

From: Peter

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 12:15 pm

To: Mayor Philip Angers; CR Lorraine Young; CR Mark Rodda; CR Melissa Harkins; CR Rob Thomas; CR Michael Tucak;
CR Helen Sadler

Subject: Rate increase

G'day,

I try to keep out of council matters these days, but the Town's email on differential rates prompted concern because they are usually a precursor of residential rates.

An increase of 3.5 per cent (about three times the CPI) is high, especially when revenue increases by 5.06 per cent (about four times CPI).

If the same increase is applied to residential rates, council will need an exceptional narrative on the benefits that are going to flow to ratepayers.

In an election year, higher taxes and charges don't win votes, as the recent federal election showed.

Sincerely,

Peter Jeanes

From: clare macfarlane
Sent: Saturday, 25 May 2019 3:32 AM
To: council
Subject: Council rate increase

To Whom it may concern,

Our property values have not increased by 3.5% (5%.) Rental values have reduced by more than 5% Inflation has not increased by 3.5% (5%) The value of our services will not increase by 3.5% (5%) There is no justification for increase in rates. Work within the current budget.

Clare Macfarlane

Sent from my iPhone

Objection: Cottesloe Council intention to impose higher differential rates for the 2019/2020 financial year

I am a rate payer writing to express my strong concerns in relation to Council's intention for a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

I ask to reject Cottesloe Council's application for a 3.5% pa increase in rates, starting in 2019/2020.

State and local property tax gauging has seen WA residents and businesses pay an additional \$500 million in property taxes in 2015-16 according to an ABS survey on Australian taxation in May 2017. "It is alarming that property tax revenue in WA increased by 9.4 per cent in 2015-16 to a massive \$5.4 billion at the same time as the local economy was struggling", said Lino Iacomella, WA Executive Director for the Property Council of Australia. WA recorded the largest increases in revenue from land tax and council rates in Australia, 27.5% and 7.4% respectively.

"The ABS survey clearly shows the damage and how out of proportion the big increases in land tax were in recent years.

Cottesloe Council has possibly not explored alternatives to a rate increase such as alternative revenue streams, service levels, internal efficiencies nor considered the use of special levies tied to specific infrastructure projects such as the beach development.

Or maybe postpone project implementation until revenues have improved.

Any increase in rates cannot be supported in the current economic climate with increased cost of living pressures, including large increases in the cost of utilities, at a time of low wages growth and low interest rates (impacting a significant number of fixed income ratepayers).

Furthermore, renting out properties has become more difficult and rents have gone down significantly.

The decision to seek such a significant increase in rates is unjustifiable:

Kind regards,

Ursula Petrat