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Submission:

I am a resident of Sanctuary Point and object to council being granted an additional increase 4.6% over and above the approved 3.4% already granted.

I object on the following basis.

- 1. The consultation process followed by council has not been sufficient. They claim 51% of residents support the additional increase based on a survey in 2009 (they make no mention of the sample size) with a follow up of 180 written and on-line responses apart from the 180 responses in the follow up. 51% is also not a huge majority. The financial situation has changed quite dramatically since 2009 and over 20% of the people in the Shoalhaven are over 65 and on fixed incomes. I have a neighbor who has raised a petition in the St George Basin area on which he already has 800 signatures against the proposed increase. I believe a more robust consultation process needs to be pursued and that an appropriate sample of residents be consulted.
- 2. Council needs to be made to become more effective and efficient and increase its productivity particularly with regard to maintenance programs for assets. For example - I recently had a council team (grader, roller, trucks etc) fix the verge & curb out the front of my place. 3 weeks later council sends out a contract to tar and seal the verge and curb (which had to be reworked). It should have been fixed right the first time. This is a new council and should be made to pursue productivity improvements initially before requesting more money to continue to be inefficient and ineffective.
- 3. They comment in their submission that funds would have to be re-directed from other programs to maintain the standard of assets. This would not be the case if they became for effective and efficient and use the funds.
- 4. Council also has another revenue stream that would provide them with additional revenue in Shoalhaven Water and the rates they levy. Many other councils do not have this revenue stream. I know that in Bankstown (in Sydney) council rates are already \$80 a year less than Shoalhaven for a similar land value.