
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 March 2014 1:24 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Exorbitant rate increases in Kempsey Shire

Dear Sir,

I am sending you a copy of the letter I have sent to my MP Andrew Stoner for further information following my previous phone call to you.

The Hon Andrew Stoner

I have written two letters to Kempsey Shire Council expressing my concerns regarding the exorbitant rate increases they have applied for. After extensive enquiries, I have realized that my rates are two and a half times higher than the average. This is the general rate only, not including sewerage or water.

<i>Average rate in the shire is</i>	<i>\$ 834.17</i>
<i>Average at Crescent Head</i>	<i>\$1217.47</i>
<i>My rate at Crescent Head</i>	<i>\$ 2004. - with pensioner concession.</i>

I have been in contact with the Kempsey Council Rates Department to obtain these accurate figures and to educate myself on how they are calculated. It has been explained to me that variations could only be made to a particular area e.g. Crescent Head if it was thought to be necessary. Looking at the average rate for Crescent Head properties, it appears that they are acceptable in view of the high unimproved capital value. However my \$2004 is beyond my comprehension.

From my enquiries and advice it seems the only possibility for people, many of who are pensioners like myself, of getting any relief would be a cap on high rates. For example, perhaps a rate of no higher than twice the average rate of the shire would be fairer. After all we all get the same services, no more, no less. I believe a legislative change may be needed, but it is worth considering that many of us in this position are pensioners, not high wage earners.

As an added note, in my endeavour to pursue a more equitable balance I am advised that the pensioner rebate has not been increased since 1986.

Your consideration in this matter would be appreciated,

Yours sincerely
Martin Davies

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2014 5:34 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Proposed Rate Increase at Kempsey Shire Council

I would like to complain very very strongly about such an excessive increase. The Council always refers to the average rate which is \$700 per annum. I live at Crescent Head and my rates are \$2004. Rates quoted are the general rate only excluding water and sewerage. My general rate over the 4 year period would increase to \$2756., not including CPI increases. I am a pensioner and I just cannot see that I would be able to afford the extra money.

Yours sincerely
Martin Davies.

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]