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Submission: I object to Sutherland Shire Council's proposed increase of the minimum rate by virtually 50%, especially in "one go". The Council is promoting this increase as "fair". I do not think it is fair to those who face such a large increase all at once.

For those on low incomes, for example the Age Pension, such an increase is not "fair". The proposed increase of just under \$300 equates to almost \$6 per week. The cost of living keeps increasing and the twice-yearly increases in the Age Pension, for example, do not amount to almost \$6 per week. In addition, this increase, which is proposed to take effect from 1 July 2019 would not allow for much forward planning for budgeting purposes.

I believe a fairer option would be to stagger any proposed increase in the minimum rate over three years, ie, approximately \$100 per year.

The Council carried out an on-line survey relatively recently. I do not believe that survey was robustly designed and, therefore, would lead to skewed results that would not be statistically-valid.

Several Shire residents wrote to "The Leader", the local community newspaper, complaining about the way in which the questions were worded in that they did not allow people to give the answers they wanted to. I started completing the survey and found the same problem and abandoned the survey for that reason.

Thank you for considering my submission.