

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 February 2017 8:49 AM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Shoalhaven City Council Rate Rises

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

**I understand that IPART has the responsibility of approving or disapproving of rate rises above the stipulated rate.**

**I believe the Shoalhaven City Council has or will have applied for such increases.**

**I wish to protest at the proposed increases and ask that you do not approve any increase above the regulated rate.**

**For your information I include my protest email to all councillors and subsequent replies  
SJ Collett [REDACTED]**

Dear Ms Findley,

Thank you for your comprehensive reply to my email, but I must take issue with you on several matters that you raised.

Firstly, I am not a pensioner, I am a self funded retiree and not eligible for any of the concessions that you mention. I have never been highly paid but I have saved and invested so that now I get no concessions and in fact am helping to pay for the concessions of others, who have perhaps been unfortunate or less responsible in their finances. Like I am suggesting for council, I have lived within my means.

Certainly, council must maintain infrastructure and even add more as finances allow, but to try to comply with every request for more infrastructure and facilities is a recipe for fiscal ruin and leads to further demands on ratepayers as are now proposed.

I live in Woollamia and would like to see many improvements in my street, like sewer installation, kerb and guttering, development of part of Willowford Rd down to the Currumbene Creek

recreation area, which is now only accessible by 4 wheel drive or by walking. However I am content with the status quo until council can afford to do these things when our turn comes around.

It is good that council is pursuing means to limit expenditure, and this is nothing more than I would expect from a large organisation, and this action should at least contain costs and remove the need for rate increases above the rate of inflation.

I agree that we should not expect future generations to pay for our excesses, but you should also realise that the future generations benefit from the infrastructure and facilities that are already in place and have been paid for by present and past ratepayers.

I will be interested in the proposed delivery plan when it is available, but if this requires increases in rates, the delivery plan should be changed to something more modest.

As I said in my initial email, inflation, interest rates and wages growth are at historic lows, so council should limit rate rises to the regulated amount (if at all), and live within its means.

If you do not want to burden future generations with current expenditure, then limit borrowing. Please note that I am sending this reply to other councillors for their information, but not including your response for reasons of privacy.

# My Original Email

*Dear Councillor,*

*Firstly, I want to thank you for giving your time and expertise in being a councillor for our wonderful area in the Illawarra.*

*As a long time ratepayer in the Huskisson area, I have seen huge progress over the 83 years that my family and myself have owned property in Huskisson and Woollamia, and am generally very satisfied with Council control and management. However I must protest most strongly to the proposed massive increases in rates over the next period of seven years.*

*Council rates are a significant burden to all property owners in the area, and I believe that the present rates income should be sufficient for council to provide all the essential services. Council is a business and like any business, or household for that matter, should live within its means.*

*Because of past excessive demands of local government, I understand that there is a State Government law that limits rate increases, and that a special dispensation is required to levy rates beyond that limit. Please do not ask for more.*

*With the area already very well developed and wages growth and inflation and interest rates at historic lows, Council should be able to maintain rates at the current levels and even reduce them.*

*I urge you therefore to oppose any rate rises, make council live within its means and do not impose further financial burdens on ratepayers. I remind you the money you spend is not council money, it is ratepayer's money, and we expect you to spend it wisely.*

*I would like a response from you to state your position on this matter please.*

*Note: I am sending this email to all councillors and a copies to other ratepayers and to our two local MP's.*

*S J Collett*

