

Submission: From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 9:29 PM  
To: IPART Mailbox  
Subject: Wingecarribee Shire Council - Rates Increase

To Whom it May Concern

As a resident rate payer in Bowral over the past 17 years, I wish to record my objection to Council's proposal to raise our rates by 46.2% over the next 4 years. I have been surprised and disappointed by the rate rises every year, sometimes quite substantial, without any noticeable improvement in basic services. WSC rates Revenue increased 206 % from 2001 to 2015, whereas the CPI increased 44.52%.

I'm aware that council lost a substantial amount of capital through unwise investment with Lehman Bros, prior to the Global Financial Crisis, but there is evidence of further waste of ratepayers' money since then, for example legal costs for disputes among councillors. Another example would be in 2014 when WSC replaced our serviceable garbage and recycle bins which had a life expectancy of 25 years. This cost ratepayers in excess of \$3 million, not including costs for recovery of the existing bins and distribution of their replacements. Another example in 2015 is the installation of numerous solar lamp posts along a section of the cycle path in East Bowral at a cost of approximately \$40,000. This seems to have been an arbitrary decision without much community consultation. Over a few days vandals destroyed the solar panels, which haven't been replaced.

When WSC circulated a survey last year for ratepayers' response to a rate rise, I reluctantly voted for the medium option. I believe that out of 1369 respondents said NO to a rate increase out of 2060 surveyed, which is to say 66.4% disagreed with a rate rise. This seems to indicate that the Survey was a farce, that the rate rise was a foregone conclusion.

These are my reasons for protesting against the proposed increases of 46.2% over the next 4 years, because they are dishonest, wasteful and unfair.

Yours faithfully

Rosalie Allen

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