

Author name: [REDACTED]

Date of submission: Friday, 8 March 2019

Submission: From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 8 March 2019 1:07 PM

To: John Madden

Cc: IPART

Subject: IPART - North Sydney Council special rate variation application 2019

Dear Mr Madden

We are emailing you, as IPART's representative, to submit our objection to North Sydney Council's Special Rate Variation application 2019.

The increase proposed by North Sydney Council amounts to a 40% increase over 5 years commencing July 2019 - extremely excessive in our view when council's finances are sound.

The North Sydney area is presently have significant developments for both residential and commercial occupants, all of whom will shortly be paying rates along with the thousands upon thousands of property owners that are crammed into this tight area of Sydney. There should be enough inflow into council's coffer without the need to increase rate for the next 5 years.

In December 2018, there were community consultation meetings held at council chambers but at this busy time of the year they were poorly attended. It seems to us that council hastened the process during a holiday period and if ratepayers were fully aware of the substantial rate increase ahead of them they would be marching the streets.

We request that IPART rejects North Sydney Council's Special Rates Variation on the basis that it is not warranted, ratepayers were not fully informed during a holiday period, and that many ratepayers on fixed incomes will struggle in what is already a tough economic climate.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]