

From: Susan Salafia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 9 March 2017 11:17 AM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Rates increase at Shoalhaven Council

Susan Salafia
[REDACTED]

Dear Ipart, (sorry I am not sure of the correct way to address you)

I attended a meeting held by some rate payers and Independent Councillors last Monday night.

This meeting was totally funded by the Independent Councillors.

I was informed that you have approved a rates increase for our States Councils of 1.5%. This I feel in the currant climate is fair and acceptable.

7 of our Councillors want to increase our rates by 13% this financial year and another 13% next financial year followed by 4% the following 2 years, compounded. I am sure some people would object to 3%, double your recommendation but I think it would probably be affordable for most rate payers.

My objection is not only to the large increase but for the way 7 of our Councillors have tried to be "dodgy" in letting us know about this increase. They have called at meeting next Monday 13th at 7.00pm but I have been informed that the cut off for objections to this increase is close of business on the 13th March.

We have 7 Councillors voted for the increase and 5 Councillors voted against the increase. Not a unanimous decision.

I am asking that you please do not approve this exorbitant increase in our rates. We are a high retirement area and retirees have been affected by Centrelink changes and low interest rates. The pension has only increased by .09%. We were also told our Council expect to have a surplus of 18 million at the end of this financial year. If they can't manage our money I think we should have independent auditors called in to find out what is going wrong and where savings could be made. If a local business increased its prices by 33% over 4 years it would not be still in business. They have to find ways to save the money they need.

Thank you for your time
Susan Salafia