

Index of supporting documentation (2012/2013)

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1. Consultation material from Community Engagement ☂



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT YOUR RATES



Dear Ratepayer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RATES


It is important that you read the information contained within this document and give consideration to a rating option (1,2 or 3), that you would consider supporting.

Council is asking residents to continue to support existing special rates for important infrastructure and environmental works (e.g. roads, footpaths, kerbing, community buildings, stormwater, reserves and bushcare) to fund a gap of approximately \$869,768 pa for capital works and to provide additional funding for footpaths and kerbing, government increases for street lighting electricity, fire brigades and emergency services levy and initiatives identified by the community during the preparation of the community strategic plan in 2010 and 2011.

While Council continues to strive to increase the efficiency of its operations in order to remain financially viable and provide for effective maintenance and renewal of its infrastructure, several external factors have led to costs increasing beyond Council's control. Further details about the financial impact Council bears from external agencies can be found on Council's website, along with Council's Draft Asset Management Plan, which forms the basis of the need for continuing and seeking a special variation to rates.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RATING OPTIONS?

Please note that the dollar figure your rates will decrease/increase by, as listed below, will vary depending on your new land valuation. A rating calculator is available on Council's website www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au for each rating scenario, which asks residents to enter their land value, land and garbage type. The rating calculator will then give residents an estimate of the new rate value.





Option 1 - Rate peg increase of 3.60% and discontinuance of special rates that expire in 2012/13 and 2013/14

If this option is chosen then proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 per year to allow us to continue to further improve your roads will not occur and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements will be terminated.

The average weekly decrease for Option 1 in 2012/13 is 0.26c, and the average yearly decrease is \$13.49.

Option 2 - Rate peg increase of 3.60% and continuance of special rates that expire in 2012/13 and 2013/14

If this option is chosen then proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 will be provided to allow us to further improve your roads and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements will be continued plus additional funding for footpaths and kerbing will be provided.

The average weekly increase for Option 2 in 2012/13 is \$1.07, and the average yearly increase is \$51.61.

Option 3 - Rate peg increase of 3.60%, continuance of special rates that expire in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and an operational catch-up increase to the general rate of 2.0%

If this option is chosen then proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 will be provided to allow us to continue to further improve your roads and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements will be continued. Additional funding will also be available for footpaths and kerbing, government increases for street lighting electricity, the fire brigades and emergency services levy and initiatives identified by the community during the preparation of the community strategic plan in 2010 and 2011.

The average weekly increase for Option 3 in 2012/13 is \$1.55, and the average yearly increase is \$80.41.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PROPOSED INCREASES FOR SERVICES?

Due to increased tipping fees, collection costs and the uncertain impacts of carbon pricing Council is providing for an indicative increase to garbage/waste services of 11.6%.

HOW MUCH DO WE COLLECT AND SPEND COMPARED TO OTHERS?

COUNCIL AVERAGE	Average Population	Revenue Per Capita 2007-08	Expenses Per Capita 2007-08	Revenue Per Capita 2008-09	Expenses Per Capita 2008-09	Revenue Per Capita 2009-10	Expenses Per Capita 2009-10
NSROC (7)*	77,206	1,021.17	851.73	875.74	891.78	953.61	881.66
SHOROC (4)*	66,417	1090.04	1016.25	1067.64	1078.60	1124.84	1113.80
GROUP 2 (15)*	46,484	1,092.87	1,001.81	999.21	1,028.91	1,064.30	1,051.87
Hunters Hill	14,467	754.69	703.51	777.39	778.53	750.74	773.83

* See Councils website for list of Councils

Compared to others we raise and spend considerably less per capita than most. This is a much more accurate representation of Council income and expenditure than just quoting the ‘average rate’.



RATE OPTIONS IN DETAIL

OPTION 1	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate Peg	3.60%	*3.0%	*3.0%	*3.0%
2. Discontinuation of Local Loan 1	-4.31%			
3. Discontinuation of Local Loan 2		-3.10%		
4. Discontinuation of Environmental Special Rate		-2.17%		
Sub Total	-0.71%	-2.27%	3.0%	3.0%
5. Operational Catch Up	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Proposed Decrease/Increase	-0.71%	-2.27%	3.0%	3.0%
Increase Above Existing Rate	-0.71%	-2.27%	3.0%	3.0%

OPTION 2	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate Peg	3.60%	*3.0%	*3.0%	*3.0%
2. Continuation of Local Loan 1 to become Special Rate - Roads (Further 10 years)	4.31%			
3. Continuation of Local Loan 2 to become Special Rate – Infrastructure (Further 10 years)		3.10%		
4. Continuation of Environmental Special Rate (Further 10 years)		2.17%		
Sub Total	7.91%	8.27%	3.0%	3.0%
5. Operational Catch Up	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Proposed Increase	7.91%	8.27%	3.0%	3.0%
Increase Above Existing Rate	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%



OPTION 3	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate Peg	3.60%	*3.0%	*3.0%	*3.0%
2. Continuation of Local Loan 1 to become Special Rate - Roads (Further 10 years)	4.31%			
3. Continuation of Local Loan 2 to become Special Rate – Infrastructure (Further 10 years)		3.10%		
4. Continuation of Environmental Special Rate (Further 10 years)		2.17%		
Sub Total	7.91%	8.27%	3.0%	3.0%
5. Operational Catch Up	2.0%	2.0%		
Total Proposed Increase	9.91%	10.27%	3.0%	3.0%
Increase Above Existing Rate	5.6%	5.0%	3.0%	3.0%

*Assumed figure for rate peg

HOW CAN RESIDENTS COMMENT?

Residents can participate by:

- Taking part in a telephone survey. (Residents will be contacted randomly by IRIS Consulting)
- Completing an online survey at www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au
- Participating in a community forum to be on Wednesday 8 February 2012 at 7pm, or Sunday 12 February 2012 at 2.00pm, at the Town Hall.

Comments and suggestions need to be emailed to: council@huntershill.nsw.gov.au by Monday 13 February 2012.

Your feedback will be used to make a determination on the proposed variation to rates and thank you to those residents who have already commented and Council will keep residents informed of the outcome of proposed variations to rates.

Please visit the Hunter's Hill Council website www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au for detailed information, the rates calculator, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's).

Barry Smith
General Manager

Celebration Calendar

MARCH

The Sesquicentenary Year concludes on Monday, March 12 at a Council meeting in the Town Hall. The municipality's French heritage will be celebrated with a cocktail party in the grounds of Passy Chateau in Passy Avenue from 4.30pm

until 6pm on March 18.

During the first two weeks in March Hunters Hill Museum will present an exhibition on the French families who established Hunters Hill.

Lots of COMPLAINTS and cruel CONMEN

Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts received 42,500 complaints last year.

Mr Roberts is NSW Minister for Fair Trading and said complaints about mobile phones, used cars and dodgy appliances topped his complaints list.

Defective or unsatisfactory goods, repairs and maintenance were the most common cause of grief, costing consumers around \$1 billion last year. Household electrical topped the list with 2,611 complaints, followed by 2,476 complaints about shoddy builders.

Mr Roberts received 2,258 complaints about used cars. In the Lane Cove electorate

there were substantial numbers of complaints related to fashion items (including shoes) and the purchase and sale of properties.

The Rental Bond Board also received local complaints.

"Some business people are ignoring their legal obligations, leaving consumers to sort out the problem on their own through the courts and at their own expense," he said.

Travel problems caused by political and industrial unrest pushed up the number of tourism-related complaints. The Federal Government's much touted solar panels were the eighth most common cause of complaint.

Several elderly people have been conned by criminals posing as tradesmen, despite warnings by Gladesville Police in last week's edition of TWT.

The conmen are targeting elderly and disabled residents across the North Shore and tell their intended victims they've been sent by Council to carry out emergency work done on their homes.

The work involves jobs the elderly or disabled residents are unable to undertake themselves, such as repairing driveways, curbside concreting or tree lopping.

They then charge the residents an exorbitant price for an incomplete job and demand that a signed cheque be hand-

ed over or they will leave the work in an unfinished, hazardous state. The cheques are then taken to local banks where they are cashed.

The conmen have now been reported in the Kuring-gai area and other suburbs north of Hunters Hill. Gladesville Police describe the men as being of Caucasian appearance aged between 20 to 30 years old.

They have European accents. Similar scams in Sydney's northern suburbs were reported late last year and several people have since been charged.

Police say no one should be embarrassed if they have become a victim and encourage anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Virtual treasure trove for everything at good prices

SALVOS STORES Gladesville has been in its current location, 187 Victoria Road, for over two years.

If you have any queries the phone number is 9816 1418. Store hours are from 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 2pm Saturdays. The team of staff and volunteers have created a bright, fun and friendly atmosphere in the store.

There is a treasure trove of collectables, books, reused and new clothing, furniture and gifts at surprisingly affordable prices. Our product range changes on a daily basis as newly donated products are received and sorted.

SALVOS STORES are run by The Salvation Army with all proceeds generated, funding vital work and programs within the community. This includes meals for the hungry, beds for the homeless, employment assistance, food vouchers as well as supporting those in desperate need of help.

They also have a continual range of soaps, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, tissues and other new products. By donating any quality clothing, household items, furniture, toys, homewares and even paintings

or prints, you are not only helping your local community but you'll also be helping the environment. Donations are accepted before 4pm Monday to Friday and before 1.30pm on Saturdays. The store is closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Please note that unfortunately we can no longer accept old analogue TV sets. Turn into Cowell Street and enter the Council car park to the drop-off area behind the store. Please contact the store prior to donating large pieces of furniture.

IF YOU would like your donations to be collected please call 13 SALVOS (13 72 58) and they will arrange a time for a truck to come and collect. Salvos Stores also have an online site where you can pick up special bargains from the comfort of your home. Simply visit www.salvos.org.au/stores to see what is on offer. Also, feel free to join us on

Facebook to get the latest information on what's happening at Salvos Stores Gladesville, including events, competitions, exclusive offers and share with other Salvos Stores customers your local finds. To join our online community find us at www.facebook.com/mysalvosstores

SALVOS STORES offer their loyal customers special discounts through a loyalty card program so further savings can be gained on our already low prices. Conditions apply. Ask your local store staff member for your card and start saving more today.

Customers looking for a bargain will always find selected clothing at 50 per cent discount every trading day. Furthermore, there are \$1 and \$3 specials that run from Monday to Wednesday every week at every store.

* **NICOLE GOUGH** is manager Salvos Stores Gladesville.

To The POINT

With
NICOLE GOUGH



Fundraising efforts pay off with a restored roof

SHORTLY, RESIDENTS living near The Priory will notice scaffolding being erected around the building.

Following many fundraising events and a grant from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, The Priory's roof is about to be restored.

This work will include removing and replacing broken and damaged slate, replacing eroded downpipes and gutters, restoring chimney stacks and installing new battens and flashings.

The work is expected to be finished by May 2012. Then, restoring the sandstone will be our next challenge.

HUNTERS HILL residents will recently have received both a new property valuation from the Valuer General, and a rates information brochure from Council in the mail.

The new value of your property, which the Valuer General has also forwarded to Council, will be used to calculate your rates.

Secondly, the rates information brochure recently received by residents outlines Council's need to ask residents to continue to support existing infrastructure levies (including roads, footpaths, kerbing, community buildings, stormwater, reserves and bushcare).

The imposition by other levels of government for increases to street lighting, fire brigades, and emergency services, which have all been passed onto local government, make it extremely difficult for Hunters Hill Council to continue to maintain our existing infrastructure and services at a satisfactory level.

COUNCIL IS asking residents to make a decision and select one of three rating models. The first option is to allow existing levies to expire, meaning a reduction in infrastructure maintenance.

The second model is to allow the existing levies to continue, meaning infrastructure will be maintained at an acceptable standard.

The third option is to allow the levies to continue, and to include a 2 per cent operational catch-up for the imposed increases to street lighting, fire brigades and emergency services.

HUNTERS HILL HAPPENINGS with Mayor SUE HOOPMANN



and you can do this by completing an online survey that will enable Council to make a decision about which rating option to take to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

For more information about this important issue contact Council 9879 9400.

HUNTERS HILL Tennis Club is holding an Open Day for new members on Sunday February 19 at the beautiful lawn courts, corner Woolwich Road and Jeanneret Avenue, from 12 noon to 5pm.

If you would like to play tennis on real grass, phone 9816 2504, to confirm your place. It's also possible to play mid-week tennis, and professional club coaching is available.

However, players need to be competent junior or adult players - not beginners. Real grass tennis is rare. Join this fabulous experience by phoning Judy Smith on 0408 658 900 or 9817 3783.

Council needs your feedback,

HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RATES

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Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL NOTIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

In accordance with the provisions of Clause 25C of Hunters Hill LEP No.1, notice is hereby given that Council is in receipt of a Section 96 Application to the following Development Application:

DA No.	Site	Proposal
07 1133-1	14 Abigail Street, HUNTERS HILL	Removal of cladding on southern elevation. Change a number of fixed windows. Reduction in size of one window. - Section 96 Application

The plans and supporting documentation may be inspected at the Customer Service Centre between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Written submissions will be received up until 4.00pm Friday 9 March 2012 and all enquiries may be directed to Mr Kerry Smith on 9879 9400.

Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER

Celebration Calendar

JANUARY

On Australia Day Hunters Hill Council will hold a Citizenship ceremony at Clarke's Point from 10am.

MARCH

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French heritage will be celebrated with a cocktail party in the grounds of Passy Chateau in Passy Avenue from 4.30pm until 6pm on March 18.

During the first two weeks in March Hunters Hill Museum will present an exhibition on the French families who established Hunters Hill.

Splashing about with serious art

It was splashdown time under a giant marquee at the Hunters Hill Club (right) on Wednesday as children from Camp Quality joined Club Events Manager Kaycee Tuckerman for some serious finger painting.

Ms Tuckerman said the club was honored to host dozens of kids living with cancer, from diverse cultural backgrounds and from all walks of life.

"One group of kids enjoyed their day at the Hunters Hill Club art lessons provided by ArtEscape," she said.



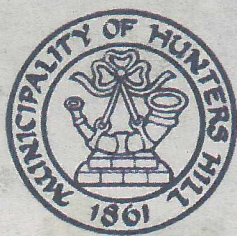
"It is basically fun art where the kids create their painting with everything but paint brushes ... and is lots of fun."

A second group of children

from Camp Quality attended dance classes at the Hunters Hill Sailing Club where the girls from LIKE Dance Studio guided them through a hip hop routine.

"Madeline's Brassiere provided a sausage sizzle for their lunch along with fruit and juice as refreshments," Ms Tuckerman said.

TWT on-the-spot PHOTO



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RATES

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Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER

Hunters Hill Guest Column

Our local radio station manned by volunteers

2RRR 88.5 community radio station is the voice of your local community operated entirely by volunteers.

Commencing transmission in 1984 in a converted garage at the rear of the then Meadowbank Technical College, and then moving to Henley Cottage in 1988, it has provided continuous transmission of a very diverse range of radio programs including presently 12 ethnic programs, plus country, jazz, heavy metal, popular music, sport programs and others such as a gardening program which is rebroadcast on the community radio satellite transmission Australia wide.

2RRR is in Henley Cottage, an historic building which originally formed part of Gladesville Hospital and is 105 years old and is on the corner of Victoria Road and Crown streets, Henley.

At one stage it was derelict and in danger of being demolished but has since been restored to its former glory, thanks to Hunters Hill Council and government grants and support from the public.

THE STATION'S mast and transmitter were at Goulding Road, North Ryde for over 27 years on land owned by Sydney Water, which advised in late 2010 that it was intending to subdivide the portion on which our transmission facilities stood.

After protracted and unsuccessful negotiations to remain on site, the station's facilities have been relocated to a site on North Ryde Golf course, with no loss in broadcast coverage or quality.

2RRR expresses its heartfelt thanks to the public and City of Ryde Council for its unfailing support and also the Federal government for a grant which materially assisted the process, without which the transition may not have occurred.

2RRR CONDUCTS and has conducted radio training courses almost since inception, and these courses are designed to

provide all that is needed to get a basic start in radio. They are held up to three times a year, with the renowned Steve Ahern as the course principal, and the next course commences on Monday February 13.

Club Ryde X (formerly Ryde Ex-Services Club) is joining with 2RRR in putting eight trainees including six students through this next course, with a view to the students presenting a youth program on completion of their training.

2RRR actively assists other local community organisations in promoting their events and activities and provides outside broadcasting coverage at various events from time to time, including the Granny Smith and Moocooboola festivals and the

To The POINT

With
BRUCE FLARRETTY



recent Christmas carols concert.

IN THE next three months the station will be conducting a subscriber member drive and a radiothon to assist it to keep up to date with modern trends and the ever increasing costs of providing a quality and informative radio broadcasting service, and will hope for a generous response.

In the interim, anyone who would like to know more about 2RRR can contact us on 9816 2988 or by email on office@2RRR.org.au or visit the website at www.2RRR.org.au

* BRUCE FLARRETTY is a life member of 2RRR and Radio Training Course co-ordinator.

Cannons silent as thunder explodes

Thunder and lightning replaced the sound of cannons at a cancelled performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture by the SBS Youth Orchestra during this year's Back to Hunters Hill Weekend.

The cancellation nonetheless prompted some locals to ask why music composed in 1881 was appropriate for the Sesquicentenary.

The 1812 Overture was composed by Russian Pyotr Tchaikovsky in 1880 to commemorate Russia's defence of Moscow against French Napoleon's advancing Grande Armée 200 years ago, in 1812.

It is an appropriate piece for the sesquicentenary because Tchaikovsky became a composer in 1861, the year Hunters Hill became a municipality.

Hunters Hill's historic links to France will be celebrated in the grounds of Passy, in Passy Avenue on Sunday, March 18

from 4.30pm until 6.30pm.

Hunters Hill Council will officially conclude the Sesquicentenary year at the Council Meeting on Monday, March 12.

Other locals ask what was the big event on Australia Day in 1812. Colonial records note Sydneysiders flocked to see the arrival of the convict vessel 'Guildford' carrying 200 male convicts.

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens also dates from this era and was Sydney's first zoological garden.

In 1812, Hunters Hill was also buzzing with the news that the USA had declared war on the British Empire.



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

In accordance with the provisions of Clause 19C of Hunters Hill LEP No.1, notice is hereby given that Council is in receipt of the following Development Applications:

DA No	Site	Proposal
10 1105-1	15 Hunter Street, WOOLWICH	Demolish existing dwelling and erect new dwelling with basement plus inground pool and landscaping. Section 82A - Review of Determination.
11 1151	58 & 60 Gladesville Road, HUNTERS HILL	Demolition of existing buildings and construction of mixed use residential/retail
11 1149	39 Woolwich Road, HUNTERS HILL	Demolish existing house, construct new dwelling.

The plans and supporting documentation may be inspected at the Customer Service Centre between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Written submissions including a daytime telephone number will be received up until 4.00pm Friday 24 February 2012. All enquiries may be directed to, Mr Kerry Smith on 9879 9400.

Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER

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until 6pm on March 18.

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Marine Rescue quit bowls club

A photo (right) of Marine Rescue officers - glued to a window at the Henley Bowling Club - is all that remains after their year-long occupation.

Marine Rescue removed its operational equipment over Christmas and the historic bowling club site has been restored to the trusteeship of Hunters Hill Council.

The Council will now resume work on its draft Gladesville Reserve and Henley Bowling Club Plan of Management, which was abruptly stopped in January last year when the Kennelly Government took over trusteeship of the club and Marine Rescue took up a lease.

This action led to hundreds of residents holding a protest meeting in Hunters Hill Town Hall that was supported by Mayor Sue Hoopmann and other councillors.

The meeting granted the Mayor mandate to push for the club's return to the community and saw Marine Rescue agree to a self-

imposed good behaviour bond.

Hunters Hill General Manager Barry Smith praised the residents for their support and said it encouraged the Council to keep fighting to get the club back.

He said residents had good reason to celebrate saving the club but he would not be

celebrating himself.

"We have had to put back work on the (draft) Gladesville Plan of Management by a whole year because of this (situation) with Marine Rescue."

Mr Smith said Marine Rescue didn't cite an official reason for pulling out or where it would relocate.

"Marine Rescue obviously didn't believe the bowling club was the best location, which is what Council and the community said from the outset," he said.

The bowling club is currently being used by the local Bridge club, a dance troupe, a sports group and a children's playgroup.



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

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Barry Smith
GENERAL MANAGER

Hunters Hill Guest Column

Our citizens of the year give us their thoughts

Citizen of the Year
RAY WILSON AO



To The POINT

With

RAY WILSON, ANGUS LE LIEVRE
& WILLIAM ANSCHAU

years I have attended St. Joseph's College and been a full-time boarder.

At every opportunity I was provided, I tried to maintain a balance in all aspects of my life, and strive for better things, the motto of Joeys. Fortunately, by having this attitude, I was able to perform to the best of my ability in both cricket and rugby in my final two years of schooling.

I have received incredible support from both my parents and my older brother, and I would not have been able to do anything without their encouragement. Furthermore, the support of my teachers, sport coaches and the Hunters Hill community cannot be underestimated, and I wish to thank them as well.

Young Citizen of the Year
WILLIAM ANSCHAU



Sportsperson of the Year
ANGUS LE LIEVRE



I AM extremely honoured and privileged to have even been considered, let alone to receive the award. For the past four

I AM honoured and proud to have been selected. I have lived in Hunters Hill all my life, attended Hunters Hill School and St Joseph's College and I now work in the local area.

It is important that everyone makes a contribution to the community. My family and my time at college has taught me that we should always be looking to help other people.

I enjoy all the volunteering work I do with the Hunters Hill SES, Community Transport, Meals on Wheels, Anglicare and at the Community Centre. Everyone in my family is a volunteer and I recommend that

people should look for a way to help in the community as it makes a big difference to other people.

Community Event
of the Year
SCHOOLS XFaktor



THE HUNTERS Hill Schools XFaktor was a youth cultural event held on Friday September 16 last year to celebrate the Hunters Hill Sesquicentenary.

It was a talent quest focused on music, dance, acting or other performance in the style of the TV show XFaktor and was held in the Hunters Hill Town Hall.

It incorporated over 60 young performers from the four local high schools - Hunters Hill High, Riverside Girls High School, Marist Sisters College and St. Joseph's College. The event was organised together with the schools, with each of the students organising heats in their school to select performers for the final event.

A panel of three young judges chose the winners and a DJ provided entertainment and dancing during the event.

This event was organised with the assistance of a committee of young people from each school and provided an opportunity for young people to showcase their talent and celebrate youth culture in Hunters Hill.

It also provided a safe and fun event, an opportunity for connection and friendly competition between the schools and an event requested by young people to be involved in the planning.

They undertook graphic design for the promotion and ticketing, promoted the event within their school, assisted with organising judges and MC and stage management. Also, a DVD was produced which is on sale to the public.



Local identity Ray Wilson AO was named Hunters Hill Citizen of Year at the 2012 Hunters Hill Australia Day Citizen Awards & Citizenship Ceremony in Hunters Hill Town Hall. He is pictured with Mayor Sue Hoopmann, Cllrs Richard Quinn and Peter Astridge, Sportsperson of Year Angus Le Lievre, Young Citizen of Year William Anschau, Australia Day Ambassador Bruce Elder, Woolworths Boroia Park manager Tony Cremer and Community Event of Year "Schools XFaktor" reps Samantha Warren, Nadiyah Akbar, Georga Green, Samantha Debs, Rebecca Widjaja, Chris Spooner and Nick Henry. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO.

Rate rise will save roads and services

Fears about a loss of services and further deterioration of roads in Hunters Hill have emerged as the major concerns in the debate about a proposed municipal rate rise.

The urgent need to repair the municipality's aged roads is the overwhelming concern for residents alongside fears that services for elderly and other disadvantaged residents could be cutback.

Several residents interviewed by TWT cited an incident last year where an aged section of bitumen in Alexandra Street outside Fairland Hall collapsed and flooded nearby homes.

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Hunters Hill Council needs to justify its case for a rate rise to NSW regulatory authorities and hopes to demonstrate strong support from the community to save existing services. Hunters Hill General Manager Barry Smith said the reason behind the proposed rate rises was that the Council was spending more than it earned and coun-

cillors had resolved that this could not continue.

He also refuted claims made during Sunday's meeting that Council had got itself into its financial situation because it was wasting ratepayers money hiring more staff than it could afford.

"Hunters Hill Council has 59 staff," Mr Smith said. "I only have three more staff than I had 15 years ago ... you tell me another Council that has only increased its staff by only three in 15 years."

Hunters Hill is Sydney's smallest municipality and the bulk of the money the Council needs to raise will go on roads, lighting and other works projects.

Mr Smith presented a graph which showed Hunters Hill performed better than comparative councils but works completion times in Hunters Hill lagged behind completion times in other areas.

"We look for ways to save money. Our street lighting bill has increased and they

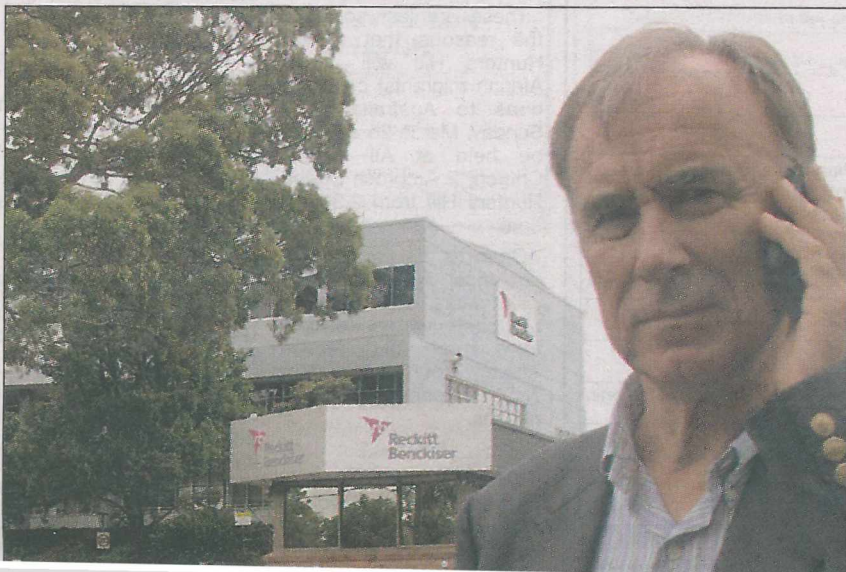
(Ausgrid) wanted to increase it by another 30 per cent, so we tendered for the best price and now the energy for street lighting in Hunters Hill is provided by Tasmanian Hydro, which only charged us a 10 per cent increase."

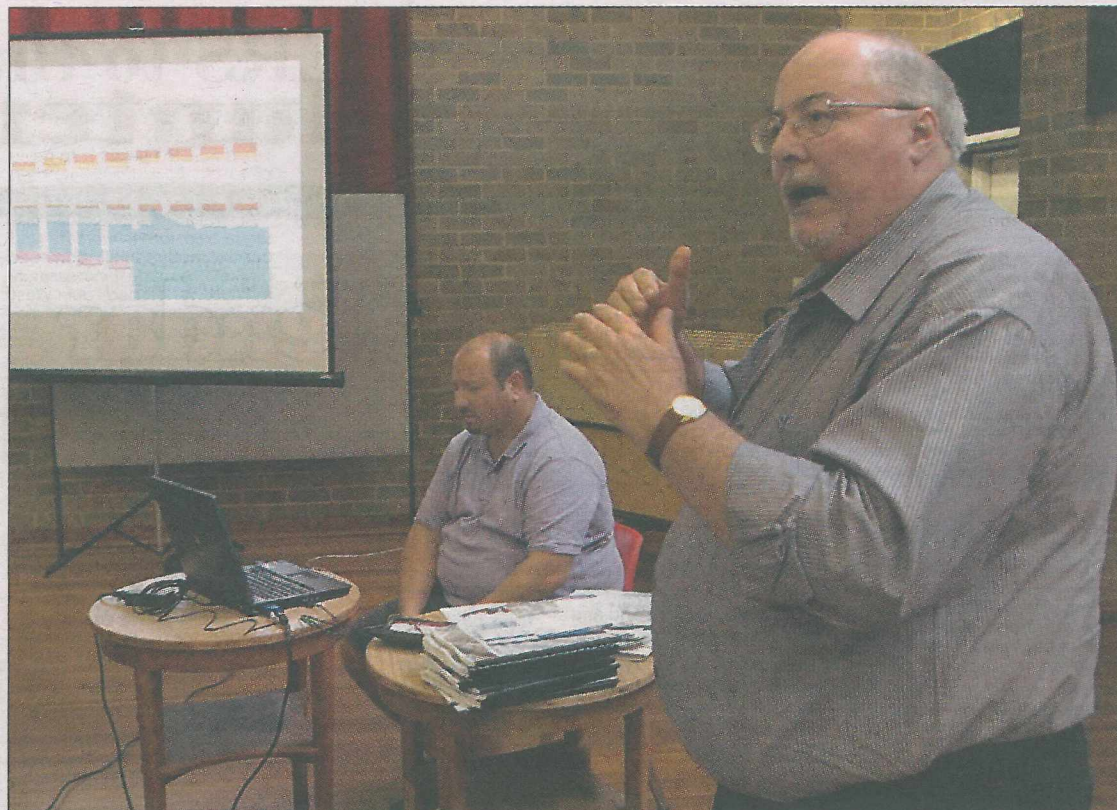
Like other Sydney councils, the NSW Government requires Hunters Hill to prepare a 10-year plan of management, to be reviewed every four years.

"We've also been given a target of creating 1,200 new dwellings and an extra population of 3,500, and we're expected to find the budget for it ourselves," Mr Smith said.

The Council's website will post the draft Delivery Plan, Operational Plan, Annual Report, Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan and Workforce Plan as these draft documents are released.

The website is www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au and residents can phone 9879 9400 for more information on proposed rate rises.





Hunters Hill General Manager Barry Smith addresses Sunday's community consultation at the Town Hall. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

Job losses on the agenda

The Federal Opposition's spokesperson on industry Sophie Mirabella will meet with business leaders and workers in Ryde next Monday, February 20.

The meeting starts at 3.45pm and will be held in the Ryedale Room of the Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club.

It is free and open to anyone concerned about the decline in local manufacturing, job losses, the loss of iconic Aussie brands and "a Carbon tax".

To book to attend the meeting contact the office of Bennelong MP John Alexander on 9869 4288.

Ms Mirabella's upcoming visit follows the recent axing of 190 workers at Mortein's West Ryde plant last week and concerns raised by the AMWU about unpaid wages and entitlements.

Last week's TWT article 'Sacked staff in pay fight' has seen Reckitt Benckiser CEO Lindsay Forrest

"Looking after our people is our priority at this time.

"This (job loss) announcement is understandably distressing for many of our team and we're working closely to ensure each and every one of the approximately 190 permanent staff who could be impacted are given appropriate support and assistance."

"Australia's geographical distance from other markets and our small domestic market has made it increasingly difficult to embed our West Ryde operations into these global arrangements."

The company said production would move to other global manufacturing sites including Asia and South Africa.

Bennelong MP John Alexander is in talks with the company to find

possible.

"Last week's sacking ... has highlighted the very difficult operating conditions facing Australian businesses," he said.

"Since the Gillard government came to power, 130,000 manufacturing jobs have been axed around the country."

"Many businesses are operating on wafer-thin margins and finding it far cheaper to move their jobs off-shore."

"I have invited Sophie Mirabella MP to visit our region and hold a Bennelong community forum on the impact of the decline in manufacturing and the impact of the Carbon Tax on business and jobs."

* 'Entitlements not an issue',

Hunter's Hill Council

News to Residents

www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au



Christmas/New Year Closure times & garbage service

.....

Hunter's Hill Council will close for business at 12 noon on Friday 23 December 2011 and will reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2012. Emergencies can be directed to Council's Duty Officer, ph: 0408 461 996.

Normal garbage services will operate over the Christmas/New Year period, starting at 4am due to the early closure of the transfer station. For garbage queries during this time please contact Council's garbage contractor, URM ph: 1300 136 460.

Important information about a proposed variation to rates

.....

To meet service standards and the increasing costs of infrastructure maintenance and renewal, Council will need to ask residents for their approval to apply for an extension of existing levies and a special variation to general income.

This need has arisen from continued rising costs, and cost shifting from other levels of government, including the 50% increase in costs for street lighting, an increase in energy costs, payment of additional superannuation contributions and the increase in the Fire Brigade Levy. Some of these costs have increased by

significantly more than inflation over the past three years, and Council cannot continue to absorb these costs.

Without the views and support of our residents, Council will be unable to make a strong case to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Council wants to hear what you think. To gain as much feedback as possible Council will be; conducting 400 random phone surveys, asking residents to complete an online survey, liaising with Council's committees, advertising in local media, conducting community forums in February, and providing residents with detailed information via Council's website www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au

An information brochure with financial impacts will be delivered with this newsletter. Please read this information carefully. Any feedback or questions can be directed to Hunter's Hill Council, ph: 9879 9400 or email: council@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

The closing date for all submissions is Friday, 10 February 2012.

Carols in the Park

6pm Sunday 4 December Boronia Park

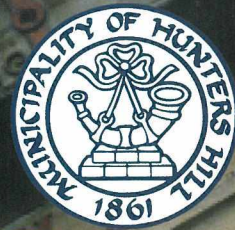
Expect a wonderful evening full of Christmas joy starring the highly acclaimed performer Melanie Parry, who returns due to popular demand.

Local primary and secondary schools also appear on the night. Santa, fireworks, food stalls, picnicking, family fun and much more make for a very special community carols.

Hunter's Hill Council P: 9879 9432 www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Hunter's Hill Council

News to Residents



Hunter's Hill Council, 22 Alexandra Street, PO Box 21, HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110, ph: 9879 9400 fax: 9809 7338
Email: council@huntershill.nsw.gov.au Web: www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Important information about your rates

Council is asking residents to consider one of the following 3 rating options, these are:

OPTION 1

3.6% compulsory rate peg

+

Termination of special infrastructure levies

=



Proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 per year to allow Council to continue the improvement of roads **will not** occur, and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements **will be terminated**.

The average annual reduction in your rates for Option 1 will be \$13.49.

OPTION 2

3.6% compulsory rate peg

+

Continuance of special infrastructure levies

+

2% for operations, eg street lighting

=



An additional amount of \$300,000 will be allocated for the improvement of roads. In addition to this the levies currently in place for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements (including additional funding for footpaths and kerbing) will continue. Council will also be in a position to partially fund the additional funding needed for street lighting, fire brigade and emergency services levies.

The average annual increase in your rates for Option 2 will be \$51.61.

OPTION 3

3.6% compulsory rate peg

+

Continuance of special infrastructure levies

=



An additional amount of \$300,000 will be allocated for the improvement of roads. In addition to this the levies currently in place for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements including additional funding for footpaths and kerbing will continue.

The average annual increase in your rates for Option 3 will be \$80.41.

How to comment.....

In order for Council to remain financially viable and provide for effective maintenance and renewal of its infrastructure, residents will need to make a decision about supporting either rating option 1, 2 or 3. To do this you will need to:

- Step 1 Read the information contained in the Special Rates Important Information brochure (either received in the post or available online).
- Step 2 Download the rate estimator/calculator. This Excel spreadsheet provides an annual and weekly estimate of your Council Rates and Charges for 2012/2013 under the 3 rating options.
- Step 3 Please give us your feedback via the online survey, which will enable Council to make a decision about which rating option to take to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

All comments and feedback are required by Monday 13 February 2012. Please contact Hunter's Hill Council for further information, ph: 9879 9400.

Your Free and Independent Local Newspaper!



Established 1921 P.O. BOX 123 RYDE 1680 Phone 02 9807 6666

Wednesday 15th February 2012

Ban the thugs!

Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts has called for the thugs who vandalised Kissing Point wharf on Saturday night to be banned for life.

[Details..](#)

FIREWORKS at Ryde Council!

Fireworks were expected at last night's Ryde City Council first meeting of the year following weeks of turmoil before Christmas with the Council evenly divided 6-6 over the highly contentious issue of the Ryde Civic Centre redevelopment proposal.

[Details..](#)

Mayor Again Gives His



[Details..](#)

Rate rise will save roads and services



Fears about a loss of services and further deterioration of roads in Hunters Hill have emerged as the major concerns in the debate about a proposed municipal rate rise.

[Details..](#)

New plan for former



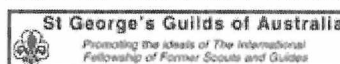
See Page 27



[Details...](#)



[Details...](#)



[Details...](#)

TWT Territory Happenings in 2012

[Calendar](#)



News

Rate rise will save roads and services

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Hunters Hill General Manager Barry Smith addresses Sunday's community consultation at the Town Hall. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

| [TOP](#) |



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

RATE OPTIONS IN DETAIL

OPTION 1	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate Peg	3.60%	*3.0%	*3.0%	*3.0%
2. Discontinuation of Local Loan 1	-4.31%			
3. Discontinuation of Local Loan 2		-3.10%		
4. Discontinuation of Environmental Special Rate		-2.17%		
Sub Total	-0.71%	-2.27%	3.0%	3.0%
5. Operational Catch Up	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Proposed Decrease/Increase	-0.71%	-2.27%	3.0%	3.0%
Increase Above Existing Rate	-0.71%	-2.27%	3.0%	3.0%

OPTION 2	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate Peg	3.60%	*3.0%	*3.0%	*3.0%
2. Continuation of Local Loan 1 to become Special Rate - Roads (Further 10 years)	4.31%			
3. Continuation of Local Loan 2 to become Special Rate - Infrastructure (Further 10 years)		3.10%		
4. Continuation of Environmental Special Rate (Further 10 years)		2.17%		
Sub Total	7.91%	8.27%	3.0%	3.0%
5. Operational Catch Up	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Proposed Increase	7.91%	8.27%	3.0%	3.0%
Increase Above Existing Rate	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

OPTION 3	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate Peg	3.60%	*3.0%	*3.0%	*3.0%
2. Continuation of Local Loan 1 to become Special Rate - Roads (Further 10 years)	4.31%			
3. Continuation of Local Loan 2 to become Special Rate - Infrastructure (Further 10 years)		3.10%		
4. Continuation of Environmental Special Rate (Further 10 years)		2.17%		
Sub Total	7.91%	8.27%	3.0%	3.0%
5. Operational Catch Up	2.0%	2.0%		
Total Proposed Increase	9.91%	10.27%	3.0%	3.0%
Increase Above Existing Rate	5.6%	5.0%	3.0%	3.0%

*Assumed figure for rate peg

HOW CAN RESIDENTS COMMENT?

Residents can participate by:

- Taking part in a telephone survey. (Residents will be contacted randomly by IRIS Consulting)
- Completing an online survey at www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au
- Participating in a community forum to be on Wednesday 8 February 2012 at 7pm, or Sunday 12 February 2012 at 2.00pm, at the Town Hall.

Comments and suggestions need to be emailed to: council@huntershill.nsw.gov.au by Monday 13 February 2012.

Your feedback will be used to make a determination on the proposed variation to rates and thank you to those residents who have already commented and Council will keep residents informed of the outcome of proposed variations to rates.

Please visit the Hunter's Hill Council website www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au for detailed information, the rates calculator, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's).

Barry Smith
General Manager

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RATES

Dear Ratepayer

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RATES

It is important that you read the information contained within this document and give consideration to a rating option (1,2 or 3), that you would consider supporting.

Council is asking residents to continue to support existing special rates for important infrastructure and environmental works (e.g. roads, footpaths, kerbing, community buildings, stormwater, reserves and bushcare) to fund a gap of approximately \$869,768 pa for capital works and to provide additional funding for footpaths and kerbing, government increases for street lighting electricity, fire brigades and emergency services levy and initiatives identified by the community during the preparation of the community strategic plan in 2010 and 2011.

While Council continues to strive to increase the efficiency of its operations in order to remain financially viable and provide for effective maintenance and renewal of its infrastructure, several external factors have led to costs increasing beyond Council's control. Further details about the financial impact Council bears from external agencies can be found on Council's website, along with Council's Draft Asset Management Plan, which forms the basis of the need for continuing and seeking a special variation to rates.

WOULD YOU SUPPORT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RATING OPTIONS?

Please note that the dollar figure your rates will decrease/increase by, as listed below, will vary depending on your new land valuation. A rating calculator is available on Council's website www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au for each rating scenario, which asks residents to enter their land value, land and garbage type. The rating calculator will then give residents an estimate of the new rate value.

Option 1 - Rate peg increase of 3.60% and discontinuance of special rates that expire in 2012/13 and 2013/14

If this option is chosen then proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 per year to allow us to continue to further improve your roads will not occur and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements will be terminated.

The average weekly decrease for Option 1 in 2012/13 is 0.26c, and the average yearly decrease is \$13.49.

Option 2 - Rate peg increase of 3.60% and continuance of special rates that expire in 2012/13 and 2013/14

If this option is chosen then proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 will be provided to allow us to further improve your roads and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements will be continued plus additional funding for footpaths and kerbing will be provided.

The average weekly increase for Option 2 in 2012/13 is \$1.07, and the average yearly increase is \$51.61.

Option 3 - Rate peg increase of 3.60%, continuance of special rates that expire in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and an operational catch-up increase to the general rate of 2.0%

If this option is chosen then proposed additional road funding of \$300,000 will be provided to allow us to continue to further improve your roads and programs currently funded by the special levy for bushcare, stormwater drainage, parks and reserves improvements will be continued. Additional funding will also be available for footpaths and kerbing, government increases for street lighting electricity, the fire brigades and emergency services levy and initiatives identified by the community during the preparation of the community strategic plan in 2010 and 2011.

The average weekly increase for Option 3 in 2012/13 is \$1.55, and the average yearly increase is \$80.41.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PROPOSED INCREASES FOR SERVICES?

Due to increased tipping fees, collection costs and the uncertain impacts of carbon pricing Council is providing for an indicative increase to garbage/waste services of 11.6%.

HOW MUCH DO WE COLLECT AND SPEND COMPARED TO OTHERS?

COUNCIL AVERAGE	Average Population	Revenue Per Capita 2007-08	Expenses Per Capita 2007-08	Revenue Per Capita 2008-09	Expenses Per Capita 2008-09	Revenue Per Capita 2009-10	Expenses Per Capita 2009-10
NSROC (7)*	77,206	1,021.17	851.73	875.74	891.78	953.61	881.66
SHOROC (4)*	66,417	1,090.04	1,016.25	1,067.64	1,078.60	1,124.84	1,113.80
GROUP 2 (15)*	46,484	1,092.87	1,001.81	999.21	1,028.91	1,064.30	1,051.87
Hunters Hill	14,467	754.69	703.51	777.39	778.53	750.74	773.83

* See Councils website for list of Councils

Compared to others we raise and spend considerably less per capita than most. This is a much more accurate representation of Council income and expenditure than just quoting the 'average rate'.

1. Community feedback 2012/13

Mr Barry Smith
General Manager
Hunters Hill Council

8 February 2012
(by email)

Dear Mr Smith

This is our response to Council's brochure regarding rates.

We are a retired, self-funded couple who have recently come back to live in Hunters Hill, where we both grew up. We need to watch our expenses. So, that's a little bit about us.

Walking is something we like to do but the condition of footpaths around the Boronia Park area is probably best described as dangerous in places. Several times my wife has tripped & nearly fallen while walking. We need better footpaths – maybe a wide walkway (2 people wide) alongside the edge of Boronia Park From High Street to Ryde Road? Try walking along Farnell or Blaxland Streets and having to contend with tree roots and uneven footpaths to get to the shops, as well as overgrown vegetation alongside the paths in Princes Street. Not very conducive to walking.

Balancing needs with the cost of providing them is a problem not just for Councils but for many families which must respond by pulling the belt tight. Has Hunters Hill Council "pulled the belt tight" before asking ratepayers for more; and, can you demonstrate that to us? Probably not. Council is really saying – if you want these things you are going to have to pay for them.

The population of Hunters Hill Council & its area is very small compared to all others. Is it time to consider amalgamating with an adjoining Council to achieve economies of scale? To continue asking ratepayers to cough up is not sustainable.

We will agree to option 3 only because we feel there is no real choice being offered.



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
January 18, 2012

The General Manager
Hunter's Hill Council
P O Box 21
HUNTER'S HILL NSW 2110

Dear Sir,

I, as a very long-time resident of Hunter's Hill (80 yrs)
am quite in favour of a 2.5% increase to our Rates.

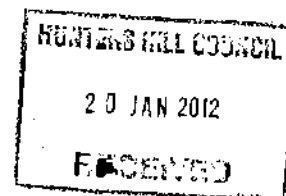
I am sure all residents understand that prices have to
rise, everything does, and I do feel that Hunter's Hill
Council do an extremely good job in managing our lovely
parks and facilities, as well as road works.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]



16th January 2012

**The General Manager
Hunter's Hill Council
P.O. Box 21
HUNTER'S HILL NSW 2110**



Subject: PROPOSED 2.5% INCREASE TO RATES – FOR 10 YEARS

It is unrealistic for the Council to expect ratepayers to commit to a rate increase to cover a decade.

Our rates are already very high –understandable while we remain in the smallest municipality of NSW. This ratepayer believes that there are too many local councils in this state leading to unnecessary duplication and inefficiencies.

We have just received our July 2011 Land Valuation – another increase which will require us to pay more rates for another 3 years, plus the expected increase in the rate-pegs for the 2012/13 financial year and beyond.

We could accept voting positively for a 2.5% increase for a period of 3 to 4 years. We need to be assured that the increase rates do, in fact, lead to effective outcomes. Giving a 10-year approval for such an increase is expecting too much of thinking residents.

Unless a more sensible time-frame is agreed, we would vote against any increase. A 3 to 4 year period, however, would elicit a positive response. A blanket agreement for a decade is simply not acceptable.

We suggest the Council revise its intentions to no more than a 4-year initial period.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

[REDACTED]

1st February, 2012-02-01

The General Manager,
Hunter's Hill Council,
P.O. Box 21.,
HUNTER'S HILL 2110



RE: PROPOSED RATE VARIATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

With regard to the proposed rate increase. Your original brochure that you put out said the average rate payer would have an increase of approximately 0.76c per week. I noticed it has now changed depending on which option is chosen. I have no objection to Option 2, (extremely hard for anyone to read this with the way the brochure has been presented) in the latest brochure but I would like to see a few more services for us as residents of Hunter's Hill. I feel as a rate payer we get very little as far as general services go.

At present we get one Green Bin (garden refuge) pick up a month. It would be good if Council could provide us with this service twice a month. My bin is totally full within a week of being emptied. We are known as the 'Garden Suburb of Sydney' with maintaining our trees and gardens there is constant garden waste. There are many council's who provide a fortnightly 'Green Bin' disposal namely Ryde, Lane Cove, Ashbury. These are just a few I am aware of there are many more.

Secondly, I would like to see the 'Street Sweeper' come up Moorefield Avenue more than once a year. I have spotted it twice in the street in the last two years. On one of those occasions I had to ring and ask if it could come by. We could do with it on a more regular basis particularly when the Jacarandas are in full bloom in November. Don't schedule it for a Monday or Tuesday though as Hunter's Hill hospital staff occupy most of Moorefield Avenue on those two days with their cars and it is impossible to get up the street. Most of us in our street take great pride in our homes and garden's but there are always a few that don't.

Thirdly, I don't feel Council should be mentioning the rise in electricity rates when every household is already experiencing this and now paying a lot extra for their electricity. That is something council have to wear just like everyone else is!

My Land Value has only increased by \$8000 in three years and my house value has not increased at all.

Yours sincerely,



The General Manager
Hunters Hill Council
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill NSW 2110

13th February 2011



Dear Sir,

I provide the following submission to HHC on the proposed special rate increases for the next 10 years. Regrettably I was unable to attend any of your recent meetings or forums.

At the outset let me say even though I can understand cost pressures and the demands for services I however, in principle object to an increase over and above the statutory allowable increase and the current existing extras. We pay a number of "special" rate levies and by your web site all these special/additional charges or loans currently represent a significant percentage increase over the base rate, by your brochure it is over 9% although if I understand their structure this % will change relative to land values due to a fixed component of the levy.

Increasing cost to rate payers should be something that we decide by a vote, we elect our representatives to manage our community, there is a perception that council just keeps expanding in staff and services which increases cost over and above the agreed and known or allowable increases. It is also not a one off request and being for 10 years and by human nature is almost like saying it is there forever.....I suggest after 10 years there will be a proposal to continue it.

Yes, I would happily pay any of the "average" rate increases as stated in your proposals as \$0.76pw and \$80.41 per year, presented this way is extremely misleading as with the diversity of land values in HH the average is a poor indicator to ask residents use as a measure.

My objection also relates to your proposal to use a percentage calculation, I view this method of increase as unbalanced, bias, inequitable and discriminatory to those people who have larger land holdings but do not consume any greater resources on a per person basis.

I suggest you need to be more creative in how you raise your desired revenue, if a fairer method is proposed it is more acceptable. If you need more income for services you provide to the community then it should be more of a user pays system, (this method is always defensible). If you deem that all land holders are users you cannot justify they pay disproportionate amounts for the same additional services required, the benefits are equal the payments are not.

Under the current economic climate you could not have picked a worse time to increase costs to the rate payer. I personally am on a fixed income which has actually decreased over recent years, I have to "CUT THE CLOTH TO FIT THE PURSE", I ask HHC do the same.

To endorse a fairer system for any increase, particularly for a special increase requirement, needs at the least a high fixed component before applying a percentage. I also offer as an attempt to be a little creative a few additional possibilities to increase income:

- There is a never ending process of building works occurring in the municipality particularly on the Woolwich/peninsular side . One issue is the sheer volume of building and secondly some of these for residential dwellings are more than enormous, even outrageous, one example is 66 The Point Road (approx address), these are very disturbing to our small and unique community and with one main thorough fare in and out of the penninsular exasabates the problem. These include:
 - Huge trucks transporting equipment and trucking earth to or from site
 - Volume of trades traffic, cement trucks, builders, deliveries
 - Pollution and waste to our streets and the Lane Cove river
 - Building noise up to 6 days per week
 - Road danger for residents and families
 - Numerous other inconvenience factors for residents

I am aware there are various local charges for developments and developers and these are complained about however, our suburb is unique and the council should not hesitate to increase these, besides many of these developments are turning us into an "eastern suburbs" landscape, so the greater the cost or size of the project such charges should be exponentially greater (not less or proportional).

- Given the problems you highlight with roads would it not be more equitable to levy household based on the no. of vehicles residing. With 2,3 & even 4 car families this should be a consideration, being a user pays principle it is difficult to object
- Efficiency; like personal income the more you earn the more you spend. One will never look for cost saving when greater income is easily available.

HHC are requesting a 2% increase to supplement operational costs, to my point above on efficiency, I defy anyone running a business who cannot find cost savings amounting to 2%.

To reiterate my objection to additional increases as per your latest flyer, I vote for Option 2 which I understand to be the status quo.

Yours sincerely



PS As a final observation it is disappointing to see contradictory information in your newsletters. The pre Christmas flyer states rates pegging is 3% with a proposal to residents requesting a 2.5% and this increase represents to the average rate payer \$0.76 per week.

New Year flyer has rate pegging at 3.6% with a request for 2%, option 3, being an average of \$80.41 which is \$1.55 per week, not that it makes a real difference to the principle but it does question credibility of the proposal.



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HUNTERS HILL COUNCIL
15 FEB 2012
RECEIVED

1 Rates enclosed

of Council Rates enclosed

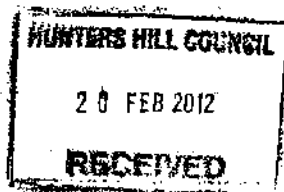
[REDACTED]

HUNTERS HILL COUNCIL

Dear Sir,

Being a senior & widowed
of 72 years old, I would
support option 1

Thank you
yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]



The General Manager
Hunters Hill Council
PO Box 21,
Hunters Hill NSW 2110

16/2/12

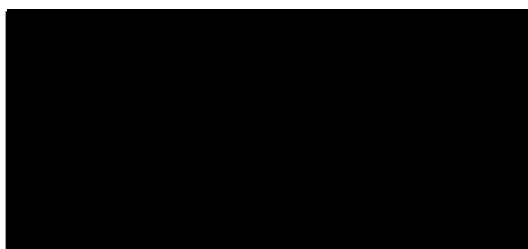


Dear Sir,

I have read with interest the information regarding increased rates for Hunters Hill Council. As I live in Gladesville I have not seen a lot of work done in this area until last week when the pavement in Venus Street was repaired. I have lived in Venus Street for 15 years have paid my rates on a yearly basis have been a aged pensioner for the past nine years but my rebate has not increased. Last year my rates increased by \$58-00 which I thought then was a bit much – and again no increase on my pensioners rebate.

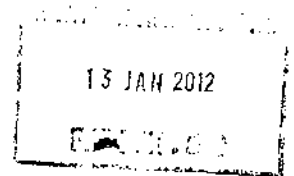
With the large increase last year and of another large increase this year will it be possible that the pensioners discount could increase. Also since half of Gladesville is in the Ryde area don't you think that all of Gladesville should be in the same council.

Yours faithfully,



To: The General Manager
Hunters Hill Council
PO Box 21
Hunters Hill NSW 2110

[REDACTED] 12.01.2012



Dear Sir

I am writing about your proposal to increase council rates by another 2.5% which was in your Council Information letter. I find this proposal unfair as Hunters Hill rates are already the most expensive in the country. The council should look at ways to save costs. Please consider the following in reduction of your costs.

1. Reduce staff and management costs. There is a manger overseeing small sections.
2. Staff Motor vehicles. Staff car costs.
3. I have witnessed at Valencia Wharf the waste of staff resources. Four workers are sent out to weed and clean up a small parcel of nature strip.
4. Introduce Parking meters around ferry stop and other public used areas to increase revenue. Not slugging ratepayers to maintained these areas do like other Councils.

I have been living in Hunters Hill for the last 20 years and I am disappointed how council is managing the area inefficiently. The council is constantly increasing rates without adding further value to residents. I do not feel I am getting value for my rates of \$2709 per year for 495sqm of land that I own. I am self retired and am struggling with all other increases in utility costs for electricity, gas, water and health costs as many other households. I urge to reconsider this increase as unfair to your residents and look at ways to decrease costs at Hunters Hill.



[Show Header](#)

Feedback on Rates Option

From : [REDACTED]
To : Council Emails
Sent : 7 February 2012 11:04:15

To Hunters Hill Councilors:

As residents of Woolwich we believe that Option 3 should be pursued:

Major Reason: If it means NO PARKING METERS (Includes PAY and DISPLAY machines) are to be installed in Woolwich – then it's worth it!

Paid parking will ruin the unique character and amenity of the peninsula. (Yes we are NIMBIES but if we have to, we are prepared to pay more to preserve the character of the area.)

I.e. The General Manager advocated the introduction of paid parking (revenue rising) to cover the cost of increased electricity charges.

Option 3 should cover the increased electricity and street lighting.

We believe the residents of Woolwich would prefer to pay more to keep the parking machines out.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)**Proposed increase in rates****From :****To :**

";

Sent :

7 February 2012 16:21:59

This is in reply to the brochure that has been sent to all residents of Hunters Hill
I have already sent an email back in November 2011 on this very subject, but received no reply. So here I go again.

I find it perturbing that Hunters Hill Council would even suggest increasing the rates of its ratepayers when the council does nothing to generate income from one the most heavily utilized amenities in our municipality, namely Clarkes Point.

This foreshore oasis is in constant use through out the warmer months, with people enjoying the free bbq, new amenity block, leaving their garbage for disposal by others & free parking . Why hasn't council installed a 'pay & display 'system. If you travel to Bondi, Paddington, Balmoral, Spit,Balmain, all charge a parking fee.

Why are we different ? It would be easy enough to issue a resident permit when rates are paid, you have a similar system for New Years parking.

I don't know anyone who lives in our municipality who utilize the facilities. Yes, many of us enjoy walking or jogging through the reserve, so who are these others, who use the facilities in the reserve. I would suggest non-residents, who should be paying their way

Also, are Marist Sister's College paying adequate 'rent' for their use of Weill Park. In term time, it is in constant use by the school, denying residents any chance of using it as a jogging track.

Perhaps council should be reviewing their ability to generate income without increase impost upon the ratepayers.

[REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)

Late distribution of the Newsletter - unable to vote

From :



To :

Council Emails

Sent :

20 February 2012 15:12:18

Good afternoon,

I live at 46 Batemans Road in Gladesville and have just today received the Hunter's Hill Council's Newsletter to Residents in which the residents are asked to vote/comment on the three funding options. The deadline for feedback had already finished on Monday 13 Feb. As today is 20 Feb I guess I am not able to vote.

Cheers




[Show Header](#)**Important Information about RATES**

From : [REDACTED]

To : Council Emails

Sent : 1 February 2012 12:54:34

Attachments :  image001.gif (4KB)

Hi

I have no respect or regard for any of your surveys.

I have lived in this area for 15 years and every time I pay my rates, they seem to go up and up without any consultation within the community. I don't have the time or energy to fill out your stupid surveys which make absolutely no difference.

In all my time here, the area surrounding the overpass, Church street, has been overgrown and looking absolutely disgusting, I cannot believe with all the council workers and trucks you have that this area is not looking perfect at all times. It is a disgrace that we pay one of the highest rates in NSW and yet the entrance to our lovely community is completely let go.

Everyone I have spoken to has come to the same conclusion, why bother!



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If you have received this message in error, we would appreciate an immediate notification via e-mail to oncall@bendigobank.com.au or by phoning 1300 BENDIGO (1300 236 344), and ask that the e-mail be permanently deleted from your system.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178

[Show Header](#)**Fwd: Proposed Variations to Rates**

From : [REDACTED]

To : ";

Sent : 13 February 2012 15:15:54

To Whom It May Concern,

Further to my e/mail of 5th Dec 2012, which I do not appear to have received a reply.

I have now received another News Letter from the Council requesting me to make a decision with regards to three options covering rate options in the future.

Until I receive a reply to my note of 5th Dec 2012 I am not in a position to reply to the options you are suggesting.

PLEASE RESPOND TO MY ORIGINAL NOTE.

Thank You [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 5 Dec 2011 16:24:40 +1100

Subject: Proposed Variations to Rates

To: council@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

To Whom it May Concern,

I refer to your colour brochure covering the above and your most recent News Letter.

I believe that before residents can make a qualified decision as to any rate increases or current status it would be important to know what reductions in services and service levels can be anticipated should residents decide not to support your proposed rate increases?

One area that particularly concerns myself and other residents I have spoken to is the clearance of green garbage waste, my understanding is that these bins are emptied once a month, for an area such as ours where residents are very house proud and conscious of a tidy garden / lawn a two week collection of the green bins would be a minimum.

I await your reply to the above with interest.

[REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)

FW: rate proposals

From :

To :

Sent :

8 February 2012 13:00:43

Please register

-----Original Message-----
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2012 12:50 PM
To: Barbara Hogan
Subject: rate proposals

I support option 3 for max contributions. [REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)

2012/2013 Rate Proposals

From :



To :

";

Sent :

9 February 2012 20:36:11

Council has asked ratepayers for their support of one of three options regarding the next rating period. To assist me to reach an informed decision, could you please provide me with the following additional information in relation to particular costs/expenditure/income.

ELECTRICITY. Council states that increased costs of street lighting is an identifiable factor in seeking rate increases. Given the extensive lighting used in Boronia Park (and the seemingly unregulated usage in respect to hours of operation and weather conditions) how much does the Park lighting cost Council/Ratepayers per annum and how much does the council recover from Users? (in \$ terms)

BORONIA PARK no 3 OVAL. As you are aware, major earthworks have been undertaken for an extensive period of time. What is the total estimated/ budgeted for the complete project (grounds, seating, access, parking, change rooms etc) ? How much has already been spent and how much is still outstanding?

Is Council the sole financial provider and if not, who is sharing the costs?

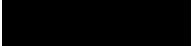
I realise that there are many more projects/cost pressures on Council but, for the moment the above are some of the more visible, cost intensive and ongoing fiscal outlays.

Your reply would be both helpful and appreciated.



[Show Header](#)

additional rate levy

From : 
To : Council Emails
Sent : 11 December 2011 11:23:02

Dear Council

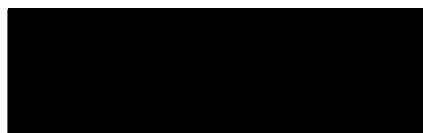
It is understood that Council is seeking community responses to the proposal to add an additional levy to the annual rates.

We do not support this proposal.

The reason for this negative response is that rates in Hunters Hill are extremely high due to the very high land values. We do not accept the argument that Hunters Hill rates are low. This latter view is based on the comparatively low rates expressed as a percent of land values. This is totally misleading due to the high land values.

The municipality appears to be in good shape and to be very well managed under the existing rates structure.

Yours sincerely



[Show Header](#)**AGAINST Rate Increase - Hunters Hill****From :****To :**

Council Emails

Sent :

19 January 2012 18:08:51

We at [REDACTED] Hill, are against the rate variation increase proposed by Hunters Hill council

- Where are the 2009/2010 Annual Statements on your website? Are you trying to hide something as we cannot compare previous years accounts? Plus, correct me if i'm wrong, but is there not an error in the Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio for the 2010 ratio? (i have calculated it should be approx 20%, and not the 89% as it is on the statement, based on the 2010 comparative balance)
- According to your Rate Variation FAQ, why is there a Superannuation Catch up? Yes, all our Super funds are hit hard by the GFC, but does that mean that we, as rate payers, have to maintain council workers super accounts, while ours suffer??
- In the 2010/11 report, your depreciation, Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment, and asset reserves are very much higher compared to previous years, but in your Rate Variation FAQ, you advised that this revaluation was done for land under roads for 2009/2010, then shouldn't these cost be reflected in the 2009/2010 reports, instead of a huge increase in the 2010/2011 year? This makes me believe that you have deferred these results to create an greater argument for a rate variation above the pegged rate allowed
- I agree with other forms to raise revenue, such as metered parking at parks and reserves for out of council visitors, especially, since we have great views etc, it is mostly people from outside the area that utilise the parks etc
- Mayor and Councillors have an annual allowance, then why the additional travel allowance? Also, if they are claiming Motor vehicle expenses, then why is it not itemised in the accounts, instead of dumping it all into a slush fund titled "Facilities and Expenses". Should the council not be a transparent entity for rate payers?
- Your argument that the GFC as adversely affected your financial statements, so it is one of your reasons, but we are all affected. What are the pensioners meant to do with a 10% rate increase that is proposed? Electricity prices etc has skyrocketed and we have all learnt to adjust to the increased cost. Why can't council learn to cut back on operation costs? You have a lot of red tape at council. As the well known example, why are there 5 people watching 1 person dig a trench? Everyone has to adapt and streamline to remain competitive in a downward economy. Instead of demanding more, you should review your processes and streamline them to make them more efficient and effective
- We are paying high rates already, however, we always have a missed bin collection and have to wait a few days before it is picked up again (one was even over the christmas/NY period). If you can't get it right now, how does it make us feel if we're paying more rates for the same level of service?
- While i agree that the footpath needs to be fixed, it is just that your over zealous tree preservation/street tree programs that also cause a risk. As we are at the end of mount street, many elderly people walk up from the Hospital for some exercise. We have seen first hand, and elderly lady (patient from the hospital) fall over outside #5 because it was too slippery, due to the leaves that settle on the uneven footpath. My husband immediately ran to the hospital for some help, while i comforted the lady and gave her some water to drink. If something had happened to her, and we

were lucky enough to be just returning home, then i would think you would have a potential law suit on your hands

- Another thing is your Tree Preservation stance. It is simply ridiculous. We had an application to remove a very tall Palm tree on our/neighbour's fenceline, which was very dangerous as it dropping huge and heavy fronds from up above into our driveway and we can always hear a loud "thud" when it does. It is a stand alone palm tree, and it's root ball is quite exposed, however, we were refused the application as it was over 3.5 meters tall. It does not blend with surrounding trees in our street and we even advised we would replace it with another species similar to the ones around us, yet it made no difference. This is simply illogical. Do we sue you if our property gets damaged because of the tree in which you failed to identify the potential damage/risk when you rejected our tree removal application?

Thankyou

[Show Header](#)

Continuance of Special Infrastructure Levies

From :



To :

“;

Sent :

9 February 2012 08:49:42

To Whom It May Concern

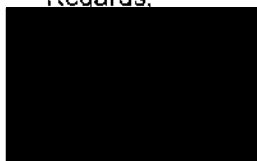
I already pay an extra \$249.33 a year in levies and instead of having one expire in June this year, you want to replace it with another levy! What is going to happen with the levies that expire in June next year? Are you going to go to rate payers again requesting a replacement?

I also need work done on my own infrastructure (house), but I have to fund any work from my existing income which does not automatically increase by 3.6% a year. On top of that, I see my utility costs and general living expenses increasing and my retirement benefits falling. But I still have to live within my means.

I would imagine that there are many people who live in Hunters Hill facing the same issues and in particular, self funded retirees doing it particularly tough with falling incomes. As a result, people are saving more and spending less in a year that is predicted to include economic turmoil and uncertainty.

It is time for Hunters Hill Council to tighten its own belt and learn to live within its own means instead of applying additional levies to fund its basic infrastructure obligations.

Regards,



[Show Header](#)**From :****To :**

Council Emails

Sent :

8 December 2011 18:49:18

Hi,

Im totally opposed to the rate increase>The fact that other greedy councils are ""cashing in""doest justify you doing it.Why dont you do what other businesses are doing at the moment and "trim back the fat".In the past 6 years my rates have already gone up a staggering 28%,through numerous unexplained extra levies& govt.taxes,All from a council thats infrastructure was 1 of the 1st established in Australia.\$300,000 to road works.Dont you get funding from the Federal Govt.& RTA for this?Give us a break.



[Show Header](#)**SURVEY****From :** [REDACTED]**To :** ";**Sent :** 7 February 2012 20:04:38

To whom it may concern,

I was contacted by one of the callers re the telephone survey. Since I have not had a chance to peruse the flyer distributed by the Council, my input wasn't attainable. Realising that I had missed an opportunity to voice my opinion towards an important matter, I logged on the Council website. I haven't been able to find the online survey, so I provide you here with my feedback.

Hunters Hill is a unique Council, for me, a 'Australian' originally from Italy, is a bit of home away from home. This not only in a picturesque kind of way, but also in terms of history and contribution the Italian community has given to this area. Today, even more, our Council is a rarity: the smallest Council in NSW.

With this preamble, as a resident of the area I'm happy to contribute towards the maintenance of our parks and environmental works. I'm even happy to leave aside the fact that our main road is constantly jack-hammered, patched up and drilled again: I guess I'm lucky I live in a cul-de-sac, the night-workers don't affect my sleep! I understand this is not a matter related to the Council, rather to AGL, Sydney Water, etc (although as representative of the local community I DO expect the Council to voice frustration and attempting to facilitate a somewhat organised intervention, so that the road gets resurfaced once and for all!). And furthermore I'm understanding of the fact that, in spite of the statement present on your website, a small street such as Leo St cannot be swept often (once every 3 months would be sufficient!).

As a voting citizen I believe the tax I pay should serve a purpose. Coming from a city (Bologna) known as 'the Red' I'm even sufficiently deluded to believe that the money raised should be allocated by the State to support the local Government based on the lobbying of the local representatives serving as voice of the local population. As mentioned above I'm happy to pay the increased rates, if this means helping the Hunters Hill not being swallowed by a larger Council.

Finally, I take this opportunity to present a recommendation: it is at time of hardship (see financial crisis) that the community should come together. Some of the areas that hopefully will be funded by our increase rates could, if the Council attempted a campaign, be addressed in form of volunteering (e.g. maintenance of parks and community facilities).

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)

Special rate variation

From :

To :

";

Sent :

8 February 2012 13:59:47

Please note I received 2 phone calls regarding a survey on your special rate variation proposal.

Note that the supporting material and information on your website is very poor and I was unable to answer the survey. This information, although very detailed, was not summarised in a succinct and structured way. I had to wade through pages of links and data to put together an inkling of what council was trying to achieve.....

Note that this type of financial information should be presented with a covering letter and a simple black and white brochure (not glossy brochures with distracting colour background photos) with tables outlining the additional % cost for each option and what services are financed with each - example :

Council needs to find an extra \$800k. This can be funded by 3 options :

Option 1

Text/brief summary

Extra Cost X%

Services Received A, B, C

Option 2

Text/brief summary

Extra Cost X%

Services Received A, B, C, D

Option 3

Text/brief summary

Extra Cost X%

Services Received A, B, C, D & E

It was frustrating that a simple summary was not presented to rate payers and I am sure that most people would have thrown the colour brochure out or found it very confusing.

Regards,



[Show Header](#)**Special Rate Survey**

From : [REDACTED]
To : Council Emails
Sent : 31 January 2012 11:33:12

Re: Format of survey Questionnaire for Special Rates levy,**Attention: General Manager and Councillors**

As local ratepayers we strongly object to the content & format of the aforementioned questionnaire. It is 'loaded and biased in the extreme' and does not allow for any comment or does not provide any viable alternatives for the respondents to consider.

Alternatives such as a review of current expenditure & priorities, restrained recruitment of new employees and review of current contracts are an essential first step in the budgeting to maintain current infrastructure. No evidence of these processes have been provided to ratepayers.

For sometime, we have been concerned by the apparent inefficient utilisation of resources by council and this impression was reinforced by its decision to consult with ratepayers about proposed rate increases using an expensive coloured, glossy brochure with photos.

We feel this consultation process is not honest, objective and transparent and that council redresses these issues expeditiously.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)**Resident comment re rates....**

From : [REDACTED]
To : Council Emails
Cc : Hilyard, Nick
Sent : 3 February 2012 13:15:16

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have looked at the rates information leaflet you sent out and have discussed it.

We are prepared to support Option 2 – the yearly increase of approximately \$51.61.

We understand that a higher rate would achieve more, but we are paying off a mortgage and are by no means in the same income bracket as most of the residents on the Peninsula!

Sincerely,

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[Show Header](#)**re COUNCIL RATES INCREASE****From :****To :**

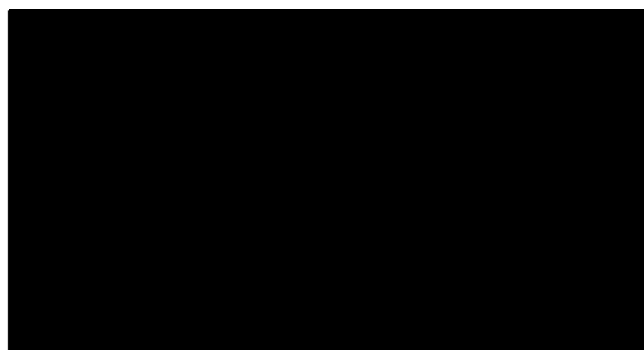
Council Emails

Cc :**Sent :**

24 January 2012 09:45:01

Dear Barry Smith, expressed to you on my email the 16th JAN , we certainly do not support any increase in the cost of council rates as you have done little or nothing to justify this, the CONDITION of FOOT PATHS and the filth in Council bins is appalling,few local ROADS still are in shocking order, one cannot see any value in giving this council additional revenue for this to be ~ill spent~ as is being done presently . Our suggestion to this council is that all members / aldermen and executives are overpaid and you should look seriously at this first , should you wish to discuss this further do not hesitate to call me ..

Kind regards,



[Show Header](#)

Rating Options

From :



To :

”;

Sent :

9 February 2012 18:35:13

Dear Sir/Madam

I recently completed the on-line survey in relation to the rate options and found this very unsatisfying.

Firstly, the values assigned are not transparently clear how these may relate to acceptance of any of the options;

Also the options do not allow for qualifications.

As such, I would like to make the following additional comments.

In this era of understanding about climate change, the proposals for Option 3 must be seen not in terms of meeting price rises, but in the implementation of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If funding is to be provided for street lighting, I want to know that extra funding is going to implementing a program of reducing electricity through modern lighting technologies such as LED or at least low power Fluorescence.

What other reductions can be entertained? For example, has Council undertaken an audit of greenhouse emissions?

Therefore, my support for Option 3 is largely contingent on a strategic approach to overall control of energy usage and reduced greenhouse emissions.

Finally, although emergency services are in my view essential, footpath and kerbing is a much lower priority.

On balance, I would be prepared to support Option 2, but replace kerb and guttering with emergency services and a Greenhouse emissions audit. If the audit identifies a program of energy conservation, this should be a priority rather than kerb and gutters. For safety of road users, any clearly dangerous areas of road should be prioritised. I would then support Option 3 if a clear and transparent strategy is identified in relation to the Greenhouse audit and on-going cost savings and efficiencies.

Thanks for the opportunity of commenting.

Yours



Show Header

Rates survey

From :



To :

Council Emails

Sent :

3 February 2012 11:06:59

Mr Barry Smith,
General Manager.

Dear Barry,

Please be advised that I am very much in favour of altering the Council Rates by the adoption of Option 3. Please advise mayor Hoopman.

Kind regards,



[Show Header](#)

Rates Survey

From : [REDACTED]
To : Council Emails
Sent : 27 January 2012 08:36:23

Perfectly happy to support Option 3 **provided** that the pathway on Victoria Road adjacent to the Riverside Girls High School is cleaned up with the removal of a large covering of soil which turns to mud during wet periods. I have tried to have this done a number of times in the past but to no avail.

Your attention would be appreciated

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NZ mobile [REDACTED] (used only when in NZ)

[Show Header](#)

Rates options

From : [REDACTED]
To : Council Emails
Sent : 20 February 2012 15:17:41

I have just arrived back from a trip and my response to your residents survey is late, so I decided to email it. I am in favour of 2, **provided** more work is done on roads in the western Ward e.g. the asphalt road fringes on Joubert Street North are well overdue for repair and are actually becoming quite dangerous. I am not so interested in funding bushcare and have no problems with existing street lighting.

[REDACTED]

Show Header

Rates Option

From :



To :

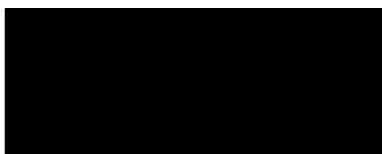
'';

Sent :

8 February 2012 21:52:39

to Hunter's Hill Council
February 8, 2012

We support Option 3.



P. S. The News to Residents arrived in our letterbox recently, and I am only now learning that there is a meeting on tonight. If it was not well-attended, it is because people did not know about it.

[Show Header](#)

Rate Variation Feedback

From :



To :

Council Emails

Sent :

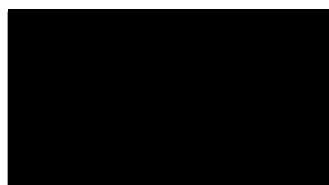
14 February 2012 13:22:31

Good afternoon

I don't believe the Council's waste service meets the needs of our community as I personally find the monthly green waste collection is inadequate. I would like to see the implementation of a fortnightly green waste collection.

In terms of the rate variation, I would support Option 2 on the proviso a fortnightly green waste collection was implemented.

Kind regards



[Show Header](#)**rate options****From :****To :****Cc :****Sent :**

8 February 2012 12:03:49

Hi,

In response to your request on rates , I will select option 2. This will allow continuation of existing infrastructure projects and maintenance works to be carried out.

Moreover there will be a normal rate increase which is pegged as usual. Just like any business or family in time of uncertain economical situation, council needs to exercise restraint and work smart without the need to discontinue planned infrastructure.

Regards,



Show Header

Rate Option Survey

From : [REDACTED]
To : Council Emails
Sent : 27 January 2012 14:18:48

Hunter's Hill Council,
[REDACTED]

Re: Rate Option Survey, community Strategie Plan 2012/2013

We are in favour of:-

Option 2 - "Rate pay increases of 3.6% and continuance of special rates that expire in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014"

We understand that our average yearly increase will be \$51.61

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

[Show Header](#)

Proposed Variation To Rates

From :



To :

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Sent :

9 February 2012 22:38:24

General Manager
Hunters Hill Council.

Dear Sir,

I write to express my objection to the proposal by Hunters Hill Council to increase rates by any amount in addition to the State Governments allowable rate pegging amount of 3.6%.

It is suggested that rather than placing additional financial burden on rate payers, that council take a stringent look at all areas of expenditure to identify areas where cost savings can be achieved. Also council needs to clarify the information that has been provided in the two information brochures that I have seen so far.

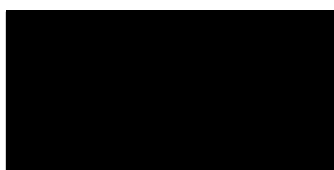
The first brochure received before Christmas says that council is seeking a 2.5% increase in addition to the then 3% State Government rate pegging amount. It also states a number of increased costs to council including a 50% increase in street lighting costs. Then it refers to other councils and percentage increases they have applied for. It is unclear to me from information in the brochure as to if increases stated for other councils are proposals or actual amounts approved and implemented.

The second brochure received in the last fortnight now highlights a funding gap of \$869,768 for capital works, provides three options for rate increases, and compares Hunters Hill's revenue and expenditure per capita with that of other councils. Although not specifically mentioned that the State Government rate pegging amount has increased from 3% (as per the first brochure) to 3.6% this increase is stated in each of the three options. This means that when you add the 2% catch up increase as now proposed in option 3, the overall increase is now 5.6%. Whereas in the first brochure, total proposed increase was 5.5% (3% rate peg plus 2.5% additional as then proposed).

To me to use per capita figures can be misleading. The figures quoted are based on average population and do not take into account the area/size of the municipality, the actual number and age of rate payers (there may be more children, pensioners and renters residing in the other municipalities).

It is interesting to see mention made in the brochures about the increasing cost of street lighting when I see the two street lights in my short street and one around the corner in Abbey street (directly opposite No 6) are on 24 hours a day, regardless of rain, hail or sunshine and been so for months. Also I have observed another light on the corner of Prince Edward Street and Batemans Road that is also on during the day. There may well be many others in the municipality that are on all the time.

Administration could be another area where council could reduce expenditure. E.g. I cannot see how council can justify the cost of engaging IRIS Consulting to conduct the telephone survey. Especially when they were only asking you to answer the same questions as were in the online survey.



Those of us who self funded retiree receiving no Government benefits it is becoming more and more difficult to meet financial support from