

Submission to IPART objecting to Hawkesbury council Special rate increase.

Objection to Hawkesbury Council 31.29% rate increase.

I object to Hawkesbury council increasing rates, as this council redistributed rates in 2017 and taken what was a fair rates structure and made it very unfair. An increase that is more than 108 per cent already passed on in my 2017 / 2018 rates notices. Copies of Rates notices for 2016/17 (\$██████) and 2017/18 (\$██████) attached for reference.

Some suburbs have had increases of 180% and higher and 80% of the district was given a rate drop, specifically to minimise the effect of an SRV.

Council have stated in the IPART submission that they protected some suburbs so they only get an increase of \$90, while other suburbs will get increases more than \$6500. With approval of this SRV increase, it will have my local council rates increase by over 139 per cent in a relatively short period of time.

This is the opposite of the intention in the Local Government Act, which intends rates to be evenly distributed to pay for services.

Council rates are fees that enable local councils to provide for services for all rate payers to benefit from and therefore fees should be on a base rate equal for all property owners irrespective of land area or value with additional fees to be applied for any additional services provided ie sewerage fees, street sweeping, kerb and guttering, street lighting etc which Oakville residents do not benefit from.

The council has not been honest with the ratepayers and have been telling the community the rates structure they put in place is fair.

Council also polled people and asked what new services we want, and implied we will get new services, but have NOT applied for new services or infrastructure in the IPART Submission. The submission is about retiring an \$80M debt accrued over decades by a failing council.

Council has been running operating losses for seven years, have not managed their fiduciary responsibilities, and have neglected our assets to the point where the state government requires immediate action.

Council spending is out of control, preferring to spend our money on frivolous things, pandering to minority groups, and neglecting the needs of long term ratepayers in rural areas

It seems the council have changed the rates structure specifically to gain support of the urban areas, and force the rural areas to pay for it.

People in the rural residential areas are dealing with hardship imposed by Council, with people paying between \$4000 and \$9000 **before** an SRV. It is unfair, and Council are out of control.

The current method of calculating council rates based on land values supplied by the Valuer General is also an unfair system and is something our government organisations should address. We have resided in Oakville for the last 29 years and recent land values supplied by the VG have been calculated on over inflated property sales figures because of buyers who have owned and sold property in released development areas of Schofields and surrounds and who choose to own land in the Oakville area thus paying whatever inflated price to secure their new property.

The family home is the family castle and home owners should not be discriminated against by having to pay council rates differing by the thousands of Dollars between one property and another. Council rates are fees that enable local councils to provide for services for all rate payers to benefit from equally and fairly.

Sincere regards
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