is likely to be to take no action other than to send a truck to pick it up. Similar decisions are made with other antisocial behaviour. The easy option is to just spend our money.

Please don't make it easier for them but making us pay rates to them.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Pauling

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