

Author name: K. May

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Submission: Dear Sir/madam,

I am a business rate payer within the Local Government Area administered by the Newcastle City Council.

The Ad Valorem rate is the highest in NSW. The facts are there for your confirmation. The rates are 75% higher than what they should be.

Additionally, special local business levies are rendered annually which do not benefit the local business nor community. It is fair to say that these are just further means by which NCC forcibly raise more income.

We have no real right to object, despite the "waffle" about annual opportunities in same.

Business generally is over burdened with unreasonable compliance costs and charges by the NCC and I believe your organisation would best serve the community by directing the Council to reduce its business rates by at least 75% so that they are on par with the adding council, Lake Macquarie and are affordable, not a disproportionately high annual cost.

Their rates are equivalent to an estate agent selling fee, every year!

The business rates are simply unaffordable, the Council know they have the legal resources to continue to stand over the community rather they focus on programmes that are flippant and wasteful.

As such, I object to any increases and urge your directions to have the business rates reduced immediately to help business.

Small business are fearful of speaking up against the Council. I am not.

Government costs, charges and levies are just getting out of hand and one wonders do the officers in charge really understand the affect of the punitively high Government rates and taxes, or simply do not want understand or assist.

We simply do not understand why you will not help your people.

Kirk May

