

**From:** Michael Want  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Special Rate Variation (SRV) Hawkesbury City Council  
**Date:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 4:21:01 PM

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## **To the Proper Officer**

**Submission: The North Richmond & districts Community Action Association (NRDCAA) is a progressive and active group that values the heritage, environment, and the quality of life for residents and appreciation of the rural outlooks of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area by residents and visitors. We have been active in the HLGA for approximately 10 years.**

**Our membership/supporter base is predominately North West of the Hawkesbury River in Villages such as North Richmond, Grose Vale, Grose Wold, Bowen Mountain, Kurrajong, Kurrajong Heights, Bilpin, Blaxland Ridge, East Kurrajong, Wilberforce, Freemans Reach and Glossodia.**

**With regards to the SRV, NRDCAA representatives attended at least 10 of the Council community meetings overall to discuss the three options for a SRV.**

**Staff provided very detailed briefing papers that were thoroughly discussed, followed by Q and A.**

**All debate/questions were dealt with in a very respectful manner by all participants, We feel the community meetings we attended were of a very high standard in input and professionalism.**

**We also note the Mayor, Councillor Lyons-Buckett was in attendance at the meetings we attended which further gave us confidence our Community leader was also available along with some other Councillors to listen to the community feedback.**

**The CoM, which meets monthly, except December, decided after attending the briefings and reviewing the information, we were informed enough to unanimously support option 3.**

**Our communities want better transport infrastructure, services, social infrastructure, protection and improvement to our environment and heritage amongst other things.**

**In addition, the three options were canvassed at our bi monthly meetings and posted on facebook and website page. No negative feed back was received on the CoM support for option 3.**

**As an aside, Council did adopt, in our view a fairer rating system to commence this year for the majority of ratepayers which helped the process.**

**NRDCAA representatives also attend most Council meetings and have spoken at Council meetings in support of the SRV.**

**It is not easy to support tax increases but we believe Council staff presented Council's positions and the community's wants very clearly with regards to improving our beautiful HLGA.**

**When cost shifting occurs from State and Federal Governments to Local Government they should provide the finance to fund cost shifting. Ipart could make a definitive statement on this unfair and unreasonable practice.**

**The NRDCAA also believe that land valuations are the only fair way to determine the rating system. The cost of goods and service are generally determined by their value.**

**Should you require further information please contact me.**

**Our CoM is led by our President Beatriz Insausti. the Cc's are members of the CoM.**

**On behalf of the NRDCAA Michael Want Vice President**