

Subject: Why I voted again rates, fees and charges hike

I refer to the article “Council raises price of extra parking permits” and want to make it clear that not only did I vote against raising fees for parking stickers but also voted against increasing Warringah Council rates, fees and charges.

As I have said in the Daily previously, there is a lot of chest beating going on about Warringah Council’s supreme financial position due to desires by some for a Warringah Council take-over of adjoining Councils. Warringah Council is supposedly one of the richest and financially sustainable Councils in NSW. Therefore, I question why it is therefore necessary to increase Council rates, fees and charges and slug our hard working rate-payers?

Many believe the great majority of residents in Warringah are wealthy. This is not the case and we have a large number of residents who have worked very hard over many years to achieve the purchase of their home, particularly a high number of old age pensioners. The expression asset rich and cash poor, particularly in these hard financial times comes to mind. This is why I voted against increasing Council rates.

There is also a proposal to increase fees and charges for the use of youth and community centres and sports facilities. I do not support such increase as it is imperative we as a Council facilitate easy access to such centres to allow our kids an opportunity to participate in good healthy activities and also provide services for the aged and disabled.

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM
Warringah Councillor