

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Sunday, 10 March 2019

Submission: Dear Sir/Madam

The attached submission is on behalf of [REDACTED] Precinct which is comprised of a group of residents of North Sydney Council (NSC) who meet on a monthly basis.

Our Precinct hold monthly meetings. At the most recent meeting held Thurs 7 March 2019, members voted unanimously to not support NSC's proposed SRV of 7%. The attached letter states our reasons for the lack of support.

Within [REDACTED] Precinct there are over 2,500 residences in Cremorne & Neutral, NSW.

We wish to have our actual Precinct name anonymous but we are happy to have our submission published as long as our Precinct is referred to only as "Precinct".

“Precinct Committees are run by residents and are advisory....open forums which anyone can attend and consult on a range of community issues. The meetings are one avenue for informing Council of community opinion and maintaining two-way communications between community members and Council staff and Councillors. Individual Precinct Committee comments/actions are responded to and considered by Council in its statutory decision making role”
(https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Precincts/Guidelines_Overview)

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Precinct

SUBMISSION TO IPART

By [REDACTED] Precinct

RE: SRV application - North Sydney Council

[REDACTED] Precinct** wish to express opposition to the 7% SRV application by North Sydney Council (NSC).

Our reasons for opposing the rate increase are:

- **Lack of demonstrated need for the increase**

We are not convinced that NSC has demonstrated fully that Council needs to generate the additional revenue it requires for the projects publicly stated through rate increases - the community has not been provided with adequate information on alternative revenue sources as part of its funding proposal.

- **Lack of community support for rate increase**

We are not convinced that the majority of the community actually demonstrated support for the special variation and the associated program of expenditure.

Evidence for the lack of support for a 7% increase can be seen in the results of the online and email community surveys which show **the majority of respondents (51%) want a rate peg only increase.**

51% Scenario 1 – rate peg only

18% Scenario 2 – 5% increase

21% Scenario 3 – 7 % increase

The random survey results showed that Scenario 2 was the preferred option.

This demonstrates clearly that the community does not support a 7% increase.

- **Insufficient information provided to the community and inconsistent linking of Community's wishes to the Community Strategic Plan**

The public consultation material (flyer) did not provide a sufficient or balanced explanation of Scenario 1 (rate peg only).

The community was not consulted regarding the proposed list of discretionary services which the flyer states will need to be cut if Scenario 1 was adopted.

The community was not consulted about the projects listed as needed in Scenario 2 & 3. These two scenarios are also misleading as they list projects which were not specifically stated in the North Sydney Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028. eg Badangi Reserve Walking Trail \$180,000

In addition the \$3 million for Neutral Bay & Cremorne Villages may no longer be required to be funded entirely from rates given that NSC signed a funding agreement with Transport for NSW late 2018 (Council Meeting Minutes 29.10.18) for a similar amount to upgrade streetscapes in these villages as a result of the B-line bus project.

For these reasons, Precinct Is not satisfied that the purpose of the special variation is consistent with the community's objectives identified in the council's 2020 Vision – Community Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028.

In summary, for all the reasons stated above, [REDACTED] Precinct does not North Sydney Council's application for a 7% rate increase.

** [REDACTED] Precinct is comprised of a group of residents of North Sydney Council (NSC) who met on monthly *basis*

“Precinct Committees are run by residents and are advisory....open forums which anyone can attend and consult on a range of community issues. The meetings are one avenue for informing Council of community opinion and maintaining two-way communications between community members and Council staff and Councillors. Individual Precinct Committee comments/actions are responded to and considered by Council in its statutory decision making role”

(https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Precincts/Guidelines_Overview)