

To whom it may concern,

We the undersigned ratepayers of the City of Karratha wish to express our concerns around the proposed increase in the dollar value for the 2018/19 rates.

We feel that we have already contributed a substantial amount of money over the past years with the introduction of the PUPP payments. Many of us are still paying off this exorbitant and unfair service charge and interest on a loan you never had to take.

We have lost around 42% off our current value for our house and now paying for an overpriced property, which we will never regain. The government has failed us by allowing the prices to become so inflated and have taken far too long to react to the lack of housing in boom times. Now they are asking us to pay again as we are trying to recover.

What assurances do we have if the property values increase again rapidly that we will see a reduction in the dollar value to match the rising cost of rates that we are getting now?

We feel that given the current climate the Council needs to readdress their own spending and stop passing on the costs to the ratepayers all the time.

Spending money on more properties and the homemaker's centre is not going to help us reduce our rates. \$111,125 has already been spent on a feasibility study for another building you haven't even purchased or built yet. The people living here need a break and a reprieve from the current cost of living in the City of Karratha.

We believe that the proposed increase in the dollar value for the 2018/19 rates is unfair and poorly timed with many of us struggling. How many people have gone bankrupt in the past few years due to the recent price fall in property and PUPP costs?

Last year when the council approved the purchase of the Quarter, it was to help reduce the financial struggle for ratepayers on their rates. What has happened to the money it has generated?

The Council last year wanted to increase the rates 3.3% then reduced it to 1.5% then finally to 1% after big companies made submissions to you. When does it stop?

We voted in a new Council because we wanted a change and we wanted a voice for the ratepayers and people of Karratha. Now is the time to listen to us, stand up and make a change. Challenge what you know in your hearts is what we need.

Thank you

Regards


Joseph Almonte

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