

From: Cecily Gray [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 16 February 2015 3:02 PM
To: IPART Mailbox;
Subject: Ashfield council rates

To whom it may concern

I am writing to to you, the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal and Minister for Local Government Hon. Paul Toole, in response to an unauthorised letter that was delivered by hand to households last week.

The letter looks quite official and could alarm some residents, especially the elderly and those on fixed incomes.

The tone of the letter implies that Ashfield Council's decision at the end of last year to request a rate rise was in some way unorthodox and deceitful.

That is not the case. The council went to great pains to explain to the community why a rate increase was needed to upgrade aging infrastructure. Four amounts were suggested with explanations of what could be achieved with each option. Staff from Council then randomly rang residents to ask their opinions. I was one of those contacted. The questions asked were objective and in no way biased. I had already decided to support the highest rate rise option but Council voted for the second highest.

Infrastructure upgrades in Ashfield are urgently needed, especially the Ashfield Pool and in the Town Centre. The pool is a very well used public amenity and its current state of disrepair is shameful. I remember as a child this modern amenity which was needed then and is needed even more now with increasing population densities.

My concern about the letter circulated is the misinformation it contains and the alarmist nature of it. I suspect that it is politically motivated because I am aware that some Councillors are attempting to impede the business of Council.

Please regard my concerns. I have lived in Ashfield municipality for the last 33 years. We have raised our family here and are proud of the suburb and don't want to see it degraded through any mismanagement or political self interest.

yours faithfully,
Cecily Gray