

Sent: Friday, 6 March 2015 3:40 PM

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: WE SUPPORT ASHFIELD COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

I am aware that Ashfield Council has consulted with the community about the SRV. I responded to the Council's 'Your Say, Your Future' campaign, supporting the idea of an SRV. I voted for Option #4 which was for the highest increase in rates, so that vital infrastructure needs in our community can be met. This includes the much-needed revitalisation of Ashfield town centre, improvement of the sadly lacking facilities at Centenary Park as well as important upkeep of roads, pavements, trees etc.

But **above all** I am concerned about the future of our fantastic local pool. We must not let this slide further into disrepair, and we **MUST NOT** lose this resource. The pool adds such value to our local community. As an owner of a small house with very small garden, I can tell you how important it is to myself and my daughter to have the pool within walking distance. We are at the pool 4-5 days per week. Not only are we there for my daughter's swimming lesson, but also for Ashfield Swim Club on Saturday mornings, as well as for my own exercise and mental health, and then also for play swims during the week. We take my elderly mother too, who finds the water healing for her osteo and rheumatoid arthritis.

We have many neighbours and friends who use the facility in much the same way. Every time I go to the pool I appreciate the wonderful resource that it is. I also take note of how many different groups utilize it, from kid's learn-to-swim classes and holiday care, to older kid's squad, to water polo teams, to people doing aquarobics and hydrotherapy, to lap swimmers, to the very many schools who use it for learn-to-swim, school and zone carnival, and for recreational users. Where in the world will all these groups go if the pool crumbles to ruin or ceases to exist?

When my 2 sisters who have lived in Europe for many years come to visit, they head straight to the pool because to them it embodies the quintessential Australian way of life – and something they simply don't have access to where they live. Every child growing up in Australia carries memories through life of a childhood spent at the local swimming pool. My sisters marvel that for an affordable price they can swim outdoors with the blue sky above, the trains rolling past, the planes flying overhead, and they tell me how lucky I am to have this as a daily experience. I agree. Please, allow this to continue for generations to come.

Yours, Faithfully,

Virginia Comerford

