

# AGENDA

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**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021**

**6.30pm**



### **Live Streaming of Council Meeting**

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent government, this meeting of the Inner West Council is being streamed live on Council's website. By speaking at a Council meeting, members of the public agree to being recorded and must ensure their speech to the Council is respectful and use appropriate language. A person who uses defamatory, discriminatory or offensive language may be exposed to liability for which Council takes no responsibility. Any part of this meeting that is held in closed session will not be recorded

## PRECIS

- 1 Acknowledgement of Country
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Notice of Webcasting
- 4 Disclosures of Interest (Section 451 of the Local Government Act and Council's Code of Conduct)
- 5 Moment of Quiet Contemplation

### 6 Condolence Motions

Nil at the time of printing.

### 7 Mayoral Minutes

Nil at the time of printing.

### 8 Reports with Strategic Implications

Nil at the time of printing.

### 9 Reports for Council Decision

#### ITEM

#### Page

C0221(2) Item 1 Harmonisation of Rates.

4

### 10 Reports for Noting

Nil at the time of printing.

**Item No:** C0221(2) Item 1

**Subject:** HARMONISATION OF RATES.

**Prepared By:** Daryl Jackson - Chief Financial Officer

**Authorised By:** Brian Barrett - Acting General Manager

## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council:**

1. Acknowledges that the rates harmonisation process is to be implemented before 1 July 2021 in order to comply with the Local Government Act 1993;
2. Receives and notes the Engagement Outcomes Report;
3. Endorses the submission of an application to IPART for approval of the following Minimum Rates to apply from 1 July 2021 –
  - Residential - \$850
  - Business – General - \$820
  - Business – Industrial - \$820
  - Business Shopping Malls - \$820
  - Business Airport - \$820
4. Notes that in response to council advocacy, the NSW State Government is introducing a Bill to Parliament that will allow amalgamated Councils to harmonise rates gradually over four years; and
5. Receives a report on options to phase in harmonisation as part of the annual budget preparation process.

## DISCUSSION

### Amalgamation and Rates Path Harmonisation

During the Council amalgamation process, section 218CB was inserted into the *Local Government Act 1993*. This essentially was a transitional provision, requiring all amalgamated councils to continue on their existing pre-amalgamated rating structures for a period of four years from 1 July 2016 through until 30 June 2020. Subsequently, the NSW Government amended the Local Government Act again, extending this deadline until 30 June 2021.

This provision of section 218CB expires at 30 June 2021, meaning that Council will be required to adopt a harmonised rating structure effective from 1 July 2021. Therefore, the rates path freeze will lift and Inner West Council is required by law, to harmonise rates from July 2021.

This requirement to harmonise rates is mandatory, and current NSW legislation does not allow for the harmonisation of rates over a transition period. Furthermore, current NSW legislation does not allow for the continuation of existing pre-amalgamation structures. Council must adopt a new, harmonised rating structure. If Council does not do so, Council will not have a compliant rating structure.

In response to council advocacy, the State Government has prepared a draft bill - the Local Government Amendment (Rating) Bill 2021. If passed by the NSW Parliament, the bill would allow those new councils created in 2016 that have not already harmonised their rating structures to do so gradually over four years. Council provided feedback during the public consultation period in support of the bill. The bill is expected to be introduced into the Parliament in early 2021 and if approved, will come into effect by 1 July 2021.

At the Council Meeting on 11 November 2020, Item Number C1120(1) Item 1 Council received the proposed rating structure and resolved to commence community engagement and to return to Council with the Engagement Outcomes Report.

### Community Engagement

The engagement purpose was to inform and seek feedback from the community about proposed changes to the rating structure including establishment of a new minimum rate, due to rates harmonisation as required by the State Government.

The engagement period was 15 December 2020 to 7 February 2021. Council wrote to all ratepayers, promoted the engagement through its communication channels and provided a dedicated page on our engagement platform [Your Say Inner West](#) where detailed information and translated material was available. A rates calculator on Council's website allowed ratepayers to compare current rates paid to that which would be paid under the proposed harmonised structure.

The community could provide feedback through an online form, in writing to Council, or via phone call to an Engagement specialist for people without computer access, or who required translation or accessibility support. A dedicated rates email address and a hotline staffed by Rates specialists were established for ratepayers to receive individual advice.

The project generated a high level of interest with 6,979 visitors to the project page, 806 document downloads, 1693 online comment forms and twenty-eight submissions via email and letter from individuals, organisations and companies. There were 11,378 page visits to the rates calculator page on Council's website.

Most respondents were residential ratepayers while 46 business ratepayers made submissions. Most respondents were from the former Marrickville Council (1144) compared to former Leichhardt (335) and former Ashfield (186)

Most respondents did not support the overall structure or the proposed residential and business minimum rates.

Community comments were analysed and themed. There were 10 themes:

1. Unfair/don't understand
2. Services
3. Hardship
4. Method
5. Amalgamation
6. Council finances
7. Information
8. Fair
9. Phasing
10. Former Councils

For the business minimum rate, the main themes were:

- unfair
- businesses should pay more/same as residential
- hardship – business down due to COVID-19; businesses are not paying rent so landlords suffer
- minimum should be higher
- businesses use more services, make money from their land and business rates are tax deductible
- the new structure will discourage businesses from setting up in the Inner West.

Full details including analysis, all comments and written submissions are available in the [Engagement Outcomes Report](#).

## Observations about the feedback received

### Fairness/Difficulty in Understanding

The majority of people responding characterised the changes as either unfair or difficult to understand. Rating under the Local Government Act 1993 is complicated and somewhat confusing for many people.

The most notable misconception was that the process of Rates Harmonisation would result in Council receiving additional rate revenue in 2021/22. Council will not receive any additional rate revenue as a result of Rates Harmonisation.

What Rates Harmonisation will do is to re-distribute the rate burden based on the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of properties. The UCV is determined independently of Council by the NSW Valuer-General and is used for the calculation of a number of taxes including Land Tax and Rates. The value does not represent the developed value of the land (the value with a building and other improvements on it) which is generally what residents view as the real 'value' of their property.

The feedback from former Marrickville residents in particular raised concerns that they were paying more without getting anything in return or were being forced to subsidize the services provided to former Ashfield and former Leichhardt Council residents.

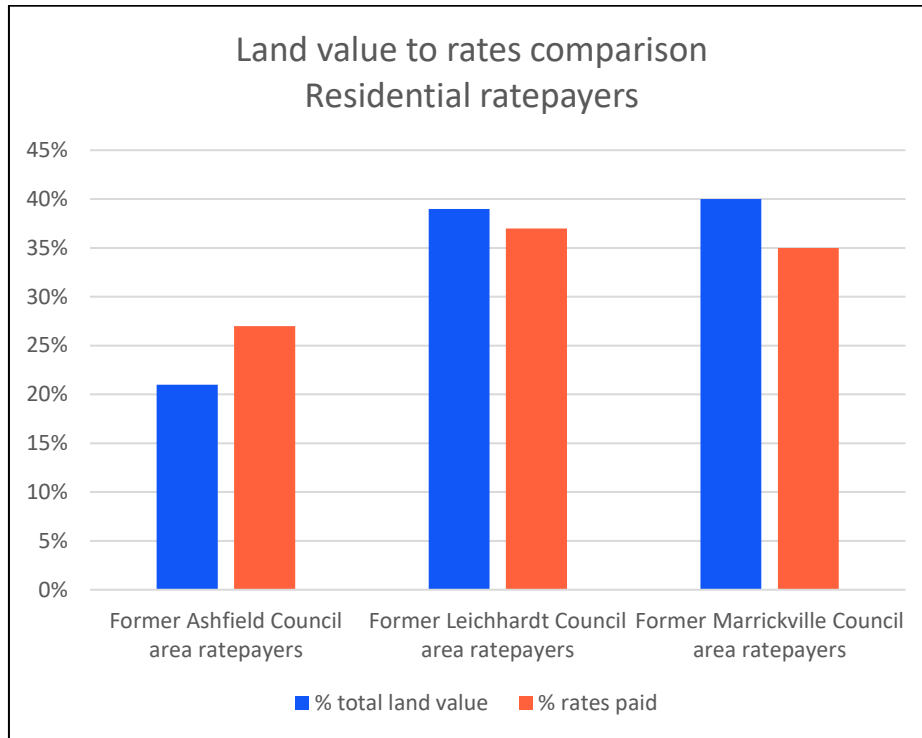
The following information and tables are extracted from the Fact Sheet provided to ratepayers:

### ***Why is the new rating structure fairer?***

*Ratepayers will pay a fair share of rates based on the value of their land under the new rating structure.*

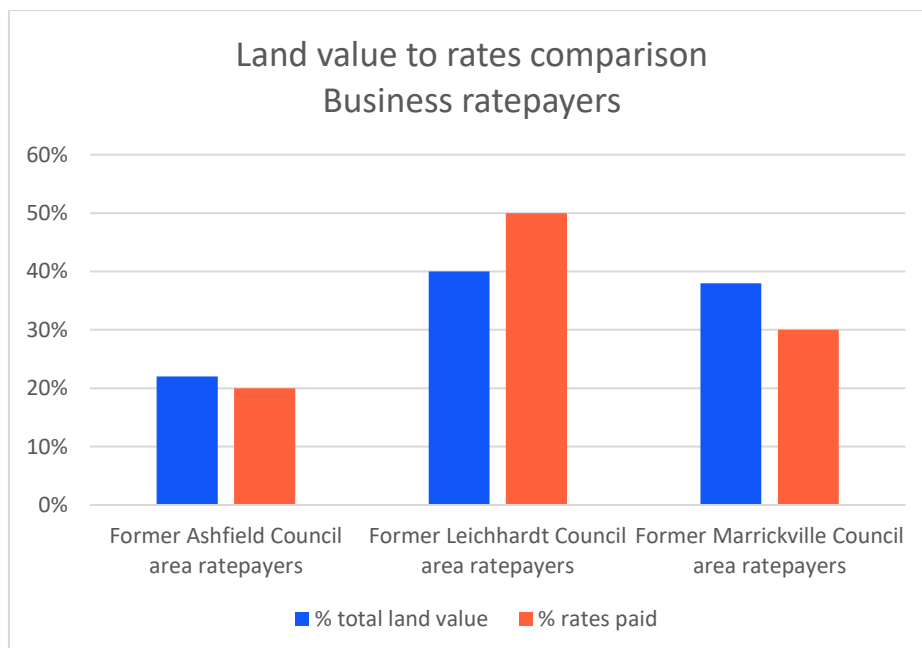
### ***Residential***

*Currently residential ratepayers in the former Ashfield Council area pay a higher percentage of rates compared to land value while ratepayers in the former Marrickville Council area pay a lower percentage of rates compared to land value.*



## Business

Currently business ratepayers in the former Leichhardt Council area pay a higher percentage of rates compared to land value while ratepayers in the former Marrickville Council area pay a lower percentage of rates compared to land value. “



This suggests that former Ashfield and Leichhardt Council ratepayers have been paying more rates than former Marrickville ratepayers when compared to their respective total land value.

This can also be illustrated by the following tables that show the rates that would have been paid at different Unimproved Capital Values (UCVs) across each of the former Council areas and what they are proposed to pay under the harmonised Inner West Council rates structure. Note that the Domestic Management Waste Charge (DWM) incorporated in the tables below is

\$464 which is a proposed subsidised charge that has not yet been considered by Council for endorsement.

Table 1 – Current rates versus proposed new Inner West rate

<b>RATES ONLY</b>				
<b>LAND</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>2020-21</b>		
<b>VALUES</b>	<b>IWC</b>	<b>Ash</b>	<b>Lei</b>	<b>Mar</b>
500,000	850	1,229	686	710
750,000	963	1,477	1,008	778
1,000,000	1,284	1,724	1,344	1,037
1,500,000	1,926	2,219	2,016	1,556
3,000,000	3,852	3,702	4,032	3,111
5,000,000	6,421	5,681	6,720	5,185

Table 2 – Current rates, DWM and Stormwater charges for houses versus proposed IWC

<b>NORMAL INCLUDE DWM &amp; SW</b>		<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>		<b>HOUSE</b>
<b>LAND</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>2020-21</b>		
<b>VALUES</b>	<b>IWC</b>	<b>Ash</b>	<b>Lei</b>	<b>Mar</b>
500,000	1,339	1,677	1,181	1,314
750,000	1,452	1,925	1,503	1,381
1,000,000	1,773	2,172	1,839	1,641
1,500,000	2,415	2,667	2,511	2,159
3,000,000	4,341	4,150	4,527	3,715
5,000,000	6,910	6,129	7,215	5,789

Table 3 - Current rates, DWM and Stormwater charges for units versus proposed IWC

RESIDENTIAL INCLUDE DWM & SW		STRATA	(Apartment, etc)		
LAND	Proposed	2020-21			
VALUES	IWC	Ash	Lei	Mar	
500,000	1,327	1,665	1,169	1,301	
750,000	1,440	1,912	1,491	1,369	
1,000,000	1,761	2,160	1,827	1,628	
1,500,000	2,403	2,654	2,499	2,147	
3,000,000	4,329	4,138	4,515	3,702	
5,000,000	6,897	6,116	7,203	5,776	

Note that the difference between house and strata is due to a differential in the stormwater charge.

Legitimate though the above analysis is, that does not assist those former Marrickville ratepayers who will be paying more for what they see as a suite of services that they were already getting from the former Marrickville Council without any increase.

### Services

While there is a general perception in submissions that services have deteriorated and that legacy Council residents (particularly former Marrickville) are subsidising other legacy Councils, the reality is that service levels have tended to move toward the highest level previously provided. Many major projects have been completed that benefit the entire Inner West community and continue to be rolled out. As these changes have taken place over time they have not necessarily been noticed or at least acknowledged.

The table below lists new, expanded, or improved service levels in the former three council areas, since amalgamation.

Services either new or expanded; or with improved service levels	Marrickville	Ashfield	Leichhardt
Online customer request system with tracking capability, including parking permits, certificates and customer requests	X	X	X
Expanded verge mowing service		X	
Mainstreet cleaning (new to Ashfield with improved service levels to Marrickville)	X	X	
New Marrickville Library & Pavilion (expanded service)	X		
Introduction of night shift for Resource Recovery	X		
New Ashfield Aquatic Centre with gym, creche and expanded Learn to Swim classes		X	
Steam weed management near sensitive areas (eg. playgrounds)	X	X	
Free mattress collection			X
Food organics collection service	X	X (soon)	
Comprehensive audits of Council's Trees		X	X
Development application processing times in former Marrickville LGA were 111 days in November 2016 and Inner West's processing times were 77 days in January 2021	X		
Architectural Excellence Panel providing expert design advice on development applications		X	X
Expansion of Local Planning Panel enabling expert and independent decisions on development applications	X	X	
On-line development application lodgement tracking system	X	X	X
Free development applications for solar installations	X	X	
Building Certification services		X	
Development compliance service levels halved from 42 days to 21 days	X		
Expanded wellness programs and services in aquatics and the gyms to serve a broader spectrum of the community	X	X	X
Duty Building Certification Advice Service	X	X	
Pre- Complying Development Certificate Advice Service	X	X	



Pro-active Companion Animal patrols in parks		X	X
Provision of Companion Animal Education Services including microchipping and free pet tags		X	X
Pro-active auditing of awnings over public land	X	X	
Environmental Auditing of petrol storage and other identified industries (mechanics, spray painters, panel beaters etc)	X	X	
Audit and response to external combustible cladding across the LGA	X	X	X
Opening of two new Long Day Centres	X		X
Opening of new Emanuel Tsardoulis Community Library Dulwich Hill	X		
Significant Refurbishment of Haberfield Library (due to open Autumn 2021)		X	
Installation of new technologies across library network including a floating collection	X	X	X
Expansion of Perfect Match program into Ashfield		X	
Establishment of 'Edge' arts program	X	X	X
Expansion of wellbeing and community grants and creation of multicultural grants	X	X	X
Expansion of free programs for seniors	X	X	X
Improved access / installation of lifts at Marrickville, Petersham and St Peters Town Halls	X		

Many examples cited by residents tend to focus on streetscape maintenance and cleanliness which are easily observed by residents.

Council has recently reviewed those services and services to the former Ashfield area will now be brought in-house to improve consistency in service delivery and quality. Council has also decided to increase services levels at a cost of \$181,000 per annum to improve town centre and related cleaning.

## Hardship

Now is not a good time for anyone to find they need to pay more taxes. Some of our residents are without jobs or have lost work hours. Some have lost businesses due to Covid19. Few have received wage rises over the past few years. All are dealing with the aftermath of change brought about by Covid19 and the continuing health and related threats that it poses.

Introducing additional costs is not well timed. Unfortunately, Council has no control over that timing. That was determined by the NSW State Government.

There are three things Council could do to respond to hardship:

- If the NSW Parliament passes laws to introduce rates harmonisation over four years, it could resolve to do that
- Council needs to harmonise its Domestic Waste Management (DWM) service in 2021/22. This is likely to have the effect of increasing charges to former Ashfield and Leichhardt local government area residents and reducing them for former Marrickville residents
- Council could remind residents of hardship provisions it already has in place to deal with families and businesses under financial stress

If Council adopted a DWM charge of \$464 in 2021/22 the effect would be to change the rates burden as shown in Tables 1 to 3 above. That is before the effect of phasing the changes in over a number of years is considered. This has a tendency to minimise impacts on those properties with lower land values.

### Method

A number of those who responded object to the method Council is required to use to calculate rates particularly the reliance on UCVs. While this is clearly problematic for many residents who struggle with the significant differential between UCVs and market values of properties across the Inner West Council this is not a matter that can be controlled by Council.

### Amalgamation

There was an expectation by some residents that amalgamation would result in overall cost reductions and potentially rate reductions. Those in the former Marrickville area expressed surprise that quite substantial rate increases were proposed.

The latter is driven largely by the methodology used to calculate rates. Council is legally required to use that methodology.

As noted under 'Services' there appears to be limited recognition of perhaps subtle changes in service offerings and levels by the Inner West Council. That is quite understandable as people live busy lives and changes happen progressively.

### Finances

Feedback in this area tended to focus on misconceptions.

One line of reasoning suggested that Council should use its own finances rather than rely on ratepayers. This cited the net operating result of \$82m after grants and \$46.5m before grants for the 2019/20 financial year. This was the result of a one-off sale of land. Council's forecast financial result in 2020/21 will return to a deficit of \$7.1m.

Council's rate income in 2019/20 was \$120m which comprised around 43% of Council's total income which is derived from a variety of sources other than rates. Council continues to look for efficiencies to drive service costs down and for revenue generation opportunities to minimise its reliance on rates revenue.

### Information

This focused largely on the helpfulness of information provided during the consultation phase. Information was added to the rates calculator page to clarify that DWM and Stormwater charges were not included in the estimate, to assist residents in comparing the estimate to the amount shown on their rate notice.

### Fair

This summarised the feedback from people who largely thought the move to a common system was the only way to be truly fair. The intention is to pursue a harmonised rating system.

### Phasing

This feedback suggested that imposing substantial increases such as those potentially to be experienced by former Marrickville residents should be phased in. Council does not currently have the power to do that.

If the NSW Parliament passes proposed legislation to enable Councils to phase in the impacts of harmonization over four years this report recommends that Council does so.

### Former Councils

There were a number of observations about the level of rates paid before amalgamation in each of the former Councils and perceptions about former Council areas subsidizing other former areas.

Tables 1 to 3 do suggest residents in the former Ashfield and Leichhardt areas did pay higher rates when compared to overall land values in those areas than those in the former Marrickville area. The proposals to harmonise rates, to offset impacts of increases by harmonising DWM charges concurrently and potentially phasing in rating changes if legislative changes are adopted by the NSW Parliament, will largely respond to many of these concerns.

### **Shopping centres**

Staff will continue to liaise with the organisations who made submissions about shopping centres and report back to Council.

### **Minimum Rate - Application to IPART**

Council through a series of briefings in 2019-20 considered five options for the harmonised Inner West Council rating structure.

The outcome of this process was a proposed Minimum Rate of \$850 for residential ratepayers and \$820 for business ratepayers. In determining these Minimum Rates, Council considered the principles of equity, user pays and capacity to pay.

The intention is to ensure equity in terms of use of council resources and services, compared with the rates paid, and to narrow the gap between the lowest rate paid, and the average and median rates paid by ratepayers.

The proposed Minimum Rates are appropriate for the Inner West and reasonable in comparison to Sydney Metro councils as shown in the table below.

Table of Sample Minimum Rates - Sydney Metro					
LGA	Actual		Proposed		
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Bayside - Merged		784			
Bayside - Rockdale	769	in on phasing			
Bayside - Botany Bay	554	in on phasing			
Canada Bay	729	743	pegged		
Georges River - Merged		966	pegged		
Georges River - Kogarah	967				
Georges River - Hurstville	586				
Canterbury Bankstown		728	850	990	pegged
Canterbury Bankstown - Canterbury	714				
Canterbury Bankstown - Bankstown	637				
City of Sydney	751	766	pegged		
Sutherland	923	942	pegged		
Randwick - Residential (plus SRV)	897	915	pegged		
Randwick - Business (plus SRV)	1,446	1,475	pegged		
Burwood - Ordinary Residential	1,018	1,038	pegged		
Burwood - Residential Town Centre	1,423	1,452	pegged		
Burwood - Business	1,113	1,135	pegged		
Burwood - Business D	1,423	1,452	pegged		
Burwood - Town Centre - Minor Business	1,423	1,452	pegged		
Willoughby - Residential	879	896	pegged		
Willoughby - Business	896	914	pegged		
Blacktown - Residential	978	998	pegged		
Blacktown - Business	998	1,018	pegged		
Campbelltown - Residential	743	758	pegged		
Campbelltown - Business	758	773	pegged		
Cumberland - Residential		650	pegged		
Cumberland - Business		1,200	pegged		

Council must apply to IPART by 1 March 2021 if it resolves to adopt a Minimum Rate above the statutory level of \$565. IPART will conduct its own engagement process after Council submits its application.

In accordance with IPART guidelines, Council has informed the community that IPART will accept submissions about the Minimum Rate proposal, and has directed them to IPART's website for details about how and when to make a submission.

## Conclusion

Council is legally required to harmonise its rating system and has limited flexibility in how it does that. While there will be a shift in the rate burden toward the former Marrickville area the proposed rating structure does align rates burden with the land values of the properties which bear them.

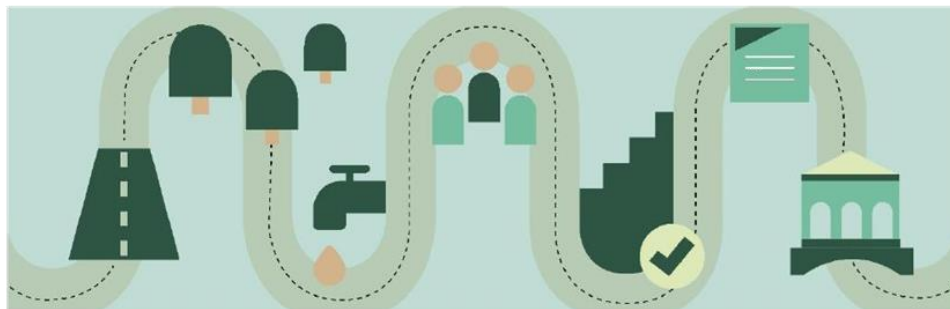
Recommendations include options to limit the immediate impact of changes on a community dealing with the impact of Covid19 among other things.

Council can consider its rating structure further over the coming months. It does, however, need to decide whether to apply to IPART for a new Minimum Rate for both the Residential and each of the Business-related categories and this is recommended.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Rates Harmonisation - EOR - Final
2. [↓](#) Final Online Comments Appendix Rates Harmonisation
3. [↓](#) Final Written Submissions Appendix Rates Harmonisation
4. Urbis submission rates on behalf of shopping centres - *Confidential*

# INNER WEST



## Engagement outcomes report *Making rates fairer across the Inner West.*

## Contents

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## Summary

The engagement purpose was to inform and seek feedback from the community about proposed changes to the rating structure including establishment of a new minimum rate, due to rates harmonisation as required by the State Government.

The engagement period was 15 December 2020 to 7 February 2021. The community could provide feedback through an online form at [Your Say Inner West](#) Council's engagement platform, writing to Council, via phone call to an Engagement specialist for people without computer access, or who required translation or accessibility support.

The project generated a high level of interest with 6,979 visitors to the project page, 806 document downloads, 1693 online comment forms and twenty-eight submissions via email and letter from individuals, organisations and companies. There were also 11,378 page visits to the rates calculator page on Council's website

### High level results

The online form consisted of three mandatory questions about the proposals, space to comment and questions about the submitter.

Q1 – Overall, do you support the proposed new rates structure?

- Yes - 310
- No - 1285
- Don't know – 105

Q2 – Do you support the proposed minimum residential rate of \$850?

- Yes - 409
- No - 1016
- Don't know – 283

Q3 – Do you support the proposed minimum business rate of \$820?

- Yes - 325
- No - 647
- Don't know – 738

Community comments were analysed and themed. There were 10 themes:

1. Unfair/don't understand
2. Services
3. Hardship
4. Method
5. Amalgamation
6. Council finances
7. Information
8. Fair
9. Phasing
10. Former Councils



Most respondents were residential ratepayers while 46 business ratepayers made submissions.

Most respondents were from the former Marrickville Council (1144) compared to former Leichhardt (335) and former Ashfield (186)

## Background

Inner West Council has three rates structures, a legacy from pre-amalgamation: the former Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Council rates structures. Rates harmonisation means there will be a new rating structure for the whole Inner West. Rates will be paid more equitably by all ratepayers in the Inner West in proportion to land value.

Inner West Council, along with all amalgamated councils, is required by law to harmonise rates from 1 July 2021. As Inner West is proposing a new minimum rate, it must apply to IPART for approval.

Inner West Council engaged with the community to inform and seek feedback on its proposal including the new minimum rate, to inform the elected Council's decision and to meet the criteria for IPART assessment.

The goals of the engagement were

- To create awareness across multiple channels, ensure ratepayers could obtain specific information about the impact on them and provide a range of methods for the community to provide their views
- To explain the need for change and the proposed structure to affected rate payers, including the
  - rationale for increasing minimum rates above the statutory amount
  - level of the proposed minimum rates
  - number and proportion of ratepayers that will be on the minimum rates, by rating category or sub-category
  - Rate levels that would apply without the proposed minimum rate
- To support ratepayers who speak languages other than English or have a disability to participate

## Engagement methods

The community could provide feedback:

- Online via [yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates](https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates)
- Email and post
- Via phone to an Engagement specialist

The community could also ask questions of a specialist rates team member via email or phone.

## Promotion

The project was promoted widely through the following methods:

- [Hardcopy flyer](#) distributed to every business and residential ratepayer and available for download at [yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates](https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates)
- Email flyer to those who receive rates notice via email
- Letter to Shopping Centres from Chief Financial Officer
- Email to local Business Chambers from Economic Development Manager

The flyer and fact sheet are attached at the end of this report.

### Online channels

Project page on Council's engagement hub [www.yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au](https://www.yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au) <https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates> with online comment form, link to rates calculator, assistance methods, project stages, translation services, translated material, downloadable flyer and factsheets, important links and key dates.

View the downloadable [Factsheet](#) from Your Say Inner West

View the downloadable [Flyer](#)

### Translated information

- Flyer and fact sheet available for download from Your Say Inner West in top five community languages
- Translating and Interpreting Service promoted on the project page in top five community languages: Chinese Simplified, Traditional Chinese, Italian, Greek and Vietnamese.

The flyer and factsheet were translated into our top five community languages. The table below shows the downloads of translated materials.

## Community languages downloads

Language	Flyer	Factsheet
Chinese Simplified	11	28
Traditional Chinese	3	4
Italian	3	15
Greek	2	7
Vietnamese	1	9

## Council's corporate website home page



We provided an online rates calculator so property owners could calculate how their property could be affected under the proposals

[Visit the Your Say website to find out more](#)

Submissions close 7 February 2021.

## Use the calculator to see an estimate of how your general rates may change

The amounts do not include waste and stormwater charges or pensioner rebates/discounts.

Please note most addresses are not mixed developments and will display as 100%. If your address is a mixed development, your rates will display as two separate entries: one for business and one for residential.

Search for your property address:

Clear

## Your Say Inner West monthly e-news update December 2020



Thank you to everyone who contributed to Your Say Inner West projects this year. Your input into our decision making is appreciated.

The Engagement team wishes you a Merry Christmas and look forward to hearing from you again in 2021.

### Open for comment

Making rates fairer in Inner West  
closing 7 February



Improving pedestrian safety  
closing 22 December

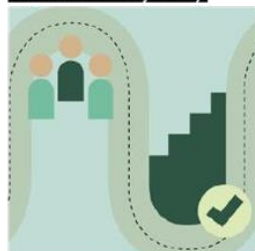


## Council's e-news Thursday 4 February 2021

Nominations are open for 2021  
Women's Honour Roll



Making rates fairer across the  
Inner West - Have your say



## Social media – Facebook post

Inner West Council has been operating under three different rating systems.

Now, by law, amalgamated councils must harmonise rates from July 2021.... See More



YOURSAYINNERWEST.NSW.GOV.AU

**Making rates fairer across the Inner West**

3

1 Comment

Like

Comment

Share

- Local digital media

[City Hub 19 January 2021](#)

[Sydney Morning Herald 18 January 2021](#)

## How we assisted the community to access information and provide comment

Council provided several methods to assist the community to access and submit feedback to this engagement.

- Dedicated email address [myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au) - 57
- Dedicated phone line - 203
- Council staff call back service to help community complete feedback form - one call
- National Relay Service information for people who have a hearing or speech impairment were provided on the project page at [yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates](https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates) - 0
- Translating and Interpreter Service (TIS) - 0

## Enquiries

Contact Council's Rates Information line on 02 9392 5859 8.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday or email [myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au). Please note the line and email will not be staffed between 12.30pm 24 December 2020 and 8.30am 4 January 2021.

## Need assistance?

If you'd like a hard copy form posted to you or help filling the online form contact Renata Krchnakova - Engagement Officer on 9392 5501 or Annie Coulthard - Senior Engagement Specialist on 9392 5328.

### If you have a hearing or speech impairment:

Contact us on the [National Relay Service](#) you will need to provide Inner West Council's Rates Information Line on 02 9392 5859

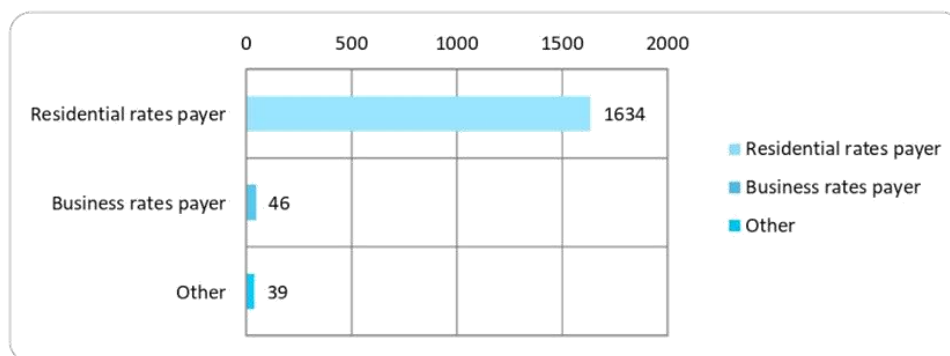
These services operate Monday to Friday 9am-4pm on these numbers:

- Voice Relay number: 1300 555 727
- TTY number: 133 677
- SMS relay number: 0423 677 767

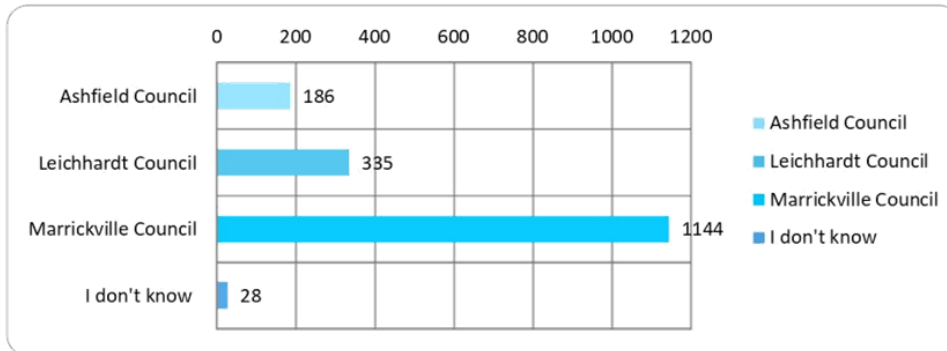
## Engagement outcomes

Below are the detailed responses received online.

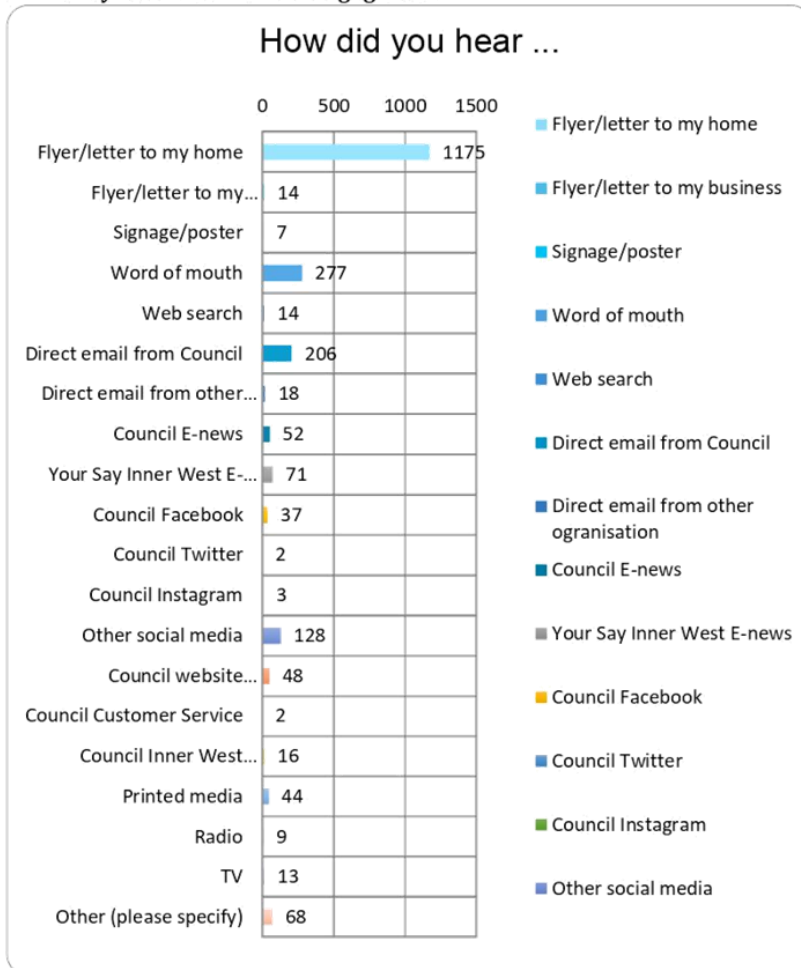
### Which best describes you?



## In which former Council area is your property located?



## How did you hear about this engagement?



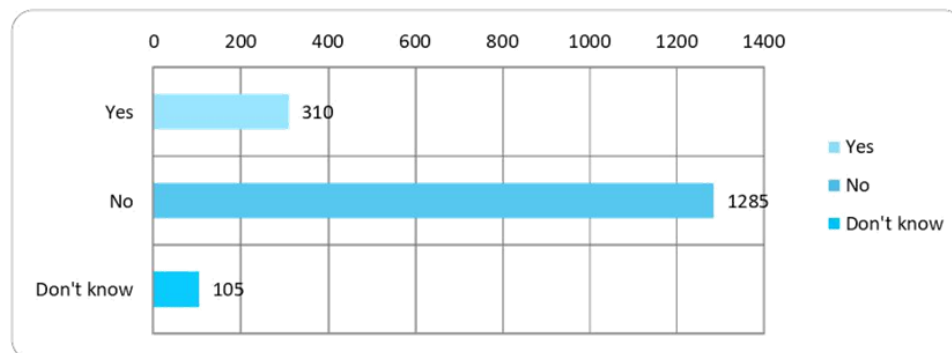


## What did they say?

### Notes

1. Copies of all comments and written submissions received (with personal details redacted) can be found in the appendices.
2. There are slightly more responses than submitters, because a small number of submitters mistakenly gave more than one answer to that question.
3. There are some instances where submissions were received from the same email address or where people submitted again with additions to their initial submission. Also, the content of some submissions appears to be replicated from a 'form letter'. These have all been included in the count for transparency.

### Overall, do you support the proposed new rates structure?



Number of submitters who mistakenly selected more than one option - seven.

### There were 10 themes to the comments.

#### Theme 1 – UNFAIR/DON'T UNDERSTAND (886 comments)

(Inequitable; paying more for less or the same service not acceptable; I don't understand; does not make sense; percentage increase is too great; no satisfactory explanation; poorer suburbs subsidising wealthier suburbs)

#### Indicative comments:

- I am being charged a 20% increase in my rates, for no changes in service. This is an excessive increase in rates, and the harmonisation policy should not be about subsidising other council areas who were charging more than my previous council.
- Why should I pay more for council rates when the services will not change? Why I should I subsidise people who live far away from me, just because they have inefficient or expensive services? It is not fair.
- This is not fair. I live in a studio and my rates are going up almost 25%
- I am in a block of 4 townhouses in a 3 bed unit and although my rates will decrease by \$8 my neighbours (in 2 bed units) will increase by \$164 pa BUT my neighbours in 3 and 4 bedroom houses on full blocks either side of us will decrease by \$80 - their properties are valued more than my unit. I cannot see how this is fair and equitable at all !



- My rates will go up by 25%. What a joke!!!! I have never heard of such a sudden and hyper-extraordinary increase in government charges in my life! How do s this fair?
- it is obvious that there is to be a transference of rates liability from wealthier owners to less wealthy owners. This is a disgrace.
- We own a shop on new canterbury rd petersham and the change in rates is 22% higher, how can we continue with these rises and pandemics. 'NOT FAIR' Inner West Council

## Theme 2 – SERVICES (443 comments)

(Services - no increase in services - not good value for services - services poor - services reduced since amalgamation - no value or benefit for increase)

Indicative comments:

- This increase in rates (for me) comes with a decrease in council service - worse rubbish collection (missed collections, harder time to leave bins out meaning bins left out longer), poorer amenities (weeds everywhere, grass along verges constantly over grown). Our area looks dreadful
- This unfairly impacts landowners closer to the city where values are higher. Will there be an increase in services for people paying hundreds more?
- Since the amalgamation services have dropped, streets are dirty and not swept, verges not mowed. The services we had for much less rates when we were part of Marrickville Council is now massively eroded.
- My rates go up a whopping 25%! That is ridiculous even aside from considering that the service level has been dropping so significantly recently.
- I will support it only if the council spends the money in our street on all services and not just picking up the bins every week. fix the foot paths, trim the trees at the top and at the bottom so i don't have to bend over to walk along the paths. We are the forgotten corner that joins up with Burwood council.
- Where are the additional benefits other than taking more money from us? Our rates will increase by \$300 p/a and you can't even mow the nature strips more than twice a year the whole suburb looks like it's been abandoned. Previous Marrickville council did in monthly. Calls to your line goes nowhere.
- I do not think the rates should be increased in St Peters, since the amalgamation ,the streets are full of weeds, it is very rare that i see any one weeding or sweeping, the area is filthy, you just have to walk around it to see. Do more work, then think about the rate increase, or employ more staff.
- Since the amalgamation, there has been a decrease in services. My street is filthy, and I am told it is cleaned only every 40 business days(that's every 8 weeks, or 6 times a year at most!)- Leaves, take away containers from restaurants in Enmore road litter the street and obstruct the drains when it rains, leading to flooding. Bins and furniture litter the footpath and you cannot walk past with a pram or walking frame.

## Theme 3 – HARSHIP (235 comments)

(COVID19 - poor timing in a pandemic - people are being priced out of the area - people have low incomes but their property values are rising on paper)

Indicative comments:

- Why is my rates bill going up over \$200 when my income has not increased? Where are rates going down, if your income is staying the same? How is this fair to those of us whose rates are going up in a time when we are in a pandemic, there are no jobs and wages are not increasing?

- My rates are meant to increase by over 10%. Has Council considered the impact Covid has had on people, including landlords like me who have had to reduce my rental significantly. So, my earnings have reduced measurably yet Council sees it fit to increase my costs by a significant margin.
- I will have an increase of approximately \$175 per annum doesn't seem like much but on a fixed Centrelink income every little bit counts.
- I provide low cost housing in Newtown. The increase in Council rate compounds the impost of land tax already imposed by State Government. The rent will barely meet the annual outgoings. I will be forced to sell the property putting one low income family on the street
- The increases will disadvantage poorer people. This includes the many artists who reside in the Council area, many of whom have suffered from a lack of work in 2020.
- How is this new proposed system equitable if it does not take into consideration the living wages and incomes of everyone within the area. I have lived in this area almost my entire life, now there are people who are moving here and gentrifying the area and making everything cost more and they should be the ones that have to take on these rates.

#### Theme 4 – METHOD (215 comments)

(Do not agree with method; land valuation system inappropriate or inequitable; suggestions for differential formulae; minimum rate is too high or too low; apartments should pay more or less; strata issues)

Indicative comments:

- Land value should not be primary determinant of the cost of providing essential services (which is what council rates should be).
- I am Single with big Mortgage unit. I should pay less than somebody in 5 bedroom house with big money!!
- Since your proposed rate structure is intended to be based on land value, then the calculation should be based on purely land value without setting any form of minimum rate. The disparity of treatment is unfair. Your premise of harmonisation has adverse effect on by penalising property of lower land value such as mine and I guess many others, by imposing minimum rate.
- I noted that the level of rates to be paid is still far less than the proportion they should be paying based on Improved Capital Value versus non strata residences.
- Marrickville has different needs to other now included suburbs and should be addressed and managed individually. Rates increase just to match distant suburbs is unfair and unnecessary.
- As an apartment owner the land value is irrelevant to my personal financial situation and the services council provides aren't changing, yet you want to charge me over \$160 more per year - for what?!!
- I understand the need to harmonise but think raising the minimum is the wrong approach. Why not harmonise to the least minima instead?
- Basing the rate structure on information provided by the NSW Valuer almost 2yrs ago (Jul -19) is not a true baseline to establish the current value of the land. My property (and the land on which it sits on) has devalued considerably due to the commencement of the Rozelle Interchange - West Connex project which will be continuing until 2023
- All constituents enjoy the same services and thus should pay the same rates. I think the proposed minimum should be closer to \$1200-1300 per annum

## Theme 5 – AMALGAMATION (199 comments)

(Was supposed to result in cost savings and efficiencies - de-amalgamate - I didn't support amalgamation)

Indicative comments:

- The whole premise of merging councils was to cut down on duplication of roles and responsibilities and make use of economies of scale.
- Merging of council should NOT increase my rates. I should not be punished because of location of my home.
- I thought the amalgamation should result in cost savings, for example, only one payroll department, only one accounting department etc.
- Pre amalgamation, the council did just fine off the current rates structure. Just another reason we were against the amalgamation in the first place.
- You lied to us. My rates are going up 22% under the new structure. When the councils amalgamated we were told it would be more efficient, which implies lower rates not massively higher rates.
- The forced amalgamation by the State Liberal government, of 3 LGAs in to one mega council area, has NOT brought any increased benefits in terms of services, of accessibility to councillors AND to council offices (eg no Marrickville based office now), no financial benefits in fact the opposite, etc etc etc.
- When amalgamated Council's assured the residents that Council rates will remain
- The entire amalgamation project is a completely avoidable disaster. Rates were supposed to go down, not up.

## Theme 6 – COUNCIL FINANCES (185 comments)

(Council poor at managing finances - hitting ratepayers to pay for budget deficit - revenue raising - should find savings/efficiencies - other councils rates are less - Council has a surplus - Rates should reduce)

Indicative comments:

- Try reducing some of Council's inefficiencies.
- I have not spoken to 1 person who's rates are actually going down! This is again council revenue raising !!! What an absolute joke!!!! I'm so angry!!
- It would make more sense for Council to first assess its current cost and staffing structure - undertaken by an independent third-party - before seeking to raise rates.
- While our pockets shrink even further, the council profits.
- The proposed new rates structure is an exercise in revenue raising disguised as a project of harmonisation of rates despite the council's claim that it is revenue neutral. Why waste the Council's budget on the significant project cost of harmonisation of rates if it is revenue neutral.
- A fairer proposal would be to decrease higher rated properties to match former Marrickville and for Inner West to become more efficient.
- Council has an \$80 million surplus in 2020 - why isn't this being used to lower rates?
- We believe we should be getting a rate reduction not a rate increase. The Council needs to start working with the Chamber of Commerce and promote the shopping strip or the shopping strip will not survive.
- I want to know more about how the council will get itself out of the debt hole it is in.
- I think council should be looking to reduce given the amount of new developments in the area

## Theme 7 – INFORMATION (105 comments)

(Rates calculator confusing or incorrect - language is spin - objecting to consultation at Christmas time - issues with downloading documents or comments on survey questions)

Indicative comments:

- I had to find previous bills to realise that what is referred to in the "calculator" is just part of the Council's charges
- The label it has been given is misleading, inaccurate and obviously been chosen to pacify those who are being unfairly disadvantaged.
- The rates calculator underestimates the current rate level by half. It says that the rates I currently pay are \$710 pa. They are not, I pay \$1,301 pa. How can I trust your calculations?
- How can we gauge how it impacts us if we aren't presented with the whole picture - discounts where applicable, storm water and waste charges.
- My property land value has been over estimated by the Inner West council increasing my rates by \$100 p/a. It has been valued at 1.4 Million. I bought the property in 2014 for 1.23 Million with a 4 bed house on it.
- "Equitable" is a rubbish concept used by the lazy and envious to steal from the smart and industrious. It fools no one outside of the extreme leftist bubble that is the IWC and its activist fellow travellers.
- "Harmonising rates" is such PR garbage - we bought into the area knowing the rates we would need to pay and now this is being ramped up by almost 30%

## Theme 8 – FAIR (104 comments)

(Fair - seems fair and consistent - appropriate to have one structure)

Indicative comments:

- In principle, standardising rates would obviously result in efficiencies and cost savings compared to having to maintain different rate calculations across the old council areas
- A much fairer system what a surprise not! that previous Ashfield Council was charging the most for rates and Marrickville Council the least. As a long suffering Ashfield Council resident I say bring it on!! and complete the merger. Stop dragging it out and bring on more equity across all areas of council functions
- It's important to have a consistent rating structure across the entire amalgamated LGA to move forward with equitable expenditure and investment.
- The new formula makes my rates cheaper. Very happy!
- I believe this is fair for all property owners in these council areas. Instead of the council operating on the different old rating systems..which means some people pay more and some less based from these three suburb areas. Though, generally speaking all home owners are using the same consumption of council amenities. Streamlining one rating system is fair for all.
- I am completely support this, I will be happy to know my high rates are not offsetting the lower rates of other areas. We all have access to the same amenities, thus we should be contributing equitably across the LGA!

## Theme 9 – PHASING (44 comments)

(Should be phased)

Indicative comments:

- The effect on us is a 20% increase in rates. This is outrageous and if the decision stands, at least it must be phased-in over a reasonable period to spread the rate shock!



- Agree with the concept but my own increase is 23.8% which is significant within a year. Increase should be incremental or capped over a certain timeframe.
- The change to the new structure is too severe for those whose rates will increase. It should be implemented incrementally over a three year period.
- Increases could be phased- a 25% increase is far too high on our already high rates
- You should be phasing in the 'Harmonising' of Rate changes over say a 3 year period.... instead of slugging some with 20% increase and reducing others. Its not our fault there is such a big discrepancy between the old councils.

## Theme 10 – FORMER COUNCILS (247 comments)

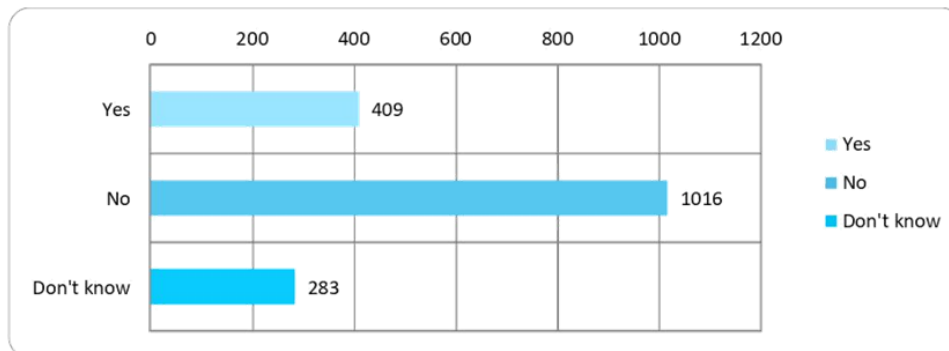
(Former councils better, more efficient, Ashfield rates were too high, SRV; Marrickville ratepayers are subsidising more expensive suburbs; Leichhardt rates were too high)

Indicative comments:

- Many years ago the Ashfield Council increased rates significantly on a temporary basis to pay for the swimming pool. This rate increase never ended and rates have increased forever.
- I lived in Ashfield for 21 years now. The current Council rates has increased to close to \$2000 pa which is a great burden on household budget. I support the proposed new rates structure which will bring it down. (If the rate calculator's calculation is true and correct)
- My rates have been sufficient to provide Marrickville Council with ample operating funds for the last 27 years. This feels unfair and ill thought out.
- Completely unfair to the previous Marrickville council residents. Why should we have to pay more to subsidise the previous Ashfield and Leichhardt Councils when we don't get any better or further services. It shows that Marrickville could provide services without increasing their rates.
- The proposal will result in increased charges, but not services, for the Marrickville area.
- Leichhardt Council's rates were lower than the proposed new minimum, so the question arises as to whether Leichhardt was more efficient in its use of funds than Ashfield and Marrickville.
- The rates were suffocating in Leichhardt before this change
- This confirms that business rate payers in former Leichhardt have been paying above average rates for a considerable time and this, along with parking restrictions and fines has impacted on the viability of many businesses.

There were also 54 comments categorised as 'other'.

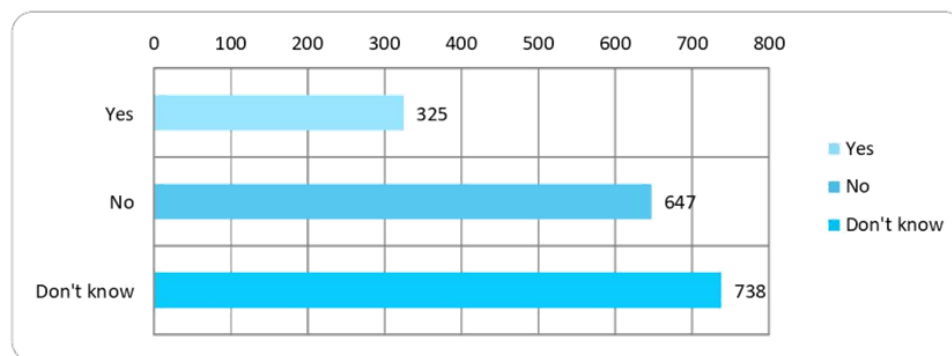
## Do you support the proposed minimum residential rate of \$850?



Number of submitters who mistakenly selected more than one option - 14.

The comments reflected the above themes.

## Do you support the proposed minimum business rate of \$820?



Number of submitters who mistakenly selected more than one option - 17.

### Themes:

Unfair, businesses should pay more/same as residential, can't comment as not a business, hardship –business down due to COVID-19, businesses are not paying rent so landlords suffer, minimum should be higher, businesses use more services, business rates are tax deductible and they make money from their land, this will discourage businesses from setting up in the Inner West

### Indicative comments:

- Seems too low compared to \$850 for residences
- Why are the rates for business less than residents? This is outrageous.
- I would hope this doesn't further discourage businesses from setting up in the Inner West.
- Outrageous when applied to a small factory warehouse of 120 squares with a land value of less than \$38,000 for which Council provides NO special services, not even waste removal.
- It would be good if Council more thoroughly explained why there's a \$40 difference between business and residential rates if the intent is harmonisation and fairness.
- definitely think that businesses should be charged more as they have more rubbish to be disposed off and more maintenance compared to residential properties
- many businesses are really struggling right now. I think Council should try to support its residents and businesses to keep going financially
- Why is the Business Minimum rate lower than the residential when Businesses make money from their land and residents don't?
- That is a lot of money for small businesses

### Submissions received directly by post or email - 28

- Two from companies in relation to the shopping mall category (1 confidential)
  - JLL on behalf of MarketPlace Leichhardt

- Opposed on the basis of Shopping Centre Information, Scale of Rate Increase, Impact and Implications of Rate Increase
  - Urbis submission on behalf of the Shopping Centre Council of Australia (SCCA), AMP Capital, managers of Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre, and Abacus Property Group, owners and managers of Ashfield Mall (confidential)
- 1 from an organisation – Marrickville Chamber of Commerce
  - Opposed on the basis the proposal is inequitable and unreasonable as it will result in former Leichhardt businesses receiving a very substantial decrease in rates versus a substantial increase for former Marrickville businesses
- 24 from individuals

**Appendices:**

1. Online comments
2. Written submissions (except confidential)

Q2. Optional) Comment about the proposed new rates structure (limit 200 words). 1350 comments	
1.	The proposed "Harmonisation" represents a 24% increase on last years rates. This is a significant increase given the effects of a global pandemic on people's livelihood. The word harmonisation misleads rates payers into believing they are seeing a payment relief not a payment increase. Additionally, this was only communicated because I signed up to your CRM database - thus hasn't been widely communicated across the council area. Given the impact this change will have this should have been shared more broadly.
2.	No increase in service so Council not entitled to increase my rats
3.	"Equitable" is a rubbish concept used by the lazy and envious to steal from the smart and industrious. It fools no one outside of the extreme leftist bubble that is the IWC and its activist fellow travellers. People have to live with their choices. They all knew what their rates were comparably when they bought property. Start taking personal responsibility.
4.	Under the new "fairer" system my rates will increase by 17%, this is totally unacceptable. I will reflect my displeasure at the ballot box in 2021. Inflation is around 1.5% & the proposal is to increase my rates by nearly 12x's the rate of inflation. This reflects a council that is totally out of touch. I am concerned it may be incompetent or at worst not interested or concerned what its ratepayer think or how such increases impact them. I'm on a fixed income, as a "self funded" retiree this sort of increase is unsustainable. It will force me to move out of the area, to a lower rating area.
5.	The Inner West council is in dire need of additional funding. Having recently moved from the City of Sydney, we have been shocked by the lack of infrastructure. Footpaths are poorly maintained, there are no cycle lanes anywhere, rat-runs abound on local streets, minimal greening /beautification on local streets could be supported by voluntary increases or contributions by those residents who most benefit from such changes.
6.	I don't understand why my rates will increase (according to the calculator) when there is no change in the level of service provision.
7.	Making rates consistent over each Council area is reasonable.
8.	The increase is too high
9.	It seems rates are increasing without any additional services. Especially in the present time in our community with Covid 19 impacting on households, why would the council be inflicting this on residents.
10.	It's a significant increase in our current rates - 20%? That's ridiculous
11.	A fair proposal
12.	The rates calculator says my rates will go up \$140 next year. This is totally unfair as we will get nothing more than what we get now. I live in an apartment building and we already pay extra for rubbish collection and other things. This is totally not on. Many people, such as myself, can't afford the extra \$140.
13.	It seems my rates are increasing by 24%! How is this fair?
14.	Rate changes mean an increase of \$200/year or 23.7%. This is happening at a time of extreme financial hardship for many people, and may result in people losing their family homes. This is not a "rich" neighbourhood - many working class families. Also, it does not



reflect in the NSW Government's intention of amalgamation to reduce costs overall. The harmonisation process should be phased over a number of years, say 3-4 years, so the increase can be managed by working families.
15. It represents about a 22% increase for me. Before amalgamation, Marrickville Council managed fine on the rates provided.
16. If our land value has been on a steady rise of \$33,000 per year then, to be fair the residential rate should be based on the same rise of an amount of \$15 - \$20 per year not \$123. WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL!!
17. I think its outrageous that my rates, and others' will go up 24%. How do you expect households to fund such an increase - there's zero wage growth - we are living through difficult times. I am one person!. You can call it what you want- harmonizing - its still an increase. The Council needs to reorder and reorganize their finances across their expenditure. Residents should not be responsible for constantly filling these financial gaps. If you want to go ahead, then open your books and ledgers for scrutiny so we can fully understand the rationale for this huge increase....I won't accept a 24% increase - it's criminal. You just put up the rates this year - now another increase. and that's just rates - there's waste management on top of that - let me guess that will be increasing too? Where is you accountability?
18. It is unfair to rate on land value when some units have low land values but 4 residents & houses with high land values but only 1-2 residents. All residents use council facilities. My rates go up \$392.80 & I only have 1 resident so less garbage etc.
19. Increasing my rates seems unfair given that I am a government employee who has no wage increase due to Covid19.
20. I did not support the amalgamated council and I do not support the 'harmonisation' of rates. Our suburbs are all quite different - a waterfront in Balmain should not be paying the same as a semi in marrickville! We have not benefitted at all from this forced amalgamation and now we have to pay more for what excatly?
21. Proposed increase of over 30% to my rates is unreasonable and unacceptable, especially during the present climate. .Council must find other ways to fund its \$124million shortfall. Reduce staff numbers, reduce waste, increase efficiency, increase accountability
22. No additional services provided for the residents and local businesses, how do you justify the rate increase. Especially in this pandemic period, it will increase the hardship for the wider local community. This is not necessary and should be stopped!!
23. Well, my rates go up by \$140 for NO EXTRA VALUE
24. My rates will go up nearly 25%, Why? Other (old) council areas were less efficient or they provided better services, other reasons don't come to mind. So I am now to pay for inefficiencies elsewhere or for better services that are further from my home or are inaccessible because of the way they operate. The rates should only be equalised when efficiencies and services are gained /lost in all areas. For example, I want the regular household rubbish removal that Leichhardt has instead of the hopeless ring this week and we will pick up in 3 weeks time service of Marrickville. Any way you cut it, I am paying for costs and benefits of others while they keep their costs and benefits but get them for less. Equalize the costs and benefits and then you can equalise the rates! This stinks!
25. there is a minimum rate but no mention of any cap so what does that mean? what is the max?
26. I am not against raising rates per se but the increase for my property is a 20% annual change from \$710 to \$850. This is too much, too soon, particularly in such a challenging period when jobs are so precarious, wages going backward and rental vacancies are high, even at low rental rates. I would support a more gradual and proportionate increase that considers the greater financial pressures on homeowners at the lower end of the market.

27. For people living in Marrickville we have seen a significant increase compared to the other areas where properties are valued higher as in the Leichardt area - this should at least be a phased increase over 3 years
28. My rates will rise by \$400. What is fair about that? What increases in services will justify that change?
29. It seems like a fair initiative however hitting people with a potentially significant increase in rates with little notice (it's almost Xmas day and we've just been notified today for an increase for next year) is not good - particularly with no increase in services and during a recession/pandemic. I also wonder about the timing of your communications - distributing this knowing people are very busy and won't pay too much attention! I suggest a reminder follow up questionnaire. In principal I don't mind the concept but suggest perhaps more notice, more communications at a better time and a gradual implementation.
30. You provide zero service other than garbage collection You operate a somewhat shiny front door and chaos and confusion behind it Your service centres hide behind a system that doesn't work and blame the "other" office for not doing what's been asked
31. Rates are inequitable all the time. I should not have to pay 3+ times the minimum rate when the same services are provided to properties in a different location at lower rates . Being on a fixed income when rates increase yearly is unfair. Having to supply an e-mail address is unnecessary, I am not happy providing an email address.
32. This rise smacks of Council mismanagement. Could you have picked a worse time to do this as so many people have been or will be affected by Covid.
33. It is unfair to charge more especially at a time when we have had the slowest wage growth in history. It is also unfair to put all the suburbs under the same rate system when clearly some suburbs pay more than others because of their location. Why should someone living in Balmain with water views pay the same as someone living under a flight path in Marrickville. Clearly there is nothing fairer about this. My land value has decreased yet I am going to pay \$250 more next year. I'll definitely make local owners aware of this because most people ignore these flyers. Hopefully we have a petition of people objecting to this.
34. This rise smacks of Council mismanagement. Could you have picked a worse time to do this as so many people have been or will be affected by Covid.
35. 24% RATE RISE IN ONE YEAR IS TOO MUCH .
36. There is no justification for this increase. Ever since the council amalgamation the services provided by council have not been of the same standards. For example my street used to be swept & cleaned once a week. Now it doesn't get cleaned at all. My neighbouring streets are the same. Weeds & grass overgrown & rubbish everywhere! I do not support this increase at all.
37. Having done the maths this amounts to an astounding 24% increase. This is hardly just.
38. The current rate system is too high and there is no ability to justify these rates from anyone at the council who do not reply to requests for clarity.
39. When I received my tax return, the ATO itemised exactly how my tax dollars were used. I'd like to see the same thing in relation to my rates dollars. This would be a way of keeping Council accountable for the spending of all rate payers money. It would also, hopefully, ensure that large sums of money were not wasted (eg on I.T. projects) that ratepayers would be informed of by journalists in state wide news publications, not by Council themselves.

40. My rates will go up \$188 a year. That's increase of 50% for one quarter. How is that making it fairer? The rates were suppose to be decreasing! I find this outrageous. Especially after the last year and financial hardship on families. The Australian gov has committed to helping us, and yet here you are at ground level in council doing exactly the opposite.
41. My rates will go up 120% Apartment owners already receive an unfair deal based on land value calculations compared to free standing home owners when we receive less services, don't qualify for parking permits, & high density housing costs councils less per person to service with infrastructure.
42. Why should smaller block owners subsidise the large block owners, I think council should be looking to reduce given the amount of new developments in the area and no new roads etc. to allow for this, moving around the area now takes a lot longer i.e. my work trip in morning has increased by 45 mins and coming home is 30 mins with the congestion on small narrow roads
43. Just used the calculator..we already have had annual pegged increases in rates already, but find you are imposing a 24% increase on my property rates for an amalgamated council's decision. A 24% rate increase is not legally valid due to consumer laws set to safe guard property owners from being price gouged by Government departments and leave themselves open to litigation resolution by AFCA and ombudsman involvement with media reporting how they have "Harmonised" the issue.
44. I don't know enough about what other changes there may be. I cannot afford several rises on a pensioner income and the new minimum is a big hike in my rates.
45. It is grossly unfair that our rates have increased when services have decreased during Corona (library, festivals cancelled, council buildings non-operational etc).
46. Huge increase, more than a 20% increase in Stanmore for no extra services
47. I have been a ratepayer in Marrickville/Innerwest since 2002. I opposed the amalgamation of Councils notwithstanding the promise that it would result in costs savings resulting in reduced rates. I have not seen any evidence of reduced rates since amalgamation. I was ratepayer at Tempe from 2002 until 2020. Your website, which supposedly shows how we can expect our rates will be affected by the change, is of no use as it does not correctly show my current rates for 2020/2021 so I doubt that the estimate for 2021/2022 is correct. If the figures were correct it would mean an increase of 19% being the increase in the minimum rate amount. Please provide an estimate of the savings I can expect for my current premises of (redacted). If no savings will be made then I oppose the changes but I expect my views will be ignored, as was my opposition to the amalgamation, and not even responded to.
48. Having an increase at Christmas is greedy. Why are we being slogged when Inner West services have either been cancelled, postponed or closed during the past year. It's not fair.
49. Everything is getting more expensive and I am finding it difficult to live. What about a discount if annual rates are paid up front?
50. Given the foreseen rate rise, I think general street maintenance needs to be improved. It hasn't been the same since the councils have combined. We are currently maintaining the footpath/garden at the front of our property. We have weeds and trees that need trimming and yet nothing is done... give me a valid reason for the rate rise and I'd be happy to pay the difference. Also during COVID, council facilities have been limited if not completely closed....
51. This is so unfair for the residents of Stanmore and other areas who will be forced to pay more. How was this decision made and why was it made? It doesn't seem equitable or fair at all.



68. I had better services under the Marrickville Council than under the IWC and somehow, my rates are increasing??? When you buy a property in a suburb, you do your research re: rates. A CPI increase for ALL would be fairer
69. We did not ask for the Council consolidation and were happy with the existing Local Council, yet now we are facing a rates increase of almost 24% according to your calculator, with no corresponding increase in services. This is outrageous in a recession. If the overall rates income is not increasing, we are effectively subsidising rate cuts for other Council areas that were not efficiently run. If the purpose of consolidation was not to create efficiencies and reduce rates for everyone then why was it done? Either reduce or freeze rates for everyone or break the mega Council back up. Marrickville Council was big enough on its own. This is not fairer - stop the marketing spin.
70. Can't support something that will apparently increase my rates by over \$1,000 pa, an increase of 33% or thereabouts (according to your rates calculator)
71. My rates will increase by 20%. That hardly seems fair, particularly given the difficulties we've had this year.
72. Why are my rates increasing when other similar-sized houses with the same services are getting rates reduced? In these times of economic hardship, rates should be consistently low, not just assumed postcodes can afford to pay more.
73. Time to get rid of Councils and have the State government to manage... We do not need State and Local Government. Proof your value... Cutting poorly the verge grass does not cut it.
74. Services have drastically been limited In 2020. We've had numerous problems with garbage collection and the maintenance of grass and trees in our street has been pretty non existent
75. The increase seems to be too steep. I would like to know what the extra money made by the council will be used for. The minimum should be no more than 800.00.
76. rates have already risen over the last few years, further rises (and such significant rises) are unacceptable
77. The act of increasing rates by over 20% yet continuing to provide substandard services is absolutely ridiculous. Inner West Council has proven time and time again that it is incompetent and borders on corrupt. Why should I pay 20% more to keep your incompetent staff in work? I'd suggest you shrink your workforce by 20% and have the remainder do their job properly. An outsourced performance review would no doubt find half of them totally inept!
78. It is a huge increase for many and seems largely unfair. Given the pandemic during the last 12 months (and for how much longer no one knows) the increase is a kick in the guts for many who are already struggling. Just because one may live in a certain geographic location does not necessarily indicate a certain level of wealth.
79. I don't believe an increase in rates is fair during this year. We have received little to no community engagement due to COVID and now we have a "temporary" bike path which was implemented with no community consultation. I'm very frustrated with the council and increasing rates is absolutely unacceptable after this year
80. I oppose the increase as it will mean a 20% increase for my one bedroom apartment - which is simply ridiculous.
81. It seems fair on the surface. So long as the rates raised in a suburb are spent in that suburb. It feels that since amalgamation less attention and money is spent in Balmain.
82. Just a further confirmation of the rubbish management of Ashfield and Leichhardt now infecting Marrickville.

83. As a retiree with a fixed income and in this difficult COVID time, I object to having my rates increased by 24%
84. It is totally unacceptable to impose a 20% rate increase at a time of economic decline - where residents have less income - in combination with the delivery of fewer service by Council.
85. Small properties going as some bigger ones. Others going down in premium locations.
86. It's a joke. Footpaths need fixing, trees need trimming, grass needs cutting, gutters never cleaned out. You do nothing for the upkeep of the suburbs yet you want us to pay more for you to do nothing. All you do is plant inappropriate huge trees in tiny positions which will then take over houses causing damage. It's a joke!
87. Rates go down
88. The rates have increased drastically! It does not make sense, given the previous yearly increases for this massive jump.
89. Rate increases with wage freezes and economic uncertainty with no increase in service or even maintaining services is unjustified.
90. The rates should not be on land value but in land size. Why should a more valuable parcel of land pay more council rates? Isn't that what Land Tax is for? Council Rates are for the provision of local services and should be capped and based on per square meter not value of that per square meter.
91. Too much of a rise. We don't get what we need at the moment. Garbage collection and grass cutting, the area looks terrible! Lived here 33 years never seen it so bad!!!!
92. This results in a 30% rate increase for me, completely unjustified and unfair. Amalgamation was supposed to facilitate savings and increased efficiency for councils.
93. I do not support an increase in rates which is not comparable to inflation. Using the estimate calculator, my rates will rise by 25%. How can such a rise be justified?
94. For >\$100 increase it's hard for families during covid. I'm not seeing how this benefits rate payers or where the extra money is going to. Especially for people living in an apartment.
95. We have properties in the Inner West Council and all are being increased, the wording of your note to land owners is misleading, can't see why we should be paying anymore fees to be in the Inner West Council when no services are being increased, making it fairer for whom? the inner west council?, I think we are paying enough rates for a mediocre service I STRONGLY DISAGREE with any INCREASE, give me something for my money.
96. Given the economic impact of Covid on households it is unacceptable to consider increasing rates at this time. Myself and others are experiencing a strain on our ability to pay existing expenses and an increase in rates at this time would only add to my stress and ability to maintain a quality of life.
97. Very short and to the point - I will not be able to afford the increase of over \$280. Pensioners are already suffering and struggling. I am 91.
98. I do not agree that residential should pay more than businesses for rates. I am currently paying \$1,301.00 in rates for a 1 bedroom apartment in Marrickville which is extortionate compared to other councils. You need to compare your rates to other councils before imposing a new cost structure. I pay \$971.85 in rates for a 2 bedroom apartment in Pyrmont, as you can see this is 34% lower in cost. I have no doubt you will go ahead with these costs anyway but I am very much against residential carrying the burden for business.

99. as a retired person with no government support and poor interest rates of just over 1% how can you justify a 20% increase. Our savings are going down fast, what next, people similar affected may have to sell.
100. IWC is in the red. Why should they be bailed out by residents copping higher rates. Get the money from the developers whom Council is allowing to destroy the social fabric and environment of our suburbs.
101. Why am I going to pay \$400 more who is going to pay less? Why in this time of COVID crisis are you even considering this shows how out of touch you are
102. The old Marrickville Council area is extremely different to other parts of the Inner West in terms of household income (lower than most) and service needs. It is ridiculous that we should be paying the same rates as these other areas. Council mergers were supposed to save ratepayers money and not see services suffer as a result. Under this proposal we will be paying a lot more in rates, and from what I have seen since the merger was implemented, our services have also suffered
103. Why should I pay 25% more than last year with no increases in services while others pay less? What benefit has council mergers had to me, I didn't ask for it?
104. There is no reason for my rates to go up approximately 25% with no increase in services. That is not reasonable.
105. I don't see the logic in a minimum rate. A one person apartment should not have to pay so much.
106. You're going to increase my rates by 25% (TWENTY FIVE) percent!?!? \$815 -> \$1009 That's outrageous! I am TOTALLY AGAINST this.
107. The proposed new fees would mean a 24% increase in our rates alone. How is this justified ? This is way above inflation, interest rates and even house prices. Rates have already been increasing regularly and steadily over our time in Stanmore but never by such a huge leap in one year
108. As a resident of the former Marrickville LGA, I have noticed a distinct decrease in services since the merger particularly in terms of the cleanliness of the streets in the local area. Why should my rates have to increase for less services to support less financially stable parts of the merged council area?
109. According to the rates calculator, my rate is going UP BY 25% !!! With the new rates structure I will be paying over \$1,000. HOW IS THAT FAIR? That's an unacceptable level of increase.
110. The rental income has decreased and now with the rate hike I make even less money. I oppose this change.
111. My rates are increasing year on year by around 25%. Following a tough year due to COVID, this increase is way too much all at once. I would support the increase being brought in slowly over a few years, with an increase of no more than 5% each year.
112. It means a 20% increase on what I am paying already for no additional benefit.
113. "Harmonising rates" is such PR garbage - we bought into the area knowing the rates we would need to pay and now this is being ramped up by almost 30%
114. I'm from Marrickville and I frequently visit Leichhardt and Ashfield and these areas are clearly better serviced with cleaner streets, better gardens and sense of community. I don't mind paying more but not when I don't see anything for it.
115. Harmonising rates over the whole council area is a great idea. I like the fact that no additional rates will be collected as a result.
116. There are more properties, more units, more businesses, and you are looking to increase the cost of this service? No. Just no!



117.	There are already user pays arrangements for waste and other services, and rates should be seen as general revenue and be progressive. Additionally, council services provide benefits that accrue to landowners and thus it is fair that rates be linked to unimproved land values
118.	If we are having a harmonization of rates can we also have a harmonization of services. Living in a pocket of stanmore / petersham between liberty st , trafilgar st , stanmore road and crystal street we seem totally forgotten. We have no maintenance of footpaths or roads , no traffic planning or traffic calming, no parking restrictions and no road markings. Its a value based decision. If we are being charged increased rates can we please have some services .... at the moment i see little value for the current rates so don't support an increase
119.	In my case, why is there going to be a 25% increase in rates? How can this be justified when council services have declined.
120.	Why should Marrickville residents pay a 25% rate increase for no extra service? The amalgamation was not supposed to cost us anything - it was supposed to lead to decreased costs due to economies of scale! This is just a scam - you should be ashamed.
121.	I have been at this address for 35 years. This is a 23.8% rise in rates in 1 year. On the other hand, some council services of interest to me improved a lot under the amalgamation.
122.	So please explain what happened to the wonderful promises of better services and cheaper rates from the Council amalgamations that have led to this! Almost no street/gutter cleaning or maintenance and a near 20% Rate Increase!
123.	While i do think it is good to try and make things fairer for everyone and i understand that i will have to pay more, i think an increase of 25% is quite a jump in one year which doesn't seem reasonable. As someone who has only recently purchased a property in the area and taken rates into account financially, i think that perhaps the increase should be reconsidered or perhaps staged over 2/3 years.
124.	There should be one rate basis for the Inner west Council. Pensioners have already benefited from the garbage rates.
125.	Not happy at all. Council amalgamations was supposed to bring efficiencies and benefits to ratepayers, so far I have not seen any benefit to ratepayers and all I am seeing is increased rates, in some cases over 20% which is unacceptable. Under this supposed fairer system ,it seems that rates in the old Asfield LGA are decreasing while rates in other LGA are all (at least residential rates). In any case, linking rates to land values is an inherently unfair system and no was reflects the use of Council services. If you want a fair system, maybe base the rate system on the size of a household which would be more reflective on the use of services or some other system which better reflects the actual use of services. Also the online rate calculator seems to be incorrectly estimating rates and is misleading., my 20/21 rates are far more than what is being shown on the calculator so I assume the actual 21/22 rates will also be much higher than what is being shown on the calculator.
126.	You are proposing to increase my rates by 30% (from \$686 to \$850) - i am not supportive. How can you justify this other than stating you want to harmonise? I am significantly financially worse off with seemingly no nett gain for me.
127.	Dear Inner West Council, You cannot justify an overnight 25% surge in our residential rate on the grounds of "fairness". At St Peters, we are neither demographically or socioeconomically equal to Leichardt to have to pay the same rates. If the goal of the

	harmonisation isn't an otherwise unjustifiable increase in the Council's income without any investment in services, please produce evidence to us that, on average, the rates of properties in Ashfield, which is socioeconomically more disadvantaged than Leichardt and St Peters, will be much lower (20 to 25 percent or more) than previously. In the absence of such evidence I strongly oppose to the proposed changes.
128.	need more information on what is the land value at which the extra payment above base is calculated
129.	I chose to live where I do based on many factors including the council, what it provides and at a cost that I could afford. The population of what was Marrickville council is not by and large affluent, they are average people who should not be subjected to having to pay higher rates because of neighbouring councils that have higher property prices.
130.	I am in support but maybe over time a 24% jump in 1 year is a lot
131.	You guys need to manage the finances better. You have more rate payers due to all the developments, so rates should not increase and you should be doing a lot more with what you are receiving.
132.	The increase is almost 25%. It is an insane amount considering how little the IWC does for Stanmore
133.	The rate rise is not fair. Increasing cost by a little under 20% is very unfair to say the least. The amalgamation does NOT effect or increase the benefits to the residents. The purpose was to make councils more efficient. Paying more for exactly the same services. Outrageous !
134.	Firstly. Your calculator is completely wrong in regards to how much we pay now, by around \$500 p/a. Secondly, why would I pay more for all these services that I don't use when I can't even park my car near my house due to council not doing anything in the LGA about crippling parking issues. Thirdly, when reports of issues are met with 28 working day response times, what am I paying for?
135.	What value should I expect to receive with the increase in these rates?
136.	Advice reaching rate payers Christmas week/school holidays with a feedback deadline of 07/02/2021 - it appears that Council is avoiding rate payers having an opportunity to have a real say. Detailed advice to rate payers outlining the proposal would be helpful.
137.	If I understand the rates calculator correctly, our total bill will increase by around \$300 next year, which is around 15%. That is ridiculous considering that the services provided will not change. If Council was fixing the footpaths here, which are dangerous for old, frail people, I would support some change (with a cap on percentage per annum, possibly).
138.	I do not support this. My rates will increase \$207 annually as a result of a council amalgamation that I was not supportive of.
139.	How is it fair to people in Marrickville Council area? Our rates will increase by 18% average (a significant amount of money especially during these COVID times) and without ANY additional services. Like many people who purchased homes in the area, council services and rates were factored into our decision on where to buy. People in Ashfield Council (who seem to be the main beneficiaries of this harmonisation) will continue to receive the same services as always (and a new aquatic centre!) but somehow save significant dollars? I also question the timing of this communication - just before Christmas, at the end of a bad year where many people have lost their incomes... it leaves a very bad taste. The amalgamation was supposed to bring efficiencies but so far Inner West Council just seems to be disappointing us.
140.	The Council is actually increasing its overall income if minimum rate for both Residential and Business General are increased



141.	The estimated increase in rates for my property is 24%. There is no way this can be justified unless the amenities provided by council are increased by a commensurate amount.
142.	What a pathetic way to describe a rate hike. Why don't you just cut the bullshit and just say rates are going up.
143.	Rates should be charged according to services provided.
144.	It just seems to be so arbitrary. OK, my land value has SUPPOSEDLY gone up at the same time my income has gone down and will continue to do so. I'm in for a substantial rate hike of more than \$200 p.a.
145.	The amalgamation of the three councils remains a merger undertaken with no good explanation. Since the merger, I can honestly say we've seen little improvement in services and, in truth, the recent approval of a development in the area to which the community was and is overwhelmingly opposed to. If the purpose of the merger was to create efficiencies, then surely we should be seeing a reduction in costs? Frankly the excuse that the exercise is about standardising rates is missing an explanation as to why the combined three councils requires the same resources to operate as its predecessors.
146.	I find this hard to assess, because I don't know how much it will affect me. Will it mean I need to pay more?
147.	A 19% rate increase for residents is unacceptable. For low-income residents in Marrickville and Leichhardt Council, this will undoubtedly cause financial hardship, especially at this time when many residents will be already suffering, after the ravages caused by the pandemic. Different parts of the Inner West Council do not have the same needs and do not receive the same services. It seems to us that amalgamation has resulted in fewer services and certainly less targeted services. But now residents will have to pay more. For all residents in Marrickville Council, whose rates will increase by extraordinary amounts, this is galling.
148.	We have just been hit with a huge financial crisis with COVID which will take ages to settle , and council now proposes a 20% increase for Residential minimum rate under the guise of fairer harmonise rates ,no doubt the follow fin year will see another increase. Councils need to reconsider their charges with consideration of the current and continuing cost of living strain people are living with, its not easy out here in the real world .
149.	We are adversely affected. The rationale expressed in support of rates is not fair, ie basing increases on land value calculations that do not reflect the true value of the property. Our rates are already too high. . Services have declined since the amalgamation. I do not support the increase.
150.	My rates will increase by over 23 per cent. I would be interested if the person(s) responsible had the spine to explain the justification and or fairness of this. It is particularly disappointing given that the current State government lied about council mergers which it appears are the reason for this. Presumably no one in the State government nor the Inner West council will contact me to explain how this is fair.
151.	Really displeased about having to pay an extra \$262 a year - that is a massive rates increase! Not very 'harmonising' from my perspective. I hope nothing else will change, like my access to rubbish pick-ups.
152.	It is already expensive ??? and with a new structure is \$207.00 more. I don't like it at all. do nothing.
153.	The rates currently paid are already excessive. The land rate given by the valuer general doesn't take into consideration that the property market is in a bubble. The price is further manipulated by the state government and federal government by first home buyers grants and negative gearing. The rate harmonisation is a tricky way in producing a tax stream for state government to be levied in the

	future. The rate should only sustain local government expenditure not a state tax stream. It should be noted the state government recent failure in its introduction of a fire levy based on property prices. So it must be stated that council rate harmonisation should not proceed.
154.	Council amalgamation was supposed to mean greater efficiency. Yet, I'm being charged \$300 more per annum. While I support the need to pay for our services, I do want to know why this extra 20% hike in fees.
155.	I don't know how the proposed rates are structured as this is not published in this document but the rates for our property are proposed to rise an outrageous \$180!
156.	As per the calculator my rates will increase by \$240 next year. In a difficult year financially asking for increases with no reason is ridiculous and unfair!
157.	I don't understand why my rates are increasing by \$237.41 per year. With inflation and salary increases at a record low level I think an approx 23% increase is totally out of order. There are caps on all other types of fees in accordance with inflation, why are the Inner West council exempt from these, and proposing outrageous percentage increases way above inflation levels. I am an essential health worker and have had my salary increases capped to 1.5% but am expected to accept such a large increase in my rates. UNFAIR Can you please justify this proposal?
158.	This is unacceptable and outrageous on many levels. We would like to see a breakdown of every property that is receiving an increase and the justification for these. It's just blatant revenue raising from a council that does not support it's community. Your correspondence is deliberately misleading and does not provide ratepayers with sufficient information to ascertain how widespread the increases are amongst ratepayers.
159.	Our rates are too high already (over \$1000 per year) and this would increase them by \$260 per year so why on earth would we support this ?
160.	This new rates structure is going to increase substantially my rates when no significant service improvements to the area (Newtown) has been noticed. If any the services seem to have decreased. Inner city living needs are not the same as suburban living.
161.	We purchased the property under the existing structure and whilst a reasonable amount has been budgeted for, it is unreasonable to pass on such a significant increase at the benefit of others.
162.	' +20% increase in our rates during COVID times is very harsh! This is unacceptable.
163.	Under this scheme, my rates will increase by 19.7% in one year; it is extraordinary high. Council is here to serve the community and this type of one off increase is not acceptable! Commitments to improvement in the suburb must be made before such an increase is adopted; this is fair and reasonable approach.
164.	Paying an extra \$280 for no added benefit can't make me happy. The amount also seems to be based on mixed: 100%.....??????
165.	Council amalgamations were proposed for efficiencies and pricing advantages. Rates harmonisation should not result in any property's new rate structure increasing. For this to happen, ratepayers have been unfairly misled.
166.	There is no good reason to increase the rates, you are not saying you will improve services to our home, this rate increase sees me paying \$200 more, for what, for harmony. That means nothing, that is a marketing word.

167.	my rates appear to be increasing by almost 25%. If my block of land in Newtown is worth more than the same size block of land in Leichhardt, I will pay more rates, even though the cost for the council to service the same size block of land is equal no matter if it is in ashfield leichhardt or Marrickville. Surely rates should be based on size of land not land value. I live at (redacted) Newtown.
168.	Why are the rates being raised in Tempe when the services in this area are pathetic. The streets are full of rubbish and cleaned only a couple of times a year. The place is generally run down and ignored by council. This proposal will increase it by nearly \$ 200 a year. Very poor value and unjustified.
169.	Just used the calculator that said this: Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$871.13 \$1,078.65 so I submitted feedback that I was not happy with the increase. Just checked my current rate notice and 2020/21 is in fact \$1474.63 NOT \$871.13 as the calculator said. Is there a problem with the calculator? I live at (redacted) Newtown. Would appreciate if you could tell me what my new rates will be under the new scheme. is \$1078.65 correct. If so I am very happy as it is a large reduction.
170.	This effectively is a ~20% increase in rates for Marrickville (at least it is for me and all my neighbors). Given the size of Marrickville it must mean an overall increase in revenue to the amalgamated council well beyond the cost of running the council. One of the reasons given for amalgamation was to reduce costs. A 20% increase is completely unjustified in the current climate.
171.	I don't agree with this as I don't believe that it is fair. And as an amalgamated council it is not addressing the needs of all its constituents.
172.	I would pay more in a period where I and many others have less
173.	I have not had my street swept in over 2 years, you do not deserve any more money from my rates
174.	I'd like to see a user pays system rather than one based on land value
175.	It's a significant increase for my rates! \$140 over the year is huge when the last 3 years the rates have only increased by a few dollars. I won't be able to afford this on the budget I have laid out while I return to university.
176.	Rates should be based on what council services households use, not the value of their property. Many apartment complexes pay private companies to manage waste, have minimal verges council need to maintain, and 250 apartments on a small block is a cash cow for council, not an "example" of "dwellers" getting services for less as your fact sheet states. Services used by only some residents (health etc) should be paid for by the users, not residents living in apartments, with no yards, no council waste collection, poor bulk rubbish collection services, and zero use of community facilities such as Arlington oval, golf courses, etc.
177.	I am unhappy about this proposal... why should my rates increase so dramatically due to the forced council amalgamation? I am in the former Marrickville Council and would prefer our former council boundaries. Last financial statement listed huge rate contributions for projects like Ashfield Aquatic Centre... a facility I am never likely to visit. Other changes since amalgamation, such as the mid-afternoon rubbish collection are ridiculous... bins need to be out before you leave for work or you risk missing the truck... and more bins seem to be left out on the street way beyond collection time. Not happy with this or any other change since amalgamation. Certainly not happy about a potential 20% increase in my rates, to subsidise amenities that I will not use or visit. Meanwhile, King Street footpaths are disgraceful following NBN carnage.
178.	my rate is apparently increasing by 23.82%. I cant see how I'd be pleased with that or what tangible benefit the amalgamation has achieved from a user point of view. Where are the economies of scale?



179.	This is cruel and unfair. My rates will jump from \$702 to \$900. That's a huge jump! I don't feel that I get value for money and since the amalgamation services (curb maintenance /pot holes/street tree ect) have all worsened or stopped. This is robbery
180.	My rates are already too high for the very occasional Council service that I use and I under utilise the garbage service with one small bag of rubbish per week, and the recyclables and green waste bins might go out half a dozen times a year each. It seems that I am subsidising others in the LGA as it is.
181.	I don't think this is fair as there is a large unexpected increase in some peoples rates which is most likely unaffordable for a fair portion of the population
182.	The process of amalgamation for the council's has proved to be a failure, as the savings will not be achieved, it is shown the costs are higher and Services are not delivered as they were with the previous council's , we should go back to the previous council structure
183.	I live in Marrickville in a 2 bedroom semi on one income and my rates are going up 25% while others in more wealthier areas are going down - how is this fair. Incomes have been affected by COVID as well. I just don't understand how this has been calculated and thought through. It seems to penalise those who have less. The fact sheet doesn't download either.
184.	This increases my rates by approximately 25%
185.	Harmonisation is admirable, but setting 'minimum' rates too high is REGRESSIVE. Every element of taxation system needs to be PROGRESSIVE, so the vast bulk of rates must be on AD VALOREM basis, not minimum fee.
186.	It seems like a good idea to level the playing field.
187.	I would like to see better management and maintenance of parks, gardens and street trees and less money spent on community programs
188.	My rates will increase by almost \$500 which is huge in one year and I'd love an explanation as to why
189.	How does the amalgamation of councils cause rates to go up 20%? Any consolidation or amalgamation should result in economies of scale, efficiencies and therefore cost reductions across the regions in the form of increased buying power on contracts, consolidation of staffing requirements etc. There needs to be more information provided as to why the increase is happening, and what benefits will see as a result of the proposed increase!
190.	It looks like Marrickville LGA residents are subsidising rates of waterfront mansions in Balmain (who are set to pay \$300 less next year). How does the Inner West council think this fair? Council should make a case why people from Marrickville LGA should be subsidising other Inner West residents. They should commission an audit on what services Marrickville LGA now get under Inner West Council that they didn't get before the merger to justify the increase.
191.	although comment was open from 10/12/20, I received the flyer/letter on 23/12/20 I cannot see how the changes proposed are making the distribution of rates more equitable based on my proposed increase it appears that the new council will be making money and not keeping overall council rates flat
192.	I think it's disgusting that during these difficult times when businesses are closing, people have either lost their jobs or forced to work part time, cannot even afford housing, the council/government has the audacity to even consider any kind of increase in rates. There was no common sense applied (geographically and/or economically) when some suburbs were made part of the inner west council cluster. It is also far too large compared to other councils which results in some suburbs, especially the less affluent and voiceless to lose out at the

cost of the best represented.. This should never have happened in the first place. Shame on the government and any council that is imposing these changes on their residents. I know have lost all respect and confidence in you. Please do not insult our intelligence by advertising that you "will not be increasing your overall income from rates".
193. Council does so little for my area/street (May St in St Peters). Our gutters have not been cleaned in years, they rarely upkeep trees and whenever we have a problem with roadworks/developers we are often fobbed off. Our bins are also often left unemptied and we have to keep contacting council to complain. Paying more for the little service we get does not seem equitable.
194. It appears that rates in the old Ashfield and Leichhardt council areas are decreasing and rates in the old Marrickville council area are increasing. There is no satisfactory explanation for this and it seems hugely inequitable.
195. a 20% increase, yet since the merger I have had my verge mown less often, my street cleaned less frequently & the footpath outside my home is still uneven. Don't mind paying more for increased / better services - bored of council wastage & stupidity. Why was there not a link to the rate calculator on the council landing page?
196. You are kidding me. My rates increase almost 25%! Meanwhile I am surrounded by high rise and congestion increases. The unit residents park on the street and use their garages as sheds. So this is the result of amalgamation, more rates no more service less convenience.
197. We are all for being fair and harmonising rates for everyone.
198. I support the intent of the harmonization of the rates but not at the expense of pensioner, self funded retirees or lower income earners. Council should revisit the minimum. I am hoping this is not just a tick the box process to say that the ratepayer has been consulted. That council reconsiders the burden on the minimum ratepayers.
199. I do not agree with this rate hike, I also did not agree with the amalgamation that took place btw Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville. I am in the Marrickville LGA and I feel that my rates seem to always be used for the Leichhardt LGA as that's where the Mayor Darcy Byrnes is based. Tempe is getting the oval replaced with synthetic turf (YUKE). Currently they are killing off the real grass so they can lay this horrible synthetic turf (YUKE). Secondly I feel that the Inner West Council is doing very little for the residents associated with the Bunnings site and once again not really engaging with us. Then we have the new Sydney Gateway project starting next year..... Disappointed very
200. We in residential housing should not support businesses
201. I have just calculated my new rates figure for my house in Enmore and am totally shocked. I live in the house by myself and have no other people so really are already paying as much as the family next door who have 7 people using the council facilities how is that fair that a single person pays as much as a huge family? My rates are going up over \$300 a year how am I supposed to afford that and why should that be as that is over a 30% increase in one year that is disgusting and outlandish how can you possibly say that is making the rates system fairer I noticed that other houses in locations such as Annandale are having their rates reduced I think this new system needs another look at it the council need to reign in their spending.
202. I cannot see the suggested changes on this site. My address is not accepted by this site ?
203. Inner West council have one of the worst records of any council in terms of financial management, customer service and general maintenance in the jurisdiction, having been subject directly to IW DA process. Instead of automatically raise rates do your rate payers a favor and conduct a thorough cost savings, performance and productivity analysis (private sector style) and you'll probably find 40-50%

savings amongst the current waste, incompetence and bloated resources. Start from the top. Thanks kindly for having the opportunity commenting on the performance of IW council.
204. The idea of merging councils is for economies of scale, so how many redundancies will be made by the merger? I expect NONE. So there are no economies of scale. This is shown by the fact our rates will rise and not drop.
205. It says the Council aren't collecting more money. Yes they are. From me! My hike according to the calculator is 20%!! You are kidding.
206. Totally not okay. Huge increase in pay which is not affordable for most people.
207. Is the new Residential rate \$850.00 per annum? I hope it is not per quarter.
208. I object to the council choosing this point in time to consider raising rates as many people suffer ongoing affects of covid 19 and including financial repercussions. And the timing of proposing this is appalling-right before Christmas-adding to the stress of impending extra financial pressure.
209. You have not explained why rates for private residences in the old Marrickville Council are increasing by nearly 20% and yet Leichardt Council residences are decreasing. Some of the wealthiest residences in say Biihgrove will be paying less. How is this fairer?
210. you rates calculator does not make sense. It shows my current rates should be a lot lower than what i am paying now. the new rates are way higher than i pay now. It is a joke. You should not be putting out a calculator which is so wrong and gives the resident the wrong information. the council service is worse now. rarely come around and mow the grass on the footpath. so many trip points on the foot path. they were supposed to fix it but the rains came and they just never came back
211. The proposed rate structure is an increase from current council rates and therefore provides no benefit to me to support the change.
212. It sounds like whether I, or any resident, support it is irrelevant.
213. Amalgamation should not mean an increase for residents.
214. What is the resident getting in return? Roads are not in good Order, rubbish is everywhere and congestion unbearable.
215. I will be worse off. I feel services have deteriorated since council amalgamation.. This will be a financial burden on my single parent household
216. You should be managing your money better. I dont see a need for raising it to a minimum.
217. This is a much fairer way of distributing the cost of rates amongst inner West residents, with the burden dependent on the value of the property you own.
218. Should not increase or plan to increase rates when a pandemic (has impacted everyone globally) has affected families. Times are tough!
219. The rates calculator indicates that we are paying \$1,130.40 and a new cost of \$1,399.68. The truth is we already pay \$1,733.90; which you should know. The whole point of mergers was to reap an efficiency dividend; so reap them, and stop increasing rates by far more than CPI year on year.
220. The overall rating system does not allow for properties that are next to rail lines or any structure That devalues them compared to a property further up the street!!
221. My rates are planned to go up by 24%. How is that justified? Am I going to get 24% better service as I don't get a good service now



222. Seems ridiculous having huge changes (+20% for some, -30% for others) in one go. Trying to have a common rates structure between areas that have a large number of apartments (ashfield) and areas that don't have so many (marrickville) is hard to get right given that the "land value" for an apartment is next to nothing.
223. Amalgamation was supposed to create efficiencies. Not only are you planning on the same income for the alleged "super-council", my rates are going up by 25%! It's an insult to the residents of these areas that voted overwhelmingly for it to not be amalgamated. Need more money? Ask Gladys for it, not the residents of the Inner West who are still dealing with a council that has failed to be efficient with resources. F**KING criminal!
224. Why? what more is being provided for a 25% rise in the 2042 area?
225. Calculator provided information that makes no sense to me. States current rates \$760 increasing to \$941 however I currently pay \$1360. Not sure if it means my rates will increase by 19% to \$1618. Since amalgamation services have deteriorated significantly in my local area therefore definitely not happy about paying more for less. Street cleaning, weeding and maintenance has been next to non-existent during the last three years.
226. I support as long as services are not decreased. Currently services are being subcontracted or privatised eg(street cleaning) and we are getting less and less of this important service. Also I am concerned that our town halls and community centres are also being privatised, why? What thuggery is this? These are community owned buildings and should remain so.
227. Until such times as I know the current and soon to be former rates structure I cannot properly advise.
228. Ridiculous rate rise. You do realise that many people have lost their jobs this year!
229. I don't agree with any increase due to the current situation. Reduced working hrs etc. Harmonisation is a pleasant way of saying increase.
230. I don't trust your attempts were complete and transparent in trying other options first
231. A rate increase of more than CPI I think is unfair
232. It is fairer.
233. I am a self funded retiree & get no pensioner discount even though I rely on a minimal income stream to live on. My Super has taken a massive nosedive with COVID-19 & now according to your rates calculator, you want to up my rates by over another \$300.00 per year. What does this signal. Ongoing increases in Council rates until we will not be able to live in our own house. When will there be a cut off on rate charges. People who have multiple properties pay land taxes although this goes to the State Govt. Are they going to be slogged twice. Tell me when the 'harmonising' kicks in. The issue with the high land values are making retirees 'asset rich, income poor'. This is not a 'harmonising' approach for the elderly.
234. The Covid19 period has adversely affected household incomes, therefore this measure should not be introduced.
235. The proposed changes should be phased in over 3 years. The proposed 23% increase is too much for a single year. Also what about harmonisation of Waste Services Charges? We pay \$130-150/year more than ExAshfield & Leichhardt areas for the same service.
236. Don't understand how the current system is not already equitable when all ratepayers are charged based on land values which constantly increase. The only benefit I can see is that Council will increase revenue income through applying a higher minimum rate to very small properties with low land values.
237. It should be on size of land for residential. My address comes up as 100% mixed on calculator and it is only residential

238. As a self-funded retiree this is a very large amount out of my income and as a single home occupant feel this is unfair. I do not get any government support apart from the \$2.50 Opal card.
239. I do not think I should have to pay more. Especially given the small area I own and the limited council resources needed. We do not even require a green bin living in an apartment. Why should I pay the same as someone with a frontage and 4 bins?
240. You should be ashamed putting my rates up 23%. You cannot rely on my vote at the next election. I will vote to get you out.
241. Councils did not have to amalgamate Marrickville council did choose to amalgamate but why should residents have to pay more when this action DID NOT HAVE TO BE TAKEN and now I have to pay higher rates !!! Not happy 😡😡😡
242. We will be impacted with an increased bill of \$300 per year. My husband and myself have both experienced loss of income from Covid as have many other people so to then be hit with any increase in bills is really unacceptable
243. Your rates calculator implies my rates for 20/21 is just over \$800 (and then go up), but my current rate notice states my rates are over \$1300 for this period, but what happens in 21/22? Why is there such a discrepancy between the calculator and the rate notice? People in my neighbourhood are concerned about the steep increases. No one is commenting that their rates will decrease.
244. According to your rates calculator my rates go up by over \$350 (from \$1440 to \$1790) in one year...thats over 20% !!! Under the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal isn't there a cap set somewhere around 2-3% . AND considering the current difficult circumstances surrounding the pandemic, surely this should be reconsidered.
245. My rates will go up about \$350/year. I work in a very p/t job and have a severe chronic illness. (I am not on a pension as I want to work and contribute. I am one of the frontline workers at RPAH.I cannot see how this is fair at all. I understand Council wasted money on a software system, then the decision is to gouge more money from ratepayers.
246. It hardly seems fair that rate payers of the former Marrickville all have an increase. The fact sheet says council rate increases are capped but I take it this means overall for council as it seems unfair for me to have a rise of over 18% when Council overall can only have an increase of 2 %. Seems we are being disadvantaged due to the amalgamation with the rate payers of Ashfield benefiting significantly. The fact sheet also references a passing of this approach, what does this mean? Do we get another whack next year or when will the "harmonisation" (creating disharmony for me) be complete on this trajectory?
247. We have COVID it's hard to get money
248. It appears fair that the smaller former areas are brought in line with the remainder of the new Inner West Area. The Marrickville and Leichhardt residents have equal Access to services within the Ashfield area so they must pay a equal amount
249. For us, it will mean an almost 25% increase in our rates annually. That is a ridiculously high increase and I would suggest at the very least that it be staggered over a five year period rather than in one fell swoop. If you want to provide 25% better service, like even timely garbage removal that would be great but we seem to be getting less service since the amalgamation and now we are going to pay more for it. Land value does not equate to the level of service that is required by a householder. It should be based on services provided
250. is there any reason for this other than increasing rates?
251. Just because we have been forced to amalgamate why should we have to be brought into line with the other 2 areas
252. Show us the figures for harmonisation. It does not appear to be fair at all everyone I have spoken to has increasing rates.



253. The difference between 2021/22 - \$2,298.56 + GST plus standard charges plus stormwater residential Non Strata compared with 2020/2021 \$1856.35 + GST plus standard charges plus stormwater residential Non Strata is \$442.21 + GST approximately additional charges on the bill are not increased. A \$486.43 increase in rates is outrageous. How can the Inner West Council justify this substantial increase?
254. The new rates structure unfairly impacts unit owners which bear far greater rates then owners of home and require less access to infrastructure and service and are required to maintain a greater level
255. I will receive an increase of \$140 per annum. This is a concern because I am struggling financially due to Covid. I am already paying high levies for my small 40sqm company title unit (\$4,000 per quarter), and my rate increase has been matched with someone who owns an entire block, possibly with dual or multiple incomes. This increase is likely to contribute to pricing me out of the Inner West, where I have lived for 20 years and been a solid contributor to the community. In addition, the massive multi-residential developments occurring in parts of Marrickville will contribute to significant rates income increase for IWC, and this surplus should be passed on to IWC residents through rates relief, not an increase. Treat the rates as regional variation rather than "harmonisation".
256. The new rate structure has been phased in very poorly. A 24% rate increase in a COVID-19-affected year is inappropriate. The Council has also not adequately demonstrated that services will be harmonised across the three former councils - something that an equalisation of rates should deliver. For example, the new rates structure appears to be reducing rates in Balmain and Rozelle, which benefit from more green space than Marrickville and Dulwich Hill.
257. The council amalgamation is supposed to increase efficiency which I have not seen in practice. I need to know what changes we can expect from a 24% increase in rates in 2021-22. Will there be improvements in services provided in the same percentage & how will that be measured? If this goes through, none of sitting councillors will get my vote in the next election.
258. Council provides an equal level of service to all residents regardless of land value. And presumably this will continue. Basic rates should be the same for all residents and where special / extra service is required by individual residents, they should pay an additional fee.
259. Using euphemisms like harmonising doesn't help. In the middle of a pandemic some rate payers asked to pay towards 25% higher rates. And single person dwellings hit the hardest, most being people starting out or retired. Of course the multi million dollar houses are hardly touched. No surprises there. This amalgamation has brought no benefit to date only extra cost. If you are going to change rates do it over a couple of years at least. Give people time to adjust to such a big hike in costs. I support good councils and happily pay rates for good infrastructure and services but this is neither, we all know amalgamations are about money not people. I say bring back local councils, get rid of the new mega council.
260. My rates are going to increase, however Council will not increase services to St Peters. Council has always neglected St Peters - will this change? I think not. Our bins are not emptied on time and the local streets are covered in rubbish and weeds. This rate increase is a complete joke
261. Stop fancy upgrades of stuff and find a way to be more efficient with rates.
262. A 10% increase in my rates does not seem harmonious or fair to me and my family.
263. Everyone in the amalgamated area should share the increase. Not just those in the Marrickville council area

264. My area is under serviced and under maintained by this council. Raising rates is exchange for barely adequate waste services, and no local area council support and no local area council infrastructure is pretty galling. In my area - you must bring waste services up to par with other councils, clear out the rubbish on the streets, oppose aircraft and motorway noise, fix the footpaths, fix the street lighting, give us a green space. Don't continue to do nothing and raise rates instead. What are you doing to deserve more from me when my current rates are deliver very little to my community and local area
265. There is no need to move away from the old rate system which was fair enough.
266. The online rates calculator brings up the incorrect annual rate for 2020/21 for our property so the new calculation is meaningless. This is disappointing as it provides no information on which to base an opinion
267. The rates applied to mining should be totally separate and reflect the destruction they cause and minings short term inputs and long term restitution particularly ponds. They should pay all on costs and restitution costs while operating.
268. I live at (redacted) Dulwich Hill and am supporting our family on one income. It appears that my rates will go up 25% in one year. That is a massive increase. If it has to happen at all (which I wholeheartedly disagree with as it will cause us a lot of financial hardship) it should be done gradually as per the State Govt proposed legislation. Terrible timing, with two of our household out of work due to Covid, with no incomes. I fear we will be outnumbered by ratepayers getting a reduction, and our voices will not be heard. Please ensure we are treated fairly.
269. My rates will go up by more than 20% under the proposed scheme! Surely there is a more gradual approach to increasing rates in the Inner West?
270. According to the Inner West website we are paying \$1,856.35 for 2020/2021 and \$2,298.56 for 2021/2022 so there is an increase of \$442.21. This figure does not include the 10% GST on top of this plus Standard Charge plus Stormwater Residential Non-Strata charges on our bills. This is a BIG increase of 23.8%. The old Marrickville Council seems to be subsidising the old Leichhardt and Ashfield Councils which is unfair. Why is a three bedroom, two bathroom waterfront unit with two swimming pools and a gym in Rozelle being charged the same Council Rates as a 2 bedroom unit in Stanmore? (redacted) Rozelle 2039 2020/2021 \$686 2021/2022 \$850 (redacted) Stanmore 2048 2020/2021 \$710 2021/2022 \$850 How can the Inner West Council even justify a minimum rate of \$850 (redacted) Rozelle 2039 when a Drummoyne two bedroom waterfront unit with one swimming pool and no gym under Canada Bay Council is \$1150.00? The minimum rate on these properties in Rozelle, Balmain and Birchgrove should be at least \$1000.00. How can the Inner West Council justify large rates rises in the former Marrickville Council area of 19.7% and 23.8%? Ratepayers in Marrickville appear to be subsidising the Balmain Peninsula. Therefore, the Inner West Council is NOT making rates fairer across the Inner West. There were three councils with three Town Halls and Administration Buildings plus all the staff associated with these former Councils. The NSW State Government has also given the Inner West Council large amounts of money for this amalgamation. Therefore, rate payers in the Stanmore Ward expect their rates to stay the same or be lower. Whilst the Inner West Council can use the excuse of the State Government harmonisation of rates, the bottom line is that the buck stops with the Inner West Council and Ratepayers in the Stanmore Ward expect fairness and from this example, it certainly, isn't fair. If Ratepayers do get hit with large increases as of 1 July 2021, it will be a Council election issue in the Stanmore Ward. I have also written to Councillors in the Stanmore Ward as well as the Mayor.
271. I agree with the one rating system across the local council.

272. you just keep raising our rates! \$250 extra dollars a year..seems a bit harsh and unfair. how do you justify that much of an increase; for less services?
273. It does not seem to be fair to charge rates based on the property value. Rates should be charged based on the services provided. Services delivered are the same for a family of 2 living in a \$1m land value property in Petersham compared to a family of 2 living in a \$0.7m land value property in Marrickville. If a change in rate is required, also consider a phasing of this rate change. In our case it's nearly \$300 per year more in rates which is a huge increase!
274. I believe the new rates structure will add to the burden already faced by rate payers. This will further add to the increase faced by most rate payers last year during an economically difficult time
275. The council needs to stop blaming the NSW State Government for the harmonisation of rates. Bottom line is that the council has known about this for at least 2 years. This is not about the harmonisation, it is about the way the Council is implementing the harmonisation. Look at the Rates Harmonisation Fact Sheet and you can see that the old Marrickville Council is funding the rate reductions in the former Leichhardt and Ashfield Council areas. That is NOT fair. All councillors in Stanmore Ward should be fighting this. This is NOT in the best interests of the residents of the Stanmore Ward that is the old Marrickville Council funding rate reductions in the former Leichhardt and Ashfield Councils. This is clearly in the Inner West Council's ball court. The buck stops with the Inner West Council. It doesn't matter whether the IWC bills us over 1 year or several, the percentage increase stays the same, a whopping 19.7% and 23.8%.
276. In Marrickville, since amalgamation, our services have diminished. Streets, footpaths and parks are neglected and full of weeds. Streets are dirty and cleaned less frequently. Garbage collection is worse and council don't respond to complaints. Why would we want to pay more for less.
277. We seem to be paying more rates for less service. The current state of affairs on the parks and verges is disgusting!
278. I am once again very disappointed in council services. In Marrickville we've noticed a significant decline in mowing, gutter cleaning, graffiti removal, pavement maintenance etc but now need to pay more.
279. Not a great policy in a time when people are loosing work and scraping to repay mortgages to get such a huge hike in rates!
280. As a former Marrickville council resident i am happy to pay higher rates if services stay the same or improve. However the general state of the footpaths, roads and parks is decreasing. There seems to be less maintenance even though we are paying \$200 more per year. Please explain how and why this is happening.
281. The level of visible upkeep of the local area has been steadily decreasing - over grown verges, drains blocked for months at a time by leaves, dodgy reconstruction of paths with tarmac spilling out into the verge garden. It's certainly not a situation which shows care by the council to spend well and hire effective contractors. Communion around what services will increase by this increase has also been particularly unclear.
282. I'm concerned that my rates will be rising so significantly. The proposal is that they will go up by \$140 in a single year. This is concerning as there has been a change/reduction in the level of service provided.
283. Not impressed as our rates will increase by \$230 and I feel the standard of service has decreased since the merger. I'll be paying more and getting less!



284. The structure is ok. What is not clear is how the rates change each year so it is impossible to provide support without the full picture. Last year I had a 17% increase whilst inflation is 2%. I also lost my job. So how is that fair or equitable? We need a predictable level of increase so individuals are not impacted more than the inflation rate. Changes seem to use an antiquated random calculation so it is impossible to support a structure without full transparency
285. The council services are poor, my rubbish is often not picked up, trees on the verge are overgrown and it took over 6 weeks to be cut. There are 4 trees and each one was cut in a separate job which is so wasteful. Potholes everywhere.
286. I support it in principle but believe a transitional arrangement should be made as the fee shift has been significant for some residents in the marrickville area. Additionally many services provides previously are not being provided so there is a perception on the value proposition of the fee changes. Why pay more for less services...what is council doing with the extra funds. It feels as if the suburbs of Ashfield were quite run down and needed urgent works which the people from the old Marrickville council has been funding at the expense of basics in this area and we are now being hit with fee increases for the privilege.
287. I do not wish for my rates to be raised, particularly in the context of the economic insecurity and general uncertainty about jobs
288. Are you kidding me? You jack our rates up by 20%, and at the same time you continue to cut out services. Where is the fairness?
289. Sounds like it makes it fairer across the board. I support this.
290. Over the last twelve months, we've seen reduced services from inner west council - nature strips have been neglected (everywhere), garbage services have been changed to reduce cost. IWC is so caught up in politics and have added no tangible value to the community. We should be getting a rate cut rather than rate increase!
291. 20% increase in my rates with no corresponding improvement in services.
292. I do not support being taxed an extra \$276.69 a year with no increase in services to my residential address. It's bad enough that the drains aren't unblocked regularly causing local flooding but then to increase the rates with out an increase of services. That is not ok. Also to get red of snap send solve which allowed me to easily report issues was also a bad move. The website is not user friendly enough to report on the website.
293. Hi, This is utterly ridiculous and disappointing. The amalgamation 2 years ago was supposed to lower rates not increase them!!! IWC doesn't even do the basics to keep our municipalities clean, yet you have the audacity to want to increase the rates, what a joke!!!! The council needs to stop blaming the NSW State Government for the harmonisation of rates. Bottom line is that the council has known about this for at least 2 years. This is not about the harmonisation, it is about the way the Council is implementing the harmonisation. Look at the Rates harmonisation fact sheet and you can see that the old Marrickville Council is funding the rate reductions in the former Leichhardt and Ashfield Council areas. That is NOT fair. As I said before the IWC needs to stop buckpassing and do it's job and manage its money properly, you are already in debt and have wasted money and now you want to charge Stanmore residents so you can pay off your debt!!!! How can the Inner West Council justify large rates rises in the former Marrickville Council area of 19.7% and 23.8%? Why is a three bedroom, two bathroom waterfront unit with two swimming pools and a gym in Rozelle being charged the same Council Rates as a 2 bedroom unit in Stanmore? In some cases, waterfront units in Birchgrove have had their rates lowered. How is this making rates fairer across the Inner West? Are we in Stanmore paying for Leichhardt and Ashfield ratepayers I don't think so!!!! Why should I pay \$850 for 211 sq metres in

Stanmore when someone with a bigger waterfront block in Balmain pays less, I don't think that is very fair. I object to IWC increasing our rates.
294. This equates to a 24% increase in one year! I'm a self funded retiree and this will put a strain on my finances as I don't qualify for a discount.
295. Too much of an increase in one go
296. I just used the rates calculator to discover that our rates will skyrocket from \$1057.81 to \$1309.79 - an astonishing 23% change. I cannot fathom how this is defensible. This is not 'harmonisation', this is extortionate. I would really appreciate an explanation.
297. I propose that it stays the same as all home owners that I have spoken to in the inner west have calculated their rates and they have all risen. Not one has been reduced.
298. It seems that since the amalgamation the provision of council services in Marrickville has decreased. Why are rates in the old Marrickville council area increasing when services and maintenance of the area has and is decreasing since amalgamation?
299. My rates will increase by over \$300 per year with no corresponding increase in services. Given that services have declined since the councils amalgamated this is outrageous
300. Why hasn't the Proposed Rating Structure been provided on the have your say website - it was provided in the council papers on November 11 see item 1 at <a href="https://innerwest.infocouncil.biz/Open/2020/11/C_10112020_AGN_3759_AT_WEB.htm">https://innerwest.infocouncil.biz/Open/2020/11/C_10112020_AGN_3759_AT_WEB.htm</a> Hiding something?
301. Very unhappy that my rates for my apartment will increase by \$140 a year, this is way too much how do you expect my single income family to afford such a large increase? We are struggling as it is to afford everyday expenses, and with loss of 95% of our business due to covid we don't know what 2021 will bring
302. If you are going to impose the same base rates then you need to provide exactly the same services. Camperdown does not have any of the same services as other areas in the inner west. We were much better off under the Marrickville Council Banner. eg. Nature strips now a disgrace. The council advises they mow every 20 days - it is more like 10 weeks. This never happened under Marrickville Council.
303. The proposed rate structure will unfairly and disproportionately increase costs for people with smaller, less valuable properties. This is not fair and I do not support it.
304. I do not support an increase in my council fees during an economic recession
305. While I support the process if all rates payers are being treated equally, there is NO information at all about how the rates are actually calculated! In addition to this, my understanding of the amalgamation rationale was that rates for everyone would be going down. Based on this, why is it that instead of the council needing less money (due to so called amalgamation efficiencies) the overall rate take based on the new system will remain the same? WHERE ARE THE SAVINGS THAT WERE MEANT TO BE GENERATED BY THE AMALGAMATION PROCESS?
306. There should be surcharges applied to the relevant precincts for one-off projects like the Ashfield pool
307. Makes sense to standardise rates.
308. It's totally unfair given residents were given no say in the amalgamation of councils. According to the rates calculator my rates will be rising by 24% - that's ridiculous. It makes the maximum rate increase pegging meaningless.
309. My rates will go up a significant amount and I only live in a one bedroom unit. I can't afford the new rates

310. I don't agree that I should be paying significantly more in rates for the benefit of other who live in a different suburbs (which is basically all this is).
311. It's a huge increase year on year yet services have got noticeably worse since amalgamation. Don't understand how Marrickville council could do more with a smaller rates charge, but IWC are increasing our costs and can't even maintain the standard.
312. It seems to be fair that unit owners pay more. Some units are worth far more than houses, but pay lower rates. Rates should be determined on value of the property, not unimproved land value.
313. My council doesn't provide the same services as the ones with higher rates so why am I paying more?
314. My rates go up by \$656 a year acc to the calculator. This seems excessive for a two bedroom flat.
315. Given that my rates have now increased by 20% why would I think it is fair? My property is a unit and should be valued differently to houses in other areas.
316. The change is too high. It is a too big annual increase. Especially given current financial hardship of so many.
317. Less services and quality of service since the merger, if I am going to pay more rates I would expect a lot more from the council. Currently I do not think an increase in rates is warranted or acceptable.
318. Increased rate change when there is no increased output from useless Councillors
319. They are already high and the proposal increases my rates by about \$70
320. Appalled to see my rate increase so much when not enough is done by the council to maintain the suburb. Footpaths and roads are terrible, nature strips aren't maintained!
321. I support the principle of harmonisation, but don't understand why the indicative rates for my property (Marrickville high value) would increase by ~23%. I realise it's not linear but prior inequity was crudely ~8% (40% land value / 35% rates paid). How does that add up? That's a LOT more than mandated 2.6% rates peg! Prima facie this doesn't seem fair.
322. It seems more equitable and fairer. Our area has decreased which means of course I'm more open to supporting it, but ultimately we do not get any more services than anywhere else in the Inner West so it makes sense to harmonise all the rates as you are doing.
323. How can it be possibly fair when residential properties are rising 17% (Apartment) Mixed business (boarding house) up 19% and business general industrial remains unchanged
324. The new rates are way too high for families who already get slammed from every corner. the council has improved many local areas though.
325. My rates will go from \$686 to \$850 per year. That is a \$164 / 23.9% increase. Such an increase is indecent and well out of alignment with pension / salary / wage increases across the community and well in excess of CPI (in fact it is more than 10 times CPI). Outrageous! Go back to the drawing board.
326. Fair and reasonable rate structure.
327. Might have been best to include the old rate structure somewhere so people have something to compare the new one to.
328. will not be able to afford it



329. This is ridiculous in a CoVid year too when so many people are hurting. You have added \$850 pa to my household budget. What do you mean this is only to harmonise rates and not increase revenue? Harmonise them back down then to stay the same rate for all. Council don't provide enoiyhj services for us, especially with Westconnex going in as well and all the disruption from it. This is tone deaf!
330. My rates are going down, but if the minimum is being increased, then are those with the lowest rates the most affected? I am concerned that this is not a fair structure.
331. Unilaterally amalgamating councils was a poor move but now increasing my rates when I have seen little work done and public lighting is a disgrace seems to only add insult to injury
332. I am satisfied that my rates will decrease especially since services have reduced since the councils merged.
333. My rates have jumped massively
334. Is this a way to find the new logo?
335. Seems fairer we have a big black but only 3 of us not using many services.
336. I don't understand why my rates need to increase by \$289. This means other council areas have been and continue to underpay. My rates have been sufficient to provide Marrickville Council with ample operating funds for the last 27 years. This feels unfair and ill thought out. Definitely no harmonisation here. The label it has been given is misleading, inaccurate and obviously been chosen to pacify those who are being unfairly disadvantaged.
337. I wouldn't mind if it was a small increase, but an almost 25% increase is appalling when services seem to have been cut or reduced. I understand the amalgamation was forced by the state government, but the only winners here are Leichhardt ratepayers and the council - the vast majority of ratepayers are getting shafted.
338. I do not support this new structure. I will be paying 25% more than the current rate for my property, leading to substantial hardship in this difficult time when we are all affected by the pandemic.
339. The rates calculator shows rates will increase for my 2 bedroom unit from \$710 this year to \$850 next year. This is a 20% hike year on year?! How is this helping the residents in our neighbourhood?
340. 23% increase in this environment is absolutely criminal.
341. It's an increase of about 20% on current rates and I only live in a narrow semi property
342. I'll be paying about \$200 more for invisible 'benefits', just like increasing my private health insurance premiums to benefit others while I'm trying my best to stay healthy so I don't have to make any claims. Would accept new charge of \$850 (minimum) but not \$977 according to rates calculator.
343. This is part 2 of my comment. The whole premise of merging councils was to cut down on duplication of roles and responsibilities and make use of economies of scale. Why then are my rates increasing by 25% in one year. It is obvious the current administration is either incompetent, is unable to implement the new structure or is just plain profiteering. I think you have provided the community with the clear and indisputable information to promote the reversal of the mergers of council areas.
344. Repeal the unethical amalgamation completely
345. I support making Local Government much smaller, get rid of half the Bureaucrats working there, no one will know the difference in service, there is so much waste and duplication it has become ridiculous and all of them on full salaries during the China Virus panic



346. Fully supportive and should be a fair allocation for all to receive similar services.
347. Equitable rating
348. My residential property rates will increase by 23.8% according to your rate calculator....that is a ridiculous increase from one year to another! Please reconsider your proposal, there are obviously flaws in it.
349. New rate structure seems to be penalising smaller properties
350. My rates per the calculator will increase by 24%. That is not harmonisation that is disruption! The submission is totally not supported by me.
351. Significant increase in rate for substandard services since merger.
352. I support it if rates are lower than what we are paying now. Would like to add that Council has not provided the correct information for rate payments for 20/21 year therefore distorting the information
353. I agree rates should be set in proportion to land value.
354. one council, one rating system is fair and equitable
355. The rates are going to be increased but the property value in Ashfield is lower than the same property and a land in Leichardt which is situated closer to the CBD. I do not understand why the people living in Ashfield have to pay the same rates as Leichardt residents. The rate is too high.
356. My rates are more or less at a par.
357. I am in a block of 4 townhouses in a 2 bed unit and my rates will increase by \$164 pa... (as will my 2 other 2 bed unit neighbours) BUT my neighbours in 3 and 4 bedroom houses on full blocks either side of us will decrease by \$80 - their properties are valued more than my unit. My other unit neighbour who has a 3 bed unit will go down \$8 I cannot see how this is fair and equitable at all !
358. Currently I'm paying under \$800 per year and live on a VERY tiny block. I'm don't think making a blanket minimum is fair and equitable for those of us who are living on one income and working for NFP agencies. Just because we live in the Inner West, doesn't mean we are all earning huge incomes and living in big houses.
359. It's well overdue that apartment dwellers pay a more equitable share of council rates.
360. I think this is a much fairer system. It will make a lot of difference to pensioners in the Ashfield area.
361. "Minimal" rates OBVIOUSLY doesn't work for a car space on separate title in a development as compared to a dwelling where people live. Alternative for this scenario needs to be found. With this algorithm I will essentially double my rates in one hit which is as far from "minimal" and 'fair' that I know. Garage space \$850, Townhouse \$945 pa..... Council must be joking
362. How do we know that you wont keep raising the rates every year?
363. This is a fairer system.
364. I think if it is a fairer system then i am supportive of it.
365. As a resident of the former Ashfield Council, this is a good result.
366. How can you justify a 24% increase to rates as the purpose of amalgamating multiple councils was to reduce costs. Why are we all disadvantaged. This is an absolute joke. I wish I could ask my employer for a 24% increase to my pay.

367. An increase of 19% or \$140 is totally unreasonable. How do you think people who may already be struggling are going to make ends meet & support these unfair increases. Your justification for these increases are a joke..
368. I checked the Council online calculator for my residential address of (redacted) Ashfield and it said my 2020/21 rates were \$1743.82. However my rates notice at the start of the 2020/21 stated my rates for the year are \$2191.82. I cannot comment on your proposed rates changes until you tell me the correct amount for my rates in 2020/21. In the year 21/22 the rates are proposed to fall to approx \$1350. Can I trust this calculation?
369. I am being charged a 20% increase in my rates, for no changes in service. This is an excessive increase in rates, and the harmonisation policy should not be about subsidising other council areas who were charging more than my previous council.
370. In principle, standardising rates would obviously result in efficiencies and cost savings compared to having to maintain different rate calculations across the old council areas
371. Councils are under pressure to provide services and equalization is a democratic move
372. It would be good to get an exact outline of the structure.
373. If your calculator is correct and my rates are going down (albeit marginally), then I'm happy with the changes.
374. Merging of council should NOT increase my rates. I should not be punished because of location of my home. I am a pensioner living on a pension. An increase will make it more difficult for me. I do not want to leave my family home
375. Seems fair
376. I'd like to know how much I'd be paying compared to before
377. Amalgamation was to make it fairer - a one bedroom apartment now in Marrickville has the same rates as a 3bed townhouse in Lilyfield. I have one property that is 3x higher than the other but rates are the same - land value doesn't seem to be a good indicator for use of council services - or the calculator mathematics is wrong
378. As residential rates are based on land value, they are fundamentally flawed due to variances between torrens title and strata title. Hence need for adequate minimum rate to ensure equity across ratepayers. Some strata titles sell for equivalent of torrens title but only pay minimum rates. Some folk get confused with number of units in LGA with income. Higher density means more intense use of assets (eg infrastructure, services) which means more expense in operational budget which means less in capital works budget.
379. The proposal is unfair for property owners who own properties that are small compared to properties that are large. Als, wages are not increasing at such exceptionally high percentage levels.
380. There is no equity in it across zones and residential types
381. Why should I pay more for council rates when the services will not change? Why should I subsidise people who live far away from me, just because they have inefficient or expensive services? It is not fair. It should be user pay.
382. My rates are increasing by 20%, this is extortion during the Covid19 pandemic. Why doesn't the executive members of the council take a pay cut of 20%. Also I thought the amalgamation should result in cost savings, for example, only one payroll department, only one accounting department etc.

383. Don't know if my rates will go up or down. The rate calculator says my rates will go down, however, it does not reflect the actual rates that I currently pay, so I don't trust the calculator. Many years ago the Ashfield Council increased rates significantly on a temporary basis to pay for the swimming pool. This rate increase never ended and rates have increased forever.
384. I don't see how this harmonisation of rates is justified. Land value should not be primary determinant of the cost of providing essential services (which is what council rates should be).
385. I am Single with big Mortgage unit. I should pay less than somebody in 5 bedroom house with big money!!
386. Since your proposed rate structure is intended to be based on land value, then the calculation should be based on purely land value without setting any form of minimum rate. The disparity of treatment is unfair. Your premise of harmonisation has adverse effect on by penalising property of lower land value such as mine and I guess many others, by imposing minimum rate.
387. please implement the proposed new rates ,it is fair
388. Our rates are set to increase (\$1,151.14 to \$1,425.36). Inflation in 202 was 1.9%, this rate increase is 23.8%, that is over 12x the inflation rate. This is far from reasonable.
389. Proposed rates will be higher for me
390. my property in petersham will have a 25% increase. How the hell can you justify this where Leichhardt properties has decreased. You can stick the rate increase up your ass, I am not apying for this increase. You are a bunch of criminnals
391. prperty in petersham will have a 25% increase in rates. How do you justify this. You even have the nerve to request this during a panademic where perople are are doing it tough.
392. Why would I as a single person living in a studio apartment have to pay the same council rates as someone living in a house that is 10x the market value and can accommodate 5-6 people. This is idiotic
393. the inner west council has been charging very high rates. City council rates are free for their residence why?
394. I find a minimum rate is too high, my rates automatically go up \$200 a yr. For struggling businesses that is already a hit.
395. This is not fair. I live in a studio and my rates are going up almost 25%
396. my rates will increase by 24% for no increase in services - well that seems fair NOT!!!!!! The amalgamation doesn't really work for me at all
397. A much fairer system what a surprise not! that previous Ashfield Council was charging the most for rates and Marrickville Council the least. As a long suffering Ashfield Council resident I say bring it on!! and complete the merger. Stop dragging it out and bring on more equity across all areas of council functions.
398. Hello, I used the rates calculator and note my rates will rise \$200. As a single person living on a single income with no hope for increases in wage, this puts a great strain on me. Also, the rates calculator is mis-leading as it doesn't say whether the rates are yearly/bi-annually etc
399. Definately not "fairer" !!!
400. the building floor space on the land could also be a metric
401. Rates going up by 24% year on year (checked mine) at a time with inflation running negative will create a negative impact for wider community.
402. This is a logical and equitable system in view of the amalgamation.



403. Excessive rates in the former Ashfield LGA are the result of an IPART special variation determination in May 2015. This followed what I believe was a sham community consultation process conducted under former General Manager Vanessa Chan. Condition of the special variation were set out in the IPART determination included reporting arrangements to 2024-25. Has Council honoured these conditions to date; and how will Council address these reporting arrangements to 2024-25? If the conditions aren't met, I assume the past increase would be rendered invalid.
404. An increase of over 23% cannot be justified in this current financial climate and Pandemic restrictions. I am a self funded retiree finding it difficult to cope financially with low interest rates on savings and poor returns on investments. Newtown was much better off under the old Marrickville Council as services such as lane cleaning, weed control and customer service have declined under Inner West Council.
405. Pleasing that there will be a small drop in my rates next financial year. When I checked the rates proposed for some strata properties in Balmain I noted that the level of rates to be paid is still far less than the proportion they should be paying based on Improved Capital Value versus non strata residences.
406. This has only happened because the State Liberals forced amalgamations largely in areas with a Labor stronghold. The should be hung out to dry, The sooner Gladys is gone the better
407. On the face of it, it looks "Fair", however because my rates have gone up there seems to be a catch, or hidden agenda.
408. Far to big an increase for the size of the property
409. This is just another example of greedy councils screwing their rate payers. Land values may rise but salaries and wages have been stagnant for decades. A \$200 dollar a year increase in rates is a big hit especially since COVID has wiped out numerous jobs, particularly in the service sector, which is a major employer in the Inner West. This is awful timing (during a recession) and lacks any consideration for residents that are going through hard times. You should be ashamed. There should be a rate cut.
410. I am a pensioner and I cannot afford current rates let alone an increase.
411. This sucks, we are all earning less and you decide to make us bankrupt. How much are councilor salaries going up? We have 1900 designed streets the streets in Burwood/Strathfield are decadent, we get the mirrors knocked off our cars in a single lane, two way street. Is this taken into account? Most of the properties in Tempe are semi-detached of 150 m,(no amenity), yet you want to make it fairer for those who have a 1/4 acre block or bigger. Council have just approved the demolition of a single story building with parking, to be replaced by 2 double story houses with no parking in a single lane street. We chose to live in Tempe because, we could not afford to live in Burwood/Strathfield now you are saying we have to pay more to help them out. This is unfair!
412. Marrickville residents are being unfairly charged
413. The effect on us is a 20% increase in rates. This is outrageous and if the decision stands, at least it must be phased-in over a reasonable period to spread the rate shock!
414. I just used your calculator and it incorrectly had my rates as \$1000 approx not \$1600 approx so I suggest you review and access the accuracy of this function.
415. Fairness is important across entire council area
416. Using the rates calculator it seems that I will be paying less rates on each of the three properties that I own. While I am pleased about this, I can't find any information about how the rating system works - and on what it is based hence I don't know if I support the new structure.

417. I was opposed to the amalgamation and I oppose this change. Marrickville has different needs to other now included suburbs and should be addressed and managed individually. Rates increase just to match distant suburbs is unfair and unnecessary.
418. Why should a resident pay more than a business ? I live in a block of units, that's a decent amount of money you will collect .
419. The rates calculator underestimates the current rate level by half. It says that the rates I currently pay are \$710 pa. They are not, I pay \$1,301 pa. How can I trust your calculations?
420. Why do I have to pay \$150pa more in rates?
421. My rates go up by 24%!!! That is absolutely preposterous. Current inflation is <1%, it is actually 0.75% At my current rates of \$686 that would be an increase of about \$5. Instead you are choosing to increase rates more than 30 times current inflation. As a single income household that is completely unaffordable for me.
422. What will improve with the substantial increase in rates?
423. The amalgamation of councils was supposed to make things cheaper in fact things are more expensive.
424. Why are my residential rates increasing when the business rates are decreasing dramatically? There are far more residential properties so this seems a sneaky way to collect more rates.
425. Why is my rates bill going up over \$200 when my income has not increased? Where are rates going down, if your income is staying the same? How is this fair to those of us whose rates are going up in a time when we are in a pandemic, there are no jobs and wages are not increasing?
426. I do not support another bureaucratic giant, inefficient and expensive. It is bad as is; there is no need for a growing expensive, inefficient bureaucratic monster.
427. Technically, I don't know -- making one "structure" out of 3 is a good idea, but having a higher base rate eg for a 1-bedroom unit is not. They would, on average, use less services than a 2-bed unit
428. Always thought Ashfield rates were too high in comparison to other councils
429. Rates for my business will increase 200% at a time of economic downturn. I can't see how this is justified in ordinary times, let alone extraordinary times!
430. My rates are meant to increase by over 10%. Has Council considered the impact Covid has had on people, including landlords like me who have had to reduce my rental significantly. So, my earnings have reduced measurably yet Council sees it fit to increase my costs by a significant margin.
431. Your poor management of the. Has led. To this and wasting money
432. There should be a transition period over three years. Also the rates calculator only shows what the proposed new rates are, not how much more they are going up or down due to the "harmonisation". I have no idea if my rates are effectively being reduced or increased, this makes this whole process not transparent.
433. There is so much junk and rubbish left on the footpaths from renters moving out of units in the Marrickville area. Home owners residing in the area should not have to pay for these cleanups. The grass outside my house is hardly mowed and the rubbish men fail to empty all the bins on a consistent basis. It's the worst and I'm livid I have to pay more for virtually nothing. We don't use the parks. Only the ice addicts seem to be there during the day.

434. Why should rates increase for some suburbs if the value is not higher
435. Currently I'm paying \$710, my rates will increase by \$140.00, I do not think that is fair
436. How would I know what the new Rate Structure is. I've seen nothing to explain how the previous systems were structured or the basis for this one? And I've read what was provided. Staying that total take won't increase, describing a fixed minimum and saying everyone us now fair isn't really telling us very much.
437. Marrickville has not benefitted in terms of services from this amalgamation. I am against the rate increase as the services are not improving to warrant this.
438. That's a \$200 pay rate when I have sweep my front yard every day as council doesn't allow the tree on pedestrian to be cut.
439. How is this fair??? My rates are going up again!!!! I have not spoken to 1 person who's rates are actually going down! This is again council revenue raising !!! What an absolute joke!!!! I'm so angry!!
440. as long as the council is not robbing 'Peter to pay Paul'; I am supportive of the new structure.
441. There is nothing about rate relief for pensioners.
442. I am in a block of 4 townhouses in a 3 bed unit and although my rates will decrease by \$8 my neighbours (in 2 bed units) will increase by \$164 pa BUT my neighbours in 3 and 4 bedroom houses on full blocks either side of us will decrease by \$80 - their properties are valued more than my unit. I cannot see how this is fair and equitable at all !
443. How will these changed rates impact on Council services? With this large an increase in our rates, it seems to me that Council would be able to speed up services and perhaps increase things like street lighting.
444. Here we go again funding Ashfield and marrickville - we should never have merged. Where is our state government merge money ?
445. It's important to have a consistent rating structure across the entire amalgamated LGA to move forward with equitable expenditure and investment.
446. I will have an increase of approximately \$175 per annum doesn't seem like much but on a fixed Centrelink income every little bit counts.
447. The introduction of an arbitrary minimum residential rate that is not linked to land value will adversely impact residential rate payers predominantly in apartment living and the least likely to afford any increases to rates.
448. There is no explanation as to why harmonisation requires an increase in my rates of \$140 per year. If Council does not receive any increase in rate revenue, does that mean that some areas have had rate reductions. What increased services do I obtain for this increase?
449. Due to the current pandemic, we are already doing it hard and to increase rates is just another stress
450. Harmonisation of rates is all well and good but I've yet to see any improvements to cultural facilities and community services in the former leichhardt council area, everything seems to be in the Marrickville and Ashfield areas. Additionally it's a bit disingenuous in a letter addressed to the ratepayer to say to see how your rates will change, go online
451. I THINK BUSINESS SHOULD BE PAYING MORE THEN \$820 . Iam paying \$243 last QUARTER. \$850 IS ABIG INCREASE FOR ME
452. As an apartment owner the land value is irrelevant to my personal financial situation and the services council provides aren't changing, yet you want to charge me over \$160 more per year - for what?!!
453. My rates will go up by 25%. What a joke!!!! I have never heard of such a sudden and hyper-extraordinary increase in government charges in my life! How do s this fair?



454. My rates will increase by 25% but my Council Services will remain unchanged. Still a single family dwelling. By being attached to land rates it means that I will pay the same as a multi-purpose property. NOT FAIR! Disproportionate!
455. the statement in the fact sheet "Council is introducing a new minimum rate, so all property owners are charged equally for using Council services." still feels misleading, albeit unintentional - for example is this actually true of, for example the waste management or stormwater components of rates?
456. equitable is good
457. Hopefully with Harmonisation the level of service in Haberfield will be increased to equal that of Leichhardt , our gutters will be swept of council tree leaves and council grassed areas will be mown before they get 40cm high . Maybe even our damaged footpaths will be fully repaired , council replaced some in our street but left the worst , unbelievable . I can't work out how the council worked out my current rates , the calculator said I pay \$2287 pa ,yet my rate notice is for over \$2730 pa. Very strange . Is the council Harmonisation only applicable to a portion of the total rate bill .
458. All rates should be same rate over all if council which doesn't appear to have occurred until now
459. seems very expensive
460. I DONT SUPPORT AT ALL.I AM A PENSIONER AND THE JUMP BY NEARLY \$326.10 IS UNACCEPTABLE.THIS TOO MUCH OF A JUMP,A STEADY RISE IN PERCENTAGE TERMS IS MORE APPROPRIATE.THE LAND VALUE WOULD HAVE TO JUMP SUBSTANTIALLY TO JUSTIFY THIS RISE IN RATES.
461. Obviously I will be paying a lot more. Council since the amalgamation has to the naked eye done a lot less around Balmain ie law cutting etc so an increase in rates is near insulting. We should go back to the former council arrangement. Leichhardt Council was obviously well run. Also my wages have not gone up.
462. As the one-quarter new rates \$850,I think it is little expensive for me , I am unemployment currently and the life is hard .pls consider my suppose, thanks.
463. After inputting various addresses for comparison, it is clear to me that smaller properties with lower land values will be subsidising - to an even greater extent than they already are - properties with higher land values, as the lower land valued properties rates will rise while the high value properties' rates are reduced. It is already extremely unclear why currently a property with a land value of, for example, \$153,000 (within the old Marrickville Council) pays the same rates of \$710pa as a property with a land value of \$667,000 (also within the old Marrickville Council). These two same properties will see an increase to rates from \$710 to \$850 (the tiny one bedroom flat attracting an additional \$140pa) and to \$856.50 (the three story, three bedroom semi-detached Victorian house with multiple living spaces and backyard attracting only \$6.50pa more than the one bedroom's increase). It is obtuse and inexplicable. The new rates structure clearly discriminates against owners of smaller properties with lower land values. Freestanding houses in wealthier suburbs, with land values of over \$1m will see their rates reduced by on average \$100pa. As Council notes that the total rates revenue received would not increase, it is obvious that there is to be a transference of rates liability from wealthier owners to less wealthy owners. This is a disgrace. Council's statement that "Harmonising rates means rates will be paid equitably in proportion to the land value by all ratepayers in the Inner West" does not appear to be true at all, in fact it appears that the lower the land value, the greater will be the inequity and subsidisation of those with high land values. There is nothing equitable in either the current regime or the proposed regime. As a consequence of the lack of



transparency no logic or fairness can be discerned. All that is clear is that the owners of the least valuable land will be negatively affected to the benefit of those owning more valuable properties.
464. AS long as the basis for the land value does not change drastically and remains fair then the concept has merit.
465. Given the inner west council has a highly questionable standard when it comes to implementation of programs, it would again beg the question as to why this material is being distributed during the Christmas period.
466. I think it is a very big rise for a pensioners many re struggling at the moment. Older parents pay quite a bit of money toward their grandchildren's expenses. They get little help.
467. Just be upfront about what is essentially a harmonising smoke and mirrors rates increase.
468. Needless to say I don't want my rates increased. However, what option do I have but to accept Council's equalisation scheme?
469. You lied to us. My rates are going up 22% under the new structure. When the councils amalgamated we were told it would be more efficient, which implies lower rates not massively higher rates.
470. I understand the need to harmonise but think raising the minimum is the wrong approach. Why not harmonise to the least minima instead?
471. Services have been depleting over time and now you want us to pay more for less.
472. Why are the proposed rates for the gigantic apartment complex across the street (redacted) less than the rates proposed for us next door in a comparatively modest building?
473. My rates will go down so not much to complain about. My rates are well above the minimum value. The rates calculator is hard to find via the search menu on Council's website. Easier just to Google it.
474. My rates will go down under this scheme but I still object to the premise of the new arrangements. There is no link between the value of my land and the council services I use. The premise of equity being in proportion to land value is false. This is confirmed by your desire to set a minimum value to make the system 'fair' - as clearly land value is not a fair system and an unfair system is not equitable. The proposed system is based on a perceived ability to pay, you should be honest enough to just say this and not hide behind 'equity'. Harmonised rates must come with harmonised services. Parks, cycle paths, road calming measures, pedestrians priority areas how will council ensure harmonised services for harmonised pay?
475. Some if the services offered by council are not represented in my area. Other services such as roads drainage and maintenance if parks are badly upheld by my d council area
476. It seems fair to have a single rate system.
477. I do because mine will decrease. I want to know more about how the council will get itself out of the debt hole it is in. Plus the council has been in the news lately for all the working reasons and I want to know what is going on.
478. This is a money grab for much less service. Since the amalgamation services have dropped, streets are dirty and not swept, verges not mowed. The services we had for much less rates when we were part of Marrickville Council is now massively eroded. Why should we pay more for less? The council appears to have no regard for their constituents. Bring on the next election

479. Base rate seems fair for residential--business should be increased This process though should have been undertaken earlier in the amalgamation process Our three LGA's Councilorsshould never have agreed to amalgamation as it has cost us all more not less--as was the justification by the 3 councils--a total disaster Orther Councils fought and retained autonomy!!!
480. you are not doin g your core work and wasting ratepayers money. Petersham Town hall, what a waste for what? remove two old 50yr old trees to create a ramp and destroy the art deco look which that gentrified grey granite path? why has NO work every been done on Crystal street, the concrete like all other concrete roads needs a grind back smooth, as a cyclists and motorcyclist its a very very dangerous road to ride o with bumps all the time. DO YOUR CORE WORK
481. Our property 100% residential is increasing in cost by 25%. It's land value is \$800K There is no justification for a 25% increase anytime let alone during a time of minimal inflation.
482. Costs rise and rates must also.
483. This unfairly impacts landowners closer to the city where values are higher. Why should we pay more for rates than a larger property further from the CBD? Will there be an increase in services for people paying hundreds more?
484. NO. I never agreed to the amalgamation, am totally against it. Our projected increase is over \$200, this is not an inconsequential amount and it will have to be found from elsewhere in the household budget. What kind of state government heaps this burdens on people?!, especially in a time (or any time, really) when families are already struggling with loss of work, reduction of Jobkeeper, etc.
485. I own a tiny 1 bedroom unit and DO NOT deserve to pay \$166 more for a service that doesn't even provide enough garbage bins for our unit block! This is DISGUSTING especially when people are struggling to make ends meet!
486. An increase masked in pretty language, during a time in which folks are struggling and general neighbourhood maintenance has been absent is quite rich.
487. There is a lack of clarity about the structure, which rates are going up and which ones are going down.
488. Yes, we felt unduly worse from the old system, where our rates went up significantly and felt this as a family. We felt our area had a disproportionate level of rates when compared to familes and friends in surrounding areas. With the new level, we see some small reduction closer to between the old and the high existing rates level. It feels proportionate and a good way to stop the negativity currently in our area about the variance in rates between suburbs.
489. Its fairer, every property should pay at least a minimum rate so it is not over-subsidised by other ratepayers
490. We need more justification for which rates have reduced if the total amount collected is not being increased.
491. Completely unfair to the previous Marrickville council residents. Why should we have to pay more to subsidise the previous Ashfield and Leichhardt Councils when we don't get any better or further services. It shows that Marrickville could provide services without increasing their rates. Now due to FORCED amalgamation we have to pay the price. Not fair!
492. The rates were suffocating in Leichhardt before this change
493. Minimum residential rate of \$850 is too high and business general of \$820 is too low. The minimum levels do not reflect the cost savings that the amalgamation was supposed to achieve and embeds the Council's executive's epic fail in doing the job of creating a lean, effective and efficient organisation. Instead it continues to be bloated and wasteful, with a self serving executive sucking the dollars out of the

organisation instead of making the tough decision regarding workforce management and organisational efficiencies in order to make the Council financially viable.
494. My rate would go up by \$140 per year, which is almost a 20% increase. This is not acceptable, especially during the tough economic COVID times.
495. Amalgamation was meant to lead to greater efficiencies. Either this means that no rates should increase in the harmonisation process OR that service levels increase. I have seen no evidence of the latter - footpaths are dangerously littered with household junk, gutters crammed with leaf and litter causing overflow problems whenever it rains. Why did the councils amalgamate if we are paying more for less?
496. There has been a decline in services provided since the amalgamation of Inner West Council. To now expect us to pay more in rates, when the main thing you have done is get a new logo but reduce actual services, seems a bit of a reach.
497. Currently pay \$628 per year - now will pay \$1088?? Thats a huge 70% increase! I am a pensioner - does the rate calculator take this into account? I feel pensioners should stay the same.
498. We own a shop on new canterbury rd petersham and the change in rates is 22% higher, how can we continue with these rises and pandemics. 'NOT FAIR' Inner West Council
499. Theres a 20+ increase in rates how can this be fair. How can business afford to be constantly slammed. I don't think thrive received a 20% rise in income. Stop wasting our money and mange our funds better
500. I don't want to pay more in rates. From 2015 to 2020 my rates have increased 39.9%. How is that justified? What service increase is commensurate with that? Do tell.
501. Rate go up but service is the same? Doesn't make sense to me
502. I disagree that my rates will increase by \$140 for the 2021/22 financial year. An increase of almost 20% from my current \$710. What new services will be provided for my property? I don't need any extra services to warrant a 20% increase in rates. Its unfair that I should subsidise other residents who require more services due to lack of works from their councils.
503. This increase in rates (for me) comes with a decrease in council service - worse rubbish collection (missed collections, harder time to leave bins out meaning bins left out longer), poorer amenities (weeds everywhere, grass along verges constantly over grown). Our area looks dreadful.
504. The new formula makes my rates cheper. Very happy!
505. I provide low cost housing in Newtown. The increase in Council rate compounds the impost of land tax already imposed by State Government. The rent will barely meet the annual outgoings. I will be forced to sell the property putting one low income family on the street
506. Good idea to 'harmonise' rates given amalgamation.
507. I note it refers to rates only, not sewerage charges etc, which may cause some people to think their total rates bill is as shown in the calculator
508. Please make the 'search' button actually work so I can find out if my rates will increase. Only option on screen is to 'cleare' not 'search'.
509. It is not reasonable for the minimum rate being significantly higher than our current rates.
510. whom decided to waste money of Petersham town hall reno? And destroy old confinifers that had how much carbon stored over how many decades - pathetic management focus on your core duties.



511.	Ashfield council rates have increased for the past six years it has gone up an average of 5% the highest is 8.61% in 2018, an increase this year will be hard for me and for some as the effect of covid19 has reduced my annual income not to mention the mortgage repayment to think of. I don't think Ashfield council is even concern about the community they charge rates increase when they want to anyway.
512.	The calculator states our standard residential rate we will increase from \$1,244.48 -2020/21 annually to \$1540.93 annually for 2021/22 . Can you advise if this is calculated with the minimum rate proposed at \$850.00 or how will council calculate a rate higher then the minimum charge of \$850.00
513.	If my rates will increase (they will) and council is not collecting extra rates, then somebody else's rates must be decreasing. I strenuously object to paying for another ratepayer's decreased rates by increasing mine. You can dress this increase up in any way you like but that's what it boils down to - I pay extra so someone else can pay less. I also strenuously object to paying a "Standard Charge" that is not explained on my rates notice. Why is there a "Standard Charge"? What do I get from it? It appears to be a money grabbing exercise from the IWC.
514.	Could you provide more information as to which properties the minimum rate applies to. What are the criteria for the new minimum rate? There are both one and two bedroom units in my block, will all be charged at the minimum rate? Does it apply to houses as well as units?
515.	a 24% increase for no additional services seems unreasonable. I'd like to understand what cost saving initiatives the amalgamated council has delivered and what cost saving initiatives you are committing to for the coming year
516.	The new structure appears to be fairer from my point of view because we will be paying almost \$445 less a year, which is significant. Using the calculator, I can see that properties with much higher land value (including family members in other suburbs) are currently paying \$400-\$500 less a year than us.
517.	We live in a strata development. Our townhouse, garage and storage space are on separate titles. So our garage and storage space will cost each the minimum of \$850 each instead of \$50.40 and \$5.05 per year respectively 35/8, car space 83/8, storage space 86. This is not fair. Can some allowance be made for this type of situation - like combining the land values and calculating the overall rate of that combined land value?
518.	I have calculated an increase of just under 14%. How can this be justified? I am a self funded retiree earning .01% on my savings and have little to no dividends on the few shares I have. This is an absolute outrage and I do not approve and would like Inner West Council to justify this increase and reconsider as it is grossly unfair!
519.	I do not support this new structure. My rates are increasing by 20% from \$710 to \$850. What additional council services are going to be provided to me in my neighbourhood to justify this increase? The justification for amalgamation was cost savings & efficiencies - that should result in overall rate savings. If the total rate bucket is not increasing who is getting the benefit in rate reductions? If there are equitable rates there should be equitable services across all council areas & honestly I do not see that happening.
520.	Agree with the concept but my own increase is 23.8% which is significant within a year. Increase should be incremental or capped over a certain timeframe.
521.	We have only moved into the area because it is affordable for us. If our land values are not proportionate to those in other councils, why should we pay more each year. So we pay \$140 more each year whilst somebody in a 'former' council receives a benefit.

522. With almost \$300 pa increase in rates we oppose the normalisation of rates. The NSW state government's rationale for amalgamating LGAs across NSW was to create scale and thus "economic efficiencies" across the state. The suburb of Stanmore sees very little of the LGA funding as a suburb from Inner West Council. This amalgamation process has just cost ratepayers money, services have declined and Council jobs have been lost. The Council staff that are left have to do more work with less staff. We will be subsidising the harbourside areas of the LGA.
523. I don't think it is fair that my rates will go up from \$686 to \$850
524. It's too expensive
525. The council's amalgamation has yet to yield substantial benefits to residents in areas like Marrickville - and now we will be asked to pay between \$75 and \$400 a year more in rates, simply because we are now part of an amalgamated council. There is a significant difference in the scale and quality of facilities and services provided in areas like the Marrickville area vs those in the wealthier areas of the council area, so it makes sense that those areas continue to pay higher rates. The socioeconomic areas are very different in the inner west, and after the difficult economic times COVID-19 has brought, 1 July 2021 is not the right time to be requiring the 'harmonisation' of rates.
526. More explanation needed. I had to find previous bills to realise that what is referred to in the "calculator" is just part of the Council's charges. There is also no info on how the amount is calculated.
527. The proposed increase will see my rateable value increase by over 35% in just one year. This is in addition to a 20% increase already imposed by the valuer general during the past year. How can the new proposed structure be fairer?
528. This is primarily a smoke and mirror excuse for a council that has stuffed up the amalgamation processes (and overuses PC terms like "harmonising"), and clearly has wasted millions on poor budget decisions, then turns to rate payers to make up for its short comings. You should not be allowed to get away with this by simply jacking up rates. I'm also fully aware this massive increase will happen no matter what - and that Council is only paying lip services by going through this community consultation charade. My money is on the fact the backroom deal has been done.
529. even for us, the council rate will be reduced a bit, but compared to other councils, our rate is still too much higher than others!
530. It is absurd, my rates are going up by 25% next year! I don't think this is fair with the average bill only going up by a few percent per year
531. Considering rates went up, in a COVID YEAR, we welcome any reduction in rates!
532. One rate system for all is fair and reasonable.
533. The change to the new structure is too severe for those whose rates will increase. It should be implemented incrementally over a three year period. According to the calculator our rates are going to increase by 24% in one year. This is excessive and will be particularly hard for low income earners. I also note our land value in Marrickville is \$1,040,000 but our new rates estimate \$1335.47 is higher than the estimate in the rates harmonisation fact sheet for Marrickville of \$1,316 for a high land value of \$1,070,000, this is misleading.
534. Significant increase in rates for no increase in services. Already had less services by amalgamation
535. Our rates will increase 25%
536. Such a large increase in rates in a Global pandemic is heartless, abhorrent and a financial struggle. Amalgamation was never the choice of the communities and now we have to pay for it. Instead of the Govt effecting our financial livelihood this way, start making more sensible decisions regarding how they spend our money.



537. how can a 7.32% increase in our rates be described as FAIR.....daylight robbery is a more apt description....especially when the dysfunctional nature of the council management is taking into account.....we are paying for the termination of the ceo out of our pension.....cant call that fair
538. I have read the notice posted to me and require more information. What period do the minimum rates cover? Is it a quarter, per annum? Please be explicit. The factsheet via the link is INACCUARTE, my rates in Lilyfield surpass the highest rates. You need to accurately reflect the rates paid to council. Please advise accurately where rates have been spent over the years since the amalgamation. Will the "harmonising" be retrospective? If not, why not? How can I vote with the lack of information provided in the notice.
539. My support or lack of it depends on how fair it is - see below
540. Leaflet is misleading. This is nothing more than an amalgamation tax on local residents and businesses. It is clear that the amalgamated councils have lost money since the merger and chronically underperformed. Leichhardt Council should have stood their ground and remained a standalone Council, as other Councils that made this decision escaped the axe altogether and were allowed to remain a standalone Council. It was a deeply unpalatable option amongst ratepayers. Community opposition to mergers ran high amongst respondents. Leichhardt Council had a healthy balance sheet and there was no need for an amalgamated Council. Misleading information by then Premier Mike Baird quoting the benefits of amalgamation of Councils. *For 2020/2021, this would be an estimated increase by a whopping 19.7% (same or similar to other residents or businesses). Outrageous. **This huge increase would certainly put a strain on: household budgets, low income earners, pensioners, renters (this would be passed on to them by landlords) and business owners. All struggling during this COVID pandemic and increased unemployment or to those underemployed. SHOW SOME COMPASSION AND COMMON SENSE, during this difficult time.
541. The explanation does not make clear what was the minimum rate previously
542. The residential rates structure as proposed is skewed with most of the rate increase being borne by households in Leichardt (6,929 assessments 29.4%) and Marrickville (25,847 assessments 77.8%), rate increases over a range of \$75 to \$200. For Ashfield only 23 assessments are so affected. There should be a fairer allocation over all residential households
543. I am not against paying the new rate, which represents a 24% increase (and more than double the minimum rate). Nevertheless, rates based on land valuation for services provided in the IWC Fact Sheet under the "Where do my rates go?" section does not appear to be a fair method of distributing cost. Land size, which is incorporated into Land valuation, is relevant in terms of roads use and associated infrastructure but the vast majority of the the other facilities and services relate more to individuals (and number of people in a household does not necessarily related to land size and certainly not land valuation. Land valuation appears a blunt tool.
544. Our rates at (redacted). Annandale will increase by 24% from \$686.00 to \$850.00 (not including garbage and stormwater costs)!. How is a 24% increase in rates fair?
545. I think an element of harmonisation across the LGA is important. However, there should also be consultation whether increasing rates to a higher minimum should take place, and if so, where the additional income should be spent.
546. How do you possibly justify a 24% p.a rates increase (based on your online calculator), and call it a 'making rates fairer'? What increased or improved services do you propose to justify this increase? This is appalling.
547. It is obvious from the rates calculation that Leichhardt Council was the most rapacious.

548. The amalgamation has not yet provided benefits to rate payers in the former Marrickville area and we are now expected to pay between \$75 and \$400 a year more in rates. The wealthier areas of the Inner West have different facilities and services compared to Marrickville so it does not make sense to harmonise rates at this time. During these difficult economic times council should not be asking residents to pay more.
549. The calculator did not mention the rate for concessions holders.
550. I support one rate structure but I'm not sure what the justification is for some rates (like my own) going up so significantly? Were we paying less than the other councils before? An explanation would be ideal
551. They are proportionately too high compared to current rate charged.
552. There has been no information provided to show why the rates differed across the three former councils. Leichhardt Council's rates were lower than the proposed new minimum, so the question arises as to whether Leichhardt was more efficient in its use of funds than Ashfield and Marrickville. To justify the uplift in rates for residents in the former Leichhardt LGA, we need an explanation of the reasons why the amalgamated Inner West council is less cost-effective than the former Leichhardt Council. To simply say that the rate base needs to be harmonised is not an adequate justification.
553. I feel am already being overcharged on rates. Larger surrounding properties are paying less rates than us. Considering that the Valuer General's input to council rates is 30% and Council is 70%. Council does control the level of rates to households. I feel that an increase in rates to [redacted] Stanmore is not justified considering that these properties are family homes on smaller blocks. In fact, properties like [redacted] Stanmore should be paying at least \$2,298.56 in 2021/22. [redacted] Street is a block of 9 flats charging \$340 per week for each. [redacted] Street are flats charging \$280-\$290 per week. [redacted] Street is charging \$360 per week. THEREFORE the rates that [redacted] Street are paying for family homes is UNFAIR and if anything should be reduced. I would like the rates system reviewed on properties such as [redacted] Street Stanmore and similar properties because they can afford to pay more in rates since they are charging weekly rents and we all use Council services equally. Address: [redacted] Street STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,790,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,856.35 \$2,298.56 This property is parallel to [redacted] and is directly behind large properties of 237, 239 and [redacted]. This property is 481 sqm and is a family 3-bedroom home. This is our property. Address: [redacted] Street STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,790,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,856.35 \$2,298.56 This property is 494 sqm. It is a 3-bedroom family home. Paying same rates as us. Address: [redacted] Street STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,790,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,856.35 \$2,298.56 This property is 454 sqm. The house has been divided up into flats and they pay the same rates as us. This is justified as they are flats. COMPARISON Address: [redacted] Street STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,240,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,285.96 \$1,592.3 This property is on 575 sqm. It is a block of 9 flats and they are paying less rates than us. Charging \$340 per week in rent for each flat. Address: [redacted] Street STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,380,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,431.15 \$1,772.07 It's a block of flats and they are paying less rates than us and on a larger block. Charging \$340 in rent per week for each flat. Address: [redacted] Road STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,740,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,804.49 \$2,234.35 This property is 727 sqm. It is a large family home. Estimated value



<p>\$2.95M and they are paying less rates than us. Address: [redacted] STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,600,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,659.3 \$2,054.58 This property is 991 sqm. It is a Boarding House with low income people living there. The value of this property is well over \$3M and they are paying less rates than us. I feel this is justified because it is providing a service to the community. Address: [redacted] STANMORE NSW 2048 Category: Residential This property is 702 sqm. It is a large family house. Estimated value \$3.39M and they are paying less rates than us.</p>
554. The fact we are in the middle of a pandemic make this extremely irresponsible
555. New structure involves a 20% increase to my rates which is extreme and unaffordable
556. Trying to steal our money
557. As long as the amalgamation results in fewer councillors and admin overheads as a lower combined cost, then I approve
558. Increases could be phased- a 25% increase is far too high on our already high rates. I cannot see value in what I pay.
559. 'COMMENTING ON FORMER LEICHHARDT COUNCIL RESIDENTIAL RATES TABLE: -THE LOW SETTING IS TOO HIGH AND THERE NEEDS TO BE A VERY LOW SETTING. -AVERAGE AND TOP TIER BOTH GAIN A DECREASE IN RATES. 1. It is not fair to the owners of small dwellings - like myself - with an Annandale residential strata studio apartment of a little over 22 sqm and which has a current land value of \$78,611. 2. The proposed new structure defines the minimum low as \$345,455. Because of this inequity, my rates will increase by 23.9% which is the largest proposed increase in the Inner West area. 3. The current proposed variations in rates show that low tier residents (\$345,555) will pay the 23.9% increase, average tier (\$931,000) receive a decrease of -8.4% and high tier (\$1,340,000) receive a decrease of -8.5%.
560. How can I support an increase of 23.8%? Not fair in these times.
561. I believe that since the three LGA's merge, it makes sense to make rates equal across all Inner West. I think the rates are reasonable.
562. I dont understand the rate calculator as it states 20-21 being \$850.39 21-22 \$1052.97 My address is (redacted) Camperdown so that means my rates are going up by approx \$200 per annum? Are there extra fees on top of that? Not very clear or it's done like this on purpose so people dont get a rude shock when they see their rate hike.
563. An increase to my household rates of 24% is unreasonable. We get no better service for the increase as apparently council is making no money in the changes. I would like a breakdown of the additional services I am paying an extra 24% for.
564. I cant understand why my rates will increase by over 20% and services don't change. The exact same services I received before harmonisations have not changed by now I am asked to increase my rates by 20%. If the other councils, have not been run efficiently like Marrickville we should look to improve their efficiency. Why do Marrickville council members now cross subsidise the other areas. How do we make our objection heard
565. Absurd that we have a 20% change ion rates and services are the same. Something does not make sense in the calculations to me. How can one council in the same area be 20% different How do we escalate our concerns
566. A 19.7% increase on a flat in Marrickville doesn't seem fair
567. I believe this is fair for all property owners in these council areas. Instead of the council operating on the different old rating systems..which means some people pay more and some less based from these three suburb areas. Though, generally speaking all home owners are using the same consumption of council amenities. Streamlining one rating system is fair for all.
568. Please explain! Currently paying \$580,- therefore why should I pay \$850?

569. It does not seem equitable that residents in poorer areas areas will receive an increase whilst those in affluent suburbs will pay less. I fail to see how this is equitable
570. My rate will be set at \$1699 PA, this is a \$210 per year increase and given that we are in a pandemic this is hitting our budget hard. I also feel that my rates are not going to a good place, our street is in such bad shape but the council doesn't do any more to fix it so why should I be penalised.
571. Paying more for less or the same service not acceptable
572. Rates should be calculated fairly and not based on value of the land. It is outrageous for many who are living in Newtown and Marrickville council to subsidise those in other councils. We will be voting accordingly if this goes through
573. The new structure is unfair. If some are reduced and ours is \$300 more that's ultimately unfair. On what grounds are we paying more? For what?
574. One Council one rating system is the only fair way to go.
575. If no new service is added for residents in Marrickville, that means that by increasing my rates I am subsidizing wealthier suburbs. Why??
576. Glad house rates have come down. But unit rates have gone up disproportionately. How does this make sense?
577. Seems to make sense as we now pay across the inner west not just our suburb
578. this is a fucking waste of tax payers money. You idiots will still have variance across amalgamated councils so what's the point. Instead you have employed multiple people and agencies to piss a whole bunch of money up the wall.
579. The increase of new minimum rate \$850 for residential is not fair for a small units. Using the rates calculator, the suggested new rate for 2021/22 is \$850 (new minimum rate) compared to current rate of \$686. That is an increase of a whopping 24% !!! How is minimum rate for a small unit in a strata same compared to a house? How can you justify an increase of 24%? this is crazy.
580. The rates should be charged on the property/land value.
581. Your leaflet is laughable. Making fairer..., harmonising..... If the total rate revenue is not going up just tell residents that even though they live on a smaller block in a less sought after/preferable part of the Inner West their rates will go up and residents in richer areas will get a discount. I used your calculator and have been paying far too much if I were to believe this device. There is no mention regarding the other charges we pay which makes this calculator misleading to say the least. Also, the wording on your leaflets differs from the wording on your rates invoices; you mention 'minimum rate' on the leaflet but 'base amount' on the invoice. Is this the same? Messy is it not?
582. It's an absolute joke. We are in and out of a recession, hovering on the line. Wages frozen. Covid. People losing jobs. Working less. And you want to raise rates by 20%. SHAME! Award wages increased 1.75%! Inflation is 0.75%
583. There has been no information provided to show why the rates differed across the three former councils. Leichhardt Council's rates were lower than the proposed new minimum, so the question arises as to whether Leichhardt was more efficient in its use of funds than Ashfield and Marrickville. To justify the uplift in rates for residents in the former Leichhardt LGA, we need an explanation of the reasons why the amalgamated Inner West council is less cost-effective than the former Leichhardt Council. To simply say that the rate base needs to be harmonised is not an adequate justification.
584. My rates will go up by 25% for no additional services, I understood that the council amalgamation would not increase rates. Say that Councils overall income will not be increased is no acceptable. Try reducing some of Council's inefficiencies.



585. The \$850 Residential seems a large increase - there is no real data to show each previous rate etc i.e. a graph or table
586. Rates are currently horrendously high and increase at a high rate each year. I feel that I contribute more in rates for public services than I do to better my own home living environment. If the proposed rate is \$850 per annum then I support this.
587. If services were all the same maybe, but as it is for example clean up collections vary between Leichhardt and Marrickville, there is no uniformity.
588. See below for comments.
589. Yes, I agree that we should pay rates according to the value of the land we own
590. How is a 24% rate increase for a unit or similar in Leichhardt fair? Our ground area is under 100sqm. Friends in Haberfield with a HUGE double fronted deep block will have their rates dropping 23% to just under \$1,400 - hardly "equitable". Our footprint is probably less than 10% of theirs
591. Where are the additional benefits other than taking more money from us? Our rates will increase by \$300 p/a and you can't even mow the nature strips more than twice a year the whole suburb looks like it's been abandoned. Previous Marrickville council did in monthly. Calls to your line goes nowhere. You haven't provided a composting green bin service to reduce red bin waste.
592. If it is fairer, I support it.
593. More consistent
594. Increasing rates will adversely affect us and our neighbours with young families. We're pensioners, and we believe that increasing rates at any time, let alone during a pandemic, is appalling. Does Council wish to drive long-term residents from the city? Your proposed increase is something we should not have to bear. You're prepared to pay millions to a departing CEO, and you want us to make up for it? What are you doing to help us? We've complained many times about people parking all day in our street who don't have resident stickers. Two hours is the minimum, but Council rangers no longer come into Joseph Street, so these stayers (especially those from the battery business) flout the law, in spite of having their own off-street parking. We're in our mid seventies and have health problems. It's a burden for us to park a block away & walk home in the heat. As far as I'm concerned, Council doesn't give a damn and wants to squeeze us because of its own administrative cock-ups.
595. The valuation doesn't refer to apartment vs house costings. For this reason, the structure is unfair for me, a single household, to pay the equivalent of a family home when I use considerably less council services.
596. I cannot comment as there is no comparison of current and proposed rates.
597. This is based on land value and it's going up through the roof with me doing nothing to improve it. Why should I be slugged more when I don't use any facilities provided by council (except garbage collection)?
598. The new rates structure will result in a 24% increase in our rates. This is an unacceptable increase and grossly unfair, particularly given the impact of the pandemic on us and our neighbours.
599. My rates go up a whopping 25%! That is ridiculous even aside from considering that the service level has been dropping so significantly recently. This is very very unfair.
600. This is a hefty increase - my rates rise from \$686 to \$850 including the pensioner discount, I suppose.

601. I leave in an apartment. My rate will be increasing and this adds an additional stress to my household. I have only have 1 income and 2 children. Increase rate is not fair. You are charging me \$140.00 extra and this is a large charge for poor service, no added value, no regard for families that are finding financially difficult
602. Rates should be based on land size
603. I lived in Ashfield for 21 years now. The current Council rates has increased to close to \$2000 pa which is a great burden on household budget. I support the proposed new rates structure which will bring it down. (If the rate calculator's calculation is true and correct)
604. too much of an increase...represents a massive % increase in a short period for those affected
605. My rates will increase by +31% for the financial year. That's too steep an increase.
606. I will pay an additional \$35 rates because of the minimum new charge. As Council is receiving no more in total, some people will be paying less and I already receive a smaller pensioner rebate than pensioners in the Ashfield and Marrickville areas. Is the pensioner rebate to be the same across all areas?
607. I don't accept the new rate charge as my rates will increase by \$395.
608. Rates are linked to land values rather than equitable contribution to services received. Also some council services currently provided appear to disproportionately favour legacy Leichhardt council wards.
609. I think that it is appropriate that as a single council there should be a single structure
610. it is a fair system if it is harmonised thus only one rating system across the amalgamated inner west suburbs .
611. I think it's unfair for people living alone. The rate increase should be passed to larger homes
612. I support it ONLY if it would be lower for me based on the calculator, which I think would be good as it would be proportional to the value.
613. My rates for a one bedroom unit are going up \$140 a year. A 3 bedroom is the same yet you say it's on land value. Mine land value from the calculator is \$116k yet my friend in Leichhardt is \$321k yet only going to \$850 as well.
614. I'm paying more for what the council should be doing anyway.
615. If this is a rate increase per quarter it is huge especially given the current economic circumstances. Quite frankly, since amalgamation, the quality of the service ie. the way streets are kept has reduced and the service we have received this year from certain departments within council has been appalling to non-existent.
616. There is a sizable increase to my rates but since the amalgamation the services to my area have been cut. There was also a rate rise straight after amalgamation so in short since then I've been asked to pay more for less service.
617. My history of rate charges: 2018/19 at \$651.50 which increased by 2.6% for 2020/21 to \$669.00 which increased by 2.5% for 2020/21 to \$686.00. The proposed increase for 2021/22 to \$850 is a 23.9% increase. That's ridiculous.
618. I don't mind paying more if the service improves and if it's going to more vulnerable people in the community. The drop off in mowing footpath strips for example has been quite significant since the change from Marrickville. I'd also like to know more about where this additional funding is being spent - and what savings are being made eg office efficiencies given not operating everywhere.
619. Bringing 3 systems into line is fair but rating on land value alone is not fair and given the current real estate situation, land value will only go up. We have a high land value (not so when I purchased in the 1980's. I have no memory of our street being resurfaced in the time that I have lived here whereas many streets and lanes around us have been and they were in better condition than our street. The street footpaths

in my area (Dulwich Hill) are now not maintained very well since the council amalgamation - I maintain my own footpath though. I don't use child care or many other services provided by council. I don't live near a park or swimming pool so don't use that either so here's hoping that the increase in my rates is also fairly distributed with an increase in infrastructure. I would support an annual fee to join the library and any increase in fees related to development.
620. Why should home owners continue to subsidise apartment owners when rates are spent on services that are utilised by people and not the type of property they live in.? Why should 3 people who live in an owner occupied house pay significantly more than 3 people who live in an owner occupied apartment. The value of the property does not determine the use of council resource?
621. We in Haberfield are paying proportionately too much for the relative service we get. It is unfair.
622. According to the calculator, our rates will go up by 23% or almost \$200. This is a huge jump and I cannot see how on earth it can be justified. If we were getting value for money from Council then yes but we aren't. Local councils should be dumped, it is unfair for us to pay so many levels of govt taxes. We own our unit but are barely getting by in the pandemic and it is hard enough without this level of price rise. It is grossly harsh.
623. If the income from rates is not going up why are my rates going up about \$200 pa. what were the rates for the three councils that merged so I can see who is paying less and who is paying more
624. Our increase will be over \$300 per annum which is too big an increase in one hit
625. I live in St Peters. The proposal will mean a substantial rate increase for my family. The council amalgamation that was forced upon residents affected by Westconnex has seen no benefits to my neighbourhood. I propose a lowering of rates to reflect the degradation of quality of life in my local area.
626. I do not think the rates should be increased in St Peters, since the amalgamation, the streets are full of weeds, it is very rare that I see any one weeding or sweeping, the area is filthy, you just have to walk around it to see. Do more work, then think about the rate increase, or employ more staff. I am always sweeping outside my house and I am not employed by the council, I am employed by NSW HEALTH. Please clean up our area.
627. I like the idea of harmonisation of rates, however the IWC since its inception has not demonstrated an increase in services such as streetscape and recycling initiatives.
628. Too much of a price hike
629. property owners have different level of benefit on infrastructure according to their land size or value.
630. Unfairly impacts those living in small units compared to houses on blocks of land. A Thatcherite ideal, those who have less, pay more!
631. I am 72 years old this year and about to go on a pension and will not be able to afford any increase particularly since council support has been a lot worse since the merger.
632. Land rates go high, ie, the bill is more expensive. I have no intention of selling my home so I don't need land rate value to increase.
633. Big \$140 increase for me with no increase in services, all in one hit, not graduated, a one off 20% increase is unacceptable.
634. It increases my rates by \$300 year which is a lot for a senior citizen
635. The proposed change will result in a 23% increase in my annual rates to Council. This is hardly something that anyone could support. It seems to me that Council should postpone this change for several years until households can recover from the pandemic recession. It is



really strange that Council would even consider increasing rates for some households in the middle of a recession. If your total revenue doesn't change, why shift the burden now when households aren't prepared for it?
636. If "Council is not collecting more in rates. But this new system means your rates could change" why is my rate being raised from \$710 to \$850. That is a very considerable increase in rate for a small unit.
637. As a low rate pensioner it is going to be impossible to keep up with the increased expenses.
638. Drastic increase for a small 1 bedroom, 38 square metre apartment.
639. I have a small townhouse 89 m2 2/br in a complex of 31. A minimum rate of \$850 for a 2 bedroom townhouse is a big rise especially as it does not take into account since single houses or strata units/town houses.
640. The proposed rates structure is unfair with the \$850 minimum residential charge - the increases my rates considerably and i live in a tiny apartment - there should be no minimum - just based on the land value as existing
641. Rough time to be increasing when I'm in a townhouse, & have had job losses due to covid!!
642. This will add an additional \$280.00 to our current rates
643. Marrickville Council undertook an innovative and properly convened citizen's jury process in 2014 to work out collectively and collaboratively how best to address the question of rates. That's the kind of process we should be using here. Instead, we have a black box approach with little real information provided or available about what is behind the changes and what options we ought to be considering. We elect Council to act on our behalf, not to do as they please.
644. I feel it very unfair that i am to pay more under this new system, especially as i live in a strata plan and pay very high strata fees
645. If the calculator is correct, we will be hit by a 24% increase - that's not a fair system in any way shape or form!
646. It would make more sense for Council to first assess its current cost and staffing structure - undertaken by an independent third-party - before seeking to raise rates.
647. We were against the council amalgamation. Now, as a result of that amalgamation we are being asked to pay more rates?
648. Unfair rates very expensive 20% increase for no new service
649. In principle, it is a good idea to make rates fairer across the consolidated council area. However, basing the rate structure on information provided by the NSW Valuer almost 2yrs ago (Jul -19) is not a true baseline to establish the current value of the land. My property (and the land on which it sits on) has devalued considerably due to the commencement of the Rozelle Interchange - West Connex project which will be continuing until 2023. It makes no sense stating the value of the land has increased, when the value of the property has significantly decreased. In these circumstances, the NSW Valuer should re-value more frequently to ensure the most reliable valuation data is provided to councils to ensure these extenuating circumstances are taken into account when fees are calculated. I feel its completely unreasonable that my rates should increase by 24% when the value of the land my property sits on has devalued and also because I will be living in a construction site for the next three years and not receiving the full benefits of the services which rates pay for.
650. Raising my rates in the middle of a recession, and the worst public health crisis in a century (covid), is unfair and immoral. Any changes to rates in this unprecedented and challenging time needs to be gradual and phased over a number of years
651. New lowest rate for residential properties is far too high.



652. If I read correctly I would be paying a minimum of \$850 you should explained if that is yearly or quarterly. If quarterly ridiculous. Does that also mean the house prices go up ?
653. This is forcing a 24% increase to rates for our family. our land value hasn't gone up over the last 5 years. Pre amalgamation, the council did just fine off the current rates structure. Just another reason we were against the amalgamation in the first place.
654. I will support it only if the council spends the money in our street on all services and not just picking up the bins every week. fix the foot paths, trim the trees at the top and at the bottom so i don't have to bend over to walk along the paths. We are the forgotten corner that joins up with Burwood council. Gives us value for money and not just politics. We do not have any representation anymore in our streets since the merger came about. Come around look at what is happening in our streets talk to us and get some feed back. Fix the paths, trim the trees and be proud that we are part of the Inner West council. Make sure the parks are clean and trimmed.
655. A much fairer system for everyone.
656. The issue is equity. Why should people who live in a less valuable and less wealthy area of the council pay higher rates than those who live in much more valuable properties and have a higher average income? There appears to be no trade off in increased services. The Council is not running at a loss so there's no need to increase rates in any case. In any case weren't rates increased after the amalgamation? The whole point of amalgamation was to use economies of scale to increase efficiencies and reduce the rate burden. This initiative is unnecessary and unfair.
657. I do not understand why there is a 23.9% increase in the rates for (redacted), Balmain East, 2041.
658. While I support an equal rates structure it needs to be on the basis of equal services and infrastructure improvements. Currently it feels like the old Marrickville council is underdone on improvements (ie poor road conditions with pot holes, cracked and missing footpaths, limited tree planting etc) while other areas of inner west council get priority and are maintained to a higher standard (maybe due to their organisation or resources under their previous council before the amalgamation) but if the rates are equalised, services and funding must be also.
659. I understand the overall rationale and have read the fact sheet. However, my rates will increase 23% yet the table for my property category indicates only an 18% increase.
660. I support the discounted rates. However, when I used the rates calculator, it provided a discounted rate of only 4.4% for my property whilst your fact sheet summarised discounts of between 8.4% and 8.5% for the Leichhardt area. So, it looks like the discounts may not be implemented evenly in practice. Interested to understand why and happy to chat. By the way, I had trouble downloading your word version of the factsheet. It might be my Apple computer/phone but worth checking out. Cheers.
661. One size does NOT fit all - work a little harder and come up with a more equitable system, council workers might actually have to do some work for a change. I'll be paying significantly more, for what? How is that equitable?
662. The new council rates structure will affect me. My rates will increase.
663. I believe the 'harmonisation' is inadequate. All constituents enjoy the same services and thus should pay the same rates. I think the proposed minimum should be closer to \$1200-1300 per annum.
664. It should be equitable across the Area. I'm in what is said a mixed residential. I live in a small semi detached so this doesn't make sense

665. This confirms that business rate payers in former Leichhardt have been paying above average rates for a considerable time and this ,along with parking restrictions and fines has impacted on the viability of many businesses.
666. I think the rate should be around 1200 a year across the council boundaries so it's the one rate for everyone. This includes people in flats. One rate the same amount for everyone
667. I support a rate structure similar to what Wollarah Council whose resident pay far less than those of us in Balmain and Birchgrove who have paid much higher rates than those in other suburbs within council such as Leichhardt and Ashfield. Units need to be charged the one rate per unit and what I propose is that council has one rate for all. That being it would need to be \$1200 each resident including flats for everyone whether you live in Balmain or Ashfield. We all get same service so should have same rate.
668. Although I do it should be flat rate for every household that includes flats. One rate whether you live in Birchgrove or Ashfield. Therefore rate should be slightly higher to incorporate that
669. Council doesn't maintain Lord St Newtown currently so shouldn't be increasing residential rates. E.g in Lord St: 1. Gutters are not cleaned and gutter grates are completely blocked. 2. Weeds are prolific and seldom cleared off footpath. 3. The footpath is not repaired and broken and uneven in places creating a pedestrian hazard. 4. There have been no trees planted (other than replacements) since 2009 in a Street facing directly west that is a heat sink. (what's happened to supporting the Government priority for a million more trees). 5. Stormwater in the street is not managed and the street floods in heavy rain, blocking the road and endangering traffic, and it floods over the footpaths and into properties at lower end of the street (despite stormwater plan in 2008/09). 6. There is inadequate traffic calming in a 'rat run' street (despite residents requests over years) and the street is now increasingly worse with more non-local traffic cutting through, due to WestConnex and the increase in surrounding population from infill developments and units - which will continue. 7. There's also a deep pothole at the exit of Lord St/entry onto to Unwins bridge that has not repaired in over a year.
670. The changes result in a 19.7% increase to my rates. This is during a year in which CPI across Sydney (as well as the eight capital cities) has returned negative figures. As you will be aware, many suburbs in the inner west (including Stanmore) have also been among the suburbs in the whole of NSW which have been hit the hardest financially by COVID-19. It is difficult to comprehend how such a high increase in rates could be justified by the council during this time.
671. My rates in South Marrickville will increase as a result of this change. It does not make sense for rates in South Marrickville to be the same as the rates in more well to do suburbs.
672. I think it's much more fairer than before, although rates for some businesses in some council areas seem to be increasing drastically. I'm sure that plenty of stores might not be able to cope with some of these increases, especially during these times.
673. We will have an increase in our rates of over %20! We bought in a less desirable area, and one of the reasons was lower cost of living, now we have to cover the cost to include Leichhardt! Couldn't, and still can't afford to live there, but they will now pay the same rates! Not equitable at all.
674. 20% is a substantial increase with limited information about spending to improve my services. The events of 2020 have reduced peoples earning capacity and this seems like poor community insight from the council, my income has not increased by 20% in the last year.
675. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: 1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services. 3. There is no evidence that

<p>this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers. 4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges on Council services. 7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that can be used to reduce rates.</p>
<p>676. A big increase for 1bedrm unit with no services increased</p>
<p>677. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</p>
<p>678. Yes I suppose in rates being fair and one rate system for all</p>
<p>679. The increase in rates does not match the service that I am now receiving as someone previously under Marrickville council. Street cleaning appears to have declined, the changes in the garbage pick up service are impractical and inconvenient, nature strip is mown less frequently, storm water drains are often blocked and full of leaves and rubbish, yet it appears that I will have increase in rates. I am happy to pay higher rates for a premium council services that I am not receiving that any more.</p>
<p>680. Although I support the idea of rates harmonisation, it seems unreasonable that some people such as myself are seeing rate increases of 23%. Why are ours are the ones going up the most? The only conclusion I can come to is that the new council structure is more inefficient than our old council. Why aren't the amounts that were collected previously enough to sustain this new council. The state government sold the idea of council amalgamations on the basis of increased efficiency, so why aren't rates that were previously enough to sustain the Marrickville council enough to sustain the whole council? The model of rate collection previously applied in Marrickville should have been able to be scaled up to the whole of the new council without making the structure more inefficient. I am very disappointed that we have been sold this idea of amalgamation and, instead of seeing benefits, we get a new council that has less local feeling at a greatly increased cost. This is not good enough.</p>
<p>681. In principle I agree with the harmonisation of rates across the 3 previous Councils that now make up IWC. But a one off hit of a 24% increase for ratepayers in the old Marrickville Council area is an absolute joke. NSW mandated that rate harmonisation was a requirement of the forced mergers years ago. A 2 year extension to the deadline was agreed to by the NSW Government in 2019 to allow for further consultation with ratepayers. How come IWC has only now just sought to consult with ratepayers with only 5 months before the revised deadline of Jun'20? If this issue had been dealt with years ago ratepayers in Marrickville may not have been hit with a 24% increase in lone hit. Also while there may not be any overall rates income increase for IWC where are the savings that ratepayers were promised with the amalgamation of the 3 Councils? How much money has IWC wasted on their numerous restructures and payouts to multiple former CEO's and senior management???</p>



682. Under the proposal my rates appear to fall. Therefore I support the Change, particularly where it means tat all residents contribute a fairer amount to the services and facilities provided including those living in apartments or other type of highrise living
683. Property value is not the same throughout this council so why should we pay more?
684. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
685. It is unfair to increase rates for some rate payers just to standardise across the council area. I don't support paying over \$200 more in council rates when I am not using or receiving any extra council services
686. Just another way to increase charges
687. I have inserted my address four times and it goes nowhere. The terrace next door No. (redacted), Ashfield has not been occupied for 8 years is rat infested, falling down, guttering at back hanging off so very dangerous, backyard full of rubbish so hope this is taken into account when my rates are assessed. Please do something!!!!
688. A +20% increase in rates during a global pandemic is poor form. I understand the need to normalise it but increasing it to align with the other previously poorly run councils is not a great outcome.
689. Our rates will increase by 23% from 686 to 850 per year. I don't think this is an acceptable amount for a yearly increase, especially for older retirees or single income households in a time of Covid uncertainty If harmonization is required it should be structured that rates gradually shift over time say in 5% annual increments until they are harmonized across the amalgamated council
690. It should be one rate for ALL households whether you live in Ashfield or Balmain. We in Balmain and Birchgrove have been paying enormous amount of rates while other suburbs get much lower rates. This is unfair. We all get the same service. Therefore one rate for ALL households. That includes people who own flats. We all get the same service so should pay the same rate. We in Balmain and Birchgrove pay higher rates than those who live in Wollahra and Mosman.
691. According to IWC Rates Calendar - We will receive a small decrease, so of course we will support it, but what does IWC have in mind for future increases?
692. This harmonisation proposal is regressive and very unfair with the most socio economic areas of the LGA facing very significant rates rises, while the most wealthy will benefit from rates decreases. While rates increases are proposed for the poorest areas of the LGA, there would be NO INCREASED SERVICES NOR WILL SERVICES BE IMPROVED for this increase in rates. Council has not demonstrated how this will improve value for money for rates payers.
693. My rates are proposed to increase by over 20%. How is this fairer particularly as service have deteriorated under the merged council
694. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: 1. It's unfair to less wealthy people in poorer areas who cop a large increase whilst wealthier areas have none. 2.No evidence presented it will produce value for money or for individual ratepayers. 3.Those who pay



more inevitably are hardest hit which is totally unfair. What will they get out of it except making things more easy for the council? 4. More rate increases on top of significant increases in recent years. 5. I challenge the assumption that rates based on land values are fair. 6. What has happened to the \$82 million surplus from 2020? That could subsidise these rate increases.
695. I don't believe this is a fair way to charge for rates, there is no assurance that services will improve by me paying more (rates have been rising over the years already) and on a personal level - if it is true that council has an 82 million dollar surplus why isn't the money being used? Not happy to pay for funds to sit in an account when for example, the state of the road surfaces in Leichhardt and PETERSHAM is appalling.
696. Because just existing is getting harder and harder and we don't need you to add to the pressure. Do you have any idea how hard it is just to get by these days?
697. You should be phasing in the 'Harmonising' of Rate changes over say a 3 year period.... instead of slugging some with 20% increase and reducing others. Its not our fault there is such a big discrepancy between the old councils.
698. I think it makes perfect sense.
699. I don't see how it is fair that wealthier parts of the inner west now get a rate reduction relative to less wealthy.
700. This is not a fair system. Why should I pay more to allow our rich friends with harbour views in Baldwin to have a rate cut. Plus you are adding no additional services for this!!!!!!
701. It will not produce a fair way of charging of Council services
702. The rate of increase is ridiculous.
703. You are increasing rates in poorer areas. You are not offering any improved service for the extra money. Rates based on land values is not fair, it does not relate to use of council services provided. You are making marrickville council residents subsidise the less efficient leichhardt council, and/or better services for leichhardt council residents.
704. I wasn't given a choice about the amalgamation of councils and since feel council services are not as great or as good as before and therefore an increase in rates seems unfair.
705. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas, simply unfair. Surely, there must be a fairer solution.
706. A \$300 jump in a single year. What a rort.
707. I oppose this outrageous proposal because: 1. it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas 2. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services 3. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers 4. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates 5. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse 6. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services 7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and Council needs to make itself more efficient.
708. Given that you have an \$82 million surplus in 2020 I cannot see how you justify this. Also why do prestigious waterfront suburbs get a cut and we get a cut?

709. In an economic climate where wage growth is running at 1.8% how can council justify 18%+ increases in rates for the Marrickville LGA?
710. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal as there is no proposal for residents of Petersham to improve services who are now expected to pay significantly more than 20/21 rates. In addition, Petersham residents are subsidising the rates of other, far wealthier suburbs such as Balmain and Birchgrove. Lastly, the surplus generated by the council should be passed on to Inner West residents.... after all, the Inner West Council is not a "for profit" enterprise!
711. No increases should be approved
712. "Harmonisation" is a novel term that appears to be what is essentially another revenue grab. Where is the evidence to indicate that any of the claims about "harmonisation" by Council are true? As some Council offices have been closed down and staff and services have been reduced, we cannot see any evidence of efficiencies for ratepayers but, on the other hand, Council has reduced its own costs. In light of the surplus of 2020, why, for example, are the Petersham Park grandstand and the repair of the Brighton Street substation moving at a glacial pace? Please give us concrete examples of how services to ratepayers will be improved along with rate increases? What was the cost of the rebranding for the Inner West mega Council? One area of considerable but unnecessary cost was the awkward and unappealing Council logo. Since 2016, rates have already risen significantly. What have been the benefits to ratepayers? All we see are fewer and less frequent street services. Gutters are clogged with leaves and general debris, leading to non-functioning drains and subsequent road and footpath damage. Neglected footpaths in our local area, already damaged by unsuitable NBN "repairs", are a disgrace and in some instances, dangerous. Rather than provide us with a vague "harmonisation" mantra, Council should outline a fair and evidence-based system of rates that, logically, should include a reduction for all ratepayers.
713. The proposal will result in increased charges, but not services, for the Marrickville area.
714. I struggle to agree with the rate harmonisation proposal as it seems unfair to increase in areas where people are less well off and lower in other areas where people are perhaps in a better financial situation. Kind regards.
715. so there will be a reduction for every resident with the exception of Marrickville residents who are expected to be left with an +18% increase to their rates! absurd and inequitable. I do NOT agree with this and do NOT support this move. I agree with a minimum rate levy but not an increase that is only shared by a portion of the community to fund others. There needs to be a better approach to this.
716. It is unfair to the ratepayers of Marrickville to have to subsidise every other ratepayer. NO I DO NOT agree nor do I support this. so i am expected to pay more and receive the same services. NO.
717. Your calculator says i'll be paying an additional \$180 per year, without telling me why/how. This is ridiculous gauging of local residents. Amalgamated councils were suppose to bring costs down!
718. My wife and I are both pensioners and yet the proposal will increase our rates by 23.8% according to your calculator. This is touted as making rates fairer, well where is the fairness in this? And what has the amalgamation given us apart from this mammoth increase? A GM given the job by his Labor crony mates who then found they couldn't work with him, a biased review of Marrickville Golf Course and loss of good staff to name a sample. I was once proud of my Council. This amalgamation was supposed to reduce costs or a least provide us with benefits - bring back Marrickville Council!
719. Our rates (Marrickville Council area) have already increased since being incorporated into the Inner West council area. I'm not convinced they need to go up as much as this in a single year (mine are going up almost \$200).

720. I understand the need to ensure that the rates are all fair. However this will translate to a 20% increase for my household. This does not sound right. As residents, What do we get for paying extra? Couldn't find this on the website - seems like a money grab to me.
721. extremely unfair, former marrickville council area is often ignored, residents pushed aside and told to suck it up deal with it
722. More details are required to evaluate & compare, eg how are Pension discounts treated
723. It will produce an increase of than 23.822% for me in Dulwich Hil, a less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. It will not produce a fair way of charging for council services. RAtes have already gone up since the new council was formed - th amalgamation was promoted as producing efficiencies - whare are they? Council produced a \$82 million surplus in 2020 - that could be used to reduce rates.
724. My rates are increasing by 24% under the new rates structure. How is this fair for a retiree.
725. it appears that Marrickville residents are subsidizing every other resident in your proposal with plus 18% increases, astounding and inequitable. The load burden should be more evenly spread across all residents of the inner west including apartments owners and freehold owners. it is unfair/ inequitable to increase rates on one subset of the community to fund all others.
726. My property land value has been over estimated by the Inner West council increasing my rates by \$100 p/a. It has been valued at 1.4 Million . I bought the property in 2014 for 1.23 Million with a 4 bed house on it.
727. I oppose the Inner West harmonisation programme because: 1). It will provide a big increase in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2). It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services. 3). There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers. 4). There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5). Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed-this proposal will make this worse. 6). It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. 7). Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. 8). When will the grandstand at Petersham Park be finished? It was estimated work would take six months. It has been nearly two years and it is still not finished! 9). No recycling bins on Petersham Park. Red bins on Petersham Park are difficult to find. They are filthy, smelly, NEVER cleaned and are a health risk. These bins are full of recyclable materials like bottles etc. All of this goes to landfill. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
728. My rates will be going up by almost 20% - this is a huge increase in one year! The idea of amalgamation which I was for, was to reduce costs and increase efficiency. This was obviously a pipe dream.
729. You did not provide any information about how the proposed rates are determined and the reason for the difference. This is entirely unfair. The council amalgamation was supposed to make the Inner West Council more efficient. The amalgamation and the reasons for it has been a complete failure.
730. I want to know why my rates have increased 10% when my pension remains the same?
731. While my rates will reduce slightly given the Council Services provided I'm rather disappointed as I received no new services as a result of the merger and not a lot of work was scheduled for my area. Ashfield and Marrickville have new or refurbished libraries while we still have a crap library hidden at the back of the Italian Forum. It also takes forever now to have the footpaths mowed.



732. Council need to improve the service its providing, in particular streets cleaning, illawarra road always is covered by rubbish. I am not happy for paying the existing amount for such a minimum service we have been receiving, little alone the increased amount.
733. The proposed 'harmonised rates' will INCREASE the rates on my property by 23.8%, according to your rates calculator - that doesn't sound very fair to me!
734. Not enough information and transparency. My rates are going up but I don't have any information about whose rates are going down.
735. I appose the new structure because the council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. Plus, it will not produce a fair way of charging Council Services.
736. It's important that Council receives the funding it needs, as it does a great job (albeit not always acknowledged) and makes our community a beautiful and functional place to live. Thank you all!
737. My rates have shot up every year. My home rates will have shot up by at least \$600 per annum over the last 5 years due to increased land value but the large council means less services that are free for rate payers and more impersonal with restrictions on the help and advice council are permitted to give
738. Based on the direction of the Office of Local Government - what numbers are used by Council to determine what the rates should be - what are the index values adopted by Inner West Council, what is the reasoning and the basis of the calculations - please ?
739. We pay more to support a reduction for the more well off areas. Council should use the massive surplus they produced last year to reduce rates.
740. A proposed 24 percent increase in rates for me personally is unacceptable. I am a retiree with reduced income support, no interest on savings and struggling financially. Inner West Council continues to supply reduced services and additional rates for Marrickville residents is blatant robbery.
741. I strongly disagree with the proposed increase to my rates, an unacceptable increase the rates go up every year for less maintenance.
742. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
743. Flyer (received Dec 2020) states rates may change July 2021. My rates increased (without any notification or explanation) from \$389 per quarter to \$495 p.q. 1 July 2020, following an alarming decline in council services since amalgamation. Why? (Please explain in writing).
744. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas



<p>It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
745. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.
746. As a Petersham resident I am due a 24% rate increase, after significant increases since 2016, this is unjustifiable. Services have not improved in Petersham, in fact we are beset by bad footpaths, the debacle of Petersham Park grandstand, long grass and arbitrarily changed (inconvenient) garbage collections. How can Council increase rates in the poorer part of the Council to the benefit of the richer? This is not a fair system. What is council doing to be more efficient? Surely the amalgamation should have brought that and yet I will be paying 40% more in rates than prior to amalgamation. Think again!
747. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier area
748. I understand the requirement for the new structure and the need to comply with NSW Government mandates.
749. The rates are already too high. Wage growth has been none existent, yet the councils think it's ok to keep on spending and increasing costs, and hence passing this on to the residents. You need to look at saving or making money another way apart from residents rates. The proposed rate increase for my house is 24.4%! That is unreasonable and unfair.
750. I think this is simply inequitable and should at the very least be phased in over a significant period. This is not a fair way of balancing things. We moved from Ashfield in 2019 the house at Ashfield now will have a decrease of around \$350 and here at Marrickville we will pay around \$150 more. How is that equitable?? How will this improve the services here in Marrickville for us - the garbage collection is less reliable and the street is maintained about twice a year only!! Our house here is a semi hence no lawnmower!! In Ashfield I used to maintain the verge for several neighbouring houses. Do you propose to cut our verge more often here in Marrickville or maybe buy every second house a lawnmower and provide storage?? This is simply not fair. Perhaps sliding amount over ten years to reach this inequity that arises from your need to have a simple system might be a little easier but it stinks of lazy bureaucracy. What's in the amalgamation for Marrickville???n Does your Mum live in Leichhardt and your aunt in Ashfield??
751. The increase is outrageous - in my case +48% of existing rates. Amalgamation was not wanted by the community. Harmony is the opposite of how I am feeling about being asked to +48% more for the same service, particularly during 'unprecedented' times. The 1 July 2021 date should be delayed to 1 July 2022 due to COVID and its impacts. Better yet, delay until the next state election in 2023. Logo cost and delivery timeframe aside, is it too late to return to 3 Councils? Are the systems merged yet? It is never too late to stop a project when the Business Case has failed. Wishing Leichardt was in this camp: Burwood, City of Canada Bay, Strathfield Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove, City of Ryde, Mosman, North Sydney, Willoughby, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra.

752. I struggle to understand why the definitions of low, average and high values properties across the three old councils are staying different. Many high value properties in the old Marrickville council would be average in the other two (including mine). If there is to be harmonisation (Marrickville council paying more and the other council areas paying less) then surely we should use the much higher definitions for moving up to average and high value properties. I am pretty angry about the changes, they seem half done and in strategic. They will only natively affect the less well off part of the new council area. In general I'm so happy with this new council, it seems like a step forward from the old smaller councils, but this seems like rewarding the richest parts of our area for no reason. My suggestion would be to introduce four tiers of payment to incorporate the much larger range of property values in this larger area.
753. I do not have harbour views, therefore i should pay less.
754. It will not produce a fair way of council charges/services not fair on lower income earners/pensioners/widows/widowers
755. I find this grossly unfair to the residents of Stanmore who now need to pay more and for what? Since COVID there has been less services (library was closed for a significant amount of time), Council chambers closed, festivals cancelled etc. Where is the money going to?
756. we'll be worse off without apparent benefits and make it harder to pay rates punctually.
757. To increase rates at a time when people have lost jobs and are barely able to make ends meet, rental market is down and landlords are having tenants pay next to nothing rent, I think the decision comes in very poor taste and bad timing. The increase gets passed onto the 'small guy' once again. While our pockets shrink even further, the council profits. This doesn't seem fair at all !
758. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.
759. It will increase my rates with \$500 a year, this is crazy and unacceptable
760. our rates will increase substantially (over \$200) yet our services have only decreased since the council amalgamated. The grass is no longer regularly cut (neighbours have evidence of this), weeds are not poisoned, road and gutter cleaning is few and far between. Our bins have not been replaced in years (yellow in particular). It seems your expenses have gone down yet you increase our rates. Completely unfair!
761. This is unfair. There is a huge difference in income in inner west suburbs. This proposal means poorer residents rates will rise and match rates of those with higher incomes. Moreover this inner west council already neglects the environment of my suburb, with weeds so out if control that heritage pavements look like lawns. Never a problem with earlier council. Please consider a fairer arrangement for rates.
762. rates were already expensive enough, they don't need to go up
763. It will increase rate for people in less well part of LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas.
764. I am a pensioner already struggling to pay the existing rates, despite the pensioner discount. The sharp rate increase proposed will make life even harder. Besides, some of our services have declined: rubbish is not properly emptied from bins, the footpath is rarely swept of fig tree and other litter, etc.



765. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonization proposal because: It will produce big increase increases in rates for the less well off areas. I live in Dulwich Hill and have contacted the council multiple times about fixing issues on our street. I have never had a single response. I don't want to pay higher rates especially knowing they could go to improving well off areas such as Balmain and Birchgrove when my own street and area falls into disrepair. Areas such as Balmain and Birchgrove have had higher rates and more money spent on infrastructure in the past meaning suburbs like Marrickville and Dulwich Hill will be left further and further behind while paying higher rates than before.
766. I own two properties in (redacted) Marrickville. I live in one and have rented out the other home to low income tenants (pensioners) since 2007 at very low rental. The new rates are going to increase by nearly \$700 because of the higher values and yields of properties in Leichhardt, Lilyfield etc. If these homes were in either of those areas, they would be worth much more than in Marrickville yet you are increasing my rates and likely lowering the rates in those areas. I can barely keep the rental property going because my annual costs of land tax of nearly \$9000 plus land and water rates of around \$4000. That is \$13,000 per year without repairs and maintenance costs. (I have spent \$15,000 on painting and accessible entry in the last 12 months). I am retired and have to live on what I earn from that property but Local and State governments have made it impossible for me to continue keeping the rent affordable for these pensioners. Your rates hike is the last straw - all in the name of fairness. Not true. It is not fair. I will have to raise the rental to be able to keep that property and this unfortunately means I have to ask my long term tenants to leave so I can rent the property at market rates or maybe Council can subsidise their rent to bring it up to market rental????? Are you going to help them find an affordable place to live??
767. When the council amalgamation took place I recall the Government stating this would increase efficiency and reduce unnecessary financial waste and cost. We are now however being told that there is a likely increase in rates for some parts of the Inner West. Any increase in rates is clearly incongruent with the Government's messaging and I am disappointed that the council is taking this action.
768. How can we gauge how it impacts us if we aren't presented with the whole picture - discounts where applicable, storm water and waste charges. It would be great if we got something for our rates. Any action provided in this council, apart from garbage services, doesn't generally happen unless some ratepayers provide advice, request, etc. No initiatives taken, unbelievably high use of consultants and contractors but excessive use of the title 'manager' in council departments. A highly inefficient, poor performance operation.
769. I am opposed to the massive increase of the less well off part of the LGA is unfair and needs a major adjustment. Decreasing more affluent areas' rates is so unfair.
770. I oppose the proposed InnerWest rate changes. It would make it very difficult for the less affluent people to be able to pay especially the pensioners struggling financially to stay in their own home.
771. Rates for my unit is too high and unfair. This new increase during a recession and a pandemic is a slap in the face of the rate payers and highway robbery. If you can't stop these increases then you should resign.....
772. Being a pensioner we cannot afford any rate increases at this stage.
773. I object to this increase... I have family and friends that are in the Ryde / Hunters Hill and Canada Bay areas and they are paying under half of my rates at present. They can't believe how much I'm paying at present. As the Inner West Council has made 82,000,000 surplus last year I would like to know all about the other years. The lights in the lane way are not working for security reasons in Clarendon Lane Stanmore and the roads are full of leaves, the grass isn't maintained at front. The other councils are doing much more work in these areas with a loss of council rates.

774. You are increasing rates in less well off areas and decreasing rates in very wealthy areas - why do rates have to be the same throughout the LGA, when incomes certainly are not. A flat rate based on land value is very inequitable way to determine rates - many in the Marrickville LGA are asset rich but cash poor and will not be able to afford this increase
775. I come out a little ahead based on calculator figures considering Ashfield rates are the highest of the three this is welcoming. Though waste management will be a bit more. I will be coming up for pensioner concession rebate so would not have liked to see an increase in my rates.
776. The explanation is clear - harmonisation.
777. My rates will rise by over \$290 in the next financial year, a significant increase. This is over 20%. They have already risen significantly since amalgamation. I should not be financially worse off just because the Council needs to harmonise rates.
778. I oppose the inner west harmonisation proposal because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas. It will not produce a fair way of charging for council services. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land value can produce fair charges for council services. Council produced an \$82million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers. This proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised
779. The property prices differ from one suburb to another and therefore the rates should also differ. Home owner from different suburbs do not have the same income or lifestyle... this new structure is totally unfair.... how can you compare a property in Marrickville and Balmain??... .. it is absolutely ridiculous... who comes up with these ideas?
780. Good to be fair
781. As a pensioner, every dollar counts
782. I don't understand why, if Council is not making any more income from the changes, I will be paying a 20% increase in my rates (from \$710 to the new minimum of \$850 per annum. It appears that Council's new minimum payment will place an unreasonable additional cost burden on those of us in apartments and/or those whose land values are smaller (ie those with less pay more).
783. I'm totally opposed to this so called Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: Based on the IWC rates calculator my rates will go up 24% Over the twelve months to the September 2020 quarter the CPI rose 0.7%. This is highway robbery disguised as some sort of "fair" policy Why should I subsidise people for amalgamation I didn't have opportunity to vote for? It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services! On reading of this proposal there is not one piece of evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers I found out about this proposal on facebook by chance. I am totally opposed to this proposal and would like to speak of my opposition to proposal at council meeting



784. The heading Making Rates Fairer is nonsense. How can my rates be fairly equalised when the valuer general decides what my property is worth. No matter what council does VG says my land in Birchgrove is valued higher than land in Ashfield
785. This is indeed a legacy of the much hated amalgamations and I cannot see any advantage that this amalgamation has brought. Instead of calling it harmonisation, call it what it is: a rate rise for some residents. For people who have lived in the area for a long time, are on a pension or have no income, every rise affects their standard of living. Given it will probably go ahead regardless, I'm in favour of phasing it in - to ease the pain. Our land valuation goes up about \$100,000 per year - while in actual fact the value doesn't increase by that much. And even if it did, we have no financial benefit from that. Now Council wants us to pay more and more - and if the valuation keeps increasing we won't be able to afford to live here any more.
786. Living in the ASHFIELD council am shocked to know I have been paying more than most other councils. It is not fair. However I am wary of the word "Minimum rate of \$850". This could easily later be deemed to be just the rate for pensioners or low income earners, and the majority of us will end up paying much more than the \$850.
787. The reality is there will be big increases in rates. I reside I Dulwich Hill and have family and friends in Dulwich Hill and Marrickville living in units and houses. We have had to put up with increase of traffic coming from major apartment developments which has generated extra revenue for council and has taken away services such a shame parking for long term residents like my family and I. Where is the benefit to us. Should any party adopt these we will raise our voice and vote against it.
788. We all need to be on the same rate scale.
789. Quite frankly I have not seen enough value in my current rates to support any such increase in Stanmore. Key areas of improvement and change that have been initiated and happened have come with little to no consultation or not happened at all.
790. I oppose the 'harmonisation' proposal because it's simply not equitable! It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well-off parts while decreasing rates in wealthier areas. This is a bizarre proposal!
791. I am disgusted that our rates will be increasing over 20% during a global pandemic / economic downturn! Will the services that we receive from local council increase 20%? I bet not! The whole purpose of council amalgamation was supposed to reduce costs, so I am flabbergasted at the audacity displayed by this increase. It is high time that elected officials started representing our interests, instead of their own. As a matter of principle, I will not vote for any sitting members of our local council in any future elections - I hope that the prospect of potentially losing their employment will bring their focus more in line with the realities faced by their constituents.
792. Ashfield rates are very high compared to other areas and we would welcome any help from Council to lower the rates.
793. Completely unfair rate rise when there have been no improvement in services. While areas such as Leichardt and Balmain having their rates reduced!
794. Rates in some areas have already gone up since the council merger and this results in further increases in less well off parts of the LGA vs decreases in wealthier areas
795. The new rates structure sees less affluent areas supporting more affluent areas. There has already been significant increases in rates since IWC was established in 2016 with little to no increase in services and the new proposed structure will continued this with no proposed additional value. Additionally it seems inconsistent with the current covid-driven status quo that the council, after reporting a significant surplus last year, ask residents to pay additional rates when many are under financial duress due to the pandemic.

796. It will produce large rises in less well off areas but deliver savings to those in the wealthier areas like Birchgrove and Balmain. This not a fair method for Council to provide its services. Since amalgamation, we in Marrickville have seen a 17% increase and now being hit with a further 24% increase. This is just ridiculous and grossly unfair. The rich get richer and the poor get the picture has never been so true. Thanks Darcy!
797. Very unfair, discriminating and selective against some suburbs, while some areas rates are going down, the rest will rise, like my area. Rates are expensive as is. some of the areas that are going down have a higher land value, so how does that make sense. Sounds selective and discriminating
798. Once you add in waste and stormwater we pay around \$1800 a year already. An increase of 24% is way too much.
799. Our rates are being increased significantly but services have dropped under inner west council compared to that delivered previously by Marrickville. This is appalling and unfair. We will seriously look at what legal action is appropriate should these rates be passed under the current service levels. A move to Victoria is otherwise looking much more attractive.
800. My sister- in-law in Croydon Park is in a detached property on 673 sq mts, I am in Dulwich Hill on 378 sq mts. why will my rates be \$387 MORE than hers??? I look forward to a reply. [redacted]
801. This re-rating proposal is an utter disgrace. Ill-conceived. Poorly explained. Totally unjustified. Simply unwarranted. A veiled money grab from inner-city suburbs. An abhorrent over-reach of authority. 23.8% increase in our rates is ludicrous and outrageous. How does this "harmonise" rates equitably? CPI is running at <3% and we have lost jobs, no end in sight for COVID and the plan is to collect more rates from the few. Services have spiralled downward in last 30 years. Basic services removed or significantly reduced. Roads, footpaths and verges pathetically maintained and unsafe. Community services very weak and inadequately managed. And meanwhile, rates have effectively increased yearly. How can this be justified under any model? All the extra DAs approved, heritage and local residences trashed and demolished to fund multi-storey, poorly constructed (due to unprofessional certification standards that have been outsourced), tiny boxes; no gardens or amenity, and mostly unlive in, with overseas investors simply holding land and property, causing severe upward pressure on rentals for the most needy. The added traffic. Limited resident parking. No effective controls to manage nor solutions – only more rates to support an ineffective, broken, outdated management system that will now penalise the few for the rest. Illogical.
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<p>803. Fairer? Hardly. It's fairer to the people in Balmain and Birchgrove, who have higher incomes than the folks in Marrickville, Enmore and Newtown. Your feeble attempt to justify this change (above) is completely transparent. All this does is make things easier for Council administratively, and let's remember the amalgamations were a scheme of a Coalition state government, who nobody in Marrickville or Newtown has ever voted for.</p> <p>We all know feedback is useless. This is a done deal. I live in Marrickville and I expect to see IMPROVED SERVICES here and REDUCED SERVICES in Balmain to reflect this outrageous impost. To put anyone's rates up by hundreds of dollars a year after 2020's Covid-related difficulties is a LOUSY ACT. You ought to be ashamed to even suggest it.</p> <p>The Inner West Council is the worst thing to happen to this area since the third runway.</p>
804. I will be \$50 better off not a big deal
805. Lewisham has a lower socio-economic area than balmain. Its a huge jump in rate over one year.
<p>806. My rates will increase a FURTHER 24% ON TOP OF THE 17% since 2016. In that same time I have tolerated the erosion of service quality. E.g inconvenient split bin pick up times. Change of contractors leaving my bins 3 houses down the road on the street. Partial removal of waste pick up. Verge mowing damage. Marrickville council has degraded in service and is expected to pay more despite lower socio economic stds.</p> <p>ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Book me for a agenda item at next council meeting. And Don't hide behind State edicts.</p>
<p>807. I thought council amalgamation was supposed to reduce rates?</p> <p>Why could the old Marrickville Council deliver the same services at lower rates than the amalgamated rates?</p> <p>We have had a 10 percent plus increase in our rates and now you are proposing a 27 percent increase in our rates based on your calculator to bring us in line with more expensive less efficient old council areas.</p> <p>Wasn't the point to use efficiencies to reduce other areas rates ?</p> <p>Please explain</p> <p>Our address is (redacted)</p>
808. Why did we amalgamate councils if the result is that Marrickville now has to subsidise other poorly run councils. This is compounded by the fact that the services have deteriorated since the merger. Maybe council needs to look at managing their funds better.
<p>809. this rates harmonising is unfair way of charging for council services. It will produce large increases in traditionally less wealthy areas while decreasing the rates in wealthier areas. No proposal that these increased rates will provide increased services or value in charged areas. If there is to be a harmonisation of rates payments which redistributes costs there should also be a harmonisation of council services that redistributes value. The state government argument for council amalgamation was cost improvement &amp; efficiencies, but since 2016 marrickville area rates have risen 17% &amp; now a probable further 20% rise which I feel is terribly inordinate considering most people's wages or income has remained static or actually decreased over the last 5 years. the point I am trying to make is council rates are real cash flow out &amp; land value increases are phantom cash flow rarely if ever realised.</p>
810. My rates will increase by 22%. Will I also receive an increased in services? Have my property increased in value? Why should the other property with higher land value pay less while I have to fork for higher rates? This is not a fair system!



811. Services provided by the inner west council is poor and bad quality. Investment is made more to get revenue from traffic wardens rather than providing a service to the public.
812. There is no evience that this will produce value for money for residents. Rather, it appears that residents are having to front the cost of poor management of the council merger scheme.
813. It is outrageous that we will be expected to pay an additional \$400 p/a for no other reason than bureaucracy. \$400 is a substantial sum - we barely get sufficient service from Council as it stands, so the proposal to charge more, for NO ADDITIONAL SERVICES, is simply unacceptable.
814. Our rates will be increasing about 24%, whoever will be happy with it, and one income is lost in our household as result of COVID 19 impact.
815. Rate increase of nearly 25% in one year is ridiculous. Where are the savings that was promised to us by the state government ? Garbage online system and now this.
816. I don't understand what "mixed 100%" means
817. Rates based on land value alone do not reflect the use of council services by different sized households - garbage, rubbish pick up, recycling centres, parks, etc. Council should put a (nominal?) charge on some of these services to reflect usage. We would happily pay more if council would trim the trees and clean up the street of leaves regularly. The cost of getting our gutters cleaned out of leaves from overhanging street trees (which council won't trim back) is very high.
818. Our rates have been steadily increasing over the last 26 years, but the proposed increase on our house this year is \$400, which makes it very difficult to pay on a part time wage. It is outrageous that this increase has occurred due to a council amalgamation we did not want, and during a year of loss of work due to the Corona virus outbreak.
819. It sounds fair and equitable. However, it is important that funds are used in a way that is also fair and equitable. As a general principle, funds raised should be spent in a way that benefits those who paid them.
820. I live in a tiny 1 bedroom unit in Rozelle, practically a shoebox, why should my rates go up by almost \$200pa!! not including stormwater etc. THIS IS NOT FAIR!!!
821. I own 2 separate properties in the IWC both of which have rates rising by 24%. It is unfair to place that much burden on a residential ratepayer
822. Basing rates largely on land value seems unfair. I live in a small home on small block with high value, and my rates will go up a lot even though I'm a solo household and I use council services very little (eg, I take each of my bins out about 4-6 times per year as I generate so little rubbish). Plus this is a terrible time to make such changes with so many people unemployed and underemployed. Perhaps discounts for pensioners could be given to unemployed people as well.
823. I understand why the change is necessary and support it
824. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in the wealthier areas .
825. Seems only fair to harmonise rating system across the LGA.
826. 25% increase since last year for my Newtown property appears to be excessive. Whose salary happens to go up by 25% without any change in service/role whatsoever just like that?



827. Why does Marrickville increase by 20% ?
828. Fair to bring all rates together but suggest it be phased in over 3 years
829. This is an incredibly large jump for many people including myself. We are faced with huge bills for utilities and now this. Sadly if this goes ahead it will be the last straw for me and I will have to leave my home of over 20 years. I have poor health, a limited income and my income cannot stretch to cover such large increases. Marrickville has always been an inner city haven for long term residents - sadly no longer. Disgraceful.
830. My rates are calculated to rise by 23.8% between 2020/21 and 2021/22 which is totally unacceptable. The services Council provides me will not improve in any way shape or form. This is a barely disguised cash grab and nothing more.
831. I live in an older style block of 9 apartments & a rate increase of \$140 per annum is absolutely ridiculous - I can't imagine there would be ANY additional benefits for us for that additional income x 9 per annum
832. Stop penalizing those not so well off and subsidizing for well off.
833. Council costs to provide the required services and infrastructure have nothing to do with the relative land valuations - the same service should be charged at the same dollar amount .
834. Council rates are based on land values. A 25% increase in my council rates is unjustifiable, particularly in the context where such an increase is only proposed as a result of the government's decision to merge councils, the efficiencies of which we are yet to see the results of.
835. It is diabolical to believe that we are shifting from a small council to a large council structure and are only to find that the large structure is costing us more. This defies logic, and, is evidence of poor management and contracting practices at the larger level.
836. I have just calculated that our rates will increase by 24% in 2021/22 (Lewisham). I understand other areas are being decreased. The proposal is disgraceful and comes in the context of council amalgamations forced by the NSW government to achieve greater efficiency! The proposed 24% increase in our rates is extortionate. There is no argument about the relationship between costs, services, the capacity to pay or other aspects of this proposal. A major change in the way the Council seeks to fund its services is being proposed with little or no genuine community involvement and engagement. Can we go back to being the Marrickville Council, please?
837. It looks to us that some areas will be paying 20% plus in rates whilst others will be paying up to 20% less in rates. Thus the area paying more will be propping up the area paying less. That doesn't seem fair, now does it. Imagine your health insurance jumped up 25%. I think you would complain. Should rates go up, will additional services be provided? I expect additional bin collections, superior street cleaning, rubbish and graffiti removal.
838. Extremely bad formula to calculate council rates. You must take into account the size of frontage - if a property has only 5 metre width, then the amount of lawn mowing, cleaning and maintenance is much less than a property of 15 metre width. The new formula is unfair to residents in Stanmore.
839. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates in

some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
840. Given the terrible state of the roads and other public infrastructure in Marrickville, it seem outrageous than millionaires in Balmain and Birchgrove will pay less for what appears to be a much better service. The outsourcing and privatisation of Council services has done nothing to improve services to residents of Marrickville, and so we'll be paying more for worse service.
841. it takes money from the poor and gives it to the rich - this does not make sense
842. I live in David St Marrickville and already pay over \$2,000 in Rates and dont see any change to services since the amalgamations except for bloated pay increases to General Manager etc.How could our rates go up according to land value and Lousia st in Birchgrove go down as their Land value on water front must be Millions! Nothing has gotten better even the new Library at Marrickville is totally inadequate with lack of quite space , not equipped with Power points near work stations etc and cant even drop in to read a journal as all online!The lawn mowing is atrocious and the last job scalped the Lawn and only now just recovering for the next scalping!The coir logs were a complet waste of monet as usual and we advised the Council but they blindly went ahead at gret cost and no benefit.Best to have the Trees lopped back in David St before a Large limb comes down at any time an Kills somebody or wreks a vehicle.Also the Footpath is all undulating due to the Trees and a dodgy patch up job done last year and the Coir logs now have steel spikes sticking up as I already advised the Council and of course no action taken to remove them!
843. 'Harmonising rates means rates will be paid equitably in proportion to the land value by all ratepayers in the Inner West' How can you say this is equitable if my property is currently paying land value but comes under the \$850 minimum proposed by council. \$850 is an over 20% rise and goes against the The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal which has set the 2021-22 rate peg for NSW councils at 2.0 percent.
844. Rates penalise petersham. No service guarantees for similar services to now. Currently customer service (apart from people who answer enquiries who are great). Behind the scenes staff don't bother to be accurate or honest and just do any old reply by email or never return calls.
845. I understand and support the objective of harmonising the disparate rate structures across the new Inner West Council. My rates will increase by almost \$300 per year as a result, according to the calculator. I'm unclear about the methodology used by Council that will potentially result in significant increases for me and I understand other former Marrickville Council residents. There won't be a change to our services or any particular improvement in return for this significant increase. I would urge Council to find a solution to the harmonisation of rates across the new Inner West area that does not result in 'winners' and 'losers'. The proposed approach appears crude and and doesn't take equity into account, given there will not be a change to the services provided by Council to residents.
846. The volume and scale of the rates changes was not part of the messaging by the government when rolling out the council mergers back in 2016/17. Instead it was about saving money, efficiencies, etc which have clearly not eventuated. Paying more for no increase in service is a rort and I am yet to see any benefits of the councils' mergers as predicted by many at the time when attending merger information sessions.

847. The entire amalgamation project is a completely avoidable disaster. Rates were supposed to go down, not up. The Council has been notoriously unresponsive to constituents while providing even fewer services. I was shocked to hear of the \$90,000 logo and the issues with mail and communication monitoring. If salaries are anything like those at Bankstown Council, it is an absolute rort. There needs to be an independent overhaul of the Inner West Council.
848. My rates will go up by \$247.05. I have only seen a reduction in service provision and increased privatisation
849. It depends on whether there will also be equality across all areas of the LGA in the provision of services.
850. Fine with harmonising but why such a big hike in one hit? It should be phased in, especially as we have not received any additional services.
851. I generally don't agree that the council is providing a 20% better service since the amalgamation. My experiences with council across multiple areas have been fairly poor – service, knowledge, competency. Overall, I have a very dim view of the council. To put it bluntly, it's the worst thing about living in the Inner West.
852. Not fair
853. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because:  It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
854. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.
855. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because:



<p>It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas.  It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services  There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers.  There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates.  Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse.  It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services.</p>
<p>856. The changes penalize the poorer areas while subsidizing the wealthier suburbs near the harbor.</p>
<p>857. The rates structure is fundamentally flawed because of injustices in land valuation.  I live at (redacted) Marrickville. The land size is 295 sqm. The 2019 Land Value was \$1.31m.  Three doors down is (redacted). The land size is 518 sqm. The 2019 Land Value was \$1.3m.  Next door is (redacted). Land size: 387 sqm. 2019 Land Value: \$1.09m.</p>
<p>858. I oppose the rate harmonization proposal. My rates have already increased since the start of the In we West Council and this will only add to this. There has been no improvement in services so far and in fact the level of service has decreased eg timing of rubbish collection, maintenance of footpaths there is no evidence this change will improve services. This is not a fair way Of charging for council services.</p>
<p>859. Our rates should be reduced significantly as you have amalgamated several Councils. Why aren't we seeing rates halved or lowered more than \$50? The amalgamation has been in place for years. Perhaps effective financial staff and less staff should be considered.</p>
<p>860. Harmonisation in one big hit is unfair and may hurt vulnerable people in less affluent Inner West suburbs. It won't produce better services for those who have to pay an increase.  A better approach would be staged increases/decreases e.g. 5% increase p.a. over 4 years.  Property prices are expected to continue to increase over coming years, This will provide increased revenue to councils based on current land value formulas. perhaps council could trade off these increase by not passing on increases in LGA where they propose to reduce the rates. That would be more equitable.</p>
<p>861. I don't understand where the current current rate amount goes, let alone trying to justify an increase. So often does my bin not even get collected on bin day (despite calling council 3x to inform), the overhead service lines are a mess, the power poles are almost leaning on the corner house, we don't have nbn, the streets rarely get swept (twice a year), we don't have biannual collection days like other locations, the local dog park in poorly maintained - using a leaf blower to move sand around creating a mega local dust storm. So no, I don't support the increase given there isn't even a proposal for improvements let alone satisfying the bare minimal service I am already paying for.</p>
<p>862. My Ashfield property is on one of the smallest plots of land (158sqm) in the area, and I have found my current rates of \$1880 to be excessively high for the house I live in, and my income level. Each quarter, when the \$450 bill comes in, this is the most expensive bill I have to pay. I was very surprised to learn that similar sized blocks in other parts of the inner west - indeed in areas considered to be more affluent - paid substantially less.</p>



<p>The proposed system, which I assume is based on land area, seems to be a fair approach and I would even support a metric that further takes into account income differentials and relative socio-economic advantage/disadvantage across the region. People who are opposed to this measure in the areas of Newtown, Balmain and Lilfield are just whinging - and without basis - quite frankly.</p>
<p>863. Invest the rates in community infrastructure equitably across the council area, not just where a politician wants to win votes!</p>
<p>864. My rates will rise by over 18%. No explanation has been given by council other than "harmonization of rates" and "to make rates fairer". I want council to explain to me how this is so as nothing else in my universe has risen this much. With the number of small land blocks in the inner west a review of the minimum rate is necessary.</p>
<p>865. A 24% increase is excessive.</p>
<p>866. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because: 1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services 3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers. 4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. 7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
<p>867. We are struggling financially due to health issues and cannot afford an increase in rates.</p>
<p>868. Increases without any correlating increase in service. The council is lazy, unhelpful and outside of waste collection a waste of time.</p>
<p>869. IWC should be working to reduce rates across the municipality - the old Ashfield rates give an indication of what an effective council can achieve. It is about time IWC focussed on its core tasks, cut out the politics, and got on with the job of efficient service provision.</p>
<p>870. It would appear you are proposing a 20% increase on council fees in one this. This submission is in reference to our two rental apartments in Stanmore. Last year we experienced a significant drop in rental income due to COVID so any large increase like this is certainly not helpful and sets a dangerous precedent. My wife and I are classic "Mum and Dad" investors and not property tycoons</p>
<p>871. It is extremely unfair that owners of inner west suburbs of the previous councils of Ashfield and Marrickville are having their rates increased in what looks like support for owners of large, expensive waterside properties in, for example, Birchgrove and Balmain. especially when rates for these waterside properties are being decreased. The whole rates system (income and expenditure) needs a complete/proper overhaul with the result that the rates system is equitable and transparent. Property values in previous council areas of Ashfield and Marrickville are much less than those in waterside suburbs such as Birchgrove and Balmain and those values should be transparently reflected in the rates scale/structure.</p>
<p>872. Rates from across the amalgamated LGA ought not be used to subsidize the profligate excess of the former Ashfield Council. Why punish residents for poorly managed infrastructure builds like the Town Hall? Why harmonize rates where Ashfield was already granted a special variation to fund an un-necessary and indulgent rebuild of the Aquatic Centre?</p>
<p>873. These changes are disproportionately affecting some rate players for the benefit of others. A single one off change in a single year is also disadvantageous and economically incorrect. How will these rate payers services be improved based on a 24% increase.</p>

874. THIS IS A DISGRACE! How dare you tell me as a resident in Newtown who already pays a fair price that I need to pay more- to help the average out! Why would anyone think that is fair? What do I get for this increase??? NOTHING. Figure out a better damn way to get your money! Why should I be penalized for living in an area, that has been historically filled with working class people! The pandemic has caused significant strain on families like mine and here you are deciding that we need to be 'Fairer'. I have an idea, why don't you drop everyone rates and lower your wasteful council spends for the next 2 years????
875. A true comparison of how much residents and owners pay Inner West Council for 'rates' should include the cost of waste and stormwater fees. Without these significant fees included it's not possible to say whether the proposed new 'rates' are 'fairer' overall. At the very least these are poorly designed/constructed webpages which, unfortunately, also create suspicion as to why all relevant payment information - the range of actual amounts householders have paid/will pay - is missing.
876. This is absolutely outrageous! You expect a lower income suburb like Newtown to 'amalgamate' with an affluent suburb like Birch Grove!? And then wonder why the rates don't match up! I could NEVER afford to live in Birch Grove or Balmain, so I don't really care what they are paying and should not be put into the same basket as them! Its like comparing Vaucluse and Redfern and wondering why the rates don't match up! We live under a flightpath for goodness sake - the residents of Newtown do not have spare cash and are doing the best they can with what they have. We do not live any lives like the people of Balmain, who are lucky enough to have sea views on the harbours edge. You have asked for feedback and here it is - WE CANNOT AFFORD THE INCREASES. YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED TO MERGE 2 AREAS THAT HAVE SUCH WIDLY DIFFERENT RATES AND STANDARDS. STOP THE MERGER. And if you can't and you're so worried about fairness, decrease the other half who are paying too much. You only empty our recycling and green bins every other week as it is in Newtown- hardly a service worth paying more for. And out of interest - you say the changes are incremental and going up year on year, but have only given the increase for the next year. How much are the proposed increased for the next 4 years?!?!? You are asking for feedback after only giving half the story. Are my rates going up by \$250 every year for the next 4 years? if so I will have to leave the suburb and let the rich folk move in.
877. The proposed rates for Marrickville is a significant increase on an already burden society. In 2021 we are still in a pandemic and many in the community are suffering from job loss or hours reduction. Now an increase to accommodate a merged council is unfair. The increase if needed should be introduced slowly. Ashfield although inner west differs significantly in demographic than Marrickville. And the facilities in Ashfield are better. More park lands, the new pool facility to name two.
878. Council please I implore that you pay attention to this feedback. I live in Enmore. I support paying more rates but in return expect that council actually deliver meaningfully more positive outcomes for the Enmore Community. When compared to Balmain, Birchgrove, Lilyfield, Ashfield, where blocks are larger contributors in terms of ecological footprint, Streets are cleaner, footpaths maintained to a much higher standard, parks are invested in. The same cannot be said for Enmore. This is completely unacceptable on the part of the council and it's lack of accountability in delivering services.
879. Councils should learn to live within their means like the rest of us. Company mergers in my experience lead to lower costs, not higher costs.
880. These proposed increases or at least the size of them are egregious and preposterous. I am more than happy to pay for extra services that council provide and understand rates will rise even with no increase in services at a level that is reasonable. However I have seen no

<p>material increase in service full stop let alone an increase anywhere near the proposed rate hike. My partner and I have had no pay rise for 4 years - zero, zilch not even CPI. Why is it so that council can justify an outrageous increase such as this in marrickville of all places whereas the eastern suburbs of the inner west, Balmain, rates go in the opposite direction. What...is..going.on</p>
<p>881. The increase of nearly \$300 on each property including my Home is outrages as I am a pensioner. I am reasonably satisfied with the services I receive and cannot afford to pay for more! Our rates have already increased -no more please Please pay for any system change required from the 82 million profit made last year. NO INCREASE IN RATES PLEASE!</p>
<p>882. This change benefits the richer areas of the Municipality. And our rates will go up while rich people north of Parramatta Road, especially around the Northern parts of Balmain, etc. will pay less. I've noticed a pronounced decline in our local (Marrickville) services at the same time as rates are going up (less verge mowing, less street cleaning of gutters, careless garbage collection (bins strewn carelessly, compared to before amalgamation. This is grossly unfair.</p>
<p>883. I strongly disagree with the proposed new rates. As a resident of Enmore my rates are set to rise by 24% in a single year. This will impose significant and undue hardship on my household. We are first home buyers who diligently calculated our ability to afford our mortgage and other costs associated with owning our home before purchasing in the area in 2020. While it might be reasonable to harmonise rates over a long period of time, to hit residents in the poorer parts of the LGA with a 24% rise in a single year is an outrage. This proposal is completely at odds with the broader economic environment. Many people have lost jobs or hours in the past year. At the very least, most people have been unable to secure salary increases that could be put towards these higher rates. Even private organisations like car and health insurers have been lenient this year and have tried to minimise any increases in premiums in light of the economic environment. It is deplorable that our own Council, which is meant to represent our interests and provide value for money, is pushing forward with this unfair proposal that disproportionately affects poorer people within the LGA. The majority of residents in wealthier areas like Balmain are unlikely to even notice the decrease. I implore you to reconsider this proposal and to devise a fairer system that takes into account the relative wealth across the LGA.</p>
<p>884. Stanmore: Since the amalgamation there are far less basic services e.g. lawn mowing, clearing back lanes, cleaning annual cockatoo mess from footpaths under trees (our street looks abandoned by the Council), maintaining Council garden beds along roads.... Pedestrian Refuge Protector in Salisbury Road, corner Myrtle Street, was knocked over years ago and just left even though school children and elderly cross there. There have been crazy, useless local road changes that must have cost rate payers millions. Stanmore is neglected; just take a look. (But we can now boast bike ways, albeit taking away Stanmore's desperately needed parking spaces). Since amalgamation I have not seen an improvement in service, efficiency or effectiveness. Was this not the purpose? I live in a modest semi-detached and now I am expected to pay more to prop up wealthier rate payers to meet the NSW Government's Local Government Act requirement for rates Harmonisation by 1 July 2021?</p>



Innovative alternative? Use the 2020 surplus to reduce the rates of higher paying rate payers to match the rates of lower paying rate payers. The Council will have a little less money, but you are providing less basic services now; must a savings! Come back Marrickville Council....
885. 1. it will produce big increases in rates for people n the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas 2. it will not produce a fair way of charging for council services 3. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new council was formed 4. concil produced an \$82M surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates
886. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because there is no proposal to improve already below par services. Marrickville roads and general maintenance are currently sub-standard compared to other local government areas, and this is just one of the issues with this proposed change.
887. This does not appear to be a fair approach to organizing rates. The poorer parts of the LGA will receive higher rates, while the wealthier parts of town's rates are decreased. There is no value for money, there is no evidence that this will improve services for us.
888. Increases cost of home ownership in less affluent suburbs and decreases the cost for wealthier suburbs. I think this is deeply unfair. There are no proposals to improve services in the Marrickville council area. Council rates have already increased in recent years.
889. That's completely unfair that a commonly seen 'wealthier/better' suburb closer to the water gets lower rates and an inner west area gets increased. What benefit does the increased rate suburbs get for a 20% rise? How much better will our council services be for this rate? No better at all! Rates are already increasing. Rising our rates to benefit other suburbs getting lower ones is stealing from the poor to give to the rich. This is completely unlike our Marrickville/inner west council ethos. If you must standardise rates then use all the surplus produced by councils to ONLY reduce the higher bracket. With Covid and this past year you can't shift rates like this. It wouldn't be community minded whatsoever.
890. This not fair especially with the present pandemic situation which has resulted in income loss and hardship for all.
891. With the present pandemic situation which has brought hardship and lose of income to all to increase rates is not fair
892. Not fair especially with the pandemic situation with has resulted in income loss
893. 20% increase is not fair especially with the present pandemic situation with income loss
894. Why should my property rates be brought into 'harmony' with properties on the harbour? And why pay more when our services have been substantially reduced over time. Bring back Marrickville Council, far more honest operators.
895. The is no justification for changing the rates structure. The proposed new rates structure is an exercise in revenue raising disguised as a project of harmonisation of rates despite the council's claim that it is revenue neutral. Why waste the Council's budget on the significant project cost of harmonisation of rates if it is revenue neutral. It can only be justified if it reduces revenue in line with the Council's aim to operate at a lower cost after the merger of the three councils.

896. As services across (former) council areas continue to differ I see no reason to "harmonise" rates. Paying considerably higher rates for the same service does not seem fair.
897. The financial impacts are disproportionate for some rate payers compared to others - the goal should be to ensure consistency and equity for all rate payers.
898. It is unfortunate that this has to happen now during a recession. With cost shifting to local government continuing, it is hard to see another solution. I don't want to see Council cutting services so will support this new structure.
899. It seems fair to rate consistently across the amalgamated Inner West Council area. No ratepayer should be paying more or less than what is a fair share.
900. It will produce a big increase in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA (e.g., Marrickville) while decreasing them in wealthier areas (e.g., Balmain). It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed and this proposal will make it worse. The proposal is inequitable and the use of "harmonising" the rates basically papers over the income differentials between different suburbs, e.g., Marrickville and Balmain. The proposal should be dropped because of this structural inequity.
901. I strongly oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal on the following grounds: 1. It produces significant increases in rates for people in less well off parts of the LGA whilst decreasing rates in more well off parts. 2. There is no demonstration that it will produce a fair way of charging for Council services. 3. The Council significantly underinvests in the Enmore area in the first place with little to no demonstration of return on rates for the area. Multiple requests to the Council for improvements to the area have been ignored or given zero priority in terms of implementation. 4. There is no corresponding proposal to improve services in areas where rates would increase. 5 Council already has a significant surplus which should put downward pressure on rates.
902. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.

The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
<p>903. 'I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
904. Merging is suppose to make the rates lower. How can you justify a 20-25% increase for doing nothing more. You can hide your inefficiency behind harmonising
905. Would be good to see outcomes of any rationalization projects that show what may have been proposed for cutting and are not able to.
<p>906. To the IW Council: As a long time resident -and ratepayer- of the current IW Council, I oppose its rate harmonization proposal because: 1. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse. Since the amalgamation, the service provided by the Council has gradually diminished to a ridiculous point. Nevertheless, rates have gone up regardless. 2. The proposal, based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services, should be dropped and a fairer system devised. More study should be conducted on this issue in order to distribute fairly for all suburbs. This proposal, if adopted, will produce unreasonable and unfair increases in rates in the less well-off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 3. Furthermore, there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. It is unjust to increase rates in some suburbs and decrease them in others. What is the rationale behind this? 4. The IW Council should consult with its ratepayers, particularly on issues like this. If Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020, this surplus should be used to reduce rates, not to increase benefits for some privileged suburbs to the detriment of the majority. (redacted) Enmore NSW 2042</p>



20 January 2021
907. I have been given no evidence that the increased rates will improve the services i get from council. This increase will only go to helping the residents in the other area's of the inner west.
908. What are the benefits to the residents?
909. I'm struggling to understand the logic where council 'won't increase the total rate revenue' and yet I'm being slugged an extra 29%. It's not sounding like a very 'harmonious' outcome.
910. I don't support rate cuts for Ashfield or Leichhardt, a new system that maintains those rates so we can invest more is needed. I am not opposed to increased rates in the former Marrickville Council.
911. Not enough information, explanation about how this has been arrived at and what it will entail.
912. We are already paying a lot of money each quarter and apart from getting the bins collected there are few services we see being completed by the council. For example, the grass on the communal path is rarely cut and we are having to cut it ourselves as it poses as a potential falls hazard. The poles for the power lines are also in disrepair.
913. We're not happy to be paying significantly more when our street continues to be neglected - including full of potholes on road, severely broken footpaths and poor drainage
914. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA
915. Being based on the UV the rates charged are very un fare as each house gets the same service from the council. Thus house rates should be the same for all which would make it around \$1200.
916. Should be the same charge to each house as each house gets the same service from council
917. Dissatisfied with current service, do not support an increase
918. Each house should have the same rate charge as council supplies the same service to each.
919. Land values represent only part of the true value of a property. Location and quality of the streets etc. have an impact on housing values. I understand that land valuation is a set standard of measurement , however should the rates increase in Marrickville the standard of the streets and paths should improve to reflect the areas such as Balmain, Roselle etc. At this point they do not. A significant rate increase (17%) should be matched with a significant improvement to the Marrickville council area, or simply - it would be great to see a better focus on bringing this council area up to standard with the other areas. I support the equality of rates, but there needs to be an equal standard of quality roads, paths etc - the aesthetic and infrastructure values that make Balmain, Leichhardt, Roselle etc great places to live and visit.
920. For a house should be a common charge as the council service is the same.
921. Not enough information provided by Innerwest Council to make an informed decision
922. I live in a small, one bedroom apartment. I'm currently unemployed. I can't afford to pay other people's share of council rates.
923. As a Marrickville resident, I have already incurred substantial increases in my rates. Why am I now likely to be subjected to more increases.? Will services to my local area and to my property be increased as well? To date, I have seen no evidence of this. This proposal is inequitable and should be dropped until a fairer system is devised that takes into account areas such as mine that have already incurred substantial rate increases since amalgamation.

924.	It will be a big increase in a less wealthier suburb while wealthier suburb get a decrease in rates, totally unfair. Rates in some areas have already increased significantly since the new council formed. This is legally and morally not ok. The rate peg is 2.6% which IPART has put in place to protect ratepayers from excessive increases in our rates bills. This is the maximum increase the council can increase my rates. The proposed new rates are a 6.7% increase. Which quite frankly we cannot afford, this is a kick in the guts after the last year suffering through a pandemic and salary decrease.
925.	This is legally and morally not ok. The rate peg is 2.6% which IPART has put in place to protect ratepayers from excessive increases in our rates bills. This is the maximum increase the council can increase my rates. The proposed new rates are a 6.7% increase. Which quite frankly we cannot afford, this is a kick in the guts after the last year suffering through a pandemic and salary decrease.
926.	My rates go up disproportionately. I am retired so have no extra income to compensate. I receive no better nor extra service from this.
927.	I absolutely oppose this unjustified rate increase to Petersham under the guise of rates harmonisation. Rates have risen a huge amount over the past few years. Enough! This will further disadvantage people in lower socio-economic area of the Council catchment and benefit Leichhardt, Balmain and Birchgrove.
928.	I was shocked when I found out my rates will increase by 24%. Since the amalgamation, there has been a decrease in services. My street is filthy, and I am told it is cleaned only every 40 business days (that's every 8 weeks, or 6 times a year at most!)! Leaves, take away containers from restaurants in Enmore road litter the street and obstruct the drains when it rains, leading to flooding. Bins and furniture litter the footpath and you cannot walk past with a pram or walking frame. This is NOT a wealthy street and contains a lot of long term residents from non English speaking backgrounds, but it's the students and backpackers who cause congestion on the footpaths. I've been in Marian St since 1994. My only choice will be to move to City of Sydney Council where the services are excellent (streets cleaned every week) and you get value for money.
929.	This will not provide better services, better value for money or better use of money. Rates have already increased without an associated improvement in services or efficiency. In fact, services have deteriorated - my verge hasn't been mowed in months. It will penalise people living in the less wealthy parts of the LGA. Council already has a disproportionate focus on the area north of Parramatta Road and this will exacerbate the divide. It also does not take into account people whose incomes have been affected by COVID, such as my own.
930.	I am completely support this, I will be happy to know my high rates are not offsetting the lower rates of other areas. We all have access to the same amenities, thus we should be contributing equitably across the LGA!
931.	It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. Also families are doing it pretty tough with covert.
932.	No where is it explained why the increase is required. How could Marrickville Council, the largest council operated very successfully on the lower rates but the Inner West Council needs higher rates. There must be an almighty financial gap if the old Marrickville Council rates have to go up 25%.
933.	Why am i paying more rates than properties land valued much higher than mine. This is not fair especially that there are no pensioner discounts with rate structures. The council is not providing any further services to justify this increase. This is just another surplus revenue raising avenue for council. Respect your residents that pay your wages and keep jobs alive for you by not increasing our rates.

<p>934. It is very unfair to expect some ratepayers to pay an extra 20-25% for their rates. A small increase is expected but nothing like that. A lot of council services have been very poor since the merger, diabolical actually, it can't be blamed on COVID-19. An increase of this amount could not be justified.</p>
<p>935. Raising our rates by 20% during the Covid 19 recession appalling. What assurances do we have that more of our rates money will not be spent in more affluent areas like Balmain?</p>
<p>936. I believe it appropriate that the Council provide a 10% discount to retirees as other Councils have done. Also a discount/incentive to all ratepayers to pay on time!</p>
<p>937. As a long time resident (1980) a further increase of 23.9% in addition to the already steep increases due to the increased in property values seems excessive. I am a retired person on a fixed income. I assume the rates for other areas are going down. They would have received the benefit of the higher rates in the past through an investment in additional infrastructure which Marrickville didn't get so in effect Marrickville residents are now paying for the increased amenity of Leichhardt and Ashfield residents. I'm sure the council is not intending to spend the additional amount received in the old Marrickville council area. No one pointed out that amalgamation would result in almost a quarter increase in rates for Marrickville residents while affording those in Leichhardt and Ashfield a significant reduction at their expense. Perhaps the rates of Leichhardt and Ashfield residents should be reduced to meet those of Marrickville residents.</p>
<p>938. Rates have already gone up significantly since the new council was formed and this will only make it worse</p>
<p>939. New rate means save money for me</p>
<p>940. According to the calculator there is almost a 25% increase in rates in the next year. This is a big jump considering the economic and jobs downturn felt through 2020 and more that 10 times higher than annual CPI. How is the council justifying this and can I expect 25% better service and facilities? Incremental increases would have been a more fair way to increase the rate if it needs to be done. The amalgamation of councils was sold as a cost save and funds pooling. How is this reflective of that. As a single medium wage household supporting a mortgage, this seems very unfair</p>
<p>941. When I looked on your rates calculator the information was wrong, so I wasn't able to see what my rates increase will be. It said that the current rates for my address were \$1825, and the proposed rates for 2021/22 would be \$2260. In fact the rates I paid for 2020/21 were \$2429. I can only guess that the increase in my rates that you propose is about 20%. It is unfair that we should have a sudden increase like this. If, as I have been told, the council had a surplus of about \$80million, and there is an imbalance in the rates from the former local councils, why can't the higher rates of some areas be reduced, rather than ours suddenly increased so dramatically? Of course, the council has expenses to meet, but so do I on a limited income as a self-funded retiree.</p>
<p>942. I oppose the Inner West rate "harmonisation" proposal because: 1) It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas 2) It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services 3) There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers 4) There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</p>



<p>5) Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse</p> <p>6) It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</p> <p>7) Council produced an \$ 82 million surplus in 2020 !! This could be used to reduce rates</p>
<p>943. The Marrickville Precinct shoulders a lot of pressure and burden of the other precincts especially in comparison to the Leichhardt precinct and the Leichhardt shops. As the Business Chamber we feel this proposal is inequitable and unreasonable as this will result in Leichhardt businesses receiving a very substantial decrease in rates versus a substantial increase for Marrickville businesses. This situation would be more acceptable if we felt that our rates were being fairly distributed and promises made by Council were being implemented. Examples of this lack of action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For years, the council has been saying they are going to fix Alex Trevillion Plaza and to date nothing has been done.</li> <li>- Our business owners have been complaining about the lack of parking, this puts pressure on the businesses and is a liability as prospective customers cannot access the various businesses. In this respect there has been a lack of communication from the council about the parking situation.</li> <li>- Historically the business rates in Marrickville have subsidised the residential rates and now we are being asked to subsidise Leichhardt business too it will destroy the Marrickville business putting additional pressure on top of COVID.</li> <li>- The LEP was supposed to be completed and to date it continues to get pushed back and delayed with no end date in sight. In contrast the LEP for Parramatta Road, which helps the Leichhardt businesses, is being pushed through. We view this as unfair to the many Marrickville businesses - the new Marrickville LEP is needed to increase density in the area to help businesses thrive. Regards Morris Hannah OAM, President of Marrickville Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>
<p>944. My rates will go up by 24%. Presumably others will be decreased. No information as to who will benefit</p>
<p>945. No evidence it will produce value for money and improve services.</p>
<p>946. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) it will produce costly increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2) it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3) there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers. I've noticed a decline in services since the merger.</li> <li>4) there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5) rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>6) it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7) Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ol>
<p>947. I do not support a 23.8% increase to my rates which is significantly (10 times) greater than cpi increase. There is no clear benefit to rate payers in that the increase is not tied to specific increases in services and no justification in terms of cost increases for the provision of existing services.</p>

<p>The only benefit that I can see is to make it easier for council to calculate rates and an unjustified increase in monies from ratepayers as to where individuals extra rates will be spent.</p> <p>To increase the costs of mandatory council fees by such a massive amount is unacceptable, especially in a time when many households are struggling with COVID related unemployment or reduced income.</p> <p>I fully oppose such an unjustified rate increase on the basis of 'rates harmonisation'.</p> <p>Please stop this increase and devise a fairer and justified increase, linked to an equivalent increase in services.</p>
<p>948. This proposal will penalise the more efficient previous LGAs to the benefit of wealthier areas. The services and performance of the inner west council to date does not justify an increase in any rate.</p>
<p>949. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> </ul> <p>Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</p> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
<p>950. I thought the amalgamation meant lower rates. I believe the council is bleeding money including paying out the CEO.</p>
<p>951. I cannot imagine how this is 'fairer'. I'm to pay an extra \$300pa...for what? Not only being disabled, do I not use the parks, libraries or other buildings, why should I pay more than the wealthier suburbs. When I bought in Lewisham it was a backwater, ramshackle suburb and it's not my fault that it is now 'trendy'. I've lived here for over 40yrs. Seriously it's pathetic money-grubbing at its worst and affects those that don't need the extra angst.</p>
<p>952. The explanatory documents would benefit from more exact detail of how the differences between the areas arise. Why, for example, is Ashfield paying less than Marrickville ... do they have fewer and or less costly services?</p>
<p>953. Why such a big increase in one hit? Why not do it gradually? Rents are dropping across the board. I am giving my tenant \$100 a week discount 20% of my original rent deduction. Could the council not be more sympathetic to the times. Landlords get very little support. What a thing to do when all our incomes are suffering.</p>
<p>954. It is unfair that suburbs with higher priced houses will pay less rates than houses in suburbs with lower priced houses. The council has made a surplus of \$82 m so why raise the rates???? There is no proposals to improve services to those who will pay more rates. Rates have already gone up in some areas since the new council was formed. Basically totally unfair. There never should have been an amalgamation.</p>
<p>955. Our rates in DULWICH HILL have already gone up. We've lived here for 26.5yrs and I see the inner West council doing less and less and charging more. The garbage collection has changed days we now have different days for red bins and different days for green &amp;</p>

	yellow. The collectors of the garbage leave rubbish strewn on the streets and we have to walk down 10 houses to retrieve our bins if they aren't left on the road! The time of collections cause disruption to busy peak traffic periods. Council should be providing more parking around train /light rail stations.
956.	The problem is clear - ratepayers in more desirable and generally more well-off areas, Balmain for example, will be receiving a rate cut where less well-off areas such as Marrickville will be paying more. What I and other ratepayers will be asking is what benefit will Marrickville residents receive after this rate increase. I would hope that the standard of Marrickville's parks and community assets would be brought up to match those of Balmain who enjoy comparatively lavish community facilities. The land value bands provided are incomparable with the information given. I'd hope that this wasn't on purpose to be misleading and that there's reasoning as to why the land value bands exemplified are mismatched. I'd suggest displaying rates data on \$250,000 \$500,000 & \$1,000,000 across the three former LAC areas to ensure that the rates can be analysed equally. Furthermore, it is stated that apartment dwellers tend to pay less in general - so it should be. Where instead of 2 houses there are 36 units - the total rate contribution for the land should be equally divided.
957.	This becomes an excessively high rates amount for the block of land/value of property for our household. We have a young child and live off a single income and this presents a dramatic increase in rates.
958.	It appears that there will be increases in rates for lower socio economic areas of the council where the traditional wealthier areas receive decreases - how is this fair?
959.	it will produce a large increase in rates for the less well off areas of the LGA whilst decreasing them in the well off areas. This only empowers the rich and is to the detriment to the less well off. It is UNFAIR.
960.	This is unfair to the less well off areas and will not produce a fair way of charging for council services
961.	The new fee structure favours the wealthy and is unjust to the less well off areas of council . It is INEQUITABLE
962.	The rate increase is unnecessarily steep for some areas. If an equivalence is to be achieve it needs to be done over a few years, incremental shift. Many people are already struggling during this epidemic, please don't add to this financial stress.
963.	Maximun increase for a year should be \$100
964.	I live in Stanmore and my rates are going to rise by 14%? I don't see how this is justified. That is hugely above the inflation rate and I don't see that it is justified. This new system increases rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. Will I see a 14% raise in the standard of council services to match my rates rising by that much?
965.	The new structure unfairly discriminates against old Marrickville council area for being efficient. In my case rates will rise by 20% to pay for inefficiencies in old Leichhardt and old Ashfield. Sydney CPI ran at -0.8% last financial year, that means that the new proposed rating structure in my case is running at 20.8% above annual inflation! This is not harmonising, this is gouging! When amalgamation was proposed and accepted it was promulgated that this type of gauging would not occur, in fact efficiencies of scale were touted resulting in rates decrease. Where have these efficiencies and savings disappeared to? In addition the "mystery" charges for garbage collection and drainage (I already pay for drainage to Sydney Water) are not quantified, how much will Council gouge for these?
966.	Fairer than the old system



967.	How can it be fair to give a rate reduction to wealthy people living in Balmain and Birchgrove and increase rates for people in Marrickville and Newtown? I, and Many people in this area are on fixed incomes. This will cause disharmony and hardship to many people. We were told amalgamation would lead to increased efficiency and lower rates. I note rates have increased 17% since the inner west council started in 2015. And now you propose to increase my rates by another 20%. What extra will we get for the 20% increase? This is not fair. Who gets a pay rise of 20% these days? This will take money out of ordinary peoples pockets. This increase should not happen. If you cannot find a fairer way to 'harmonise' the rates, the law should be challenged.
968.	I don't support any raise in payment. As an example, Woollahra Council has some of the most expensive properties in the greater Sydney area. I know for a fact that land value at Woollahra in some cases are double and more compared to innerwest, yet they pay less in rates than we do. We were told that it will be much better to have our councils amalgamate. Well, it hasn't turned out well for the rest of us. Council has way too many fluffy jobs that are costing the residents. Want to raise funds, get rid of useless staff first. Stop wasting money on speed humps, trees, and start fixing the roads and footpaths for the people.
969.	Disproportionate weight against Residential vs Commercial. Commercial uses infrastructure more intensively, so needs to bear a greater proportion.
970.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
971.	It will not produce a fair way of charging for council services and Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
972.	There are 2 main reasons: 1. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individuals 2. there is no proposal to improve services for those of us who will be paying more I will be paying an extra \$140 / year - if the merger is to improve efficiencies why are rates going up? I see no extra value in paying this increased amount.
973.	It is really an insulting to phrase by Rates Harmonisation.... And I do not believe that rates should go up that high. Also a lot of people are currently unemployed.
974.	In my opinion the proposed rate is too high

975.	Why would I want to pay more in rates. I am not getting any more services. The merge in councils is nothing but a joke. I have been asking for a kids park to be built next Stanmore Library for 7 years now and nothing has been done. You have no issue spending money bikes lane recently installed in Railway Ave Stanmore. These bikes lanes have taken us so much room that passing cars now has become so dangerous. Especially when turning from Kingston Rd to Railway Ave. Cars can't pass one another. No thought process whatsoever just like to rate increase.
976.	Wealthier areas receives reduction while less well off area is increased. Doesn't make sense.
977.	This is outrageous. My rates will increase by 18.9% whereas In Ashfield they will go down by 20%. I am a Pensioner who does not qualify for any concessions because my income is just above the cut off point. My income is not increasing. It is declining. This is yet another attack on my living standards. The IWC is determined to impoverish me. MMC ratepayers are now being asked to subsidise Ashfield ratepayers.
978.	I think the rates should be minimised downwards, not upwards. Housing is highly inflated in Sydney. All you are doing is perpetuating this inflationary trend. Please seriously consider reducing the rates to the lowest ones being paid. This makes much more sense.
979.	It will increase rates for Marrickville Council areas and decrease rates in other wealthier areas without any indication of what additional services will be provided. Rates have already risen significantly in the last 5 years. And will for those whose rates will decrease, will they have less services from Council?
980.	Not a fairer way to charge for services- big disparities No evidence of value for money for individuals or overall No proposal to improve services or make Council more efficient Rates have already gone up in some LGAs since new Innerwest Council formed Charging on land value does not produce fairer charges for Council services What is council doing with \$82million surplus- could be sued to reduce rates
981.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because : It will produce big increases in the less well off part of the LGA whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas It will not produce a fair way of charging from Council There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services Council produced an \$82M surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system developed
982.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because : It will produce big increases in the less well off part of the LGA whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas

<p>It will not produce a fair way of charging from Council</p> <p>There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</p> <p>There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates</p> <p>Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse</p> <p>It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services</p> <p>Council produced an \$82M surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates</p> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system developed</p>
<p>983. Raising rates by 20-25% under this proposal is unacceptable particularly in one year with little warning of the financial impact will be and particularly in a considerably economically challenging time with COVID 19</p>
<p>984. how does hamonisation of rates across the board benefit ratepayers?? dont see any benefits for age pensioners that already struggle.</p>
<p>985. Using land values is a very crude way to determine rates. Has council looked at ABS data to take into account average incomes? The increase in rates is particularly aggrieving for me as I have a \$12,400 plumbing quote to fix the old, collapsing sewer pipe in my lane way that connects to my brand new PVC plumbing. And yet, here I am being asked for more money from the council.</p>
<p>986. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ol> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised</p>
<p>987. As far as I know, the old Leichhardt and Ashfield LGAs had fewer services than the Marrickville LGA. So, I believe that I, in Dulwich Hill, should not pay more rates for services, while the others pay less to get more services than they did previously.</p>
<p>988. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisations proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>2. it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>3. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>4. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed, this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>5. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers</li> </ol>



6. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residence and businesses largely on land values can produce fair charges for Council services
7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates
989. I am not sure if this change will affect my suburb as it has not been mentioned.
990. Lol....as petersham is one of the more expensive places.....and we went up.....who went down??
991. Raising rates for the people who are less wealthy and lowering it for the wealthy suburbs does not seem fair just because of a merge in council which has nothing to do with the people living in the suburbs.
992. It does seem reasonable to make all rates consistent across the council area.
993. I support application of a uniform rates structure across the single Council ward however, a higher rate should apply to higher land value suburbs and a lower rate to lower land value and lower economic income suburbs.
994. No. The harmonising increases rates for people in lower income suburbs far too much and disproportionately benefits the wealthier areas of the lga
995. Unfair-it will not produce equity-it will produce the opposite, land values are not the same, have already had several increments in rates, no improvement to services
996. In principle yes but there seems little information on the methodology
997. I do not support the rate harmonisation as it will produce big increases in rates but there is no proposal to improve the services. In fact services have already decreased (like how often the nature strip is mowed) since the inner west council has formed. A fairer system should be devised.
998. Extremely high rate increase with no staggered introduction. Mine will increase by \$140 a year. Very unfair.
999. I oppose the inner west rate harmonisation, because it will unfairly increase rates in some areas (eg low socio-econimuc areas) and reduce rates in other areas (eg some wealthier suburbs).
1000. My rates are going up by 24% yet I get nothing, no extra services, for that increase. Please explain what the extra 24% payment gives me as the rate payer?
1001. It's not fair
1002. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. It won't produce a fair way of charging for Council services. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers. There is no proposal to improve services for those who pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have significantly increased since the new council was formed. This just makes it worse. Council produced \$82 million surplus in 2020 that Should be used to reduce rates
1003. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on-line, much appreciated. I have used the Rates Calculator on the IWC Website: it states that the rate paid in 2021/2021 was \$943. 73; however, in 2021/2022, the IWC wants to increase that rate to \$1, 168. 54. That is a net increase in one year of \$224. 81 (or 23.82%) which is huge. I am very concerned by that huge increase: it is certainly not fair to put this extra fiscal burden on me. The IWC has not explained what extra services (if any) I

	shall receive for paying it a much higher rate in 2021/2022. The IWC has a table on the proposed changes to the rates in the old Marrickville Council LGA: the range of rate increases is 18.6% to 19.7%. The increase the IWC wants to put on my property is way outside that range. (redacted), Ratepayer.
1004.	It is my understanding that the rates increase is due to a legacy from pre-amalgamation. Unfortunately, this is again another example of amalgamation gone wrong particularly for Leichardt residents. In fact, since the amalgamation the quality of service provided for residents have vastly deteriorated and our local area is not kept in the standard we were used to prior to amalgamation. Leichardt council profitable and well operating prior to the merger now seems to suffer having to compensate for poorly performing legacy of Ashfield council in particular. It is simply outrageous to now expect residents to be accepting year on year increase of 24% in rates for diminished quality of service under the blanket of 'harmonisation'. If one of the main arguments for council amalgamation was economies of scales bringing in savings then resident should be expecting these to flow to rates.
1005.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because not only is there no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers, but if the Council has a 2020 surplus of \$82 million this should be used to reduce rates in the areas that are currently 'overpaying'. Additionally, our rates have already risen 17% since 2016 and we have not seen any improvement to the services Council provides. We have lived here and paid rates for 27 years and have greatly contributed to our neighbourhood - keeping it cleaner & safer, knowing & assisting our neighbours and supporting our local businesses - this must be saving the Council money. So now for our support and commitment we are being punished. We are recent retirees and an increase of \$390 pa will greatly affect us, particularly in these Covid times!
1006.	It's unfair for the people in the less well off areas of the Inner West. For me personally in Enmore where very little visible council work is actually done my rates will be raised by \$200 p/a whereas in much more affluent areas like Balmain and Leichardt their rates will be reduced! How is that even remotely fair? Houses in that area are valued higher and therefore people with more money live there. There is no evidence this will improve our council services, or help to raise our quality of life or property value in this area.
1007.	It is unfair. I live in Enmore. I am on the old age pension. Why should I pay for rich people who live in Birchgrove with harbor views?
1008.	Seems fair
1009.	I think the proposed new rates structure seems fair, considering that everyone complains about rate raises. My only concerns are how the proposed new rates structure will affect Councils ability to provide the services of the area when it comes to the annual budget, and when or if Council requests an increase with the CPI, how will this affect the new rates structure.
1010.	It will not produce a fair way if charging for council services.
1011.	Council should achieve harmonisation by decreasing rates in areas of higher rates rather than by increasing them in areas currently paying lower rates.
1012.	I typed my address into the rates calculator and it didn't work. All fields were blank. It would be good to make sure things work before you ask people to check out a website 'have their say'.
1013.	I will be paying over \$200 more than I am currently, with no guarantee of better Council services. If some rates are too high then "harmonise" them to the lower level, without penalising ratepayers in the old Marrickville council area.

1014.	It will increase rates in less well off areas & decrease them in more wealthy areas. This is not fair nor equitable. Is this new structure based on evidence? How will areas that will suffer an increase in rates being compensated or how are their services increasing so as to provide value for money? Rates in Marrickville have already increased due to the amalgamation & we cannot afford another increase.
1015.	It's producing too big an increases and unfair for those less well off
1016.	it will not produce a fair way of charging council rates
1017.	it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas
1018.	It's a substantial rate increase where it will increase rates for people in the less well part of the LGA while decreasing in wealthier areas. At a very difficult economic time for many residents due to COVID this increase will already add a greater financial burden.
1019.	makes sense to have fair rates across the council
1020.	I support a single rating system across inner west council. i do not support the \$ charges, how has the rate been determined, has there been an overall audit or review (as distinct from annual rate hikes?) , results thereof?
1021.	Cross-levelling and uniform administration is fine, but no individual rate-payer should be penalised as a result. If that sounds unrealistic, consider more realistic criteria for rate-setting than unimproved land value, and be candid about the extent to which all councils rely on state government to fund their operations. This survey is poorly designed, extremely limited in scope and clearly intended to give the appearance, rather than the substance, of consultation.
1022.	<p>It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas.</p> <p>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</p> <p>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers.</p> <p>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates</p> <p>5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new council was formed - this proposal will make it worse.</p> <p>6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and business largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services.</p> <p>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</p> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
1023.	My rates will increase by nearly 24%! I am a pensioner and I have not noticed a 24% improvement in services. My rates have already increased by 17% since the Inner West Council began. That will mean a 41% increase in five years! It does not seem fair to massively increase rates for people in the less well off part of the council area and reduce them for those in wealthier areas.
1024.	<p>I strongly oppose the Inner West rate so-called harmonisation proposal because:</p> <p>1. It will significantly increase rates for people in the less well-off areas of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</p> <p>2. It will not provide a fair way of charging for Council services</p> <p>3. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for</p>



<p>Council services</p> <p>4. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money in general or for individual ratepayers</p> <p>5. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</p> <p>6. Rates in some areas have already gone up considerably since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</p> <p>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates</p> <p>We were told that the amalgamation of the local Councils was going to reduce costs – for some areas, this is totally opposite. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
<p>1025. I strongly oppose the Inner West rate so-called harmonisation proposal because:</p> <p>1. It will significantly increase rates for people in the less well-off areas of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</p> <p>2. It will not provide a fair way of charging for Council services</p> <p>3. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</p> <p>4. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money in general or for individual ratepayers</p> <p>5. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</p> <p>6. Rates in some areas have already gone up considerably since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</p> <p>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates</p> <p>We were told that the amalgamation of the local Councils was going to reduce costs – for some areas, this is totally opposite. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
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<p>1027. In excess of a 20% increase is a massive jump. It's not absolutely clear that a 20% increase would be in line with services. Information is brief at best.</p>

1028.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates.
1029.	Marrickville Council has always been the vanguard for 'smarter, fairer' decisions to look after its residents. It seems that this is just a 'one size fits all' solution. Surely part of our Surplus could help soften the blow until a 'smarter, fairer' system could be thought through thoroughly.
1030.	<p>I strongly oppose the Inner West rate so-called harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will significantly increase rates for people in the less well-off areas of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2. It will not provide a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>4. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money in general or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>5. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>6. Rates in some areas have already gone up considerably since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates</li> </ol> <p>We were told that the amalgamation of the local Councils was going to reduce costs – for some areas, this is totally opposite. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
1031.	I feel that it is unfair that residential rates for the less wealthier parts of the council area (eg. Marrickville) are being increased whereas those in more well off areas (eg. Balmain) are having their rates decreased.
1032.	<p>I oppose it because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It'll produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA, while decreasing them in the wealthier areas</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair and equitable way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. There's no evidence that this will produce value for money generally, or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. There's no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make that worse</li> <li>6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> </ol>

7. Council produced an \$82 million dollar surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates	
THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DROPPED AND A FAIRER SYSTEM DEVISED	
1033.	AS long as all services provided across all former LGA's are "harmonised" upwards as well, so that everyone gets the same services I have no objection. But if, for example, the booked household waste collection in (former) Marrickville LGA was cancelled "because Ashfield doesn't have it", then that would be unreasonable.
1034.	These changes will result in unfair increases in areas of the Inner West where people have lower incomes and house prices
1035.	We are currently going thru very difficult times with COVID 19. We are struggling to keep our jobs and keep going . The timing isn't right for such a proposal
1036.	Dear Inner West Council, Our details are (redacted) We live at (redacted). As a consequence, the minimum rate of \$850 applies to these two different titles. Previously the annual rates were \$50.40 pa and \$5.04 respectively. We think this is most unfair. We ask the Council to find a way to remedy this problem. We expect there are other owners in the Inner West are that are in a similar situation to us. Hope this problem can be resolved fairly. Sincerely (redacted) Birchgrove 2041 NSW
1037.	Lack of evidence of improvement in services for those facing increased rates. The system is flawed and unfair especially since rates have risen significantly in recent years already and other more wealthy areas receive a decrease? The proposal fails to make sense
1038.	It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in the wealthier areas. We need to help citizens who lived in this council area all their lives by reducing the council rates. Council produced 82 million surplus that could to be used reduce rates.
1039.	All suburbs should be charged the same.
1040.	I oppose the rate 'harmonisation' proposal because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. it will increase rates in the less well off part of the LGA whilst reducing them in the wealthier areas;</li> <li>. This is not a fair way of charging for council services;</li> <li>. There are no proposals to show how the increase will either improve services in my area or, alternately, how Council will create efficiencies to justify reduced rates in other areas;</li> <li>. since the council amalgamation rates have already substantially increased in some areas....this proposal appears to add to that burden;</li> <li>. the proposal is based on the flawed assumption that charging residents, based on land values, will produce fair charges for Council services; and</li> <li>. In 2020 the Council showed a surplus of \$82m.....surely this could be used to reduce, rather than increase, rates</li> </ul>
1041.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonization proposal because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas.</li> </ul>



1047. I oppose the harmonisation of rates because there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
1048. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because it will significantly increase rates for people in the less affluent areas whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas. I am a recently retired Marrickville local and am already paying \$1879 in rates, which represents a huge part of my budget. I think Council, which last year produced a surplus of \$82 million, could service this money to reduce rates.
1049. I do not see why we should pay the same rates as areas much more desirable to live in. We have light industry and airplane noise to contend with daily apart from the pollution this adds to our environment.
1050. Have property prices decreased in Balmain as rates appear to be dropping there
1051. More information needs to be provided to understand the implications of this
1052. The calculator tells me my rates will increase 20%. Last year, I have had to contact council to fix street lights again and again so I'm not walking in the pitch black.... I had to follow up businesses caught dumping their food stuffs for the Ibis & rats to feast on at the top of our street (providing council with photo proof & business addresses on the filth)..... I have had to chase council about the 1m high weeds growing on the adjoining street footpath causing trip hazards .....and yet, I hear about "fancier" streets in Dulwich hill being "swept" TWICE in ONE week by council and when I see a council worker use a leaf blower (!??) almost daily at Steel Park and hear about other "fancier" well kept, waterfront areas in the IWC about to possibly receive a DECREASE, it kinda makes my blood boil (as I'm tripping down my filthy residential street, pay'in my increasing bills....)
1053. The proposed new rates structure is UNFAIR. It is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. It is a legacy of the old left-wing mentality of "soak the rich house owners". I strongly believe that rates should be as close as possible to uniform rates across all types of residences. Why are unit owners entitled to lower rates? We all get the same services for our rates. We all pay uniform charges for our garbage collection. Why don't we pay uniformly for all services?
1054. The proposed new rates structure is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. Rates should be as close as possible to uniform rates across all types of residences. Unit owners and houses all get the same services for our rates. We all pay uniform charges for our garbage collection, why can't we pay uniform rates?
1055. I am writing to raise concerns regarding the proposed rate increases effective 1 July 2021 as highlighted below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When amalgamated Council's assured the residents that Council rates will remain unimpacted. Residents were assured rates would not rise.</li> <li>• I am an old age pensioner on a part pension. These rate rises I believe would affect me disproportionately.</li> <li>• I am of the opinion, that this rise will be an yearly occurrence as well as an IPART increase yearly on Council's request.</li> <li>• I am former Leichhardt Council rate payer and do not have the capacity to pay increased rates on a yearly basis due to Ashfield Council's dire financial position.</li> <li>• I believe the proposed rate increase is excessive, and certainly does not justify the services provided.</li> <li>• I believe the residential rate payers are being disproportionately charged in comparison to businesses.</li> </ul>

1056.	This will produce increases in rates for people in less well off part of the LGA while decreasing rates in wealthier areas. An increase in my rates will not provide me with value for money or better Council services. The merging of inner west Councils should have seen a decrease in costings across Management positions and services, as such there should be a decrease in overall rates for all areas.
1057.	It will produce big increases in rates for small businesses in less well off parts of the LGA. We don't want to lose the beautiful Vietnamese and Greek run family businesses that have been in the area for decades.
1058.	Marrickville has developed a very strong multicultural society over decades. A large percentage of the local population has wealth achieved through greater Sydney's appreciation in land values but remain cash poor and struggling to make ends meet. Raising rates on the back of the most difficult year in generations is not only heartless but will tear apart the local multicultural society which makes the area so unique.
1059.	If the Inner West Council is forced to do this they should: i) propose harmonising waste fees too with an opportunity to reduce waste fees at the same time. If the objective is harmonisation - truly harmonise the services within Inner West Council starting with waste collection contracts. I'm tired of the amenities, services and opportunities given to those in Balmain when they do not need it. ii) show what certain areas will receive in benefits in response to paying an increase in rates (and what other areas will get for having a reduction in rates).
1060.	The amalgamation was meant to streamline things but we are paying extra now to subsidise other suburbs. That doesn't seem fair.
1061.	How can you increase the rates and at the same time approve a development that will affect the safety of my kids, the quality of life and the value of my property? I think you are a bit disconnected. What are we paying for?? What extra services are we getting? After a year like 2020 you should have some spare money.
1062.	No new structure or improvement to tempe area and approved DA for bunnings, why are we going to pay more??
1063.	Council amalgamations were always designed as a covert way to increase rates, a hidden cash grab - so-called "efficiency" and "smaller government" for the rich, "exploitation" for the rest of us.
1064.	I live in a small 36sqm apartment, this is not "harmonising" considering the amount of land I occupy.
1065.	Residents of the old marrickville council don't seem to be getting anything for additional fees
1066.	In Tempe we have narrow streets designed for horse and cart. When you raise our rates, are you going to widen our streets?
1067.	Ridiculous huge increases for Marrickville residents.
1068.	The proposed new rate structure is effectively departing from generally accepted direct proportionate correlation to land value. Under the proposed rate harmonisation plan, medium and high development properties are disproportionately affected with a proposed rate increase in 2021-22 over 2020-21 reaching 20 to 30% (despite a reduction in land value in July 2019) whereas less dense properties will see rates decrease. This is hardly "making rates fairer". Council is respectfully urged to reconsider the proposed harmonisation new rate structure and reinstate a direct correlation to Valuer General land valuation.
1069.	I am not a supporter of the merge. I was very happy being in Marrickville. Dismantle this stupid merge...
1070.	The rates increase in the area formerly managed by Marrickville council is outrageous. The councils merging is, on most scenarios, a positive initiative. Wages in the area and surrounding areas have not increased nearly as much, and the service levels from the council have

not changed with any significance. When I realised that wealthier areas like Roselle and Balmain are reducing, I frankly could not believe it. Inner west council, increasing rates in a lower income area and reducing them in a wealthy area is diabolical, you are increasing the economic divide between differing income regions and you need to reconsider your ethics.
1071. Our rates in Newtown will rise significantly but we see almost no evidence that Council spends existing rates on maintaining footpaths in the area, especially in the area between St Marys Street and Australia Street. The roads and gutters are cleaned only spasmodically and the laneways in the constantly littered with rubbish and bins. Yes,. Council is very efficient in collecting rubbish when asked but there appears to be no systematic maintenance and cleaning in the area. I oppose any rate increase until and unless there is a commitment from Council to improve the provision of basic services
1072. My rates will increase by \$221.60. That is not fair for the same service or lack of service we currently get. Road and laneways are a disgrace. Grassed council area at front of my house gets waist high before it's mowed. Weeds in laneways get very high and rarely poisoned. Dumped rubbish take ages for council to pick up. Trees aren't trimmed in both streets and laneways and you want more money!!!
1073. An increase of \$140 and with nothing to show for it is hardly fare.
1074. The increase does not account to the level of service provided. Marrickville is paying the same rate as waterfront properties
1075. Significant increase to our rates without comparable improvements to our local amenities and public areas
1076. Totally opposed to the rate rise. Council services have deteriorated in Marrickville since amalgamation. Residents did not want to amalgamate. Amalgamation was forced upon us. Marrickville Council was excellent. Marrickville has lost out because of the amalgamation. We should not pay more because of a terrible and undemocratic decision by the Liberal State government that was backed by local Labor and Liberal and some conservative councillors. Land value has nothing to do with the services that Council provides to residents. This is not a fair way to calculate rates. Inner West Council should be de-amalgamated.
1077. I do not support the proposed new rates structure which is in favour of unit owners. The new rates structure is strongly biased against house owners. I agree that house owners should pay more for rates but dwellers be they house owners or unit dwellers use the same services such as roads, footpaths, parks - need garbage and sanitation services, library services and pools and gym services are provided for all.
1078. I am a resident of Tempe, and it seems to me that most people in my area will now be paying more. I am fine with this, if it makes it equitable across the whole IW council area, however I will now look forward to a better level of service from the council in my suburb. I have recently moved to Tempe and am pretty appalled at the crappy footpaths, overgrown nature strips and old crappy playgrounds. I look forward to our suburb being looked after to the same standard as other parts of the IW Council area such as Leichhardt and Annandale.
1079. The calculator is wrong. Current rates are higher than what the calculator is suggesting
1080. In these unprecedented economic times, Council should learn to live within its means like we all need to do and not impose increases that bare no relationship to inflation.
1081. I do not support this my rates will increase by \$450.
1082. Unfair. I do not support the proposed new rates structure. It is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. I strongly believe that rates should be as close as possible to uniform rates across all types of residences. Why are unit owners entitled to lower rates? Don't we all get the same services for our rates? We all pay uniform charges for our garbage collection, why can't we pay uniform rates?



1083. It is unacceptable and unfair to impose a rate increase of 24% in one year. Since council amalgamation, services in Tempe have decreased significantly, we are being expected to pay a huge increase in rates for a significant reduction in services
1084. I do not support the proposed new rates structure. It is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. I strongly believe that rates should be as close as possible to uniform rates across all types of residences. Why are unit owners entitled to lower rates? Don't we all get the same services for our rates? We all pay uniform charges for our garbage collection, why can't we pay uniform rates?
1085. I'd like to see a consistent rate for consistent services. If a block is twice the size of a regular block, perhaps they are the exception on the high side and a studio or one bed apartment, the exception on the low side. Otherwise, most of us who fall in the middle should be evened out across the whole inner west.
1086. I oppose the Inner West harmonisation proposal because it will produce considerable increases in rates for people in the poorer areas of the inner west while decreasing them for the wealthier areas. This proposal should be dropped and a fairer system should be devised.
1087. My Rate increase is approximately 25%. This is significant and the justification isn't explained. Which council was not calculating rates correctly per land value? The change should be spread over more than 4 years.
1088. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates.
1089. Why under the plan are they singling out a few suburbs, one being Marrickville, which will increase their rates up to 24 percent. This is not fair to the rate payers of Marrickville, whilst some more affluent suburbs like Balmain, Birchgrove and Lilyfield are facing substantial decreasing in rates. We strongly feel that rates should be fairly distributed throughout the Inner West in reflection of land value. In this view council should be writing to the state government to address the issue of land value, for example a 3-million-dollar penthouse unit is paying on average \$850 a year and an average house in Marrickville pays around \$2000 a year. Clearly this is not a fair and equitable distribution of residential rates. We request that council take this matter forward to the State Government and voice our concerns.
<p>1090. Under this plan they are singling out a few suburbs, one being Marrickville, which will increase their rates up to 24 percent. This is totally unfair to the rate payers of Marrickville, whilst some more affluent suburbs like Balmain, Birchgrove and Lilyfield are facing substantial decreasing in rates.</p> <p>We strongly believe that rates should be fairly distributed throughout the Inner West in reflection of land value.</p> <p>In this view council should be writing to the state government to address the issue of land value, for example a 3-million-dollar penthouse unit is paying on average \$850 a year and an average house in Marrickville pays around \$2000 a year. Clearly this is not a fair and equitable distribution of residential rates.</p> <p>We request that council take action to this matter forward to the State Government and voice our concerns.</p>

1091.	As a business owner we feel this would destroy the Marrickville businesses. As a Business Owner I believe the rates are getting continually increased, this is unacceptable, we are facing a downturn in the economy as every tenant is asking for rent reductions especially due to Covid -19. Marrickville Council say that they clean the shopping strip but if you walk up and down Marrickville it looks very dirty and rubbish is on the streets. We believe we should be getting a rate reduction not a rate increase. The Council needs to start working with the Chamber of Commerce and promote the shopping strip or the shopping strip will not survive.
1092.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because charging residents mostly based on land values cannot produce fair charges for Council services. My wife and I are pensioners and we struggle with bills that are constantly climbing. Rates have gone up significantly since the new Council was formed and we are concerned this proposal will make it worse for us.
1093.	Allamagatation was meant to reduce the administrative & service costs to residents. So far there has only been increases to costs for our household.
1094.	Too low should be 1,100 min to be fairer to all property owners
1095.	the new rates are not fair for one / two bedroom apartment owners, and does not relate to the smaller title size. These people are effected by +24%
1096.	residential rates should be based on the number of bedrooms, not the value of a property.
1097.	I do not support the proposed new rates structure. It is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. I strongly believe that rates should be as close as possible to uniform rates across all types of residences. Why are unit owners entitled to lower rates? Don't we all get the same services for our rates? We all pay uniform charges for our garbage collection, why can't we pay uniform rates?
1098.	I was never asked to agree to an amalgamated council. I don't agree with it. On the basis that i wasnt given a choice I suppose a harmonised method is equitable.
1099.	I do not support the proposed new rates structure. It is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. I strongly believe that rates should be as close as possible to uniform rates across all types of residences. Why are unit owners entitled to lower rates? Don't we all get the same services for our rates? We all pay uniform charges for our garbage collection, why can't we pay uniform rates?
1100.	The percentage increases (and decreases) across the council area are grossly unfair.
1101.	This will lead to a annual increase of \$261.87 with obvious benefit
1102.	Its a joke that my rates go up by 300 Dollar per year for no increase in service. I would even say that the service has gone down. We are subsidising the inefficient Ashfield Council
1103.	I understand that Council are required to make the rates calculation consistent. What has not been indicated is for those paying more, what additional community services will they receive, and for those paying less, what will be lost. I would assume that, prior to amalgamation, the individual councils were providing existing services with the rates being received. If this is not the case, then that too should be explained. What new services and facilities have been added since amalgamation to one LGA using the funds from another.

<p>Given that my rates will increase by more than 20%, I would certainly like to know what I am getting or will get for that large an increase. Having access to facilities way over in another area does not really interest me. I expect such large increases would be a large shock those who are barely making ends meet at the moment.</p>
<p>1104. Where is the background information on why the councils rates are so different? Where is the comparison of services between the 3 councils? Where is the cost breakdown of major expenses between all 3? Where is the analysis of the costs savings that were promised by the State Government that justified the amalgamation in the first place? What savings have been achieve to date to give what should be a rate decrease not a rate increase of 20% with more I assume coming in the future year?</p>
<p>1105. Now that the councils have amalgamated it's sensible that rates be consistent. Former Ashfield council property owners shouldn't continue subsidising other suburbs.</p>
<p>1106. Almalgamation was supposed to increase council efficacy yet this isn't reflected in new council rates . It's in fact the opposite</p>
<p>1107.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is immoral to increase rates for people in lower socio-economic areas and decrease rates for those with substantially higher property values and household incomes.</li> <li>2. It does not matter how gradually this occurs – this is unfair.</li> <li>3. Our rates have increased by 17% since the amalgamation. There has been no improvement in council services or planning in Marrickville. This is a proposed further increase of 24% for zero benefit.</li> <li>4. If property rates are to be shifted to a new rating system, they should be based on market value but we prefer land value, as market values are so fluid.</li> <li>5. This proposal will cause division, resentment and disharmony within the area.</li> </ol> <p>This proposal further confirms our continued objection to council amalgamations and is, in our opinion nothing more than disrespect and political opportunism by the Berejiklian Government.</p>
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1111.	It will produce big increases in rates for poorer areas and reduce them for wealthier areas. It is not a fair way of charging for rates There is no evidence it will be value for money for anyone
1112.	i want to know what Council services will be taken away (or severely curtailed) in order to meet the financial deficit from this "harmonising of rates". Residents have already been seriously disadvantaged after amalgamation and I don't want to see anything further.
1113.	It's unfair for the people in the less affluent areas of the Inner West. For me personally in Enmore where very little visible council work is actually done my rates will be raised by \$200 p/a whereas in much more affluent areas like Balmain and Leichhardt their rates will be reduced! How is that even remotely fair? Houses in that area are valued higher and therefore people with more money live there. There is no evidence this will improve our council services, or help to raise our quality of life or property value in this area.
1114.	Increases rates in not so well off suburbs and decrease rates in wealthier suburbs. Such as Annandale, Balmain, Birchgrove and Ashfield.
1115.	Only if my rates do not increase in Marrickville and adjoining suburbs like Petersham and Stanmore.
1116.	It's time for this adjustment to make the rates fairer overall
1117.	It's time for this fairer approach
1118.	It seems to me that the "rich" suburbs are now paying less than their poorer cousins...how is this fair? Sounds like our representatives are lining their own pockets, typical council. By the way, the calculator doesn't work, the page simply crashes, again typical council.
1119.	It seems fair that the whole of IWC shares the rates equitably The old Ashfield Council area has been supporting to a significant extent those rate payers in the old Marrickville area and to a lesser degree those of us in old Leichhardt council area. harmonisation needs to be implemented now. It's over 4 years since forcible amalgamation!
1120.	Disadvantages those with more expensive houses
1121.	I'm not sure a 24% rate rise is justifiable. An extra 200 dollars per year it will be for me. What is this extra 24% for? I don't see any upgrades to my area happening (Tempe) and inflation isn't anywhere near 24%
1122.	If it works out to be fair for everybody then it's a good thing.
1123.	Not at all! Since the amalgamation service standards have dropped substantially for us in the old Marrickville LGA. Our garage bins are now left out 24 hours of more as collected sometime between Thursday afternoon and Friday. This also creates traffic in the afternoon. Why on earth this changed I have no idea. If you forget Thursday morning going to work your garbage doesn't get collected. So you then

<p>need to lodge a missed collection. This looks bad for the garbos when it's night their fault. But what else do we do if you forget Thursday morning ? For a Thursday arvo pick up ?</p> <p>The nature strip has never been mowed at all since the merger. Council now no longer users snap send solve... Former Marrickville used it so well. So why would we be paying a 25% increase for stopes service standards ? While Leichhardt pay less and their services I imagine have stayed the same?</p>	<p>1124.</p> <p>'A rate increase of 23.8% year on year calculated for my property.</p> <p>-It is unfair and unconscionable to increase rates above CPI for any rate payer.</p> <p>- How has the amalgamated council achieved cost savings from amalgamation &amp; economies of scale to determine level of rates revenue required?</p> <p>- Why should rates for me go up significantly when there will be no change in services?</p> <p>- if you can't afford to provide the same services without increasing my rates above CPI then you need to review the cost of those services.</p> <p>- if Marrickville was able to run their council at a pre merger rate, why post merger has it become necessary to increase the cost of those services?</p> <p>- It would seem that the other councils (Balmain, Birchgrove etc) were operating comparatively inefficiently or were receiving more services?</p> <p>- Wouldn't any supplier like to increase its fees by 23.8% without any change in customer service. It's just not conscionable.</p> <p>This is not fair and totally inappropriate!!!</p> <p>Yours faithfully (redacted) Stanmore</p>
<p>1125.</p> <p>I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</p> <p>there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</p> <p>rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services.</p> <p>Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>	<p>1126. Seems like the residents of the former Marrickville council are hsving their rates increased to cover the other two former councils</p> <p>1127.</p>



Rates for my area Marrickville, have already increased by about 17% since the amalgamation, which in my opinion should not have happened. All i have seen since the amalgamation has been hikes in rates and decrease in services. Should have taken this amalgamation to court.	
1128.	it appears my rates will increase ~\$140/qtr
1129.	The increase in my rates will be 24%. This is in a time where inflation is close to 0% and expected to remain that way for at least the next year. There is no justification for increasing my rates this much, especially given that rates for my area have already risen by 17% since Inner West Council started in 2016. I have seen no corresponding increase in services or evidence that the Council requires additional funding. Quite the opposite, there has been a significant decrease in services in my area, in that the Stanmore Public School out of hours school care is no longer run by the Council, who lost the tender for this service following multiple allegations and at least one court case relating to poor implementation of safety measures for children. I also understand that the council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce or maintain rates as they are. I also understand that in more expensive areas of the Inner West, such as Balmain, Lilyfield and Birchgrove rates will go down. This is completely unfair and inequitable. Rates should be based on the cost of the services being provided by the council, and any increase on the rate of inflation, not on supposed land value calculations.
1130.	To us this isn't a fairer way at all, as my rate will suddenly increase by \$188 for the year without any proposal to improve community or services . Given the current covid-19 situation, this will adding more concerns and hardship to my family as employment outlook is not clear.
1131.	We don't believed this is will produce a fairer way for Council Rate. It should be based on the value of the home. As pensioners, we are suddenly have to pay \$289.04 more. It is already hard enough to live on the pension but with this extra costs if this approach is going ahead, where are we going to find this extra money?
1132.	I am not supporting this new rates structure, as I can already see in the rate calculator that my rates suddenly going to increase by \$350.81. here is the fairness of this if a residential property in Ashfield will suddenly reduced their rate by \$348 where both home is in similar style and size? Without an income for the last year, I am really not be able to cope for more of this increase.
1133.	Ratepayers in some areas will experience big rates rises while others will receive substantial drops. I object to being asked to pay such a big rate hike. It seems to me that former Marrickville council residents are paying, and will continue to pay, for the bad management of Ashfield council in particular. We have merged with a black hole.
1134.	We are strongly object to this proposal, as we are truly believed this is NOT going to produce a fairer way for the Council Rate. Based on our current land value we will have to pay \$300 more in the new structure, whereas the same land value in Summer Hill will get their rate reduced by \$350 in the new structure. Please keep in mind, the Marrickville home values worth much less than Summer Hill or Ashfield. This is definitely not going to be a fairer approach.
1135.	This is an abrupt increase for many of us. I suggest a phase in over 3 years for less pain.

1136.	The (redacted) owns significant landholdings in Marrickville. Many of the landholdings are tenanted to (redacted). During the last year we had to give rent relief. Both us as landowners, and the tenants can not afford massive rate increases. Under the rate harmonisation process Marrickville rates for commercial and industrial land are set to rise circa 18%-19%. We have already received rate notices with up to 50% increases on some properties. To receive such unexpected increases of this magnitude is bill shock. It may make some landholdings uncommercial as the increases can not be passed on. 20% plus increases year-on-year are unfair. Therefore we SUPPORT Council gradually harmonising rates over a minimum of 4 years (I prefer a longer period). We accept our rates will increase and are happy to pay but the increases need to be implemented in an orderly manner. As the increases will vary over the LGA we RECOMMEND any year-on-year rate increase for any property be capped at circa 5-8%pa.
1137.	The council amalgamations which we were against were supposed to rationalise debt and provide cheaper services for ratepayers. In our case we our rates will be \$140 more per year.
1138.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>6. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ol>
1139.	Currently I own 2 properties in Dulwich Hill (Inner West Council area), one we live in and the other as investment. Both have large outstanding mortgages. I pay rates for both. Also I pay over \$4,000 land tax a year for the second property which is our investment for our future. The proposed rates increase for both properties will cause s significant hardship for us. Please reconsider and stop the proposed increase. The current rates are already very high now. I am also retired now.
1140.	Council needs to be transparent as to what rate per dollar of land value is being used - this used to be expressed as 'cents in the dollar' value of the land. Using the example figures provided in the fact sheet, the old council areas are still using different 'c in the \$' figures and when I use the rates calculator my own 'c in the \$' amount is still 4.5% higher than the examples quoted for the former Marrickville Council (so in fact much higher than the 18-19% increase quoted). Why? If it is going to be fair across the Inner West council, there should be a standard rate per dollar land value. If it is council's intention to do so, then it should publish what the rate is and give residents transparency as to how the rates are calculated. This obfuscation is reminiscent of the old Marrickville Council which was notorious for imposing 'one-off' levies based on dubious calculations.
1141.	As an owner of a property in Newtown which i lease out, due to COVID-19 i've had reduced income from rental. on top of this the council wants to increase my rates by 20% despite posting a profit in 2020. this is highly inequitable when costs such as water rates and

	<p>maintenance has increased. this unfair increase is not something that my budget will allow, placing me under financial duress. this proposal should be dropped in favour of a system that does not cost more to the working class.</p>
1142.	<p>I don't get why people in Marrickville will have to pay more whilst those in multimillion dollar Birchgrove or Balmain will pay less</p>
1143.	<p>The harmonisation information indicates that the purpose is to make rates fairer across the Inner West. However, what is happening is that the owners with lower valued properties are cross subsidising those with higher values. For example compare properties near me such as (redacted) Annandale at \$86.7k, with a proposed rate of \$850 (an increase of close to 25% on the current rates), to that of adjacent properties (redacted) valued at \$494k with the same rates as this property or (redacted) valued at \$981k with rates that are decreasing from \$1318 to \$1259. How is this fair, when a property (redacted) with almost 4.5 times the value of a neighbouring property (redacted) pays the same rate and a property valued at over 10 times (redacted) that property has a reduction in rates. It seems the burden of the harmonisation and administrative streamlining will fall unfairly impact owners less able to bear the increased impost. This seems incongruous with general taxing principles of fairness and equity.</p>
1144.	<p>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well-off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. Therefore I don't think that's in any way a fair thing to do and it's quite the opposite of the purpose of harmonisation. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for council services 3. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates 4. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</p>
1145.	<p>The proposed change will unfairly increase rates for less well-off people in places such as Petersham, Enmore, Marrickville etc., while decreasing the rates for rich people in places such as Balmain. 'Equality' is not the same as 'Equity'. This is why we have a sliding scale for income tax! Charging residents based largely on land values is inherently unfair. Just look at the difference in incomes of residents in these different suburbs.</p>
1146.	<p>I oppose the inner west harmonisation proposal for the following reasons and kindly ask you consider this submission: 1. It will introduce substantial increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the local government area whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas. As a result this will not represent a fair distribution among members of the LGA. 2. It will not result in a fair way of charging for council services There is no data this will result in value for money generally or for individual rate payers There is no proposal to improve services or infrastructure for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already increased substantially since the new council was formed. This proposal will make it worse. 3. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services. 4. Council delivered a significant surplus in 2020 that could be utilised to reduce rates. It also does not appear that this proposal is justified. 5. It does not represent fair distribution amongst council constituents forming Inner west Council.</p>



6.	Its is not equitable and is disproportionate.
7.	Should be implemented as a staged process on the basis services and roadworks are improved.
8.	There are a number of improvements generally that could take place such as improvement in road work, implementing traffic lights where required, improving road safety , improving footpaths and walkways and general council cleaning services.
1147.	I live in Petersham & object to rates going up whereas they are going down over in the wealthy suburbs of Birchgrove & Balmain. We are very distinct and different suburbs. I have the railway lines at end of my back garden whereas Balmain residents have harbour views & boats. Services have gone down since amalgamation with loss of jobs and programs ... rates go up while services go down! For e.g. I used to appreciate the Spring Garden Competition for verge gardens as it lead to improvement in Marrickville with lots of plants/trees getting planted. I expect the Greenway Art Competition may not last much longer or as an annual event. Each Councillor now has far more residents to represent which makes it very difficult for them. I wouldn't contact them now unless it was something extremely important. With the building of more and more apartments it will become even more difficult for Councillors to really work for local residents. M'ville Council used to be far better and a tighter-knit Council and now there is outsourcing and huge Council debts and loss of Marrickville local identity.
1148.	I do not support a further increase in rates. Service has and will not improve, so why should we be paying more. Rates have already increased over the past 4 years! Council should endeavour to create efficiencies and make savings, rather than increase rate charges to residences. Especially during such tough economic times. The suggested changes seems unfair. Shouldn't there just be a small, flat percentage increase across the entire council area, rather than different increases for different areas?
1149.	Applying a 20%+ increase to rates with no discernible difference to services provided cannot be fair. If a minimum rate is in place only those below the minimum should have rates increased.
1150.	My rates are proposed to increase by 19.7% - this does not seem a reasonable increase (unless slowly achieved over time). My property is also teeny-tiny and I don't believe that I will be getting commensurate value for money from my rates
1151.	Since many Liberal councils fought against amalgamation and won, why doesn't IW council fight to return to the original 3 councils. I was very happy being part of an efficient Marrickville Council.
1152.	The purpose of the amalgamation of councils was to reduce cost, and while the Council may not get additional funding, rates should not be calculated on land value but rather by the services provided by the Council. I have a residential property in Stanmore and while the normal services are very good, I have not seen any improvements in Stanmore, rather the opposite. There are newsletters about all the great works being done in Ashfield, Leichhardt, Petersham etc. What is Stanmore getting? It took two years to get a water fountain in Weekly Park. So what are we getting for the money we pay? Businesses don't appear to be able to stay open in Stanmore, perhaps some improvement plans would have made Stanmore a viable choice. With the increase of charges, how many of the businesses in Stanmore will remain open? How

	do we make Stanmore an attractive suburb prospect for both businesses and residents? How are businesses and residents able to afford increased charges? I don't support any increases.
1153.	I think it's a great step forward on the way to full integration of our local government area.
1154.	The current amount I pay for rates is higher than what shows up on the 'rates calculator'. How much do I pay for waste and stormwater - isn't there a standard charge throughout inner west council. I don't currently have a green bin as I was part of Ashfield council. When will I get a free green bin like residents in other parts of inner west. I rang enquiry number but only got voicemail. Can someone reply to my question on (redacted)
1155.	I think it is very unfair my rates will increase by 30% and yet others will save a lot more, how can I afford this increase I am struggling now financially as it is so much money just for a unit.
1156.	<p>In one word, "outrageous!" Why?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. My rates will increase over 20% in one year.</li> <li>2. My pension wasn't increased this financial year due to a minus CPI figure used by my superannuation fund.</li> <li>3. Inflation for Australia was calculated at 1.90%.</li> <li>4. A number of high profile suburbs like Balmain and Leichhardt are going to have their rates reduced whilst several others including Dulwich Hill are having them substantially increased.</li> <li>5. There is no evidence that the rate increases will provide better services and facilities for those who are about to be slugged with over a 20% rate increase!!</li> <li>6 Use some of the surplus council has built up.</li> <li>7. with this proposed increase, it would mean the rates for this property will have increase nearly 40%! Increases way above inflation!</li> </ol> <p>In conclusion, the proposed 'dodgy' rates harmonisation scheme should be stopped and a fairer system introduced.</p>
1157.	Less services under amalgamated council and now i have to pay more. The front naturestrip hardly gets cut and the streets are never swept. Gutters are always full and blocked.
1158.	<p>I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>6. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates!!</li> </ol> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>

1159.	I have to pay more. For what?
1160.	A 23% increase in rates following on from a land valuation increase last year + add a pandemic and the average Marrickvillian will be priced out of the area. Get rid of the over paid General Managers and give the power back to the Mayor and Councillors who we the rate payers vote for.
1161.	Ours goes down therefore I support it!
1162.	Why should former Marrickville council home owners pay up to 24% more when others in former Balmain or Leichhardt constituencies pay less? I am not a NIMBY person by any means (eg I would have happily paid some extra \$ for our beautiful new library) and I'm sorry if constituents in other areas were paying too much but this reeks of yet another major fail for many merging councils. Where are the overall savings? And what scrutiny is being paid to admin and corporate wastage in the switch? Is a rates increase helping to pay for this? I would like to see the details of HR movements and payouts at Inner West Council for the past three years. Is this information publicly available?
1163.	<p>'There should be no Min Rate. Leave it as it is and stop wasting money.</p> <p>Ashfield has had 3 rates at 10-12% compounding every year.</p> <p>Its time Council start to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-review COST and starting cutting cost.</li> <li>- Council should be only supplying provide rate payer basic services, Footpaths, Roads, Garage, parks, etc.</li> <li>- Stop Wasting minority groups and starting focus on the majority</li> </ul>
1164.	Very unjust for the old Marrickville Council area when the Mayor's Balmain rates decrease.
1165.	It seems to favour those who live in waterfront properties like Birchgrove
1166.	I'm in Marrickville, why should we subsidise a more affluent suburb. It's completely unfair.
1167.	<p>I think every suburb in Sydney is different and therefore so are the ones in the inner west and should be treated as such. I was always pleased with Marrickville Council and don't really know why there had to be an Inner West Council in the first place. You can't throw 12 councils together and suddenly introduce a new rate structure. The rates are high enough presently and a good approach would be to find ways to reduce them.</p> <p>Probably not entirely appropriate in this context but it would be nice if the pot holes in the local streets could be fixed within a certain time and the foot paths made safe - meaning to make them even.</p>
1168.	It's outrageous with a 24% increase in my residential property rates.
1169.	Rates for local council services should not be based on the assessed value of a property. Regardless of the land value, the services provided to residents by the council are the same. Do rate payers in Ashfield or Petersham receive a different level of services to that of the ratepayers in Balmain or Birchgrove?
1170.	Increase in rates where the house values are not on par with other inner west suburbs such as summer hill.



1171.	So the ratepayers in the old Marrickville area are penalised because they had a more efficient council! Rate harmonisation is bullshit!
1172.	not clear what the structure will be from the notice. community feedback would indicate we are getting an INCREASE of 20% by 2022. wages have not gone up and are unlikely to go up in the next 5 years so a rate increase is taking money from rate payers to giving to ????? I only supported council amalgamation (survey) if services were improved & rates didn't increase
1173.	I oppose the IWC rate harmonisation scheme. It increases rates in areas with higher numbers of people who are less well off, while reducing rates in areas that are more affluent. There is no proposal to improve services or amenity for those whose rates are increasing and since the merger I feel that the old Marrickville LGA has had a decrease in services. The assumption that charging rates on land value will produce fair charges for council services is incorrect.
1174.	fairer for everyone eventhough mine increase
1175.	Inner West Council has not provided the community with evidence (justification and calculations) showing the need to increase the minimum rate above existing minimums of the three former Councils. The evidence to justify this increase needs to be demonstrated in a transparent manner before any lodgement to IPART. IWC claims that there is no overall increase in rates; if this is the case, please demonstrate to the community clearly which uses (business, residential), which locations and which dwelling typologies (houses, units, semis etc) are having their rates increased and which are having their rates decreased. In order for IWC to have derived a 'no overall increase in rates' claim.
1176.	My rates will be increased by \$171 a year, about \$43 per quarter which is a huge increase in one go and a short notice and particularly in these Covid times. Everyone is struggling now and this will be impossible to pay. 1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well of par of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 1. It will not produce a fair way of charging for council services 3. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers 4. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worst 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses based on land value can produce fair chargers for Council services 7. Council produced an 82 mil. surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. 8. Instead of Petersham having on demand bulk rubbish collection have a fairer twice a year system of Council clean up for all suburbs. This could present a cost saving for my rates in Petersham.
1177.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: > it will produce huge increases in rates for residents in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing rates in wealthier areas.

<p>&gt; it does not produce a fair way of charging for the ever reducing Council services.</p> <p>&gt; there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers.</p> <p>&gt; there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to strive to reduce rates.</p> <p>&gt; rates in some areas have already increased significantly since the Council was formed - this proposal makes it far worse.</p> <p>&gt; it is based on a false suggestion that charging residents and business largely based on land values can produce fair charges for diminishing Council Services.</p> <p>&gt; Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that should be utilised to reduce rates, not increase rates.</p> <p>The proposal must be dropped and a fairer system devised forthwith.</p>
<p>1178.</p> <p>MMC residents should not subsidise wealthier suburbs!</p> <p>It will not produce a fair way of charging rates.</p> <p>Rate in my areas have already gone up since Council merger.</p> <p>Council had a \$82 million surplus in 2020 that they could use to reduce rates.</p> <p>Why does Council permit multi storey dwellings without increasing public facilities.</p> <p>Council should develop a fairer system.</p>
<p>1179.</p> <p>There is no logical reason to continue a different rate basis across IWC and implements Governments original intent. Admin savings should flow to general rate payers as proposed.</p> <p>The problem with the rating system is however the disparity caused within individual areas and streets within the Municipality for the same services. I am paying twice neighbours rates based on the UV when the market value(including improvements) is nowhere near this. It is a clumsy wealth tax with neither regard to income or the saleable value. As a marginal self funded retiree and 50 year resident I receive exactly the same services as my neighbours. Council should increasingly move to a majority user pays model given the services provided (Where Do My Rates Go) are equally spread across all ratepayers and not related to a specific property or its hypothetical value.</p>
<p>1180. very unfair and does not make sense this extravagant increase you are proposing in todays economy and wages stagnant in the last 5 years.</p>
<p>1181. My rates have gone up 25%. Terrible outcome.</p>
<p>1182. The structure should take into account what existing residents are actually Currently paying and not increase peoples rates when services aren't increased at all!!</p>
<p>1183. In theory this sounds like a good idea - to make things fairer but in reality putting people's rates up by 25% in one hit is exceedingly unfair anytime - particularly at the moment. . Councils were amalgamated to save money, don't penalize residents for this new structure.</p>
<p>1184. I am particularly upset that the rates are going up as the quality of services has decreased dramatically. For example, you used to be able to book a council cleanup &amp; they would come in a couple of days, now you have to wait weeks.</p>
<p>1185.</p>

<p>It is necessary that we operate as one council area and have consistent rates, but there is a need to direct funding to areas of most need. As an Ashfield resident I'm very concerned that we have lost out by the merger. We now have no Christmas carols or Carnival in Ashfield Park, two 'walkable' community building events perfect for a multicultural area with many who don't own a car. These were low cost gems with something for everyone. IWC simply dropped the carols and then twisted the Carnival briefly into a generic inner west entity with loud bands and coffee, then it too was dropped. We are still struggling to have footpaths maintained when so many of us walk. The new pool has opened (which we paid a special rent variation to build) but it's so expensive to use. Ashfield is not Balmain, or Summer Hill, or Haberfield, or any other suburb further east. While rates should be collected according to a uniform equation the revenue from them should be directed to the areas of most need. It is wonderful to see street trees going in but so many footpaths are badly broken, long stretches have been replaced in Haberfield and Summer Hill but in Ashfield we struggle over the same broken ground year after year - have we been forgotten?</p>	
1186.	<p>It's a bit of a joke to increase my rates when I feel I often get little value for money. My bins are regularly missed, the grass verges are a foot high, the footpath is in disrepair, and leaf blowers (use a broom like Sydney Council) and garbos create excessive noise in the neighbourhood (5.30am is a ridiculous time to collect bins and reverse trucks for blocks) - waking me up and interrupting me during work.</p>
1187.	<p>After almost 9 years of paying rates in Marrickville (which have already increased over that time with rising property values) I resent having to pay more rates for less services and to be used to prop up the poor financial management of the previous Ashfield council. Marrickville council brought strong finances to the table in the amalgamation and yet we are being told it is only fair that Marrickville residents pay greater rates in line with those living in other areas without as strong a financial contribution at the merger. I don't see the fairness in this.</p>
1188.	<p>Enough already!</p>
1189.	<p>Rates shouldn't be increasing when services are decreasing.</p>
1190.	<p>I object to the 23% rate increase I find myself facing. I have lived here for 27 years and since the amalgamation have noticed the decrease in services. Inner West Council apparently had a \$82,000,000 surplus last year and as a frontline healthcare worker who worked all through the Covid lockdown, I recently received a 0.3% pay rise. Do you not find this hypocritical! I worked every day in those unknown times, while council staff and councillors were safely working from home. Perhaps I would be OK with this if I had received a 23% pay rise for providing an inferior service from the comfort of my home. I am frustrated with the money grabbing antics of council when they have made profits by cutting services, yet expect me to pay significantly more for the privilege. I have submitted previously, but have had no acknowledgement of my comments.</p>
1191.	<p>We can't afford more rates - residential - couldn't come at a worse time with covid etc - many ppl are doing it very tough - leave the rates in more affluent suburbs higher - don't increase in poorer suburbs</p>
1192.	<p>Service has dropped yet rates increase? Appalling state of our streets, stop ppl parking boats, trailers (advertised on gumtree for rent) the cars collected and sold on Brooklyn St Tempe by 1 household who currently has 7 vehicles (instead of parking in the garage they have turned them into bedrooms) whilst ppl elderly or small children are being forced to park in nearby streets with Council ignoring cries for help!!!!!!!!!!</p>



New house built on corner also now has a gymnasium with their 2 cars on the street !!!! Stop approving these projects without following up after the fact !!!!!!!	
1193.	<p>You did not provide an alternate method other than the land value method.</p> <p>The land value method is not a fair system. There are large variations in the rise and fall of land values between suburbs. So some suburbs get large rate hikes while others get rate reductions. My rates went up 16% last year while other suburbs paid less.</p> <p>The problem is exacerbated in an amalgamated Council because of the larger area and the suburbs' land value movements are now too varied. E.g. suburbs like Birchgrove and East Balmain will have large rate increases and over time, their rate hikes will look ridiculous.</p>
1194.	Seems we are paying more for less
1195.	Council does not increase its total revenue from rate payers, but harmonises rates in different councils depending on their land values, which seems fair.
1196.	Wealthier areas now paying less and less wealthy areas paying more
1197.	<p>I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it increases the rates for people living in less well off parts of LGA, while decreasing them in wealthier areas.</li> <li>- it does not produce a fair system of charging for council services.</li> <li>- there is no evidence that this plan will produce value for money, generally or for individuals.</li> <li>- there is no proposal or information about how this will improve services for those who would pay more, or make council more efficient to reduce rates.</li> <li>- rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new council was formed. This proposal will only make it worse.</li> <li>- it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services.</li> <li>- Council produced an \$82M surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ul>
1198.	Our rates are high enough already. There has been no reason for this harmonisation, other than the fact that some wealthier suburbs pay more, so what?
1199.	I do not support the rate increase. I'm a Marrickville resident my street has never looked so untidy unkempt rubbish weeds filthy footpaths. I'm always reporting mattresses and the like when I shouldn't have to. In future I'm not going to I'll take photos instead and post them to the Marrickville Community FB page so we can all look at how bad our suburb has become. Disgraceful.
1200.	I don't think the increases are warranted in the current climate. And some increases are just too high.
1201.	<p>I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:-</p> <p>It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. It will not produce a fair way on charging for Council Services which have declined greatly since amalgamation.</p> <p>Customer Service is very poor in our area (Newtown) since requests have been automated under IWC. Lane cleaning, weed control &amp; waste services have also declined. An example is lane cleaning &amp; weed control, councils stock reply I have received is lanes are cleaned on a 3</p>

<p>week rotation. There has not been a lane sweeper in Lands Lane or Oxford Lane Newtown for at least 12 months!!! I'm calling BS. My rate increase under this proposal is 23.5% which is a huge burden for a self-funded retiree when income is already significantly reduced due to historically low interest rates &amp; few dividends on investments. Maybe Council should extend pensioner rate discounts to low income self-funded retirees who hold a Seniors Health Care Card. There is no proposal offered to improve services or make council more efficient to reduce rates. Council produced over \$80 million surplus in 2020 which could be used to reduce rates. This proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised. Sincerely (redacted)</p>
<p>1202. In no way was I ever consulted by mail drop, email or phone in regards to this new rates structure. Addison Road in Marrickville is disgustingly filthy most of the time and has no resemblance of say the North Sydney areas being kept clean and tidy. We pay rates for maintenance of our streets but there's no real upkeep of the roadways, paths or nature strips. A week ago the lawns and edges were cut due to it being 12 inches long. The drains are constantly clogged with rubbish and debris. To have a Marrickville Council tree expert assess the tree out the back for removal/trimming it's an additional cost of \$232.40 for the privilege of ridding a hazard and concern for my home and neighbours. Pathetic excuse to gouge residents from additional money in a very difficult time with no relief for many who have already lost their work.</p>
<p>1203. We have already seen rate rises since amalgamation, this new rise is 24% !! for us, how can council justify this as the right policy, when they have made a multi-million dollar surplus? Lower rates across the board, with small incremental changes over a period of years, to even the charges out. Why are the more affluent suburbs of Birchgrove, Balmain et al getting reduced rates?</p>
<p>1204. The old Marrickville Council had the best record on all but one criteria before amalgamation. It is now the only area to have its rates increase. I was opposed to amalgamation and this feels like a further punishment to local residents from Marrickville. Basically not fair!</p>
<p>1205. I live in an apartment and mine will increase \$140. They are already high and to date I haven't seen anyone who's rates have lowered so how can you say the rates are not increasing. Mine obviously are.</p>
<p>1206. Amalgamation was meant to make Council more cost-effective. Certainly former Leichhardt and Ashfield rates rightly decline but the increase of already cost effective Marrickville is unjustified. All IW should aspire to the performance, services and previous rates of Marrickville. Marrickville should not increase in real terms, nor should services decline (eg, regularity of extra waste collection).</p>
<p>1207. Inner west council should not be increasing rates until they can demonstrate be able to meet their basic accountabilities. Nature strips, weeds, lighting, safety. Since the amalgamation there is a definite decline in service and meeting these obligations</p>
<p>1208. The proposed rate makes no sense considering how poor council services are. Old Canterbury nether strip has not been mowed for at least 4 months now - some residents have to mow the lawn themselves. Council waste pick up takes a month to turn up - the waste just sits at nature strip for that long. We requested some DA plan - it's been 2.5months now, still got nothing! How does council justify the increase, not to mention lower north shore got cheaper rates!!! Where did all the money go?!</p>

1209.	What you call "harmonisation" of "fairer rates" means increasing rates for some and decreasing for others. Unit owners in my area are seeing 20% rises in rates for no discernible benefit. I remember hearing pre-merger that the whole purpose of the exercise was that council services would be cheaper for all. Obviously the reverse has happened and ratepayers understandably feel conned.
1210.	<p>As a long term resident of Marrickville, I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal and feel outraged by this heavy handed and discriminatory approach to what you so euphemistically, call 'rate harmonisation'.</p> <p>This is no way to build a cohesive and harmonious local community.</p> <p>How on earth can you justify what would probably be a 35% - 40% rate increase (since 2016), for many Marrickville residents? Surely local council is about serving the people and community, so why implement a poorly considered and divisive system that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increases rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas?</li> <li>• ushers in a completely inequitable way of charging for Council services yet provides no indication of any proposed improved or new services to justify such exorbitant rate increases</li> <li>• further compounds the impact of already, significant rate increases on residents since amalgamation</li> </ul> <p>Is it true that Council produced an \$ 82 million surplus in 2020?</p> <p>If so, some redirection of this money to supporting a more equitable system of rate calculation would be a more harmonious solution to creating a more vibrant and cohesive community.</p> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
1211.	For starters the land overvalued and its a 27% hike to my current rates before stormwater etc this is just price gouging and is completely unfair
1212.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well-off parts of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. (The median value of a 3 bedroom house in Balmain is 36% higher than Marrickville. The median family income at the 2016 census was 59% higher for Leichhardt than Marrickville.)</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. (One council should be more efficient than the former 3 councils.)</li> <li>5. Rates for the old Marrickville LGA have already increased by 17% since 2016 when the Inner West Council was formed; further increases will worsen the issue.</li> <li>6. It is based on the false premise that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ol> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system should be devised.</p>
1213.	Don't mind paying rates if paired with public investment. Services poorer since amalgamation, so my increase is objectionable



1214.	I strongly disagree with the rates "harmonisation" campaign. The increase that many face is well above the current inflation rate and there is no need for it as Council has an \$82 million surplus. Roads are potholed, weeds grow through brickwork of pavements and its been years since I have seen a street gutter swept. Council provides poor service.
1215.	The new rates notices (especially the Rates Harmonisation Fact Sheet) are misleading. The residential rates for our property in St Peters will increase from \$1,171.88 to \$1,451.04, which is by 23.8%, not 18.6%. This massive increase from one year to the next will be difficult for many rate payers, especially the elderly and those families with children. Changes should be introduced gradually over five (5) years.
1216.	The new rates structure assume that the 'harmonisation' of rates is a fair measure. This also assumes that the whole system of housing is fair when we know it is not — especially in Sydney. Housing prices are super inflated (even under COVID-19), due to speculation. Pensioners, and others for whom the house their own is simply a place to live, the increasingly inflated 'value' of their home has no relationship to their income levels — which remain the same in most cases. The amalgamated council has cut, not increased services for residents and yet we are being asked to pay more.
1217.	The new rates structure assume that the 'harmonisation' of rates is a fair measure. This also assumes that the whole system of housing is fair when we know it is not — especially in Sydney. Housing prices are super inflated (even under COVID-19), due to speculation. Pensioners, and others for whom the house their own is simply a place to live, the increasingly inflated 'value' of their home has no relationship to their income levels — which remain the same in most cases. The amalgamated council has cut, not increased services for residents and yet we are being asked to pay more.
1218.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well-off parts of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. (The median value of a 3 bedroom house in Balmain is 36% higher than Marrickville. The median family income at the 2016 census was 59% higher for Leichhardt than Marrickville.)</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. (One council should be more efficient than the former 3 councils.)</li> <li>5. Rates for the old Marrickville LGA have already increased by 17% since 2016 when the Inner West Council was formed; further increases will worsen the issue.</li> <li>6. It is based on the false premise that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ol> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system should be devised.</p>

1219.	If land value effects stamp duty, then it should effect rates. Why should the poorer, (including those starting on the low end of the property ladder) be expected to subsidise the wealthy end? No... If you want to help people get into home ownership, don't expect the less capable of paying to cover for the wealthy.
1220.	<p>What is the rationale for not reducing amalgamated Council income given that savings are supposed to have been made by amalgamation, aren't they?</p> <p>Why does it appear to be a basic tenet that amalgamated Council income should not reduce, using the original Marrickville Council budget and services as a template?</p> <p>I have lived in Marrickville for 26 years and have been quite satisfied with the services they offered so why should my rates increase without an associated 24% improvement in actual services delivered?</p> <p>What additional services or quality, specifically, are Inner West Council offering to Marrickville residents to offset the rates rise?</p> <p>What services or quality, specifically, are Inner West Council removing/reducing from Leichhardt, Balmain and Ashfield residents to offset the rates fall?</p> <p>Why shouldn't Leichhardt, Balmain and Ashfield areas become more thrifty and get the same level of service delivery as Marrickville area was getting and then overall income for Inner West could be reduced without impacting quality of services as compared to Marrickville residents?</p> <p>Is there an implication that Leichhardt, Balmain and Ashfield residents actually received better services for their higher rates than Marrickville residents received?</p> <p>Thus if the rates go up for Marrickville residents by 24% then we should expect a 24% improvement in the services we are seeing from Council?</p>
1221.	It makes rates less fair. Low income Marrickville, which benefited from an efficient council until amalgamation, should not have to pay extra for being in a useless monstrosity, the Inner West Council. No increase to Marrickville rates! If necessary, by initiating a process of deamalgamation.
1222.	I understood there is a rate of increase set for rates. This increase is approximately 20% which seems excessive. Also I understood rates were based on the rateable value of the property. I endeavoured to use the calculator but my property did not come up.
1223.	<p>It is noted that setting a new rate structure is a complex process, however the information provided to the community was inadequate in outlining the methodology for the minimum residential rate and business rate – in particular how the rate increases will improve or increase service delivery across the local government area. The Council was formed nearly 5 years ago and many of the services and programs have not been harmonised - therefore savings and efficiencies in providing a harmonised set of services and programs is not yet know. The implementation of a new rate should not occur until full harmonisation of services and programs is undertaken and in place. The proposed rate structure will result in rate increases of up to 24%. Such increases are totally inappropriate when compared to the activities in the current economy where inflation is close to zero, interest rates are 2%, wage growth is stagnant and the unemployment rate is at over 6%.</p>

1224.	<p>The new proposed rates structure is not making rates fairer. It would/will financially disadvantage some rate payers and provide a financial advantage to other rate payers. These three councils should NOT have amalgamated. We would all be better off.</p> <p><a href="https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/nsw-government-to-abandon-legal-battle-over-council-amalgamations-20170727-gxjqt.html">https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/nsw-government-to-abandon-legal-battle-over-council-amalgamations-20170727-gxjqt.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://cityhubsydney.com.au/2017/11/inner-west-council-demerger-urged/">https://cityhubsydney.com.au/2017/11/inner-west-council-demerger-urged/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/amalgamated-nsw-councils-project-rising-deficits">https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/amalgamated-nsw-councils-project-rising-deficits</a></p>
1225.	<p>My rate increase in 1 year is \$410. I mow my own nature strip because IWC rarely do it. It has not been mowed since mid December last year. And it's summer! This is a disgrace. You have squandered money on a very user in-friendly web site &amp; a logo which looks it was designed by a 3 year old. The streets are a disgrace. The nature strips are filled with weeds which each spread hundreds of seeds. What's going on?</p>
1226.	<p>Newtown footpaths and street cleaning are currently seriously neglected and I can't support an increase in rates unless there is a significant improvement in services. We have had unrepaired potholes in our immediate footpath for over 20 years and Council has not responded to requests to fix them. Garbage bins litter the street and footpaths and impede pedestrian access and compromise the safety of older people but again Council has ignored requests for remediation.</p>
1227.	<p>I struggle to accept a rise in rates when since the amalgamation there has been a reduction in services. The grass verges are rarely cut, they look terrible. I have been asking for 3 years to repair the strip outside of my house.</p> <p>The promised beautification of Dulwich Hill has not taken place. My queries about EV charging infrastructure go unanswered as you have no plan to build any and you let Dulwich Hill School build demountables on the community Graham Green despite protests from the locals.</p> <p>The inaction by the councillors was astounding. You are not there for the community.</p>
1228.	<p>The new rates structure assume that the 'harmonisation' of rates is a fair measure. This also assumes that the whole system of housing is fair when we know it is not — especially in Sydney. Housing prices are super inflated (even under COVID-19), due to speculation. Pensioners, and others for whom the house their own is simply a place to live, the increasingly inflated 'value' of their home has no relationship to their income levels — which remain the same in most cases. The amalgamated council has cut, not increased services for residents and yet we are being asked to pay more.</p>
1229.	<p>Since amalgamation, council service quality has been poor and disengaged. Charging more for worse and inefficient goods/services is unfair and doesn't improve practice. Please investigate why Marrickville residents paid less rates and mirror Marrickville Council's operations, customer service and work-culture. Marrickville Council ran efficiently and with professionalism, care and respect. Amalgamation was supposed to drive improvement and efficiency but hasn't. IWC staff attitude and behaviour is out-of-touch and unwilling to engage with Tempe/Marrickville locals. Examples include outrageous footpaths, bike paths and roads projects; inconveniently-timed rubbish collection and infrequent nature-strip maintenance. IWC project work in my area has lacked common sense. IWC has not understood local community (incl. school) issues by bypassing consultation, listening and learning. It is insulting to pay higher rates and reward inefficiency and arrogance. Former Marrickville Council residents have lower cost housing than other IWC suburbs. Why are lower income groups paying</p>



	more, especially during a pandemic? Multi-story residences and their rates allocations should be reviewed. Currently a single storey and a 2+ floor building on same land sqm in same area pay the same rates although there are more bedrooms and residents in the latter. This is disproportionate to amenity usage, unfair and must be repealed.
1230.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA, whilst decreasing them in wealthy areas. There is no proposal to improve services. Our services have already declined, our rates should be reduced.
1231.	Keep as previous 3 Council areas.... Properties are rated and rates paid against Valuer Generals determinations.
1232.	How about you use the lowest rate scale and then nobody's rates will go up only come down to be harmonious. YES you will have less "overall income" but you can tighten your belt, like all you residents have had to do, and we will all be better off!!
1233.	My rates are increasing by \$200 per annum, why would I support that when other residents are getting decreases in other suburbs
1234.	We've only just moved to the area and it doesn't seem very equitable that our rates will now be an additional \$350 p/a all because the councils aren't properly aligned
1235.	It makes no sense to amalgamate all the councils to save costs to then only increase the price. This does not make sense at all.
1236.	There is a significant increase in our rates even though we are not seeing any increase in the services we receive from our rates. While we are happy to pay rates for the services provided, we cannot understand how bringing councils together increases rates, they should be decreasing from economies of scale.
1237.	23% increase in rates is hard to justify as 'fair'. My rates will go from \$767 to \$950 which is also above the proposed \$850 minimum. So really not sure this can be called harmonising and equal. Really not impressed especially in Covid times we were are all struggling with jobs and finance. Land value is not a fair or appropriate way for rates to be calculated when I live in Enmore the smallest suburb of the council area and the one with less community facilities!
1238.	I do NOT support the new rates structure, it is charging us MORE money for no obvious increased benefits for residents, services have reduced and costs increased since the FIRCED council amalgamation. The old Marrickville Council served us perfectly well.
1239.	Do not believe fair, Did not ask for Council Amalgamation! Marrickville Council was good. Times are difficult for many & an increase in our rates not welcome.
1240.	I just discovered that our rates will go up by \$140 – for no appreciable increase in service. Hard to see how that's 'fair'. I was opposed to the amalgamation of the councils in the first place – to try to standardise services across areas as different as Balmain and Marrickville (where the populations and socioeconomic groups vary hugely) is misguided, to put it kindly. This rates 'standardisation' is a great example of how ridiculous it is. People who are likely to earn less will pay more than they have been; people who are likely to earn more will pay less.
1241.	Why should Marrickville residents be slugged with a 25% increase? This is totally unacceptable - for us, that's an extra \$300 per year for no extra services. Or are we going to get the Leichhardt makeover with full-on beautification of the streets and public spaces to provide a

<p>village atmosphere? Services have already gone downhill since the merger; pedestrian crossings don't get painted unless we complain, grass on the verges is hardly ever mown, and don't get me started on the new outsourced garbage collection service! It's outrageous to force a huge LGA like Marrickville to merge with smaller, more affluent/spendthrift LGAs, then expect all to follow the same rates formula. Especially when there is not a uniform approach to how the revenue is spent. If you must "harmonise" the rates, then harmonise them all down. Sue the state govt for the shortfall — after all, they do owe IWC that \$24 million funnelled to Lib/Nat LGAs. Or just tell the state govt that no, IWC is NOT going to harmonise the rates because the merger was unwanted, unnecessary and that residents have gained absolutely nothing from it (not even the benefit of the grant money IWC was entitled to)!</p>
<p>1242. I strongly disagree with the proposed new rates structure due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First and foremost, as a home owner in an area due to receive a proposed 24% increase, I find this an astounding increase for any resident to have to absorb, especially in a single rise.</li> <li>- Our rates in Marrickville have already increased around 6.5% over the last few years, a figure more in line with inflation. Rates in some areas of the LGA have increased well beyond this figure – this proposal will simply be overwhelming.</li> <li>- The proposal provides no value for money, especially to those facing a substantial increase.</li> <li>- Given that the 2019/20 Inner West Council annual report showed a surplus in excess of \$81,000,000, surely such a surplus would mean a reduction in across the LGA to achieve a fairer rates structure.</li> </ul>
<p>1243. It is unclear how rates are calculated. Essentially poorer suburbs are now subsidizing wealthy ones. For example DH who have no amenities, are paying for Ashfields pool and Balmain's fancy parks and better rubbish service but are not able to access them in the same manner.</p>
<p>1244. This will have a massive increase on our rates which does not seem fair especially for such small land our town house takes up</p>
<p>1245. Rate increase of \$140 - per unit in a small complex of 8 What do we get for our additional \$140 Council do very little to maintain the cleanliness of Dulwich Hill and upgrade facilities . Suggestions sent to council are not actioned or some pitiful excuse is provided So where is all this money going Why are the affluent suburbs receiving a reduction in rates How is this amalgamation of councils going to benefit us residents</p>
<p>1246. Seems unfair increases, especially given current status of economy</p>
<p>1247. It seems we are being forced to pay more, to get less, whilst our wages, when they exist, remain stagnant.</p>
<p>1248. I think it is outrageous that you can increase my rates by \$200 pa with no additional services.</p>
<p>1249. For those whose rates increase, it's too large an increase. It's unjustified, particularly given the decrease in quality of services eg garbage collection and street cleaning and in local information in council newsletters. For some properties it's also too great an increase eg approx \$190 extra for a semi but \$140 extra for an apartment.</p>

1250.	While it makes sense to have a single equitable rating structure across the IWLGA I cannot support support the proposed structure because: sudden increases - up to 24% for some - are too dramatic and unacceptable in the proposed time frame and the current economic situation; an incremental adjustment structure is needed to modify the impact of such huge changes so that people on Job Seeker/JobKeeper (only until March), those on limited incomes, self funded retirees, and people who are uncertain of their financial future can budget accordingly; amalgamation has been in place for a considerable time now but ratepayers have been given a mere 6 weeks over Christmas, COVID and public holidays to digest the scant information provided, with a council decision and submission in February, an iPart determination in March and implementation in July ; furthermore, it is unclear how initial grants to assist councils with amalgamation issues have been used; there is no information on the benefits of this structure either for those who pay more or those who pay less in terms of amenity and services
1251.	My rates are going up by 24%. I can guarantee there won't be a corresponding increase in the level of service. I don't support the structure. If it goes ahead, a fund should be established to invest in the street scapes of Dulwich hill, or fast track the Dulwich hill greenway. The old Leichhardt council has much better community infrastructure and streetscape and it's time for Dulwich hill to catch up.
1252.	I resent the political spin saying 'making rates fairer'. I was part of Marrickville Council before the enforced amalgamation. I had no rights of objection. It was forced on me. The rates for Marrickville Council were lower than the other two councils and the services were better. I have had no benefit from the amalgamation. The new rates structure is an admission that there has been no savings from it. If the new rates structure goes ahead the residents of what was formerly Marrickville Council will be the ones paying for the prior inefficiencies of the other two Councils areas. My rates will increase by \$300 but I have not received any benefit from the forced amalgamation. This is a total con job that punishes former Marrickville Council residents for having been in a more efficient council. I don't have any income at the moment and am trying to live off savings. If it goes ahead coping with this financially will be difficult. The whole thing was completely political and there was never a cost/benefit analysis that the new council had to demonstrate and be accountable for.
1253.	Unfair and inequitable.
1254.	It's appalling. The services are much worse than before the amalgamation. Our verges are not cut, there is rubbish everywhere and now you want me to pay extra?
1255.	The so-called harmonisation on one hand makes sense, however currently it doesn't seem fair or reasonable - since some areas are experiencing REDUCED services than previously, but may be paying MORE as per the proposed rate increase. The former Marrickville Council was a well performing council in all areas - services, accessibility to councillors, financial management etc. The forced amalgamation by the State Liberal government, of 3 LGAs in to one mega council area, has NOT brought any increased benefits in terms of services, of accessibility to councillors AND to council offices (eg no Marrickville based office now), no financial benefits in fact the opposite, etc etc etc. There is also concern that some remaining community services will continue to be cut in some areas - one simple example, ex Marrickville area has unlimited free council cleanups, whereas ex Ashfield and Leichhardt areas did and do not - as part of economical rationalisation it is feared that ex Marrickville area will lose this very important service, since it experiences a considerable amount of general rubbish dumpings and a high transient population. This is not the fault of the new IWC, as you struggle to accomodate the demands of the merger.



	But it also doesn't make it right to give away with one hand, and take with the other. If you have an ear to the ground, you would know that the majority of the IWC community is unhappy, in one respect or another or many, with council performance or lack of, responsiveness to complaints, maintenance of streets and parks, etc etc etc - much more so I imagine than previously. I don't know how you should address this, but I do hope that a change in State government can amend some of the inequities forced on local government recently. Local government is actually the most important level of government to any community, and it is absolutely disgraceful what the Liberal government has done to reduce the effectiveness and power of local councils.
1256.	We're already lumped with being under a stupidly large local council area, and now this. Not happy!
1257.	The former Marrickville council residents are being punished for having a council that was a better money manager. A house in Balmain is not a house in Marrickville. I support any rate rise being phased in Over 4 years
1258.	We didn't my support the amalgamation of inner west councils and shouldn't have to be pay higher rates as a result.
1259.	Rates go up and we're struggling financially due to COVID. Pay hasn't gone up. Family has decreased funding yet inner west wants us to pay more. Where's the fairness in that
1260.	If you wish to make it fairer then start again with a charge for each Residence, instead if an arbitrary percentage of Unimproved Land Value. Each household in the InnerWest region has access access to the many facilities. This access is not means tested, but available to all. Therefore the total costs should be shared equally by all. Simple math would be to divide the total budget by the number of households and charge each household the same amount. Whilst not 100% fair it is significantly better than what is currently the situation. Anyone who is in a vulnerable situation (e.g. elderly widowers should be able to claim a discount).
1261.	I do not know how you can increase my rates when I am not being provided services of an acceptable level. I have had to call council myself (you have records) to have my street cleaned etc & my rear lane weeded and cleaned. My area theses days looks like living in the ghetto. I have really noticed this since amalgamation so I really don't see why I should pay an extra \$260 a year (your calculation). I am not happy. Friends live in other areas around me (DULWICH hill etc) and have the grass at the front of their properties mowed & streets are always clean and tidy & the trees are maintained. My property fronts the railway line so we already need less maintenance but you want me to pay more. Very wrong
1262.	I don't work have three children and can't afford the current rates as it is!! Every time the rates arrive it's at a bad time as they coincide with other bills and are so expensive.
1263.	My family lost a lot of income and I'm going to struggle to pay more.
1264.	We are paying significantly more money and receiving significantly less service.for our money The council amalgamation has made it much worse.for marrickville residents and now the fees go up. Its outrageous.
1265.	Since council amalgamation services have not improved in the slightest. It was supposed to cost us less yet rates will increase for Marrickville. My own rates are set to increase approx 20%! Far more than standard cpi. This is too much in one go
1266.	The rates should be location based needs specific. Newtown needs different to Ashfield with bigger blocks

1267.	I do not support the ongoing increase to rates in the Marrickville area. While there have been some great inclusions recently (library and pool) we have paid for these with increases. I do not believe services match the increase, especially when other more affluent areas will enjoy a decrease in rate costs.
1268.	The council should not be putting up rates when the services have slumped since the merger. My bins are left half way down the back lane, the back lane doesn't get cleaned or weeded anymore & the parking rangers don't even come down my street anymore which of course means parking is mayhem again. Marrickville Council was an efficient council, why should we have to pay for the inefficiencies of 1 greedy ex council.
1269.	The amalgamation was touted as a way to save money, so I'm keen to understand what efficiencies council has gained. Assuming cost saving would offset any discrepancy in rates. Rather than a particular rate payer set taking the lionshare of the increase (ex marrickville council rate payers)
1270.	The changes are unfair, illogically applied, and benefit a few to the detriment of others. The new rates are based on assumptions of wealth rather than land value and size. The "fact sheets" provided are nothing more than propaganda aimed at a primary school level and fail to provide the detailed analysis that would give the transparency the community deserves
1271.	The price increase is crazy, especially when wealthy areas are getting a rate cut - but if you are part of the Marrickville council you get shafted.
1272.	I resent having my rates increase solely in order to support ratepayers in other parts of the council area. This is terrible legislation. Nothing will change from my feedback so I can only indicate my anger at the ballot box. If I was seeing an increase or improvement in council services I'd be less bothered but all I see if I'll be paying more for no change
1273.	As a resident of the former Marrickville council area, my rates will be going up, yet the services are lacking. For example our nature strip has not been mown for weeks on end (it's not the rain), as the local park has been done multiple times in between! The garbage collection now happens in evening peak hour traffic backing up traffic in the area. Why should I pay more when services currently provided is not even adequate. Are services also going to be 'harmonised' across each old council area. I.e. some people can access booked council cleanups, while others can't etc.
1274.	Should not increase rates that are already high, especially when IWC cannot even complete simple tasks like emptying bins. super slow replies to issues & if I'm honest replies that clearly show 90% of IWC workers actually don't care about what we are calling about. I feel like most of the time I speak to a worker they want to get you off the phone so they can go on a break/leave for the day
1275.	NO! What a disgustingly unkind proposal. People who aren't able to afford \$850+ a week have coloured the streets for decades bringing life and vibrancy. Marrickville can be the massive diverse hub after the city, or it can be another suburb that grows into a soulless LEGO town full of pretend rich people and richness.
1276.	Its a barely liveable rent at right now and you want to increase it?? Are you mad?
1277.	How can we get the State govt to allow rates assessment to be more fairly based? When the councils were amalgamated we were assured costs would go down as amalgamation was painted as an efficiency measure. What a joke! Less services, less access, and rising costs!

1278.	I believe during a pandemic is really unfair to increase rent exponentially as not many people have the luxury to have a job and pay rent. Having a shelter should be a right not a luxury. Sydney innerwest has already destroyed by aggressive housing and gentrification.
1279.	I think the current system is unfair - I own a 1 bedroom unit, and the amounts I pay are the same as units with more floor space! I also pay more rates in this rented unit than at my home in North Sydney Council, which has a larger floor plan (2 bedrooms + small garden). Increasing my rates further make no sense to me at all. The services at Inner West are no better than previously.
1280.	This does make the levels more average, but greatly disadvantages people on lower incomes who depend on the lower rates. This will cause people on lower incomes further away from the CBD.
1281.	Raising rates with a decline in services (it took months to get potholes repaired in Eltham St/The Boulevarde, these were strangely repaired when the motive of rate rises came out and library hours in branches not increased) to name a few of these. Combined with increase in larger restaurants dental complexes it seems like a grab for more cash and nothing for residents in terms of better services.
1282.	Unclear why Leichhardt and Balmain goes down and our apartment in Marrickville goes up \$140 a year! Significant amount.
1283.	I am not in favor of such a proposal, as the increase is substantial and not in line with CPI. The harmonization sales pitch is a load of hog wash in order to transition smoothly to the new rating system and satisfy the NSW State Government amalgamation policy. Such a substantial increase is not warranted and is unfair and unjust at this time. There has been an increase in land values in recent times coupled by councils increased taxing rate factor, L.V \$ 1,420,000 X .0012087 in 2019/20 to L.V\$1,600,000 X .00103706 in 2020/21 to then L.V \$1,600,000 X .0012841125 in 2021/22 hence, a total increase of \$ 395.28 in one financial year. That is outrageous!!!! Simultaneously, we are being told that the change to rates will not increase the total rate revenue received by the Inner West Council !!!????
1284.	I think it is fair to have the same rates across all of the council area.
1285.	I think the new system will be fairer.
1286.	If this goes through I won't be able to afford to live in the home I've had for 5 years and may end up homeless
1287.	It would negatively impact hundreds of lives, please don't. Have you forgotten about the pandemic too?
1288.	This is going to cause rent hikes and further gentrification in an area that houses a lot of low income people. You will be pricing people out of their homes and this is not fair.
1289.	My rate does increase by 18% in the middle of pandemic while my wage has increased just 0.3%! What you are planning to do it outrageous selfish and inconsiderate!
1290.	I and so many others will be burdened with relocation as the increase in rates will mean that marriville is no longer an affordable area to live. Esp in this current climate - pls reconsider as this will have a real + negative impact on so many communities that enjoy and give marriville its charm and liveliness.
1291.	Any increase in rates means the government can give that much less. The government wouldn't suggest this unless it was going to save them money and consequently cost the rate payers.
1292.	Increases to minimum rates will be passed on to renters, for whom the cost of living is already a struggle. A crowded job market and casualized, insecure work is rife in the area. Without protections for renters, increases will not only push lower income earners into further poverty, but completely out of their rentals, with little to no savings and no options.



1293.	I am opposed to the rate increases in the former Marrickville Council area. I will not be offered any additional value from my rates going up, so why would I be in support of it. If we have to harmonise, I would support a phased harmonisation to slowly bring them all in line over several years.
1294.	I would be cautious about higher rate prices being passed onto renters. With rental prices being high in the area already, putting renters under further rental stress could push culture makers out of the community, which would be a great shame.
1295.	Living in Stanmore is not the same as someone living in Balmain therefore the needs of the council are not the same.
1296.	Proposed new council rates will become unaffordable to those long term residents who have budgeted on lower amounts. The impacts of COVID 19 on employment and the timing of this rate increase is particularly challenging. Since amalgamation, the frequency and quality of street and park cleanliness has reduced significantly. Paying more for a substandard service is not appropriate.
1297.	The increases will disadvantage poorer people. This includes the many artists who reside in the Council area, many of whom have suffered from a lack of work in 2020.
1298.	I agree it is necessary to look at rates paid across the areas covered by the merger of the three councils and come up with a rate that is "fair" to all three areas. But I don't think it's fair that I have to pay a higher rate than my friends in Ashfield. I am 75 yrs old, not on a pension and live alone. I can not afford another increase in my rates.
1299.	How is this new proposed system equitable if it does not take into consideration the living wages and incomes of everyone within the area. I have lived in this area almost my entire life, now there are people who are moving here and gentrifying the area and making everything cost more and they should be the ones that have to take on these rates. It should be placed on people who have the income to cover the rates not everyone that is not equity. Enough people have been pushed out of the area already due to gentrification this will result in a mass exodus of all the people who have made the Inner West what it is today. The First Nation, migrants, the artists communities and all the other long standing communities who have played an integral part in building this LGA to have the reputation it has now.
1300.	Lovely if you are in Balmain, fkn bad for us.
1301.	For residents, rates are inextricably tied to service levels, which sadly seem to be deteriorating in Marrickville (apart from some parks management, garbage collection and Marrickville library), and there is little sense given of an overarching direction going forward. Council's silence during the worst of COVID19 was inexcusable, and its eventual 'help out a neighbour' strategy was shocking in its haphazard nature, and for the lack of security safeguards. This reflects a lack of care for long term residents, particularly the aged, disabled and ethnically isolated, and is also visible in things like the progressive loss of public toilets and benches. This is a dynamic, diverse area: we deserve better. We don't want to pay for better in bayside areas, which seems to be the key message. This rates harmonisation strategy is an overly simplistic, accountant's type approach which fails to take people and differences in service levels across different areas into account. It presumes service levels are equal and does not take into account the past effectiveness/ wastage re financial management. eg. Leichhardt council has been notoriously wasteful in the past. Marrickville has nothing in common with Leichhardt and bayside suburbs and yet it



<p>appears that we will be subsidising people and businesses in those areas for no return. As a consequence, rate 'Equalisation' will erode the level of service residents in Marrickville can expect to receive.</p> <p>The failure of Council to provide options reflects poorly on its regard for the community, and it seems to have regressed in its communications, particularly in its efforts to dress this up as a simple arrangement. Again, this is characteristic of an accountant's type approach to rate setting, and a lack of suitable focus on community needs. There is no clear link made between the structure of the rates and planned future directions (community development, business development, environmental improvement strategies, arts development etc).</p>	
1302.	The new system would raise rates far too high for many, this is not equitable for the range of incomes which reside within the inner west.
1303.	The effects of the new rates will effect tenants of these areas, as we could reasonably expect rent to increase. This area is home to a lot of lower income earners, people with casual or unstable jobs, and the rent increase would push a lot of them out of their homes -- these people are already struggling now.
1304.	My rates are going to increase by at least \$140! I simply cannot afford that! I'm in the Travel Industry (cruising!), and have been on Jobkeepers since April last year. No clue what will happen to my job come April, but this increase is totally obscene.
1305.	The rate increases are too expensive and not affordable for most middle class people.
1306.	Squeezing out a lot of people from the area who currently have affordable housing. We do not agree with this new rates structure.
1307.	I'm not against a rate increase but I don't see anything happening in my area. The footpaths are broken and never kept nice. The locals are the ones who seem to care. And there is also a large disparity of incomes and facilities between many areas. Lastly for me the rate jump is huge for a year. If it were slowly upped rather than one large amount that might be better.
1308.	It will make Marrickville an elitist area and those in a regular wage will not be able to afford to live in the area. It will force people to leave their homes.
1309.	Increasing minimum rates is an unconscionable inequality outcome, an issue which is not defrayed at all by exemption schemes.
1310.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in less well-off parts of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. (The median value of a 3 bedroom house in Balmain is 36% higher than Marrickville. The median family income at the 2016 census was 59% higher for Leichhardt than Marrickville.)</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. (One council should be more efficient than the former 3 councils.)</li> <li>5. Rates for the old Marrickville LGA have already increased by 17% since 2016 when the Inner West Council was formed; further increases will worsen the issue.</li> </ol>



6.	It is based on the false premise that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services
7.	Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system should be devised.
1311.	It is beyond the reach of many hard working people already struggling to live in an area remotely close to where they work
1312.	I already live pay check to pay check and share my accommodation with housemates without steady income, some of us have to travel 45 minutes to work already, this could affect our rent and make us move even further away from employment
1313.	Marrickville Council provided excellent service to ratepayers prior to amalgamation. Since then maintenance has declined (street cleaning, verge maintenance etc.) Under this proposal my rates will increase by approx 25% for a poorer service. A fairer proposal would be to decrease higher rated properties to match former Marrickville and for Inner West to become more efficient. The system of rating based on VG's market values is also unfair and disadvantages those on fixed/low incomes who cannot keep pace with unrealistic property valuations.
1314.	Our rates will be increasing at the same time that services (eg roads and roadside maintenance) is deteriorating in comparison to those provided by Marrickville Council. Surely, harmonisation should not leave us worse off than under our previous council.
1315.	ITs difficult to find out how my rates are spent. Information is vague and complicated, not readily accessible.
1316.	I oppose the inner west harmonisation proposal for the following reasons and kindly ask you consider this submission: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will introduce substantial increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the local government area whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas. As a result this will not represent a fair distribution among members of the LGA.</li> <li>2. It will not result in a fair way of charging for council services There is no data this will result in value for money generally or for individual rate payers There is no proposal to improve services or infrastructure for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already increased substantially since the new council was formed. This proposal will make it worse.</li> <li>3. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services.</li> <li>4. Council delivered a significant surplus in 2020 that could be utilised to reduce rates. It also does not appear that this proposal is justified.</li> <li>5. It does not represent fair distribution amongst council constituents forming Inner west Council.</li> <li>6. Its is not equitable and is disproportionate.</li> <li>7. Should be implemented as a staged process on the basis services and roadworks are improved.</li> <li>8. There are a number of improvements generally that could take place such as improvement in road work, implementing traffic lights where required, improving road safety , improving footpaths and walkways and general council cleaning services.</li> </ol>
1317.	I oppose the inner west harmonisation proposal for the following reasons and kindly ask you consider this submission:

<p>It will introduce substantial increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the local government area whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas. As a result this will not represent a fair distribution among members of the LGA.</p> <p>It will not result in a fair way of charging for council services There is no data this will result in value for money generally or for individual rate payers There is no proposal to improve services or infrastructure for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already increased substantially since the new council was formed. This proposal will make it worse.</p> <p>It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services.</p> <p>Council delivered a significant surplus in 2020 that could be utilised to reduce rates. It also does not appear that this proposal is justified.</p> <p>It does not represent fair distribution amongst council constituents forming Inner west Council.</p> <p>It is not equitable and is disproportionate.</p> <p>Should be implemented as a staged process on the basis services and roadworks are improved.</p> <p>There are a number of improvements generally that could take place such as improvement in road work, implementing traffic lights where required, improving road safety, improving footpaths and walkways and general council cleaning services.</p>	
1318.	I don't think this makes sense. Why should we pay more so that people from more affluent areas pay less. The council amalgamation was supposed to reduce costs not drive up rates
1319.	It's only fair as land values have increased in areas such as Dulwich Hill and Marrickville.
1320.	<p>It will introduce substantial increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the local government area whilst decreasing them in wealthier areas. As a result this will not represent a fair distribution among members of the LGA.</p> <p>It will not result in a fair way of charging for council services There is no data this will result in value for money generally or for individual rate payers There is no proposal to improve services or infrastructure for those who would pay more or make council more efficient to reduce rates. Rates in some areas have already increased substantially since the new council was formed. This proposal will make it worse.</p>
1321.	Inequity – residential rates in the former Ashfield and Leichhardt Council areas (where there is arguably greater amenity) are dropping by 4-20% whereas rates in the former Marrickville Council area are increasing by up to 24%.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Level of service – there is no evidence of any improvements to levels of service that could justify such an increase. The closure of the Petersham service centre, for example, has forced residents to travel to Leichhardt for any face to face services.</li> <li>· Timing and degree of the increase – in the current economic climate, with our communities struggling with unprecedented upheaval and uncertainty, this increase is excessive and poorly timed. It would have been more appropriate to introduce an incremental increase over a 5-10 year timeframe.</li> <li>· Poor notification process – many of the people I contacted in the area were unaware of this change (either not notified or didn't pay much attention to the letter that was sent). Given the large increase proposed, Council should have sent a reminder of the 7 Feb 'your say' deadline.</li> <li>· Survey questions – seem inappropriate. Eg asking respondents to say if they agree with the minimum household and business rates - when there is no explanation as to how the proposed rating system works, and how these amounts are calculated</li> <li>· Additional rates charges – there is no indication whether the other rates charges (Standard Charge and Stormwater Levy) will increase. in any case they would be an additional cost to the base rate.</li> </ul>
<p>1322. Those of us in the old Marrickville council area will be paying significantly higher rates and receiving no additional services. We are effectively subsidising other council areas that were not as well managed. We are also in the middle of a global pandemic and economic crisis, and any increase should be delayed or phased in gradually over time.</p>
<p>1323. It is very clear that the underlying social demographic of the old councils is very different. You cannot compare the working class background of Marrickville with the waterfront views of Balmain.</p>
<p>1324. It is acknowledged that setting a new rate structure is a complex process, however the information provided to the community was inadequate in outlining the methodology for the minimum residential rate and business rate – in particular how the rate increases will improve or increase service delivery across the local government area .</p> <p>The Council was formed nearly 5 years ago and many of the services and programs have not been harmonised - therefore savings and efficiencies in providing a harmonised set of services and programs is not yet known. The implementation of a new rate should not occur until full harmonisation of services and programs is undertaken and in place. The proposed rate structure will result in rate increases of up to 24%. Such increases are totally inappropriate when compared to the activities in the current economy where inflation is close to zero, interest rates are 2%, wage growth is stagnant and the unemployment rate is at over 6% .</p>
<p>1325. It is a straight out rate increase - particularly for the marrickville council area. That this is happening at the same time as our services have been reduced in quality and frequency is provocative. Our streets are dirtier, there is less maintenance of the streetscape, rubbish being collected in peak hour times causing traffic chaos, collection of household waste reduced with less opportunity. We were forced to amalgamate, we are 'now the poor relations' - there is nothing fair about this one size fits all approach.</p>
<p>1326. Rates in former Marrickville council are rising when former Ashfield &amp; Leichhardt council areas are dropping. The rise in The Marrickville area rates follows a substantial land valuation increase only 2 months ago. This results in a 24% increase for me this year. This is inequitable and should at least be incrementally introduced. The level of service has not increased at all &amp; is not reflected in the rate increase. Where is the integration of services which has been separately funded?</p>
<p>1327. A 20% increase in one year is significant</p>



1328.	Please don't raise the rates. You'll be pushing poor people out of the community.
1329.	I've just moved into the house I purchased and already rates are going up. My neighbor who has lived in her house for 30+ years is worried she can't afford these increases. To boot it appears some people will have rates reduced. None of this seems logical. Council has an \$80 million surplus in 2020 - why isn't this being used to lower rates?
1330.	I'm worried it will be difficult for people in these areas whose rates will increase. While property prices might be higher in say Marrickville, the demographic is still very low SEC, and many minorities such as the Vietnamese and Greek families will really struggle in particular (very cash poor). I'm unclear on whether anyone's rates are going down, so can't comment on that.
1331.	Please don't push out lower income people from this area. They are what makes this place great.
1332.	The proposed structure disproportionately impacts ratepayers of the former Marrickville Council, who are now getting a significant reduction in services as compared to when un-amalgamated, yet having to pay a huge amount more. Council needs to be more efficient and harmonise rates for all residents in line with the former Marrickville council which was clearly able to do much more with less money, rather than the other way around. Amalgamation was supposed to provide reduced costs and create more efficiencies, however it seems to be doing the complete opposite!
1333.	I am happy that my rates will decrease, but in other areas where rates increase I hope they also receive an increase in services. Marrickville is dirty and the rubbish collecting in gutters, streets and footpaths needs sorting. Look at the top of Malcoff street in the gutter near the horizontal parking - always litter ready to wash into water ways. I also think council needs to get back to basics. Leichhardt has gone down hill since the amalgamation. Go back to civic pride! Clean streets, regular rubbish collection, mowing, greening. Get rid of all the other nonsense feel good politically correct programs eating up our rates.
1334.	Why is my home paying more? What is the benefit of the new rate structure? I am a widow and pensioner and lived here since 1982. What is the new council offering with this structure?
1335.	The Inner West Council has not been maintaining footpaths/parks (an easily noticed service provided by council) as well as the former Marrickville Council and yet we are being asked to pay more. In our nearby pocket park, the garden beds have not been mulched since the council merger, once done yearly by the previous council. Verge and park mowing is not being done as regularly as previously and gets high enough in the park to be unsafe for elderly people to traverse. Weeds are not being sprayed regularly and dumped rubbish sit on the streets for weeks. Footpaths have been dug up at the Dulwich Hill shops for the NBN and the paving after years still waits to be repaired. And the xmas decorations are an insult compared to our considerate former council. The efficiencies of the council merger have not eventuated unless not providing a service is seen as an efficiency gain. I'm not sure about fairness here but how does rate increases in some areas stack up with reductions in others where property values far greater.
1336.	It will be passed on to renters who are struggling to make ends meet in an increasingly hostile area, but still staffing the places (often underpaid) and trying to live here.

1337.	Since amalgamation the Marrickville LGA has suffered through a loss of our excellent services. These particularly relate to the now, lack of, responsiveness of garbage clean up services and street maintenance and footpath repair. So not in favour of the increase in rates given the fairly poor service we (Marrickville LGA) are forced to have.
1338.	We're pensioners and both my wife and I are sick. This extra money is going to be hard to pay.
1339.	As a resident of Ashfield - it's about time we paid rates proportionate to the services we are receiving.
1340.	It's only fair for everyone to be treated equally.
1341.	I cannot justify the proposed rate structure which is an increase in the rate fee for myself. I am unable to pay the rate fee now and it is not possible for me to fund an increase. Why should people in an apartment pay the same as a building lot when we are occupying a smaller area. The services provided by the council have deteriorated, footpaths are no longer maintained, with leaves and rubbish left on paths, weeds grow all over paths and not sprayed. Gutters are not cleaned leaving a build-up of leaves and rubbish to block the main drain and water floods onto road and footpath when it rains. Trees overhang low onto the roadway and I have witnessed on Salisbury road a semi-trailer ripping down branches as it drove through, the flying branches just missing a couple putting their children into their car. Garbage trucks empty bins and the rubbish flies down onto the pavement it is then left there to blow down the street. I have a photo of grass on Douglas just before the intersection of Percival, the grass is knee-high and does not get mowed unless we ring. Also I do not need to use the rubbish bins so why should I pay for this.
1342.	The rates structure is biased against house owners to the benefit of unit owners. The rates charges are not related to the use of Council's services but to an unrelated charging system.
1343.	I'm most disappointed that the Council is yet again raising rates in my area. My rates have already gone up around 20% over the last few years and all I see is the Council approving more and more over development in the area which is destroying my community here. I'm a self funded retiree (not by choice) and these increasing costs seriously impact my finances. Also, the Council's letter is, in my view, misleading regarding these increases. It was only through talking to a neighbour that I discovered harmonisation would mean a massive increase in our rates while wealth suburbs benefit. No where does the letter make this impact clear and that is dishonest. I STRONGLY OBJECT TO HARMONISATION AND THE DISHONEST PROCESS COUNCIL IS FOLLOWING HERE
1344.	No because it supports other areas like Balmain, and Summer Hill with much higher property values, while "bashing" people with lesser property values, ie Dulwich Hill, so a lot of people can't afford it in these times. Not everyone in this council area owns a waterfront mansion,
1345.	I endorse in principle the aim of constructing an equitable rates structure, but this could mean many things. I don't have sufficient information about Council's proposal to form an opinion.
1346.	The proposed increase to my property represents an INCREDIBLE increase of 22.93% !!!! This is NOT acceptable !!! I refute your greedy stance !! What is the justification when the annual cpi index has been sitting on around 1% for several years. Come on council...pull the other one.
1347.	Absurd and unsustainable

1348.	My residential address is going 23.82% which is totally unacceptable when the CPI is hovering around 1%. My commercial property related rates are going up 22.93% which far exceeds any realistic business expectations considering business activity does not respond to market forces and on average there is always a period of time commercial properties are not tenanted notwithstanding the grace period of 3-months free rent for a new tenant. This is also a ridiculous proposal during Covid times.
1349.	My 90 yo and 87 yo grandparents home (since 1963) will now increase by 23.82 %. You should be ashamed of yourselves !!!! CPI has been sitting on 1% for years.
1350.	An increase of 23.82% and 22.93% is not acceptable.... CPI is 1%.

<b>Q4. (Optional) Comment about the minimum residential rate (limit 200 words). 869 comments</b>	
1.	The council needs to get its own finances in order to substantiate inconsistent rate rises.
2.	Why should former MMC ratepayers be punished for the incompetence and corruption of former councils of which they had no part? It's not "equitable" to punish ratepayers who chose to live in better run council areas, and reward those who didn't. This is obscene.
3.	See my comments above
4.	People cannot expect services without increasing rates. Minimum rates should be much higher
5.	Council should outline how it came to the determination of this amount? What policy documents outline how the minimum charge will be governed? Will the minimum rate be included in the annual pegging change?
6.	Pay too much now for the poor or nil services received.
7.	The increase is too high
8.	I wonder who benefits from this? Places in Birchgrove and water front properties cannot be expected to have decreases in their rates. It's almost like the mentality of the Catholic school system of taking from the poor to fund the rich.
9.	I paid the rate equivalent to a house rate at the Canada Bay council area, but I actually only have a two bedrooms townhouse. The current rate is far too much.



10. It should not go up for apartment dwellers at least. The NSW Government should be sacked for the way it has handled the council amalgamation issue.
11. It would seem reasonable.
12. No evidence that Council is trying to reduce costs and it has failed to justify the minimum rate
13. I note the minimum is \$5 more than my current rates.
14. We do not support the proposal for the reason shown above
15. It should be a flat rate of \$850 for everybody - not a minimum rate. There are many ageing and retired residents in the area, myself included. How do you expect us to fund an increase? You are penalizing residents who may have bought larger land sized properties decades ago.
16. Unfair for many low income residents
17. This is very unfair for apartments with one person living in them, as opposed to a dwelling with multiple occupants. It should be based on how many people are actually using council services, not a blanket rate. It's also a large increase on the current rates bill.
18. No additional services provided for the residents and local businesses, how do you justify the rate increase. Especially in this pandemic period, it will increase the hardship for the wider local community. This is not necessary and should be stopped!!
19. It is way higher than what I currently pay, FOR NO EXTRA VALUE
20. you have not given me any current situation information to work with so the questions are meaningless but assuming there are probably winners and losers, the same arguments at Q2 will apply, so I copy and paste here. Some (old) council areas were less efficient or they provided better services than others, other reasons don't come to mind. So some pay for inefficiencies elsewhere or for better services that are further from home or are inaccessible because of the way they operate. The rates should only be equalised when efficiencies and services are gained/lost in all areas. For example, I want the regular household rubbish removal that Leichhardt has instead of the hopeless ring this week and we will pick up in 3 weeks time service of Marrickville. Any way you cut it, some are paying for costs and benefits of others while they keep their costs and benefits but get them for less. Equalize the costs and benefits and then you can equalise the rates! This stinks!
21. the min rate sounds reasonable but cannot say I fully support it as there is inadequate information - what will the max cap be? is there a max? the min rate should not be more than that of businesses
22. The minimum residential rate increases my by almost 20% which I find quite incredible during a pandemic.
23. The increase from my current rate of \$710 to \$850 in a year is too great and will add greatly to my financial burden
24. It affects us adversely. We already have a footpath that has not been upgraded in the twenty years we have lived here. Not good enough.
25. You cannot impose a minimum residential rate (increase) without improving services. Try keeping the streets clean Try fixing footpaths that are uneven Try prioritising people over trees that are dangerous and continually drop branches Try cleaning out storm water drains so the streets don't flood each time it rains Try not outsourcing functions to labour hire companies that provide sub standard services. King Street is a prime example - City of Sydney side is well maintained, Inner West side is appalling
26. Increase the minimum rates.

27. It will be a 23% rise from my old rates. I thought the joining of multiple councils was supposed to lower cost which could flow down to residents. But it looks like maladministration has done nothing but add to costs which of course will again be Borne by the rate payer. If the ATO can give me a graph that tells me where my tax money is being spent why can't the council tell me exactly where my rates are being spent?
28. Completely unfair and unreasonable and I thought this was a labor council supporting its residents!
29. It will be a 23% rise from my old rates. I thought the joining of multiple councils was supposed to lower cost which could flow down to residents. But it looks like maladministration has done nothing but add to costs which of course will again be Borne by the rate payer. If the ATO can give me a graph that tells me where my tax money is being spent why can't the council tell me exactly where my rates are being spent?
30. Spread it out across the suburbs evenly or not at all
31. Minimum rate increase is a vague figure. As residents are without income due to the 2019 pandemic for the majority of the 2020 year and well beyond, I'm amazed that the council is going ahead and using the harmonise rates law as an excuse to increase rates but continue to decrease any and all services that the council provide.
32. I cant really comment as I don't know what the previous minimum amount was (if there was one) and what it represented
33. Who is get this rate? Your calculator said I would be paying far more!
34. I'm currently paying \$710pa. This represents a significant increase during a pandemic / recession.
35. Same as above
36. minimum residential rate of \$850 per quarter is a 34-36% increase per quarter on whats being paid now. The legal guide lines of pegging rates to valuation of a 3% increase is over looked and is not conclusive to a harmonic decision. Willing to defend proposal in consumer law court..
37. I am a pensioner and my rates will rise to the minimum \$850 which is a 33% rise, a very large increase. Will the pensioner rebate remain the same or will it help alleviate this rise?
38. It is grossly unfair to have a flat rate when everyone's property is a different shape, size and configuration.
39. Unfair for small land blocks
40. Everyone should be charged on an equitable basis.
41. This is nothing but a money grab from the Inner West Council.
42. It too expensive
43. This will force many residents to pay extra for their rates and push more into financial stress.
44. I need more detailed information - who is this for
45. This creates greater hardship for residents and is nothing more than a cash grab by the greedy Inner West Council.
46. The minimum rate, should if anything, be higher.
47. No as the rates are increasing more than 20% in 1 year
48. rates should depend on UCV and the number of toilets on a property
49. What additional service will we be getting for the \$200 per year rise in rates.

50. I have no issue with the concept of a minimum rate (subject to discounts for pensioners), but cannot comment on whether this is a reasonable amount to cover basic services. More information should be provided to back up that figure.
51. The minimum is 20% above what I previously paid which is an onerous and unfair increase on a lower value property
52. It's too high.
53. Please explain how with such a large increase there will not be an increase in revenue
54. Minimum rates serve no purpose.
55. Absolutely ridiculous! Even at the current structure our bins get missed collections, council never sweep our street of deciduous leaf matter, street gutters and stormwater cause build up on private property and nature strips are rarely maintained. We have been left to raise issues with the ombudsman due to council incompetence and lack of action. An increase in rates will not result in an increase of service for the rate payer!!! As a resident who now has a permanent bike lane at the front of their property I will be expecting council to diligently maintain this eyesore. The more money residence pay will directly reflect the level of service expected from council.
56. Its a 20% increase - has Council gone nuts ?
57. It was probably overdue for a rise.
58. You have not explained what the old minimum rate was, and what financial impact your purposed change will have on residents.
59. A 25% increase in 1 year is completely unreasonable. Services have lapsed in 2020, nothing additional to warrant this increase in my eyes.
60. Size of properties vary insanely.
61. Outrageous. My whole neighbourhood is filthy and has been all year - no kerbside collection, no even occasional clean-up, no council garden maintenance, no graffiti removal. Value for money 😞 my wife and I have both fallen over from the uneven and broken footpath on Charles street stanmore. This is a safety hazard and we will not accept another issue. We have taken tens of photos for documentation and will be taking this further (possibly court action) if we have another incident. FIX OUR BLOODY FOOTPATHS AND ROADS ON CHARLES STREET STANMORE. BOTH NEED TO BE RESURFACED, NOT JUST PATCHED.
62. Rates should be affordable not capped
63. Should be higher. Some residents utilise services like all others in the municipality yet they pay much less because they are on a less valuable piece of land.
64. No justification for increasing rates.
65. A minimum rate is a minimum. My rates will be above this but it also highlights that the baseline is too high which puts my rates at an increase of 25% compared to last year. Also, the idea looks like a great marketing tool as most people might assume lower rates next year, if they do not do their homework.
66. This rate would increase my rates by \$200 per quarter. This is an unreasonable increase not even in line with inflation rates.
67. As above. I am 91 and will be able to afford it.
68. As mentioned above the residential amount is excessively high compared to other councils. Why don't you publish a comparison list with other councils so people can see how you have come to these amounts. Councils need to be transparent with regard to their costs.
69. Until everything is back to normal the rates should stay as is for retirees and those affected by the pandemic and out of work or on short pay.



70. Too high. Why should residents of the former Marrickville council area have their rates increased to approximate those of Leichhardt? Why not the other way round?
71. Do not support changes
72. It is far too high
73. Personally represents an increase of almost 25%, how can it be justified. Disproportionate burden for strata owners.
74. Depends on what is delivered for the extra service ?
75. I don't see the logic in a minimum rate. A one person apartment should not have to pay so much.
76. This is a 47% increase ! When added to the rates increase the overall hike is 23% !! All in one year. What will we get for this huge hike. We have seen a gradual erosion of facilities such as removal of some parking in our street (Cardigan) Also, the new Bike lane on the road leading up to the station will effectively mean commuters will no longer be able to drive to the train. Timed parking for non residents in the street would be useful but the council "experts" have deemed it unnecessary - presumably they don't live here. What are we going to get for the extra \$647 a year ?
77. This is too high, I have a tiny 1 bedroom unit and I have to pay \$850???
78. In the case of my property, the new minimum residential rate of \$850 will necessitate a 20% increase in the rates I presently pay. This is at a time when wages are stagnant and have been for years, and COVID continues to impact livelihoods and the financial affairs of families. An increase of 20% at this time, with no increase to the services being provided by council is unconscionable and grossly unfair. Families like mine cannot keep taking hits like this from local, state and federal governments. Please have a heart and understand the terrible timing of this proposed increase given the current economic situation in Australia, and specifically in the Inner West. This is just another hit to hardworking families who are already struggling.
79. I am not sure how many people are already paying below this for me to be able to comment and say whether its fair or not. Ultimately sounds like rich people getting a better deal than poor people
80. A minimum residential rate will only hurt low income earners, have the higher end of town pay a fairer share.
81. The minimum rate structure is regressive and charges a 10th percentile property owner at a rate of over 3.5x a property at the 90th percentile. Having a minimum is like if there was a flat amount of income tax for anyone earning up to \$50,000
82. Very difficult to support something when you do not have anything to compare it to or know the full context behind this proposal. It raises more questions than answers. What is the current situation? Why are my rates going to increase by 25%? Where is the extra value?
83. This minimum residential rate equates to a 20% increase of our current rates. This increase will specifically hit low income owners like Pensioners the most for what has so far been far worse and deteriorating performance.
84. If you own an apartment with lower land value that rate payer should not be disadvantaged.
85. It is fair everyone pays for their council use of services
86. Don't want to pay more.
87. Need to rethink the entire rate system
88. It disproportionately disadvantages properties and rate payers who have the smallest dwellings, who in turn, draw down less on council resources. We also are more likely to be least able to afford the increase in cost, and we are the ones bearing this cost.

89. see above - what is the land value for the minimum rate
90. how does raising the minimum rate make fairer if it was lower it would still be fair
91. No it must remain as is on a tier system as it is today. Is this yet another fake survey similar to the Ashfield pool one where you put out a survey and then increased the rates allegedly based of community feedback..... There is no information on how this is going to impact me as a apartment owner.
92. I'll be seeing an increase of \$140 per year. That seems a very significant impost on most people who live in apartments, given the current state of services - extra garbage collections which were stalled during COVID, streets near stations and shops that don't get swept often enough and are lined with litter. This is a regressive tax which should instead be progressively increased based on land size and/or value, with no minimum. There is no reason why a block of units should have a minimum each when services are shared (such as garbage) and should cost council less to deliver than for freestanding properties.
93. In a year such as 2020 there should be no increase.
94. We have just come off a year of most uncertainty. Many people have lost their jobs and council wishes to increase council rates with no increase to services or benefits.
95. I'm fine having a leveled playing ground and minimum residential rate, but do not agree with a substantial increase in rates
96. NO - not if the burden is then unfairly placed on households to make up the excess required - a \$415 increase in my rates is just too much as a retiree.
97. 'My rates are increasing however services received are declining. -Waste management services have been poor since the timetable change for garbage trucks. -The Inner West Council has not rolled out any initiatives to recycle food waste. The Petersham council office is no longer open for customer service with alternative locations taking much longer to travel to. -The snap, send solve app is no longer available. -Pesticides that have a significant impact to native birds, insects and animals continue to be sprayed despite many community members requesting that this cease. The service we receive under the amalgamated council is significantly poorer than the management of the Marrickville Council however I'm now expected to pay significantly more per annum. I am not supportive.
98. I support a minimal residential rate as a minimum contribution to the services we all use (regardless of land value).
99. All these increases are to align rates for Marrickville with those for Ashfield and Leichhardt, despite the very obvious differences in amenity and demographic.
100. Again, rates should be charged according to services provided. For businesses, the impacts and nature of their operations should be considered. Councillors with vested interests in businesses should not be part of creation of rules around business rates.
101. how can council justify increasing rates from \$686 to \$850, in excess of 20% increase. This is outrageous
102. As above, I'd like to understand how the number arrived at as it seems to be based on a combined number from 3 former councils, rather than any commercial budgeting process.
103. Can it be less for those on low incomes? Seems to me it needs to take this into account in order to be truly fair. Is this a big increase for some people? Will it cause rents to increase?
104. For low-income residents in Leichhardt and Marrickville Council this is an unacceptably large increase.

105. The current rate \$710 is high enough , the current inflation rate is below 1% and not likely to rise above 2%, wages are not increasing ,where do people find the extra 20%hit proposed .We all have to live within our budget.
106. Properties that are double my land value in 2019 have the same council rate as me in July 2021. The minimum for residential should be lower. \$800 seems reasonable, not \$850.
107. need more information on this
108. No minimum rate should exist as it contravenes the purpose off land valuation. If for example a property is contaminated by radiation or asbestos ECT in which it's value is debased to the extent it's unusable. Should the owner still be expected to pay this minimum rate? The idea of minimum taxes to be paid start's to reflect socialist policies which have in recent times very popular.
109. How did this amount get determined?
110. My residential rates are being increased by 20% (going from \$710 to \$850) which seems pretty steep all at once.
111. As above
112. N/a
113. We are already paying more than that but feel sorry for those who are paying less and would be forced to pay more.
114. '+20% increase in our rates during COVID times is very harsh! This is unacceptable.
115. My current rate is \$710. This would mean that my rate would increase by almost 20% for no extra services and embellishment of my area (Stanmore).
116. I'd be happy if I got just that, not the extra \$280
117. Agree with minimum as some service's are independent of land valuation.
118. As noted in the previous comment
119. the basis of the minimum rate is not applicable to many properties
120. I have not had my street swept in over 2 years, you do not deserve any more money from my rates
121. I believe every household should pay the same if they use amenities equally
122. When the council's joined you promised it would not increase the rates and here it is increasing the rate. The minimum rate should not be higher than the rates already are.
123. Assumes a base level use of council services. The council does "jack" around our apartment building, is slow to respond to noise complaints, doesn't maintain our verge, the roads are pull if pot holes. But Arlington oval and the golf course are wonderfully maintained for non residents to use.
124. No idea what this means
125. That seems reasonable
126. Ridiculous and cruel
127. As stated above, I am already subsidising others. I receive a superannuation pension, am a sole rate payer and have lived at my sole property in the Innerwest since the mid 1980's when it was not gentrified and property prices were low. Rates that are attached to the land value, of which the owner has no control over, is NOT FAIR. The price of the inflated property market does not indicate everyone's income and ability to pay the rates that you are proposing. Those with large land holdings that require more curb and gutters and street-scaping



	and mainenance, etc in cheaper areas or can produce a government pension card can get more bang for their buck. I and others in a similar position are being used as cash cows. I don't mind paying my fair share and a little towards the needy, but my rates are already excessive and you want to DISHARMONISE them more. How about a little more 'user pays'.
128.	This is just another increase in costs , with inflation supposedly near zero why can council's increase rates
129.	I don't know what this is.
130.	I live in a tiny apartment
131.	This is REGRESSIVE taxation - just like multinationals pulling out of our income tax system. The vast bulk must be collected on AD VALOREM, to be PROGRESSIVE.
132.	I would like to see better management and maintenance of parks, gardens and street trees and less money spent on community programs
133.	Council hasn't made a case for this.
134.	the new minimum will result in an increase of 23% to my rates (per use of the rates calculator) - considerably higher than CPI this is unacceptable . There is no mention of the additional "standard charge" (currently approx. \$578) and how this will be impacted we have all been impacted considerably by COVID and for those of us lucky to be an owner/occupier, this increase is untenable
135.	This would increase our rate by about \$150 a year. This is too large a jump.
136.	According to the rates calculator (which is completely inaccurate for the current rates amount which we pay) our rates will increase by 20% to the new minimum. If the rates calculator for our property is correct we will be paying the minimum amount of \$850 (this amount is \$500 less than the amount we currently pay so this is highly unlikely!)
137.	I understand one council, one rate structure, but I feel that the residents of Dulwich Hill don't get the quality or quantity of services that are afforded to over areas.
138.	I feel a \$140 increase for the minimum rate for the former Marrickville Council residents is unfair. The increase would mean that we will be subsidising for other ratepayers. Most residents that live in an apartment in the former council are either self funded retirees or pensioners. Has council researched to see whether other council are proposing to have a lower business rate than the residential? I don't mind an increase but not \$140. This would mean that the lower income earners would be subsidising for others.
139.	I don't understand, if council is not aiming to increase the total revenue, why my rates need to increase to a minimum which is more than I'm paying now? If me and my family are at the bottom end of the spectrum in terms of property value and we need to pay more in rates, then assumably the only people that have anything to gain from this are those with with higher valued properties - so in short, my observation from this is that those with higher values assets and equity will be better off and those that are asked to pay more will typically be people that are currently paying less but will need to pay a mandated minimum.
140.	Minimum rate hike for me that is \$140 a year (\$11.66 a month), what for????? i have not seen a new or updated footpath or road, tree planted in my area, the foot paths in summer constantly need weeding, both in the gutter and on the foot paths, of course the Residents maintain this but unfortunately the rented properties seem to get neglected.....
141.	Just another way to increase already above award rates.
142.	Do not understand why there needs to be any minimum if its based on the Valuer Generals estimation ?

143.	Retiree cannot afford rate rise also this is a bad year, we should not be given rates at all, like City Council. They were exempt.
144.	As above comments
145.	I don't think it is fair that a property with land value under \$300k is charged the same as one of a value around \$700k. I think there should be a timed system properties up to \$800k or whatever the threshold is.
146.	Why is their a minimum? why isn't their a maximum. What we want is a cap on council rates. Council need to work to a budget that's capped. Not look at residents as a cash cow that they can milk when they over spend
147.	See above !!!
148.	I don't know anyone who is actually paying less under this new rate system. I am living in a small house and my the minimum rate still going to cost me \$140 more.
149.	I have a unit your calculator says i should be paying less than i do now but under your new system i will end up paying even more and the you guys do not even give any discounts when I pay the while bill in the first installment definitely do not get value for my rates payments
150.	The proposed amount is an increase from current council rates and therefore provides no benefit to me to support the change.
151.	Hard to say, without examples of what owners of more valuable properties will be paying / without examples
152.	Should be lowered! Reduced!
153.	Again, the whole point of mergers was to reap an efficiency dividend, so no increase can be justified.
154.	This is not a fair system as not all land is equal value, it is an obvious money grab by council who do not provide the standard of service previous council did
155.	Causes those in low value Leichhardt properties to have a huge increase in rates in one go. In general I support the idea of a minimum residential rate (and maybe it should actually be a bit higher than this given that everyone has access to council services reasonably equally) but I don't think anyone's rates should be increasing by such a large amount in one year for anyone.
156.	I get nothing new for this rate change. you were supposed to be more efficient, but amalgamation has caused nothing but a s**itstorm clusterf**k. Shame on you
157.	no, what is the reasoning behind a minimum.
158.	I consider the rates for my property to already be excessive. Bailey Street looks like a slum. It is inadequately lit, the pavements are in a state of disrepair, the road is constantly littered with rubbish, rubbish bins are not always emptied and when it is collection night, it is frequently impossible to walk on the pavements. The place is graffiti and rat-ridden. In addition, the substratum under many of the houses has been acquired by Westconnex subjecting residents to "ground rumblings", vibrations and constant fear that their houses will suffer damage, for which they will not be compensated.
159.	Rates should reflect the property value- not reliant on any minimum rate rate chosen by the council eg \$850
160.	It is fairer rate
161.	How the hell do you get a higher base rate for Residential than Business. On the whole, residents do not use their homes to earn money. Where do you get the justification that the Business base should be lower than the Residential. A Business uses its property to

	make money & this can be a tax deduction, whereas Residents cannot claim rates as a tax deduction. Am I missing something here in the LOGIC or is Council pandering to business & asking residents to wear it.
162.	The minimum should be lower given my comments regarding the adverse affects of Covid19 on household incomes especially in the inner west.
163.	I would support it if it was phased in over 3 years.
164.	People currently paying less than this could only be living in very small properties which due to their size would house less people which equates to less demand on Council services.
165.	It should've maximum of \$850 and be based on size of land
166.	Ludicrous. Council already cannot maintain the hygiene of the Main Street of Marrickville.
167.	Unsure why properties in Balmain and bircgrove are going to recieve subsidies whilst apartments in St Peters worth far less will have to pay a substantial amount more. Further i am keen to understand what increased services we will receive for the increase in rates. Will council finally provide additional funding to our local area? ST Peters has been overlooked for many years with the only infrastructure we have received being a motor way ( which we did not want or need). Trees have been removed and now additional greenery and usable infrastructure for residents to use i.e pools, parks greenery is in desperate need. Every year we receive zero funding will the additional rates mean we will receive more?
168.	Council services are crap, you waste money putting in stupid flower beds and can't even empty bins properly. Absolutely incompetent council.
169.	You haven't clearly communicated the proposal and the effects. Your calculator tool suggests a huge reduction, but on-line community forum comments in my suburb raise concerns about increases. It is unclear if my rates go down or go up.
170.	I do not know how this compares with what people are already paying and the effect it may have on them.
171.	irrespective of your land value we all need the same services so I don't see what land value has to do with the rates we pay at all
172.	i don't understand the purpose of this, especially if some households pay less now
173.	This is a huge jump from the original rates . I will now be paying \$164 extra.
174.	This does not make sense if you want to harmonise. Compare apples with apples. Not units with free standing houses. This is comparing apples with oranges and making the minimum amount the same. This comes across as a cash grab on those that cannot afford houses.
175.	We just want the rates to stay the same and we want the same services.
176.	It unfairly impacts unit owners. Where homes are nearly the same value but cost per person in a home is far greater
177.	Most Inner West amenities are availed to all residents and this minimum residential rate appears appropriate (\$70 / month)
178.	The proposed minimum rates is still a 16% increase on 2020-21 rates. What changes can we expect from such a steep increase? I need to understand services and improvements council will implement and how they will be measured. Will failure in improvements see a refund in rates?
179.	Whats the rational for a minimum payment?



180. How does this rate work? do you charge this per dwelling (as in granny flats?) or property site? Is this before or after pensioner discounts?
181. Amalgamation of councils was wrong & should have never happened.
182. Wont affect my property so no opinion
183. Basing rates on land value is unfair. Rates should be based on consumer use and facility uptake by the rate payers.
184. Why is a three bedroom, two bathroom waterfront unit with two swimming pools and a gym in Rozelle being charged the same Council Rates as a 2 bedroom unit in Stanmore? (redacted) Rozelle 2039 2020/2021 \$686 2021/2022 \$850 STANMORE COMPARISON (redacted) Stanmore 2048 2020/2021 \$710 2021/2022 \$850 How can the Inner West Council even justify a minimum rate of \$850.00 for (redacted) Rozelle 2039 when a Drummoyne two bedroom waterfront unit with one swimming pool and no gym under Canada Bay Council is \$1150.00? How can the Inner West Council justify large rates rises in the former Marrickville Council area of 19.7% and 23.8%? Therefore, the Inner West Council is NOT making rates fairer across the Inner West. The minimum rate on these properties in Rozelle, Balmain and Birchgrove should be at least \$1000.00.
185. Since the Council's have amalgamated the services have deteriorated significantly. For example mowing the nature strips in streets.
186. I am not sure how this minimum residential rate was determined and results in a significant increase for my property. It means my rates go up by almost 20%!
187. It is a bar set way too higher
188. 'Why is a three bedroom, two bathroom waterfront unit with two swimming pools and a gym in Rozelle being charged the same Council Rates as a 2 bedroom unit in Stanmore? In some cases, waterfront units in Birchgrove have had their rates lowered. How is this making rates fairer across the Inner West? This an example in Rozelle (redacted) Rozelle 2039 2020/2021 \$686 2021/2022 \$850 Description 3 bedroom 2 bathroom 2 car spaces Gazing across the boat studded waters of Balmain Cove, this absolute waterfront apartment offers an impressive 199sqm floorplan dedicated to luxurious living and enviable outdoor entertaining. Its unique corner position has a bright north east aspect that fills the interiors with light while providing exceptional peace and privacy. Set in the immaculate Esplanades development, it has access to private facilities and manicured waterside parklands. Darling Street, Adriano Zumbo Patisserie, fine coffee and buses are within a stroll and it is 3.6 km to the CBD. - Fluid open design living and dining area - Vast wraparound balcony optimises the stunning outlook - Contemporary gourmet kitchen; integrated Miele appliances; stone benchtops - Master suite with oversized walk-in robe & Juliet balcony - Two double bedrooms, built-ins & full-sized main bathroom - Ducted a/c, internal laundry & automated tandem garage - Pet-friendly, 2 swimming pools, gym & on-site management
189. Minimum residential rate shouldn't mean that others pay more for less service than prior to amalgamation of councils.
190. I feel all residents should contribute to the upkeep and services provided by the council. We are privileged to live in such a great area. Marrickville always maintained high standards and services across whole community. I hope all these services continue into the future
191. Get the council's ducks in a row and organisational competence up before asking for more money.
192. I would like to know the present minimum rate and I would like to what the minimum is based on thanks, Sandra

193.	Not convinced why this is the minimum amount. Plenty will be in for a massive shock especially after the covid year we've had, everyone's income has been affected
194.	I feel this is too high and doesn't factor in smaller dwellings like apartments, we live in a townhouse complex with tiny footprints and used to pay less and now we have to pay more but we aren't eligible for any extra services as our complex is less than 9 dwellings.
195.	See above
196.	Unless IWC publish transparent report on where the \$850 have gone.
197.	As long as I pay less then my current rate ?!
198.	If council is not increasing the amount it collects by increasing the minimum rate it is logically increasing the burden on those at the bottom of the rate scale and decreasing expense for others. So who exactly is paying less?
199.	It should be based on land size as per what it currently is.
200.	This is a burden shared with too few rate payers in one year and not spread out over a longer time period.
201.	The minimum residential rate is fine as long as there are safeguards for people affected by COVID or other externalities.
202.	See above
203.	Rates need to be left as it is, we can barely afford to pay them as they are
204.	I think that \$850 is a fair amount and with the recent land value increase, I doubt many properties would be valued under this rate
205.	We are in a recession and I do not support an increase in my council fees.
206.	The proposed minimum residential rate is a substantial increase upon the rate that I currently pay. I do not support a rate increase during a recession.
207.	While I do support this, given the services included in the rates, a minimum around of \$850 seems way to low and I feel (given the nature of the services offered, most of which are NOT directly related to land size) will result in those with larger blocks disproportionately subsidising those on smaller blocks. A minimum fair rates value I would have thought would be closer to \$1,000
208.	It's not a bad idea but I'm opposed because it's tied to the rates harmonisation.
209.	It's too high, I live in a one bedroom unit and my rates will increase by \$140- which is way too much
210.	It's a massive increase and unfair given that we bought our places under the previous system
211.	I don't support rates based on land value. It's illogical - services provided by councils are not related to land value, they are largely population based.
212.	Even is not fair. Small service ir property should be smaller
213.	Given that my rates have now increased by 20% why would I think it is fair? My property is a unit and should be valued differently to houses in other areas
214.	As above
215.	Question doesn't make sense. Support it compared to what? What are the pros & cons?
216.	Increased rate change when there is no increased output from useless Councillors
217.	They are already high and the proposal increases my rates by about \$70

218. See above
219. If land values were and will still be determined by NSW Valuer General then presumably the different suburbs will still pay a different proportion of rates income? Is it just the multiplier that was unequal before?
220. Impossible that councils overall revenue is not increasing . so not fair.
221. Too high for residents who are affected by covid
222. My rates will go from \$686 to \$850 per year. That is a \$164 / 23.9% increase. Such an increase is indecent and well out of alignment with pension / salary / wage increases across the community and well in excess of CPI (in fact it is more than 10 times CPI). Outrageous! Go back to the drawing board.
223. It seems high in comparison to \$727 which was charged for residential base amount for former Ashfield Council in 2020/2021 rates charges; Marrickville and Leichhardt minimum was also lower than Ashfield Council.
224. I didn't know it worked on a minimum and went up from that. How is it structured? What makes it higher and by how much etc. Providing that kind of information is imperative if you are asking people to compare something.
225. I'm not sure what the origin minimum rate was to comment on.
226. my current rate is \$480, it will drive me crazy if increase to \$850. If council need money, they can do more fines like illegal parking , illegal instruction, using some facilities like swimming pool...please not from regular payment..
227. This is adding \$850 to my household budget. This is out of order in the year we have just had.
228. I would like the council to make recycling collection weekly, recyclable waste is equal to or greater than other waste each week. Recycling rates would improve if there was room in the recycling bins from more regular collections.
229. \$850 is a big jump for a single person and my rates have jumped over \$500
230. My rates are lower than the \$850. What extra services will I be provided, when I feel I am already overpaying ?
231. As mentioned above it is obvious many councils have been undercharging. Given I am being asked to pay more for the same services I think it needs to be higher
232. The drastic year on year increase makes no sense.
233. This number means nothing without data
234. I have lived in this location for around 30 years and some road repair was done for the first time in Eltham street and my footpath has been left in poor state.
235. See above
236. I support making Local Government much smaller, get rid of half the Bureaucrats working there, no one will know the difference in service, there is so much waste and duplication it has become ridiculous and all of them on full salaries during the China Virus panic
237. Rates should be based on the Land Value without a minimum.
238. This is a significant increase from the current rate for my property. As a small property with no parking, this is an unfair increase
239. It is a grab-for-cash. Not acceptable.
240. Of course it is supported, I am paying less than I would be now.



241. My property is a unit in a block of 15. Based on the rates calculator, I will be paying 20% more for my rates, which I feel is inequitable and unwarranted.
242. Standardising the rate makes sense
243. The government is looking for a revenue money. Poor governance paying 30 millions for the land in WS that is worth 3 millions or one in Parramatta.
244. I'm absolutely disgusted! Where is our support. My parents have worked so hard and as a result they own several properties. The rents usually goes back into bills and land tax. They should be receiving a discount rate payment. Help those who work hard! Don't charge them more!
245. As stated above I live in a 4 unit block so the rate here will be higher than per sqm and per head (given numbers of bedrooms) than those of my neighbours
246. Currently I'm paying under \$800 per year and live on a VERY tiny block. I'm don't think making a blanket minimum is fair and equitable for those of us who are living on one income and working for NFP agencies. Just because we live in the Inner West, doesn't mean we are all earning huge incomes and living in big houses.
247. No information on who this applies to do its difficult to understand if it's too high or indeed to low given I pay approx 4 times that
248. MY CAR SPACE RATES INCREASE FROM \$49.80 TO \$850 (. THIS IS AN UNTENABLE INCREASE, completely outrageous! There is a decrease in rates for my townhouse of \$44.
249. Who is eligible for the minimum \$850?
250. This is fairer overall.
251. In the Rates Harmonisation fact sheet it would be good to see the data reflecting the harmonised Council "Land Value to rates comparison" as well as the 3 former councils.
252. This will be approximately a 25% increase in rates for our small household of only 2 people which is a very significant increase.
253. The purpose of amalgamating multiple councils was to reduce costs. Why are we all disadvantaged.
254. Again; An increase of 19% or \$140 is totally un reasonable. How do you think people who may already be struggling are going to make ends meet & support these unfair increases. Your justification for these increases are a joke..
255. I am in Jarrett Street Leichhardt and a 25% increase in rates is not acceptable from a Council that can't even keep the street clean or the weeds removed. If Council wants to make these kind of increases then the service needs to dramatically improve..... And no more gold plated ego projects like the Ashfield pool unless they are individually funded.....
256. I would like to know if that 850 is per year or quarter? There is not enough explanation.
257. This minimum increases my rates substantially and also increases rates for unit owners (I would imagine) as well as business'. What do the constituents get for this marked increase? Not much I assume.
258. want to compare with previous rates
259. Rates are significantly higher under the new proposal.

260. Suggest need to go further than mere minimum residential rate. This will apply to units (eg strata title). Need to look at size of unit. Base rate applies but increases if unit is over specified size. The information on the size of a unit is available digitally and hence can be used to increase equity in the allocation of rate income.
261. Living in a small 2 bedroom unit, I don't see why my rates need to go exceptional above CPI levels to meet an expectation set by the council that my rates should be similar as to other properties which are much bigger in land size / unit size. .
262. The proposed increase in the minimum residential rate is 50%. This is calculated on produced minimum rate of \$850 against the current residential rate of \$544 for a 120L bin + \$25 stormwater fee. I am a sole resident of my home and have minimal waste due to recycling and composting and would have the equivalent of 1 X 120L of total waste (garbage, paper, recycling and green) each month. I have substantially reduced waste for collection so object to any increase in the minimum rate. I in fact, urge Council to consider ways to reduce the minimum rate for council residents who have undertaken to reduce household waste. For example, introduction of smaller bins, such as 30L, 40L, 50L or 60L and subsequent costings by bin size. In this instance I would look for a 30L garbage bin, a 30L glass recycling bin, a 50L paper recycling bin and retain the current 120L green recycling bin. I would then seek to be charged appropriately based on my bin sizes on the current collection frequency. In the first instance, as a resident with income strongly impacted by COVID-19, I urge Council to not increase the minimum residential rate.
263. Far too much for what little that is provided. I have complained about a number of things such as the following: *the disgusting rubbish being left by shop owners in the back streets of Marrickville and Illawarra Roads which I frequent; *the rubbish bins left on the footpaths and roads by the same shop owners; *the regular rubbish dumping on the footpaths by certain property owners; *the potholes in the roads; *the overdevelopment which leads to overstraining of infrastructure, traffic jams and illegal parking; *barbed wire on fences between residential buildings. Council does little or nothing about it. I am a professional who has lived in Marrickville for a long time. Marrickville used to be a pleasant place in which to live. It is now developing slum-like characteristics. Why should I pay for that? Time to move away if this keeps up. I am not the only person who feels this way.
264. The minimum rate should be \$710
265. Is this amount of \$850 per quarter or per year? If per quarter, then this is a 60% increase and is highway robbery.
266. What is the reasoning behind that number? Again, I don't see a proper reasoning or math behind it.
267. Like everything in life we are all in different circumstances. I just got taken by violent partner - lost \$200,000. I have 2 bed unit, should be cheaper than 6 bed house - Thank You!
268. As mentioned above, the proposed minimum rate means an increase of almost 25% for my property. This is not fair as you have described it. It is a highway robbery.
269. I can understand a minimum residential/business rate as there are fixed costs in the community. Though I don't have the fact and figure to know if \$850 is the fair rate.
270. I think larger apartments should be paying more. Don't understand why they are benefiting with the proposed change
271. my property in Petersham will have a 25% increase. How the hell can you justify this where Leichhardt properties has decreased. You can stick the rate increase up your ass, I am not apying for this increase. You are a bunch of criminnals
272. Your council rates are absurdly high for a region that already has all of its infrastructure in place

273. I think the Council should make it to a very low rates
274. there is not enough information presented to make an informed judgement. For example: no alternatives are presented, there is no comparison with local governments across NSW, no indication of where the significant savings from council amalgamation figure in this, what the money will be spent on (in detail).
275. This is excessive. I live on a block of land equivalent to 1-2 houses but am in one of over 60 units. My rates should be a small fraction of what a house pays
276. What is the minimum cost amount for provision of services and what part is the land value.
277. This will affect me greatly - you are hitting those on single incomes hardest.
278. Represents an increase of more than 7% on the former Marrickville minimum rate and may indicate that the costs being shouldered by the amalgamated LGA are coming disproportionately from either former Ashfield or former Leichhardt
279. Minimum has logic from benchmark and base lining perspective.
280. Probably should be higher for some strata properties. As an example a strata property near me in Balmain worth approx \$2.5M pays \$850 in rates whilst my property in Balmain is worth \$3.5M and I pay \$2465 in rates. I realise the rates are based on UCV; but the above example shows the inequity of the new system.
281. The price of rental properties will increase further as investors offset the increased rates, this will impact the poor the most and be another reason why lower income renters will be forced further from the city. Greed and inequality!
282. There needs to be some explanation as to why Rates are going up. With amalgamation we should be seeing cost savings in many areas (especially those involving what the rates pay for). Without that explanation it looks like a money grab.
283. All rates should be \$850
284. The minimum should start at zero
285. I wish that was the amount that I needed to pay.
286. We have 1900 designed streets the streets in Burwood/Strathfield are decadent, we get the mirrors knocked off our cars in a single lane, two way street. Is this taken into account? Most of the properties in Tempe are semi-detached of 150 m,(no amenity), yet you want to make it fairer for those who have a 1/4 acre block or bigger. Council have just approved the demolition of a single story building with parking, to be replaced by 2 double story houses with no parking in a single lane street. We chose to live in Tempe because, we could not afford to live in Burwood/Strathfield now you are saying we have to pay more to help them out. This is unfair!
287. The effect on us is a 20% increase. This is outrageous and if the decision stands, at least it must be phased-in over a reasonable period to spread the rate shock!
288. I assume the \$850 is based on bare minimum service from council. The minimum rate should be as low as possible to promote fairness and equity.
289. See my answer above. If it means that my rates will be reduced to \$850 then that is fine. You need to show how this change affects us all, not some inaccurate estimate.
290. The harmonisation should be to the lowest rates within the amalgamation



291. Don't know how this amount is calculated? It seems fair but then the business rate is lower and yet the costs associated with keeping streets, parking and other amenities are in all likelihood higher.
292. This is unaffordable for single income households, like mine and many others.
293. You have increased my rates by 23%.!!!! This is a huge increase particularly during a pandemic and a recession. If you feel the need to restructure your administration at least do it in an equitable and fair way! The minimum rate of \$850 is too high!
294. Your fact sheet won't load so I can't find out. Another example of website errors which are constant on the council site.
295. Remember that many people are now working from home so why slug us even more? Maybe you need another rate level for people like us who essentially have had to run a business from home during COVID which may well continue into the future. We have far greater household expenses to contend with without paying more for rates, which many businesses have received rates relief and decreased utility costs. Perhaps you also need to look at the exorbitant cost of bin collection which is almost the same cost as our rates.
296. I have no idea if this is a good idea as I do not know what the minimum rates bill was previously.
297. How about finding an efficiencies, first? The inner West rates are among the highest in Sydney already. The services provided, particularly around Ashfield are shocking. I feel like I am living in a third world country.
298. See 2
299. There is no rationale for this increase based on current economic circumstances.
300. Your lying to rates payers in a dishonest. PR campaign on harmonisation. Total lie
301. It should be really low in Marrickville because the place is unkept and dirty. Mirvac and larger companies are cleaning it up with new developments, not the council.
302. I do not agree as this increases my rates by a \$140.00
303. Have to provide some information about minimum services for me to have an opinion ... Don't really care about motherhood statements about parks.
304. The residential area I live in has not seen enough structural support to warrant this increase. Our street is terribly potholed, the rubbish collection has become much poorer since amalgamation, and there are many other issues.
305. I'm currently paying over \$1,000 and when I look at the rate calculator I'm still paying it.
306. How is \$850.00 the minimum rate! This is ridiculous!!!!
307. wish IWC could be more direct and transparent - tell us what the rate payable would be with effect from the next quarter and the following 3.
308. Why are the business rates lower than the residential rates?
309. As stated above I live in a 4 unit block so the rate here will be higher than per sqm and per head (given numbers of bedrooms) than those of my neighbours
310. I am concerned how this will impact low income residents.
311. It's a fair and necessary minimum rate that will, unfortunately, impact on some residences and businesses. However, council needs to think of the greater good.
312. As per above

313.	In view of the current state of the economy and inflation rates at record lows in Australia the council feels harmonising rates is a fair solution, I don't think so, an increase of 20% pa to land rates is not fair or justified despite how you would like to sell it. Taking from people who can least afford it to reduce the upper end homes land rates.
314.	It makes no sense to suggest that Council will not receive increase revenue - unless some areas have rate decreases - as mine is increased by \$140 per year. My property (one of a number of purely residential apartments) is listed as 'mixed', despite there being no commercial/business premises at the location.
315.	The cost of living is far too high as is, a minimum of \$820 is extraordinary
316.	It should stay the same or maybe a little increase
317.	See comment at 2 above. Council's communication says the overall revenue to Council from rates won't change. If you are going to charge me - a residential apartment owner already coping increases in utility and other costs in a dire economic environment- over \$160 more for rates, who is getting the \$160 decrease? Surely we should be charged for the services provided not the value of land upon which my apartment block sits?
318.	Far less than I am paying now and greatly less than what has been proposed as my new rate.
319.	16 \$ per week for roads, waste management, stormwater, is fair value i think
320.	too expensive
321.	THIS RATE IS QUITE FAIR AND REASONABLE.
322.	As above
323.	I think that the new rates for resident is a little expensive for me as I am unemployment currently of the pandemic of covic-19, the life is hard for me, pls consider my supposed, thanks.
324.	\$850 is too high and does not reflect land values of smaller properties/units or the services provided by council to those smaller properties. Such a high minimum rate is unfair and punitive to the owners of smaller properties with lower land values. It appears to be designed to transfer rates liability from the larger, wealthier properties to the less wealthy. There should be no increased minimum across the board. The increase of \$140 represents a 20% increase to my rates and as such is excessive, punitive and unfair. Such a big increase to owners of properties with the lowest land values at a time of recession, unemployment and wage freezes is breathtaking in its insensitivity.
325.	I am paying \$686 in rates at the moment and you are estimating it to go to \$850. I don't see that an increase of 24% in rates is in any way fair and equitable, since nothing has changes to increase the land value, in fact values have gone down!
326.	I think age pensioners are struggling already maybe a gradual increase over a few payments would be better. Easier to plan for and not so worrying.
327.	I live on a small flat with minimal land value. Who is actually better off under the harmonising rates proposal?
328.	Why couldn't rates be determined by e.g. size of dwelling, plus land rates, etc rather than a 'one-size-fits-all' strategy?
329.	It is a regressive tax, hitting people who can least afford it the most.
330.	It's not making thing 'fairer' to raise the minimum charge. That's disproportionately increasing the burden on the smallest households who use less service, produce less waste etc.

331.	What are the minimum services and fair use. If you are setting a minimum why isn't there a maximum value as well? People use council services, land does not use council services. People, and their age (pre-school and older people are the majority in parks and libraries, and we all produce about the same amount of rubbish per person) are a much better proxy for draw down on council services. Why don't we all just pay a fair amount based on number of people and age?
332.	It is highway robbery. Less and less service for more and more money
333.	fair to have base rate common to all
334.	what am i getting for it, nothing but poor services and not focusing on your core mandate? and why was this send before xmas, clever to strategically ensure limited feedback, unconscionable
335.	It should be lower for residents - see comments below
336.	too much.
337.	What are you people thinking! Even if the pandemic is over by then people still need to make ends meet. Provide a decent service before you even contemplate a price rise. Disgraceful!
338.	This means a 20% increase in my rates. This is a significant increase and not viable for apartment owners who are typically the least affluent.
339.	We support it if it is the average base rate between the areas - then it is fair. The only comment outside of this is that this year we saw a significant drop off of services on our street, we were literally drowning under the street trees leaves and had to write to council multiple times to clean up and long term residents of 10-20 yrs all noted a very big reduction in services the council provided overall. Compounding the issue of disproportionate rates.
340.	25% increase in one go is a lot (excessive I think). Need more information - increasing all rates to this level would mean that some lots are having their rates significantly decreased. This seems very arbitrary in terms of both the amount and which lots are increasing.
341.	The residential minimum of \$850 is too high and unjustified. There is no information provided to ratepayers justifying how this amount was determined. This does not reflect any cost savings that the Council was tasked with achieving once they agreed to amalgamate.
342.	See above. My rate would go up by \$140 per year, which is almost a 20% increase. This is not acceptable, especially during the tough economic COVID times.
343.	Many residents live in apartments. In fact, the Council keeps approving apartments. So surely this increase in price is affecting apartment owners disproportionately, and reaping huge returns for council in approving DAs for huge apartment blocks (Mirvac, LEndlease, etc) which are huge eye sores.
344.	Currently pay \$628 per year - now will pay \$1088?? Thats a huge 70% increase! I am a pensioner - does the rate calculator take this into account? I feel pensioners should stay the same.
345.	I don't want to pay more in rates. From 2015 to 2020 my rates have increased 39.9%. How is that justified? What service increase is commensurate with that? Do tell.
346.	This is higher than my current rate but the service is the same?
347.	I would be happy to pay the minimum rate given I am charging minimum rent
348.	People have suffered from economic disaster last year and don't need another increase.



349. Compared to business rate it could be a little lower
350. fix it .....
351. We do not approve of the new standardised rates which would increase our rates from \$803.73 to \$995.19. That represents a significant increase, and the rates are very high for a two bedroom property on a relatively small block.
352. for what? incompetent management of councils?
353. The proposal of \$850 as a minimum residential rate at first glance looks inviting but how do you calculate this rate and when does the minimum rate start to rise and by what percentage Eg Land size , Land value , geography ETC
354. Why is it necessary to increase minimum rates if it hasn't been necessary until now. That is a large increase for which there is no justification other than greed.
355. This proposed minimum rate represents an increase of \$164 p.a. on my existing rates, a significant annual increase. If the minimum rate is to be introduced, perhaps consideration should be given to introducing it over 2 -3 years.
356. I'd like to understand the justification for a \$850 minimum residential rate. What was the minimum previously? Why is \$850 the right amount now? What has changed? Has council been able to deliver significant cost savings from the amalgamation?
357. Why do residents have a higher minimum than businesses? (Businesses are generating income.) I don't support an increase to my rates when the purpose of amalgamation was to make savings & generate efficiencies
358. I don't know what the minimum was before and this doesn't affect me, but I would repeat my response to Q.2 above. Large increases should be absorbed to prevent bill-shock.
359. If a person can afford a property worth over a million dollars why should the standard minimum be equal to buyers who can't afford a property anywhere near that?
360. This slugs the poor and disadvantaged whilst leaving the more affluent areas of the LGA better off, assuming that your claim that rate revenue will not be increasing on the whole. I pity the poor and the unemployed, 1 million people lost their jobs in the COVID19 pandemic. This will not make it easier for people to pay their bills.
361. I dont know wat criteria needs to be met to only pay that minimum yearly amount, i am currently paying much more than that, and i think i should be part of the reduced yearly costs,as i have always paid my dues on time. I only recently found out my rates had gone up and i had been underpaying my required amount
362. A minimum rate appears regressive to me although I understand there is a minimum of costs per dwelling incurred by Council. Even so, it would be preferable if the charge does not disadvantage low value residences.
363. I am not a pensioner but I am a senior who has not been able to work since January. Not been on jobkeeper either, so \$850 is a massive jump above what I have been paying to date.
364. I would be even more worried for other houses which are on even smaller blocks than mine having to pay my current annual rate
365. Don't know what the current minimum rate is...
366. No additional services for a large increase in rates.
367. an increase of 7.32% is not FAIR

368. The rates on the factsheet are INACCURATE. My rates are significantly higher than the highest rates noted. This makes me question the accuracy of the factsheet. Please update and correct. What period do the rates cover. This appears to be a glaring omission in information.
369. Increase in min rate from \$470.00 to \$850.00 is too high. I live by myself and have an 80 ltr bin which is put out on average each fortnight. I recycle when possible which reduces my general rubbish. I believe residents in some locations in Leichhardt and Marrickville have the larger 120ltr bins. If this is correct council should look at pricing per bin size.
370. Minimum residential increase in Lilyfield of \$164 from \$686 to \$850 = 23.9% increase. Add to this waste disposal and stormwater charges, also likely to increase. e.g. Land valuation (LV) of \$1,200,000 rates = \$1,540 but LV of \$200,000 = \$850. This looks like owners of low value land (typically strata units) are subsidising the owners of much higher value land. This does not seem like an equitable outcome for owners of low LV property.
371. I own a 2 bedroom flat (rented) in Ashfield and my rates will go down about \$160 to \$850. This is fantastic. BUT if a 2 bedroom flat is on the minimum rates, then a one bedroom flat or a bedsit will have the same minimum rate - that does not seem fair to the smaller properties.
372. This seems fair to access council services. It should however be higher for investment properties.
373. the minimum residential rate must be governed by an equitable allocation over all households.
374. This amount should probably be higher (see my comment above), with a variable component for land size and other aspects such as household numbers, etc.
375. Our rates at (redacted) Annandale will increase by 24% from \$686.00 to \$850.00 (not including garbage and stormwater costs)!. How is a 245 increase in rates fair?
376. This is a fair amount for annualised services provided by Inner West Council.
377. I don't support amalgamation. The area is too large now, so I can't comment on whether or not this is fair. In any case, I was under the impression that the rates are currently charged in proportion to the land value.
378. It's significantly higher than what we were paying before. What's the reasoning for that increase?
379. The higher rate charge does not justify the services that the Council offers their residents. The rates should be lowered aligned to the current inflation rate.
380. As noted above, residents deserve an explanation of why the minimum residential rate is being lifted. The simplistic comment that harmonisation has been mandated is not a justification for increasing the minimum rate. Why can we not harmonise the Inner West Council rate base at the level set applied to the former Leichhardt LGA (i.e. \$686)?
381. I would like to see it increased as I feel I am subsidising luxury units on the Balmain peninsular. For example (redacted) Rozelle 2039 2020/2021 \$686 2021/2022 \$850 Description 3 bedroom 2 bathroom 2 car spaces Waterfront with two swimming pools, gym and onsite management Charging \$1,400 in rent.
382. Rate increase for some households is extremely high. The minimum rate should be lower, and any increases should be phased in
383. Is it quarterly or annually
384. For small properties with size under 65 square meters, I would expect a lower residential rate (<700). Larger properties should be charged a higher residential rate instead.
385. In general, people used the services services, by rates, not property, so based on property value alone is not necessarily fair.

386. The minimum residential rate doesn't even seem to be ok for someone with land valued at \$345,455, and it is certainly not fair for someone with a tiny piece of land valued at \$78,111. There needs to be a lower tier that takes into account the numerous small inner city studio and one bedroom dwellings used by single students and other single people.
387. Using the calculator my rates will be increasing by approx 25% (from \$686 - \$850) which is appalling! Given your statement that council is not increasing it's income from rates, this means others will benefit at my expense. With 14 properties in my development alone this adds up to a considerable imbalance. I do not accept this approach and request that you rethink how you are approaching this.
388. I believe that the minimum residential rate is fairer and also the state government has mandated that it needs to be done.
389. The web address on your flyer is not easy to type. The whole thing needs simplifying
390. The minimum is 19.7% higher than my current rate, feels like a sneaky way to increase rates beyond what state govt allows
391. I believe this is fair for all property owners in these council areas. Owners of units use just as much of the council amenities stipulated on our rate notices as home owners of houses. Therefore, I feel that it is only fair that a slight rate increase in unit rates is proposed for this reason. I own a unit in one of these areas and even though there will be an increase to my rates I understand and accept this is fair for all property owners across the board.
392. Don't just sent out a random note that explains absolutely nothing. Furthermore not sure where to start around the things council does or doesn't do in my area, from throwing garbage bins over and in-between cars every week making it a challenge to find them and potentially damaging cars and property
393. There should be no minimum, an equal share for property value. why should someone with a property valued less than mine pay more?
394. I think its too high Council provide very little day to day residential services but business require more policing and more services. Also in my area there has been NO cleaning, repair of roads, footpaths and drains. NO person is available when I call to complain, I never get a call back. (redacted)
395. Not acceptable find another way if I am paying more someone is paying less for same services
396. One of the reasons the State Government gave for forced mergers was to improve the efficiency of councils and lower their costs. Where are the savings the forced mergers were meant to create? A 25% increase in residential rates (for Leichhardt residents at least) is outrageous.
397. The new structure is unfair. If some are reduced and ours is \$300 more that's ultimately unfair. On what grounds are we paying more? For what?
398. Would be useful to inform residents on what basis the minimum rate was selected. What is the minimum rate now? Why is the increase justified?
399. Rates going up during COVID for units up to 24% is too much.
400. Its potentially irrelevant.
401. A \$140 increase is too much in current covid times
402. The increase of new minimum rate \$850 for residential is not fair for a small units. Using the rates calculator, the suggested new rate for 2021/22 is \$850 (new minimum rate) compared to current rate of \$686. That is an increase of a whopping 24% !!! How is minimum rate for a small unit in a strata same compared to a house? How can you justify an increase of 24%? this is crazy.



403. People living in poorer (less valued) areas already pay far too much for what they get in return. My street is constantly full of rubbish and leaves, blocking drains, making it look like a tip. My street, full of apartment blocks, must be considered as a rates 'goldmine' but it certainly is not reflected this when you see it.
404. RATES SHOULD BE FROZEN OR REDUCED!!!
405. As noted above, residents deserve an explanation of why the minimum residential rate is being lifted. The simplistic comment that harmonisation has been mandated is not a justification for increasing the minimum rate. Why can we not harmonise the Inner West Council rate base at the level set in the former Leichhardt LGA (I.e. \$686)?
406. How is setting a minimum rate achieving anything?
407. The \$850 Residential seems a large increase - there is no real data to show each previous rate etc i.e. a graph or table
408. Everyone should pay the same, ie \$850 by all residents (and not more by other residents). Councils should pool the funds and distribute as necessary.
409. I may support an increase if footpaths and roads were repaired.
410. The flyer & email only say a "new minimum rate". Is the new min amount quarterly or yearly? Please advise! If quarterly DO NOT support. If Yearly DO support.
411. The amount is a joke. Refer comment above. It should also be illegal to increase our rates by 24% (23.91%) What a joke! What will we be receiving for this - nothing gets looked after now. It seems that everyone who was in the old Leichhardt Council is being penalized for this ridiculous amalgamation. And how unfeeling to do this during covid19 financial pressures.
412. I don't know what the minimum rates were prior to this?
413. Less than I am paying now so I support it.
414. The rates we're paying should NOT be increased, because it will create financial hardship for residents.
415. The minimum rate is a an unwarranted tax increase for the amalgamation - no improvements or increased services for this property. If anything, I would expect a decrease because of the additional bus service that runs along our suburban street. Additional noise, cleaning, traffic etc has not been an improvement to add annual cost my budget!
416. Will there be concessions for pensioners>?
417. This has to be enough to cover the basics of garbage collection and maintaining roads NOT to put in speed bumps which cause wear and tare with noise.
418. The minimum rate is set way too high.
419. My rate will increase by \$140.00. This is not a fair outcome. What value will you be providing for this increase? Why don't you offer a rebate to make it easier for family to afford this increase
420. workers cottage rates should be cheaper than larger homes
421. too much of an increase...represents a massive % increase in a short period for those affected
422. See above
423. I believe it is just a way for council to increase rates

424. There has been no rationale provided to justify raising the minimum. It seems a bit opportunistic to tie the raising of the minimum to the harmonisation. What additional benefit will come from this? At the moment, I am in the dark as to why it is necessary. To quote an iconic Australian politician, please explain.
425. If calculated fairly using the system .
426. 750 would be fairer and bring the smaller properties in line
427. How can anyone support a sudden 20% increase in council rates (from \$710 to \$850 in my case)? This is absolutely unreal. Look at how wages have been stagnant for years! Is the Inner West for the rich only?
428. Our road near the esplanade lately has been used by drunken people who likes to piss and relieved themselves on the side of our buildings since the benches were installed. I think if this support the building and maintenance of public toilets nearby, this would be welcomed.
429. It should be by land value - a one bedroom should go up less than a three bedroom. I'm already paying the same as them now so it's another slap in the face!
430. Residential minimum rate is actually higher than business? Shouldn't it be the other way around?
431. My rates will be going up \$202. It is already hard to balance income to expenses, this is an additional burden.
432. This minimum will result in a 24% increase in my rates for no improvement or increase in services. This is not fair. If other council areas needed to charge higher rates for their services then that is a function of those areas, and those people should continue to be charged more.
433. The proposed increase for 2021/22 to \$850 is a 23.9% increase on 2020/21 which is far above the 2.5% and 2.6% increase of previous years. The increase should be a smaller percentage each year and be staggered over several years
434. Where does this minimum rate come from? It's a 25% increase for me just like that, and my place (now rented out since I retired) (redacted) is empty because of Covid and Westconnex!
435. But if there is a small house with one person, it may result in a dramatic increase in rates for them.
436. According to the calculator, our rates will go up by 23% or almost \$200. This is a huge jump and I cannot see how on earth it can be justified. If we were getting value for money from Council then yes but we aren't. Local councils should be dumped, it is unfair for us to pay so many levels of govt taxes. We own our unit but are barely getting by in the pandemic and it is hard enough without this level of price rise. It is grossly harsh.
437. I need more information on each of the merging councils rates currently
438. Some Council areas seem to get better treatment than others so this is not fair. The footpaths in our area are appalling and need major repairs to make them safe and this has been an outstanding problem for years.
439. I can not afford to pay anything more than than I currently pay - see previous comment
440. I have no intention of selling my house, ie, the minimum residential rate is good for me.
441. If marrickville council could provide the same service at my current level of rates why do i need to pay \$140 extra? Isn't alagamation meant do decrease costs? I should not have pay 20% extra because other councils had high rates, and my council was more efficient, when i had no say over the rates charged by other councils.
442. It's not clear to me how a min. residential rate might impact my rates or cater for those who are less well off.

443. The minim rate is 19.7% higher than my current rate. That is an unreasonable increase especially considering the inflation rate and the impact that COVID has had on the community.
444. Minimum should be less for apartments and 2b/r dwellings that Are small since the complex will then be paying a lot more per m2 and resources used.
445. As above
446. Remain as is or very small increase if it must happen.
447. Regardless of the value of property, we all receive the same service for rates paid - it is similar to land tax, we have a land value that is high but we also have a huge mortgage and will struggle to pay the additional \$300 per annum
448. See above. A properly constituted, open, fair assessment of options for the combination of rates and services ought to be the basis of our rate determination process, like the internationally leading process convened by Marrickville Council in 2014.
449. I don't use the library or pool, but still have to pay \$710 a year for my residential rate. I certainly do not agree with raising that rate by 20% for no good reason that I can see. I have a tiny, 1-bedroom unit.
450. houses on blocks of land should be paying more
451. The proposed minimum rate of \$850.00 for residential is quite high in some instances a \$250.00 increase. In the times we find ourselves with Covid & employment risk, you cannot surely justify this sort of increase. I do not support this increase at all.
452. This would be an increase for us
453. A 20% increase for no new service an no good justification. Very unfair my pay has not gone up by 20% . Jobs have been lost in the pandemic a shocking decision to raise rates,
454. See section 2 for comments
455. Raising the minimum residential rate in the middle of a recession, and the worst public health crisis in a century (covid), is unfair and immoral. Any changes to rates in this unprecedented and challenging time needs to be gradual and phased over a number of years.
456. We are in the midst of an economic down turn with a lot of people out of work, and you want to impose an increase in household costs?
457. Give us the services we pay for and deserve.
458. Why should there be a minimum?
459. It is unfair to raise some of the residential rates and reduce others, not fair at all. Why making people's lives even harder during this pandemic.
460. Will this mean an owner of a small studio unit is going to have to fork out for a big increase in rates? This may impact on the rentals of residents who are lease able to afford a rent increase.
461. 23.9% increase in one year is far in excess of CPI
462. As above
463. The proposed minimum residential rate is more than I am currently paying. Therefore I am opposed to it.
464. All constituents should pay the same sum for the same services.



465. I think it should be one rate for everyone. We all use services. Some of us were born here we are not rich and yet due to change in demographics we are paying heaps in rates whereas those in Leichhardt Ashfield Marrickville pay so little compared to birchgrove and Balmain residents. We pay more rates than those Woollahra
466. The rate should be increased to 1200 and be one rate the same amount across the suburbs. People in Leichhardt Ashfield etc should pay same amount as us in Balmain and birchgrove. For too long there has been a disparity in amount of rates. We all get the same service we should pay the same rates. That means people in flats, and suburbs like Leichhardt Ashfield pay an increase amount to approx 1200 and those in Balmain and Birchgrove have their excessive rates reduced to 1200. We pay higher rates here than in Woollahra. Absolutely outrageous.
467. It should be \$1200 and everyone pay the same amount in rates whether you are in a flat, living in Balmain or Ashfield. We all get same service. We should all pay same rates. For too long Balmain and birchgrove have propped up the council while others in Rozelle, Leichhardt Ashfield and Marrickville have paid less. A number of us grew up here or have been here for 30+ years and although the character has changed due to new people moving in and land value increasing we shouldn't be penalised for that. Why does residents in Wollahra pay less in rates than us when their land value similar or greater. It's because of their structure of rates. Their services same or better yet lower rates.
468. Should be higher and one rate for all.
469. A minimum rate only makes sense if there are guaranteed minimum services. The only thing done its seems fore residents of Lord St Newtown is waste collection and a different fee is charged for that.
470. The changes result in a 19.7% increase to my rates. This is during a year in which CPI across Sydney (as well as the eight capital cities) has returned negative figures. As you will be aware, many suburbs in the inner west (including Stanmore) have also been among the suburbs in the whole of NSW which have been hit the hardest financially by COVID-19. It is difficult to comprehend how such a high increase in rates could be justified by the council during this time.
471. Rates should be set in accordance with the means that people are able to pay. It is not equitable to set an arbitrary minimum.
472. If we have to be equitable, the share the load across all suburbs, some drop, other increas by the same amount, you need to find a fairer way, or leave the rates as they are. People bought in areas knowing these things.
473. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: 1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services. 3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers. 4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges on Council services. 7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that can be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
474. Too much to afford
475. Not sure on Min for residential but shouldn't be higher than business...
476. The council service provided now does not justify the rate

477. This is actually benefiting me... thank you
478. The calculation of the rates for each resident seems to be based on 0.13% of 2019 land value. You say that 'Harmonising rates means rates will be paid equitably in proportion to the land value by all ratepayers in the Inner West'. Why then do you need to have a minimum residential rate?
479. It is approximately 25% of the I am currently paying. I could go somewhat higher
480. I am not sure what this means. If we all have to pay \$850 then this is better for me.
481. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
482. Your website is not working properly
483. in principal its a fair amount, but what is unfair if the minimum rates means a significant increase from current rates.
484. One rate for all households no matter which suburb you live in we all get the same service Should be higher amount like \$1100-\$1200 for all households no matter where you reside within inner west council. As said before It should be one rate for ALL households whether you live in Ashfield or Balmain. We in Balmain and Birchgrove have been paying enormous amount of rates while other suburbs get much lower rates. This is unfair. We all get the same service. Therefore one rate for ALL households. That includes people who own flats. We all get the same service so should pay the same rate. We in Balmain and Birchgrove pay higher rates than those who live in Wollahra and Mosman.
485. I would not have thought that \$850.00 per annum would apply to any parcel of land within the IWC area? Our rates are twice that sum, so if it is calculated on land value I would like to know what blocks of residential land in the IWC area are costed at \$550,00.00? I'm sure the developers would like to know where they are?
486. Why should the minimum increase. There is no improved services being provided - indeed services have deteriorated.
487. What is the justification for it besides harmonisation? You are not selling this well at all and you are showing a complete lack of concern on how this impacts people who have to pay more.
488. How about you drop the rates in those more privileged suburbs and do us all a favour.
489. The minimum rates have increase my rate by 20%. My rates have already increased by 17% under this mega council set up. Please tell me about the value for this huge increase. How about not making a annual surplus and just charge what's needed so we can pay our mortgages?
490. rate is increased by nearly 30%. Have you seen anywhere rate increase that much in one year? Salary is not increased or by CPI of 2% to 3%. How can you justify for this increase? How can you say making it fairer? To whom?
491. This has the potential to negatively affect low income residents, and those living in smaller houses or units. Council has failed to implement adequate affordable housing strategies in a time of unprecedented apartment growth and this has the potential to further impact housing affordability for many.

492. If Council produced a surplus of approximately \$82 million in 2020, why do rates have to continually rise?
493. The minimum rate stuff is just meant as a distraction from the bigger issue of the fundamental unfairness of this proposal and Council's indifference to making efficiency improvements.
494. leave it as is. i have been renting in area for 4 years and now wish to purchase as a first home owner. this hike is a disincentive to buy in area and puts more pressure on low income earners and pensioners struggling in a covid affected economy. If you are truly interested in serving the public it isn't just about the provision of services, it is about making it an affordable place where a more diverse population can afford to live.
495. The minimum rate is based on land valuations not land usage. Flat rates have the most impact on the most vulnerable members of a community.
496. What's the basis for the minimum???
497. There are many rate payers in this area who are asset "rich" (own house) but cash poor because houses were bought many years ago at cheaper prices than today. Many people are on low fixed incomes or Centrelink benefits and so this would cause financial hardship or even having to sell the family home.
498. The rate calculator shows that my rates will go from \$710 to a minimum \$850. That is a 20% increase
499. marrickville council area is the only one where all three categories are being raised, you closed our local office (petersham), you don't value us. FORCED amalgamation!
500. More details of how this is structured. eg where is the Services Levy.
501. I believe the present level of rates charged for our family home (\$766.39pa) in Dulwich Hill is sufficient. We have no local parklands that require significant maintenance and I have seen no upgrading of existing facilities - even when I have requested them - the pedestrian crossing in Beach Road is high risk / low visibility / in a rat run between Wardell Rd and New Canterbury Rd.
502. comparing this to surrounding councils it appears well below the mark.
503. Again this is a 20% increase for Marickville residents. You should be working on efficiencies and reducing costs
504. I believe that the minimum rate (applicable to units) should be over \$1,000 as it is in Canterbury Council. The minimum rate does not reflect the fair payment of rates for all ratepayer. How is this rate determined? It is not transparent.
505. While the rates have increased the services have deteriorated since council amalgamations. My pension remains unchanged. BRING BACK LEICHHARDT COUNCIL AND END THIS STUPID AMALGAMATION.
506. In principle I approve a minimum rate but some of the properties in Leichhardt and I'm sure this applies to other suburbs are situated on very small land plots
507. Support the minimum rate, I currently pay almost 25% more than that
508. As long as there is support for those that genuinely cannot afford this. I do not fall into this category.
509. All Councils have a direction they need to adopt as spelt out by the Office of Local Government, what are the basis assumptions, index values used to arrive at a rates value and no it's not only a function of the Valuation of the land
510. Why is this rising so much on the back of the council reporting an over \$80 Million surplus last year. Why are the lower socio economic suburbs being penalised to subsidise rate reductions for Balmain and Summer Hill residents.



511. (I've lived in Birchgrove since 1970.) Excepting Library services (always excellent) council services declined alarmingly since amalgamation. E.g. Council road repairs slapdash and outrageously bad, new speed humps deliberately punitive (why are the new ones off-centre?), rubbish bins left in heaps after weekly collection, blocking entrances to houses and pavement.
512. Refer to my response to Question 2
513. It is unfair and unjustifiable to increase rates on the lowest value properties while householders in richer suburbs have rates decreases.
514. Keep the old system of rate calculation is fairer for everyone.
515. The proposed rate translates into a 24.4% increase. Totally unacceptable. Would you like your costs to go up by ~25%? Or get a 25% pay cut?
516. Housing needs to be affordable
517. Looking forward to 2023
518. Minimum rate should be \$550
519. Rates have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed therefore this proposal will make it worse. No evidence that this proposal will produce value for money for individual ratepayers
520. I couldn't find sufficient information about this on the Inner West Council website which I find dubious.
521. Is this for a year or a quarter?
522. As a Marrickville resident I have been more than satisfied with how my rates have been managed, which I believe has provided value for money. I understand from your rates calculator that my rates are set to increase by 19% per year whilst residents living in more affluent areas such as Annandale Village will receive a reduction. Contrary to what is being branded as harmonisation I see this as penalising those living in poorer areas at a time when many families are struggling. The council may wish to consider that if Marrickville has been able to provide community services at a lower rate than others maybe those councils with higher rates have been inefficient, or that their residents have been benefiting from receiving more amenities
523. Lucky for those who only get that charge
524. It should be based on land value only for units...
525. No i don't As above
526. i will incur a 24% increase in rates - that is completely ridiculous and out of step with CPI or any other current indicators
527. seems Reasonable
528. This minimum is okay if it enables the Council to maintain service quality.
529. Again... how can you compare a property in Marrickville and Balmain... it is absolutely ridiculous... who comes up with these ideas?
530. I don't understand why, if Council is not making any more income from the changes, I will be paying a 20% increase in my rates (from \$710 to the new minimum of \$850 per annum. It appears that Council's new minimum payment will place an unreasonable additional cost burden on those of us in apartments and/or those whose land values are smaller (ie those with less pay more).
531. Based on the IWC rates calculator my rates will go up 24% Over the twelve months to the September 2020 quarter the CPI rose 0.7%. This is highway robbery disguised as some sort of "fair" policy

532. This doesn't include waste collection and pensioner rebates. No mention of loyalty discount of 30 years or more for paying rates
533. However I am wary of the word "Minimum rate of \$850". This is very VAGUE and could easily later be deemed to be just the rate for pensioners or low income earners, and the majority of us will end up paying much more than the \$850, or worse still, we could be paying substantially more than that.
534. This will be an increase to apartments and needs to be justified. How will this benefit the owner.
535. I don't have enough information to comment
536. This rise represents a 20% increase and are completely un-substantiated.
537. Ashfield residents paid extra rates to cover the cost of the Aquatic Centre upgrade. Going forward we would like a more reasonable rate in future.
538. There should be no minimum, it should be determined by the general socio-economics of each suburb and area.
539. Minimum rate for which areas though? this is too general to trust. more likely to rise anyway
540. I don't know where you find values of \$260,000 - \$360,000 anywhere in the inner west (unless it's as a share of a strata title) so I can't understand why 43% pay the minimum rate. Also I have been told that in the ex Leichhardt area, you get a rates discount if you have lived there for a long time. I've lived in Ashfield for a long time and get no discount. If this hearsay is true, I trust it will STOP under the new system.
541. We pay way more than \$850 now anyway in Marrickville as noted above.
542. In principle – yes. There needs to be a minimum to maintain equity and fairness across the provision, usage and contribution to municipality funded and managed services. Any minimum threshold must be realistically and properly calculated to reflect actual services provided, able to be accessed and used by ratepayers. A minimum threshold will only work where the right level or otherwise, it penalises the remainder of all rate payers for the few are given the advantage. It should also be tested eg. a share/sub-let property with a minimum threshold should be re-rated to adjacent property levels if used in a manner that abuses or takes advantage of services and amenities. Involve localised, independent rate payer action groups into the review and calculation processes.
543. In principle – yes. There needs to be a minimum to maintain equity and fairness across the provision, usage and contribution to municipality funded and managed services. Any minimum threshold must be realistically and properly calculated to reflect actual services provided, able to be accessed and used by ratepayers. A minimum threshold will only work where the right level or otherwise, it penalises the remainder of all rate payers for the few are given the advantage. It should also be tested eg. a share/sub-let property with a minimum threshold should be re-rated to adjacent property levels if used in a manner that abuses or takes advantage of services and amenities. Involve localised, independent rate payer action groups into the review and calculation processes.
544. It won't be affecting me at all
545. My rates will jump 150 in one year
546. Really depends on the value of services provided for the money paid.
547. The rates are already quite significant. The council can choose to harmonise rates across the 3 different systems however these should not be increased as a result. They seem to be increasing every year..

548. Happy to pay more if services improve. Unfortunately I don't see it happening given the extreme left on the council more interested in ideological ideas than doing their job to service the public
549. As per question 2.
550. The new minimum increase is too big in one go. It should be made in smaller increment over the coming years.
551. Is the "proposed minimum residential rate" the total for the year?
552. I suspect it should be much higher as most of council's services do not relate to the value of the land but to the extent of usage. A large family in a low value property uses more services and should pay more than a single of couple living on a higher value property.
553. Have to be guided by the experts here. It would be helpful if council explained its rationale as to how this is arrived at in greater detail.
554. why do the rates for some houses, such as in Ashfield fall, while a unit in Rozelle increase??? The services provided by the council have NOT increased, if anything they have gone backwards. THIS IS NOT FAIR!!!
555. How is that fair for units and apartments? Rates should be based on merit not a flat charge
556. Seems too high, particularly for small solo households.
557. A minimum rate seems to be if that permit to limit massive rate hikes in particular areas.
558. This is a fairer system
559. This seems fair
560. it's completely unreasonable unless IWC can provide me with justifiable documentation for the increase
561. Stop wasting money on stupid projects, spend money of upkeep of public spaces, Marrickville Rd Marrickville cleanliness compared to Dulwich Hill is a joke.
562. the minimum rate needs to reflect the actual costs of providing Council services .
563. I support a minimum council rate if this is supported by evidence and analysis that the minimum reflects the actual cost per household to deliver key council services such as waste removal etc.
564. So long as every property is part of the structure and there are no exclusions, and everything works to an assessment off fair land value then there should be no need for this.
565. Keep the existing rate
566. This seems very high for people on low incomes.
567. I personally think that this minimum rate change is a sneaky way for council to penalise apartment dwellers and small property owners who can't afford larger properties. I doubt any councillors will be affected by this minimum rate but bet their rates will be going down.
568. Why should someone in a 30sqm apartment pay a higher percentage. Should be no minimum rate for residential.
569. I specifically purchased a unit because the land size is small thereby ensuring lower rates. How could a 24% rate increase possibly be "Fair". Due to Covid-19 I lost my job, and had to reduce the rent on this unit by 10% to secure a tenant. This rent is my only source of income and I am very disappointed that my only source of income is being reduced yet again. This is not FAIR. Maybe a pensioner could help me out because they currently earn more than I do!



570. This appears to be a sensible approach given the uniform availability of services regardless of land value. It also recognises the minimum administration involved between Council and households in various dealings, regardless of the size and value of a property.
571. Not in support of any minimum. The previous rate scale worked fine and I do not see how set arbitrary "minimums" serve any purpose. Once again, this state govt sees everything at a COST level but none of the VALUE. I am strongly opposed to the minimum residential rate of \$850.
572. As above - the misuse of public funds by the Inner West Council does not justify an increase in rates when decreases were promised.
573. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas.</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services</li> <li>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers.</li> <li>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates.</li> <li>5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse.</li> <li>6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services.</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.</li> </ul> The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
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575. In times of covid, a rate rise in the poorer suburbs of the LGA is a scandal.
576. Surely we should be paying less with the amount of efficiencies now available through amalgamation
577. What is the rationale for \$850?

578. There are many small blocks of land in the inner west so many property owners will be hit by this. There also seems to be some disparity. A friend with a one bedroom unit in Leichhardt will have lower rates while rates for my small studio apartment in Lilyfield will be increased.
579. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because: 1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services 3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers. 4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. 7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
580. Absurdly high for very little.
581. You have provided no information as to the basis of this number - why not \$500 and use that as an impetus to drive some efficiency within the council?
582. Even a minimum of \$850 p.a. is not affordable for someone (including pensioners and those on Newstart/Jobseeker) who has lost his/her job and is struggling to make ends meet.
583. Minimum residential rates affect residents who are already disadvantaged being in smaller properties/ units townhouses for the benefit of others. In addition a single one off change in a single year is economically hard in these times. Again how will these rate payers services be improved based on a 24% increase.
584. Why should it be a minimum of \$850! It should be much less. The council needs to go back to thinking about what they are actually doing! Forget this merger- you guys haven't figured out your damn financial plans -OBVIOUSLY. The rate should be a percentage of land value. WHY DONT YOU ASK BALMAIN RESIDENTS WHO CAN AFFORD THESE PRICE INCREASES- TO PAY A BIT MORE FOR WORKING CLASS AREAS??
585. See above
586. No required if this is an excuse to increase rates -cannot afford increase.
587. All rate payers using like services should pay equally. They all walk the same paths, drive the same roads, have their rubbish removed etc.
588. Require additional information. Q. Is the residential rates proposed 850per annum? If so this is ok and I am supportive. If per quarter this is far too expansive, and am unsupportive as this is a major increase.
589. Councils own source operating revenue is already greater than 20% above the benchmark for NSW local government areas. Furthermore, there should be more to resolving Council's infrastructure issues than increasing rates. Council assets have been mismanaged for a significant number of years as evidenced by the well below average buildings renewals ratios, infrastructure backlog ratios and maintenance ratios.
590. This proposal should be dropped and a fairer more suburb to suburb community minded one should replace it taking into account past expenditure and suburb profile

591. This does not provide for those who cannot this amount of money.
592. There is no rational for setting a minimum residential rate except as an opportunity for unjustified revenue raising.
593. It seems like a fair rate.
594. There are many many small holdings that may generate a rate below the \$850 proposed minimum but be drawing on Council services to the same or greater extent that a ratepayer on a rate far in excess of the minimum proposed.
595. Please see above
596. There should be a discount for 12 months.
597. As above, not enough information
598. In theory but I don't feel well enough informed by Council to have a final view on this
599. Comment under 2 applies.
600. Should be higher to make rates fairer to all
601. Should be \$1200
602. Should be \$1200
603. Minimal rates should cover the prime essential tasks of any council - that is garbage collection, maintenance of roads (not main roads) clearing blocked drains, rubbish removal in council clean-ups. All the unnecessary, ancillary work of councils, such as planting unnecessary trees etc, funding community days etc can be paid for IF there are enough people who want to pay for these activities
604. It should remain at the \$710 quoted to me on this site.
605. I was not able to tell how the \$850 amount was calculated however I agree with the principal of having a minimum rate across the whole LGA.
606. rates have increased enough, council had a surplus of \$82 million in 2020.
607. There is no way this is fair! Some people are living in multi million dollar properties in this suburb and some are living in 100 year old workers cottages. Some people are financially struggling after COVID 19 and pay cuts. My land value is completely different to land value the street over. This should be based on land value and size, not everyone has big property, some of us live in small houses and cannot afford a 6% increase, if the banks did this the economy would be crippled. Please think of the working class people
608. I think this is fair
609. lease explain why there such a massive quantum change? No where has that been explained
610. We live in a very small apartment using a tiny portion of land. \$850 min per week is unreasonable.v
611. See comments at 2 above
612. As im not sure who would be effected and if it would cause hardship, I can't comment.
613. I can see the new rate system does save me money, however hope it will constant happen throughout coming years.
614. This seems like a high figure as a starting figure
615. Reduce the rates !!!!
616. No explanation is given as to why this figure was selected



617. Proposal must be dropped and fairer system implemented
618. This increase is more than double my current rates fees. This isn't a realistic proposal.
619. See above
620. Where's the value for money?
621. As per above
622. The council has made a mega profit so why increase rates especially during this period of job losses due to Covid-19. The government monies will end in March so these rates increase will place greater burdens on many families.
623. Council has to consider the diverse socioeconomic circumstances of people that live in the local area. Suburbs like ours have pensioners, low income earners living here. I want a compassionate council that factors everyone's circumstances. Just because a lot of middle class families have moved in it doesn't mean they are representative of the majority. The proposal is just not fair. No proposal for services which will be improved. If recent history is to be used as a guide our streets have overgrown weeds and look very unkempt.
624. This would be a fair minimum for houses, but a fairer division of rates should apply to apartments.
625. The value of property and consideration of wealth in different areas should be considered. The Inner West Council is now spans a large, diverse area where a "one size fits all" is not appropriate.
626. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more to make council more efficient in reducing rates and also there is no evidence that this will produce value for money for the rate payers and also rates have already increased since the new council was formed and this proposal will make it much worse to the average earning household
627. Rates have already increased since the new council was formed and this will put an unnecessary financial strain on the majority in the less well off areas
628. Absolutely not we have already had an increase in rates since the new formation of council and this new "harmonisation of rates proposal" displays how the council is prejudiced in favouring the well off areas
629. See above and it is not clear what benefit will come from the rise. Eg what improved services will be available.
630. The increase to the minimum residential rate is a 20% increase. Again, this is way above inflation. Is the IWC suggesting that they have been undercharging everybody for the past X number of years? I think that the minimum residential rate should be higher than the minimum business rate.
631. Property valuation is not a gauge of wealth. Perhaps a Poll tax would be fairer, so that people all pay equally for the services available. Alternatively a pay for service system might be better. This would encourage service suppliers to improve their offering and the consumer would pay for what they consume, eliminating cross subsidisation based upon property valuation, one can't eat one's property which increases in value irrespective of a person's situation in life.
632. Making some rate payers pay 20% more is not harmony to them. What are you offering for this substantial increase? Why not use some of your surplus to reduce the rate increase?
633. Aren't we paying enough? How are the elderly expected to pay?!
634. Fair
635. In my opinion the proposed rate is too high

636. Perhaps a smaller jump would be easier to have approved?
637. People who live in unit blocks use garbage collection services to the same extent as people who live in houses. Boarding houses should pay more as their residents generate a huge amount of rubbish.
638. Again. Rates should be minimised downwards being pegged to the lowest rates being paid in the innerwest. This is an appropriate harmonisation strategy.
639. It's an increase of almost 20% - grossly unfair. Council already gets more than enough from home unit owners.
640. Not a fair option at all, especially for most vulnerable members of our communities struggling with the impact of Covid 19 job losses pensioners widows and sole parents
641. I have put don't know because it is not a yes or no response. Income should be taken into account. I am not a low income earner so this is not about me. There are a lot of older people in Marrickville who bought their property decades ago and just happened to live in a suburb that has increasingly become more expensive to buy into.
642. \$850 minimum means we went up.
643. Raising rates for the people who are less wealthy and lowering it for the wealthy suburbs does not seem fair just because of a merge in council which has nothing to do with the people living in the suburbs.
644. I am unfamiliar with smaller property sizes in the council area. \$850. may be too much for very small properties.
645. This seems reasonable but I do not know how this is calculated.
646. Services need to be funded but need charges need to be controlled
647. The rates calculator indicates I will be paying an \$164 in rates to reach the minimum \$850. I haven't seen the methodology of that nor have a seen any additional value from the Inner West Council. I don't see how unit owners are paying less for the same service as house owners as per fact sheet. I understand that other council rates have been more than Leichhardt council but that isn't necessarily a reason to increase them to meet a higher average. Its more a question of why there has been a disparity.
648. I would assume council is saving running costs due to amalgamation so why is \$850 the rate?
649. Unfair increase
650. Presumably if my rates have gone up by 24% and council are not making any money on the 'harmonisation' someone else's rates have come down by 24% . I am not sure how you justify that when you are not providing those whose rate have increased any better service so we are paying more for the same services.
651. Not fair
652. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised. This minimum rate is way to high especially especially in this economic climate we are in - we are struggling to say in the area....
653. This should be a gradual and more fair process.. if rate pegging sits around 2.7% how can we allow increase to Leichhardt residents of 23% within a year?
654. It's hard to comment on the proposed minimum residential rate when you don't specify what the current minimum rate is
655. Because where are the rates of a units. For example 12 units built in one block of land, Isn't it should be charged like residential not, each. So far when you divided the 12 units how many sq. meters of land they will be entitled only enough to build a post barely or not enough to

put a toilet room. So then to be fairer that \$850.00 residential rate should be divided into 12 then the quotient to be the rate of each units. Money does not grow into Tree. BE FAIR FAIR. Thank you for giving us a chance to express our own ideas. LIFE is hard. LESSER PLEASE
656. I think this is a good option, especially for residents that live in apartments, who pay quite a bit in rates now for a small land mass.
657. I am unclear as to how rates are distributed for people living in flats. Residents of flats have the same council services as those living in houses so hopefully they will have to pay the same.
658. I would need to see a brief analysis explaining this limit. Is it sufficient to cover services provided?
659. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new council was formed - this proposal will make it worse
660. there is no proposal to improve services for those who pay more
661. An irrelevance to those who routinely pay two thousand a year and more. Honestly, does anyone in this area pay \$850 or less? Short answer: no.
662. What additional services will they receive to support this substantial increase.
663. When I lived in Surry Hills, pensioners did not pay any rates at all. I think there should be one minimum rate for people who are employed, and a separate lower minimum rate for people on Social Security.
664. As above
665. Per above
666. As above
667. See above
668. Council produced an \$82m surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.
669. Too big an increase - from \$710 to \$850 in one foul jump
670. Services provided by council have diminished - footpaths cracked, grass not mowed for weeks and street sweeping seemingly non-existent. Should not be paying more if basic services aren't improved.
671. Use it to maintain assets like playing fields as they meant to be. Astroturf is a cheap and nasty option and I can't believe it's being used in many places in IWC.
672. See above
673. Not for garages and storage rooms on separate titles in strata building
674. It will disadvantage the pensioners and the less well off in the community with less cash in their banks and hand.
675. This rate increase will affect me as a pensioner and affect my quality of life
676. Rates should be set based on projected re-imbursement for services rendered....an arbitrary minimum/maximum will not do this
677. Harmonisation is fine, but there is no justification for bringing in a minimum rates structure, especially when there is not an equivalent guarantee of minimum services being offered by Council. It feels like Council is just using the required harmonisation to push through a minimum fee, which will undoubtedly result in more revenue--even though harmonisation is being pitched as not doing that. (Because harmonisation won't, the minimum fee will.) Wasn't amalgamation supposed to SAVE ratepayers money? What happened to that? What measures has council undertaken to improve services or operate more efficiently? Without any evidence of this, I do not support a minimum rate structure.



678. It is a rip-off exercise
679. Keep rates fixed.
680. Set your minimum rates to \$500. Help rate payers to have more disposable income.
681. I feel that the general council services ie tree care, weed care and general cleanliness of the area has declined, also there is very little services regarding exercise activities for mature age people.
682. Services in our area appear less post amalgamation. Streets more dirty, leaves, rubbish. Roads very full of potholes. Did rates support Annette Kellerman pool exercise programs in past? Since privatization of programs it's a lot harder to participate
683. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850. At \$850 it is so low it is almost entirely for the benefit of home unit owners. As a house owner I am going to be paying more than \$6,000 which is just supporting unit owners and that is simply not fair. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a uniform rate so that house owners get a much better deal. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum.
684. The proposed minimum rate of \$850 is so low it is almost entirely for unit owners. As a house owner I am going to be paying a lot more than \$850 and that is simply inequitable. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a uniform rate so that house owners get a much better deal. than that proposed. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum.
685. If our services are not improving at the same time I don't believe this increase is necessary. Council should be looking at how to decrease costs for those areas that were paying more and not increasing without benefit for other locations.
686. The rate increase is excessive particularly when I am on a part pension and will in my opinion continue to rise exponentially. The Council promised prior to the merger, the rates will not increase however this appears not to be the case.
687. My current rates in Marrickville should remain the same and the wealthy suburbs that is Balmain and Birchgrove should remain higher, reflecting the higher land values.
688. Keep it as it is
689. The adjustment is too rapid. Those already on minimum rates will be hit the hardest. Look at the skew in unemployment categories over the last 12 month's.
690. Given the number of apartments coming online, this seems reasonable!
691. Every property is different and should be adjusted accordingly
692. The increase is not justified for the area especially with further industrialisation of the tempe area
693. Poor value for money.
694. again, minimum residential rates is not valid when I live in a 36sqm apartment
695. A lot of property in Tempe are tiny, 150 sq m. How is it fair that they subsidise mansions in Petersham?
696. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850. At \$850 it is so low it is almost entirely for unit owners. As a house owner I am going to be paying a lot more than \$850 and that is simply not fair. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a uniform rate so that house owners get a much better deal.. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum.

697. Yes and make sure no exceptions for pensioners etc
698. The minimum residential rate by definition targets smaller one-bedroom and two-bedroom units on denser developed properties. The proposed 24% increase in the minimum residential rate to \$850 from the current \$686 is extremely concerning in terms of affordable housing, and would be a breach of Council strategic direction 2.4.1 'Ensure expansion of social, community and affordable housing facilitated through proactive policies'. Our council most vulnerable rate payers should not be expected in these difficult times to be incurring rate increases about ten times the peg determined by IPART. Council is respectfully requested to reconsider and limit the 2021-22 minimum residential rate increase under the rate harmonisation plan to no more than peg level.
699. Minimum.... yeah right.
700. Land value has nothing to do with the services that Council provides to residents. This is not a fair way to calculate rates. Inner West Council should be de-amalgamated.
701. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850 . It is almost entirely for unit owners whether they have a 1, 2 , 3 or 4 bedrooms. Often there are at least two or three or four persons in the unit, As a house owner I will be paying a lot more than \$850 per year and I consider this is unfair. At the very least i feel that the minimum should be over \$1000 - perhaps \$1100 or \$1200 as a minimum.
702. There is no logic to such a minimum
703. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850. At \$850 it is so low it is almost entirely for unit owners. As a house owner I am going to be paying a lot more than \$850 and that is simply not fair. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a uniform rate so that house owners get a much better deal.. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum.
704. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850. At \$850 it is so low it is almost entirely for unit owners. As a house owner I am going to be paying a lot more than \$850 and that is simply not fair. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a uniform rate so that house owners get a much better deal.. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum. THIS COVERS OUR ROADS, footpaths, street parking, bridges, parks, playing fields, halls, libraries, public toilets, etc. All property owners, whether units or houses, use them equally and should pay equally.
705. Only for very small unit holders.
706. Council's \$82 million surplus from 2020 should be used to address rate inequality.
707. Until there is an improvement in council services no rates should be increased.
708. It should be \$1000 dollars
709. Should be \$1000
710. Far too low therefore potentially meaning all other property owners will have to pay a lot higher amount
711. As above
712. it is not equitable to have any minimum because each resident receives the same services
713. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850. At \$850 it is so low it is almost entirely for unit owners. As a house owner I am going to be paying a lot more than \$850 and that is simply not fair. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a

uniform rate so that house owners get a much better deal.. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum.
714. I am concerned about the impact on people who cant afford a higher rate.
715. I am strongly opposed to the proposed minimum rate of \$850. Unit owners are disproportionately advantaged with a low minimum rate, placing more pressure on house owners. As a house owner, I am going to be paying a lot more than \$850 and that is simply not fair. Council should make the minimum rate as close as possible to a uniform rate for a more equitable rates burden. At the very least it should be \$1,100 which is only another \$250 (\$5 per week) more than the proposed minimum.
716. I think this a reasonable approach as rate calculation from land size becomes less applicable as housing density increases. I would presume that this minimum is prior to pensioner discounts
717. Where is the comparison of the services that Leichhart and Ashfield Councils provide compared to Marrickville to justify the 20% increase in rates in the first year alone. Where is the justification as to why Marrickville Council could operate for decades with lower rates and now we are going to be slogged with an initial 20% increase (assuming with more to come)? Shouldn't there be efficiencies in cost savings from the amalgamation that would reduce rates rather than increase them? Also are land values taken into account when calculating the rates? I have compared my land value (\$360k) and rate (\$850) with others in Leichhardt valued at \$587k and they also pay \$850. How are the rates calculated?
718. There should be a minimum rate which ensures all owners pay a reasonable contribution towards the cost of services we all benefit from.
719. Is this the rate for pensioners?
720. So long as it is not more than \$850.00 per annum. Also Age Pensioner discount should apply at 100%, in other words no rate charges for pensioners. However residential rate payers should not subsidise business rate payers. Minimum should be the reverse \$820 for residential and \$850 for businesses.
721. I can't comment on what this rate should be but the idea is good.
722. A minimal rate is a good idea. It's important that it isn't too high.
723. Why? It makes no sense...rates should be based on land size and value. A flat minimum penalises those with lower end property and advantages those with bigger blocks of land and higher land values.
724. If that amount is required in order to retain income as per the budget, then I agree. However, if that base (and the lesser for commercial) brings in a total above the budget then it needs to be lowered so the total + the budget.
725. The minimal rate doesn't apply to me so I'm not sure who this rate applies to?
726. I support it for people who can afford to pay it and provided there are appropriate discounts for people with low income
727. Not at all! Since the amalgamation service standards have dropped substantially for us in the old Marrickville LGA. Our garage bins are now left out 24hours of more as collected sometime between Thursday afternoon and Friday. This also creates traffic in the afternoon. Why on earth this changed I have no idea. If you forget Thursday morning going to work your garbage doesn't get collected. So you then need to lodge a missed collection. This looks bad for the garbos when it's night their fault. But what else do we do if you forget Thursday morning ? For a Thursday arvo pick up ?



The nature strip has never been mowed at all since the merger. Council now no longer users snap send solve... Former Marrickville used it so well. So why would we be paying a 25% increase for stopes service standards ? While Leichhardt pay less and their services I imagine have stayed the same?
728. You can't impose a minimum residential rate if that change would be above CPI. It's too high a threshold.
729. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
730. I understand rates need to go up over time to cover costs, but s jump to \$850 at a time when people hse lost jobs from Covid and there is a lot of economic uncertainty is a slap in the face to people
731. This should be taken to the communities , who will be affected, to discuss. Not to the council who appear to be self serving , and not doing their job in representing their constituents. Maybe we need to have a thorough forensic and independant investigation of the council along with the NSW government who forced these amalgamations.
732. I have a small property, this is higher than current rates
733. You should be relating any increase in rates to the rate of inflation. Given there has been negligible increase in inflation for the last year or two and no significant increase projected, then there is no justification for raising rates and certainly not by 24%.
734. To be a fairer approach, then it should be based on the property size/value.
735. There might be some home where they are also pensioner and don't have much extra to pay to this approach if they are in a small home and currently not paying \$850.
736. It will also not be fair for others if they are currently paying less than \$850.
737. Smaller home may be paying \$850 currently, again are we forcing them to pay ore as well?
738. In theory this is fair but the test will be in years to come to ensure that, as land values increase, the minimum rate continues to provide an equitable proportion of the council's revenue rather than relying on increases in land values to fund rate rises.
739. Per my comments above the harmonisation process seems to have caused significant and unforeseen inequities for those with lower valued properties. Surely the objective of harmonisation is not to significantly increase the rates of those with the lower valued properties (and presumably in less advantaged positions) compared to those with higher valued properties, which is what my earlier examples show see for example rates and values of (redacted) compared (redacted). This is neither equitable or fair.
740. Raising the minimum rate unfairly hurts the poorest in our community and benefits the richest. The divide between rich and poor is becoming greater (both globally and locally) and increasing the minimum residential rate only accelerates this.
741. Please see comments above at item 2

742. Applying a minimum instead of scaling based on services/land size/etc seems like a simple approach for the sake of it.
743. Since many Liberal councils fought against amalgamation and won, why doesn't IW council fight to return to the original 3 councils. I was very happy being part of an efficient Marrickville Council.
744. Why do you have to hit unit holders you already get as much from me in rates as you charge house owners with many people in them I am single and live alone how can that be fair.
745. See above comments about proposed rating system
746. I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>6. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates!!</li> </ul> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised</p>
747. Where is info about it?
748. There should be no Min Rate.
749. It depends how often you increase the rates!!!
750. I already pay a huge amount for my rates and the services have definitely declined in the last year or so. I do not support this move and do not want my rates to increase as a single mum trying to pay a mortgage. \$220 a year is a huge amount for me! I hope you are going to listen to the opposition to this rate injustice
751. It depends on the land size and the area. Why should people pay that amount if they have only a very small land area?
752. Land value alone makes no sense.
753. the notice "making rates fairer.." indicates new minimum rate for residential is \$850 - is this per 6 months? Really not clear who is paying the minimum rate across the Council area - this appears to be an increase in Marrickville area
754. Without Council providing statistical evidence and financial calculations, the community is unable to make educated analysis and provide feedback to Council. There has been rapid increase in the number of new dwellings constructed and being delivered in IWC, this represents an overall increase in rates revenue collected by Council, without having to increase rates for so many residents and businesses. I do not support a submission to IPART to be lodged until adequate evidence is shown to community for the need for this proposed change, and not until a second round of consultation has been undertaken. If this is not undertaken,v
755. Any increases of this amount in Covid times and with such a short notice will be impossible to pay for myself and most other people.
756. \$850 per annum rate fee for a unit oner is too bit a burden for owners who have to pay a strata levy.

757. Hopefully it continues a further move to fee for service to match the increase in unit developments in the area and the variation in land values. After all this is about cost recovery. Economic issues are addressed by rebates and should be subsidised by State and Federal Govts as part of the welfare system and not directly by other supposedly wealthy ratepayers. By comparison to other services (energy, communication, water) \$850 is not unreasonable.
758. Our rates will be going up by more than 20%. and with no economic growth!! no wage growth!!! Prices have risen less than 1% in 12 months. Over the 3 months to June 30, Aust suffered its third bout of annual deflation since 1949!! Council has wasted approx \$90,000 of rates payers money on a new Council Logo!! Please explain this extravagant increase you are proposing on my rates!!!
759. If the rate is currently less then \$850, why should people pay more to meet a minimum cap when they aren't getting anything out of it
760. It's about half of what I currently pay. Rates should not be based on land value - it costs the same to empty a bin no matter where the house is.
761. Hard to tell without full details and comprehension of this aspect.
762. I mean, really? Really??!
763. The Fact Sheet did not explain how the \$850 will increase or decrease each year. I called your info help line and they could not explain it either. So it was not explained well enough to be able to support it.
764. Yes, since a minimum level of council services (eg bin collection) are required irrespective of how small the land size of a property is. However, I am not sure how this minimum requirement will work together with the rate harmonisation process to ensure the total revenues generated from rate payers remains constant - could council please provide the public some more granular info or example calculations for this?
765. It is unclear how a minimum would be aligned to council services.
766. Don't support this at all.
767. Can't find any information in regards to this and therefore I don't understand what it's about or means to my property?
768. I propose lower rates all round, including a lower minimum rate. The incremental increase for unit owners is too much. A 20% increase is outrageous.
769. This seems a fair minimum although I don't know what the previous or current minimum is.
770. It's ridiculous. Apartments get slugged at a much higher rate than homes also prior to the council expansion we seemed to be better off.
771. \$850 is too great an increase for the lower end values in Leichhardt and Marrickville. \$750 is better.
772. This limit is considerably lower than my current rate estimate. In a tiny 2-bed apartment.
773. See above
774. The land values are overblown and the fact you have allowed numerous apartments to be developed within the council boundaries, there should be more than enough to cover your expenses Residents do not receive any benefits from council besides garbage even stormwater comes under state .
775. Figures need to be considered against where money is spent - dont think we are getting same value for money since amalgamation.
776. Again its too high for the delivery of the most basic service - garbage collection. Despair at continual rate rises simply because their can be. Please provide a reason why all rates need to be so high.



777. \$850 is a bit steep for many rate payers. Don't force the less well off out of the inner west, where many have lived for many years if not their whole lives. Increasing rates increases gentrification, and the loss of what makes this area so attractive in terms of diversity and distinctiveness.
778. Pensioners and others who are dependent on welfare should be exempt from having to pay rates. For non-pensioners, there should be a sliding scale related to income levels.
779. Rates should reflect the suburb's needs of the suburb and council should have latitude to vary it as needed. I only have done storage in an apartment building, don't use any of you services, yet have to pay the minimum rates, as if I lived in that 10m2 cage. Ridiculous
780. Will this minimum apply to pensioners and others with limited resources? How is the proposed \$850 minimum calculated?
781. I don't trust the process initiated by Inner West Council.
782. From the information provided to the community the methodology for establishing the minimum residential rate was unclear. Further it was difficult to understand the rationale for rate decreases in some areas of the LGA and increases in other areas. The methodology appears to result in an inequitable outcome. For example a property in Louisa Road Birchgrove will receive a rate reduction of 4.5% and a property in the Don Street/ Reiby Street area will receive a rate increase of 24%. An increase in property rates of up to 24% should not occur at one time, especially now given the current economic climate. The introduction of rate increases for properties subject to an increase over 5% should be staged over a period of up to 10 years.
783. As an Ashfield resident paying extra for the aquatic centre/swimming pool, a level playing field will be much appreciated.
784. Use the same formulae. They you being consistent across all property owners.
785. This is equitable and fair.
786. I do not support a minimum residential rate in general let alone for \$850. This amount would be very high for small, low-cost properties and disproportionate for their use of amenities eg a small one bed unit in a cheaper IWC housing area. If lower, it would set a dangerous precedent. A flexible approach is optimal to factor IWC's diverse residents and neighbourhoods.
787. Council produced \$82million in surplus in 2020, that could be used to reduce rates. I don't think it's fair that we pay higher rates, it's hard enough to pay bills in an average household, i believe the minimum residential rate should stay as is, or be reduced.
788. Means paying \$1200 more per annum
789. It doesn't really mean anything - I doubt any one would qualify! Its just accounting jargon!
790. That is disadvantageous for those of us who live in an apartment. This minimum rate sees our rates increase by nearly 20% for no added benefit.
791. MORE money for what? This is not HARMONIZING anything. People can't afford this. Council should not have been amalgamated, we should not be paying for other council's ineptitude. I cannot afford this increase and am not alone. People are angry that they are NOT AWARE OF THIS ARBITRARY INCREASE.
792. Surely Business people are not in a financial position with the existing C-19 situation. Doesn't seem fair to have an increase.
793. There's a pandemic on. No one wants a rate increase right now. All very well for people whose rates go down, not so great for those whose rates go up.

794. Rates already way to high. We are also in the middle of a pandemic where people have lost their jobs and wages have remained stagnant. People are struggling with there day to day living expenses.
795. There is presently a lack of transparency on how rates are Calculated and used and a perception that the IW council is mismanaged and toothless to support residents. Before supporting we would need to better understand the calculations. Your website is not useful.
796. This is too high!
797. How can you put a blanket rates across a number of suburbs especially more affluent suburbs
798. Hard to work out if I'll be paying more when "the amounts do not include Waste and Stormwater charges or Pensioner Rebates/Discounts".
799. The minimum needs to be more carefully calculated, and more evidence provided why others are so much higher percentage-wise.
800. The question does not allow me to indicate my reservations so I'm indicating No. it seems equitable to have a single minimum residential rate. I'm not sure about the proposed implementation strategy. I would like more information about how the figure was determined, what it will do for overall revenue, (it appears that higher value properties would be already paying the \$850 or more), how it relates to the increases/decreases in total rates and how it will affect lower income ratepayers.
801. I don't know how many people are affected by this.
802. This is an appalling increase to already heavy rates
803. I agree a minimum rate is probably essential, but cannot comment on the proposed amount as I don't know what it is based on, and if it takes in to account individual financial situations.
804. Yet another blow and this time a financial hit at a time where we're all suffering financially already with the fallout of the pandemic.
805. Any rise should be phased in
806. Rates go up and we're struggling financially due to COVID. Pay hasn't gone up. Family has decreased funding yet inner west wants us to pay more. Where's the fairness in that
807. I do support a minimum residential rate for each household.
808. Ridiculous. Maybe \$100 .....\$850 is beyond
809. I think businesses and rich people should pay full rates but not struggling families!! So unfair to have to pu so much and not see the benefits. Our street isn't cleaned and is covered in rubbish and weeds.
810. Please don't increase the rates
811. If services were increased and not reduced I would support it but no way.
812. It should be based on land value, not a one size fits all mininum
813. Increased costs for minimum wage earners does not make life easier for them.
814. Not every home/unit owner is flush with cash many of who are scraping through on the pension
815. Rates ought to be calculated based on land value. So a minimum is illogical and inconsistent.
816. Seems fair as everyone takes advantage of council services regardless of property type

817. Myself and many of my friends live in marrickville and will no longer be able to afford living here if the minimum rate is \$850. Especially some of us relying on Centrelink.
818. For myself and my peers, a raise of rates to \$850 could topple us and others over the edge of affordable housing in the Inner West.
819. That's an insane amount of money for the majority of current Marrickville residents. The creativity and colour of Marrickville is provided by the artists and creatives of the area, they will never be able to afford that rent hike.
820. Go back to 90's early 2000 rates prices!
821. CUT IT OUT
822. I'll be happy to pay you for a job well done, but all I experience with council is development approval in spite of residents objections, and reduction in services. Rates should take household income into consideration. I am retired and while not on a pension get no additional assistance as a senior. How can this increase be proposed when many are out of work due to no fault of our own? The Inner West is home to many in the arts and creative industries and many rely on the gig economy. Rates go up, rents will go up as landlord's try to recoup. Additionally, I resent paying for weekly garbage collection. I rarely use the service and actually easily cant dispose of many items ethically as council does not offer enough solutions for the reuse/recyclable materials that currently end up in the landfill bin. Monthly collection would be more than sufficient for me so bring on a pay per use system and reduce the overall costs!
823. This will raise rent prices forcing myself and others out of our homes!
824. Retain and improve existing services is required if I am to support this. Decline in services with an increase in rates is not going to get my support.
825. The proposed increase to the minimum rate will mean that, for myself and many others, rates will increase by 19% from \$710 to \$850. This is not only an excessive figure but unrealistic. It will place added pressure on those already experiencing financial stress. At a time when the country has been coping with pandemic conditions that have resulted in high job losses and an unemployment rate of over 6%, this proposal shows just how out of touch council is with the reality of the times we live in. I strongly do not support this proposal.
826. Refusing the opportunity for lower income communities to live in the inner west changes the reason the inner west is such a cultural and economic hub in the first place.
827. Residential Rate should be based on the L.V only, times the council taxing rate factor, which should be in line with CPI. (Consumer Price Index )
828. I don't think there should be a minimum rate , I think it should be based on land value if you have a very small block then charges should be smaller as size affects future property value
829. This will make people homeless
830. This would diario many lives please don't, have some empathy
831. The very idea of a minimum rental rate for residential dwellings is discriminatory and in my eyes unjust. Especially considering the projections of continued wage growth stagnation, this will cause unnecessary strain for many inner west residents
832. This is unfair and will cause many low income residents to no longer be able to afford their living circumstances
833. Too \$\$\$
834. This still needs to take into account special circumstances



835. Rental stress is defined as spending 30% or more of household income on rent, and almost everyone I know already pays more more than 50% of their income on rent. Most cheaper rental prices I see are at least 70-80% of my income or more. And the tenuous position for those of us on minimal Jobkeeper or Jobseeker incomes will become totally unviable.
836. This new minimum is higher than my previous rates for the same service.
837. Despite being on a smaller parcel of land, I now have to pay more because of this policy.
838. Too high. See comments above
839. It's too high
840. The level has not been substantiated and would be an increase to my rates for no tangible results in what I see to be a deteriorating level of services. It appears to be based on a cross-subsidisation objective. Where does Council think the additional funds will be able to be sourced from by residents in an environment of low interest rates and wage levels, It is particularly annoying in that it presumes service levels are equal across all areas and yet Marrickville still does not have access to services such as Ashfield's Asbestos Collection arrangement. Similarly, no consideration appears to have been made for circumstances where one council in the past bore the full cost of infrastructure upgrades (eg. regional facilities like Marrickville Olympic Pool, Marrickville Library), and the 'unfairness' of the amalgamation arrangements for similar types of upgrades eg. Dawn Frazer pool upgrade, where the costs are being spread across all ratepayers of the amalgamated area. The rate strategy needs to be explained in the context of what council plans to do with the "additional" funds it will source from this area, and explain how that will be beneficial for those adversely affected. Council also needs to reflect an appreciation of the range of income of families across each area. An offer of temporary rate relief is no substitute for proper financial planning.
841. The proposed new rates do not reflect the living wage of residents. Median averaging is not equitable. Any rate increase should be applied according to income.
842. Far too high and penalises people on lower incomes contributing to the toxic gentrification of this area
843. I would like a breakdown of current and proposed facilities before answering this. For example land values should also come into this. Why would I pay the same amount as someone with a water front property?
844. It's too high for people on a minimum wage
845. As above, increasing minimum rates is an unconscionable inequality outcome, an issue which is not defrayed at all by exemption schemes.
846. As above, this is beyond the means of many employed & hard working people who have historically lived here & work here. Travel from far beyond to commute to jobs in the area would also be unaffordable & impossible for many business & families
847. This can lead to an increase in housing costs for renters, many of whom are already hard off.
848. not sure what it should be but without more info its hard to say.
849. See comments at item 2 above
850. Please see comments at item 2 above
851. I think this unfairly targets unit owners. \$850 min for houses, yes but I feel it's just price gouging unit owners.
852. This question is inappropriate: - The minimum rate does not apply to many residents,

- there is no explanation as to how the proposed rating system works and where the minimum rate would apply
- there is no explanation as to how the minimum rates are calculated
853. From the information provided to the community the methodology for establishing the minimum residential rate was unclear. Further it was difficult to understand the rationale for rate decreases in some areas of the LGA and increases in other areas. The methodology appears to result in an inequitable outcome. For example a property in Louisa Rd Birchgrove will receive a rate reduction of 4.5% and a property in the Don Street/ Reiby Street area will receive a rate increase of 24%. An increase in property rates of up to 24% should not occur at one time, especially now given the current economic climate. The introduction of rate increases for properties subject to an increase over 5% should be staged over a period of up to 10 years.
854. absolutely no !!!! under the proposed plan, my rate will go up \$140 per quarter! a 30% increase !!!
855. a fairer rate means more than \$100 a quarter? I absolutely reject the new proposal ! it is ripping residents off ! the merging of councils is supposed to save the cost not increase !!!!
856. this is crazy idea ! how is increasing the rate by 33% a quarter making it fairer?? Councils are ripping people off !
857. How would I know when there is no explanation about how the proposed rating system works or how these amounts are calculated?
858. Its a significant hike in one go
859. It depends how and to what areas this is distributed.
860. This is unfair to owners of small / lower cost properties who may have purchased them with the knowledge that would mean comparatively lower rates
861. That just seems incredibly high, especially considering the shit state of public spaces in the area.
862. In the calculator I am not applicable to the minimum residential rate. I will be paying over \$200.00 more.
863. Not supportive if the minimum of services is what is going to continue, however if the Marrickville services could be restored to pre-amalgamation levels and timeframes, then yes, I would agree to the \$850 min, starting with one bedroom homes or apartments. Studios should be less.
864. Many people cannot afford this especially after many businesses and jobs have been affected by covid
865. We're pensioners and both my wife and I are sick. This extra money is going to be hard to pay.
866. The proposed minimum residential rate is still an increase and a large increase, how do we pay this extra fee when I cannot pay the rates now?
867. The minimum rate of \$850 is so low that it is almost exclusively for unit owners. It should be set at a much higher level so that only well above average house properties pay more than the minimum.
868. From \$710 (current) to \$850 (proposed) that's a massive increase. I assume this impacts most apartments which presumably explains why Council is pushing the over development and destruction of our suburbs.
869. 'Providing my calculations are correct (!): - Over the past 6 years, my minimum residential rate amount has increased annually between 1.5% and 5.4% (2.7% average). - The proposed adjustment to the minimum rate represents a 19.7% increase.

- Assuming amounts for all other line items remain the same (which may or not occur), my Pensioner-based rates would increase by over 30% (representing a jump from \$115 to \$150 per quarter).  
I am very appreciative of the Pensioner rate rebate, but this is a sizeable increase, especially when on a fixed income...  
Is Council considering:  
- increasing the rebate?  
- reducing the amount of the increase?  
- staggering the introduction of the increase?

Q6. Optional) Comment about the minimum business rate (limit 200 words). 514 comments	
1.	Why are residents to be "taxed" more than businesses?
2.	People cannot expect services without increasing rates. Minimum rates should be much higher
3.	It would be good if Council more thoroughly explained why there's a \$40 difference between business and residential rates if the intent is harmonisation and fairness.
4.	Why should the business rate be less than the residential rate? It should be more. Again, this council gives little thought to the people who actually live in the area.
5.	Where is the transparency?
6.	NO!! Why should business pay less than residential?? Its still the same land value!!
7.	It seems unfair that businesses pay less than residents when they are operating commercial businesses
8.	Same reasons as previous comments
9.	No additional services provided for the residents and local businesses, how do you justify the rate increase. Especially in this pandemic period, it will increase the hardship for the wider local community. This is not necessary and should be stopped!!



10. Again , current information not provided so impossible to comment.
11. definitely think that businesses should be charged more as they have more rubbish to be disposed off and more maintenance compared to residential properties
12. As above - many businesses are really struggling right now. I think Council should try to support its residents and businesses to keep going financially.
13. Why is the residential rate higher than the business rate? Businesses
14. Why is the Business Minimum rate lower that the residential when Businesses make money from their land and residents don't?
15. This isn't a time to be making huge changes to ratepayers especially after a year like 2020. I have used the rate calculator and all I can see is everyone's rates in the Marrickville Council area going up dramatically!!
16. Why is the Business Minimum rate lower that the residential when Businesses make money from their land and residents don't?
17. Should be the same as per residential property sizes
18. See above
19. same as above
20. Rates have already been gouged previously by local governments. Proposing a 34% increase in Marrickville's rates can be considered as offensive behaviour governed by consumer laws. Please respond.
21. I would hope this doesn't further discourage businesses from setting up in the Inner West.
22. Same as 4 above
23. Why can't it stay the same to attract businesses to our community?
24. I don't know what services business get so cannot comment

25. Why are the rates for business less than residents? This is outrageous.
26. The fact that business will pay less than residents says everything about where the priorities for the Inner West Council lay. It'll be interesting if political donations from business owners had anything to do with this decision?
27. Rates should be much higher for businesses, particularly those that are sitting dormant and untenanted for years in Dulwich Hill and surrounds. If the landlords of these properties can afford to have dormant business property then they are clearly not paying enough in rates.
28. it's a business and should be higher than residential rates
29. Seems too low compared to \$850 for residences
30. business should be much higher as they are generating revenue
31. Why do businesses get preferential treatment? Are residents somehow more loaded?
32. rates should depend on UCV and the number of toilets on a property
33. Charge business more residents less, they're making money from the property we are existing/maintaining in ours.
34. I have no issue with the concept of a minimum rate, but do not understand why the minimum business rate should be less than the minimum residential rate. I cannot comment on whether the dollar amount is reasonable without more information about the costs to cover basic services.
35. supporting businesses, especially small and micro businesses which have formed during covid times as people have lost their regular income, is critical to keeping the inner west the pocket of creative industries it is
36. Why is business lower than residential? For them its a tax deduction?
37. You have bit explained what the old rate was, and what the impact will be on businesses
38. That is a lot of money for small businesses
39. Again it should be higher

40. Why does business get a minimum rate lower than mine? Stated to be \$820. How is that fair?
41. Businesses are not paying their rent. Landlords are unable to pay on goings and you want to increase business rates at this time?
42. This should be answered by business owners.
43. Too low. The low business rate would be supported by business owners and developers on council particularly those who do not live in the inner west area as well as their donors.
44. I don't see the logic in a minimum rate. A one person apartment should not have to pay so much.
45. Why do businesses pay less than residential?
46. It should be higher. How come businesses are required to pay less than residents?
47. How is it that businesses are paying less than households???
48. I think the business rate should be based on the location of the business and their ability to profit from said location (i.e. tied to land value) versus an arbitrary number that has been pulled out
49. Why is the rate lower than the residential one?
50. Why is the minimum business rate lower than the residential rate? Please explain.
51. It is fair that businesses pay for their council services.
52. I don't understand why business is paying less than residential surely most businesses are drawing more of Council services than residents, impact on roads such as the use of heavy delivery trucks and greater waste management requirements.
53. Does affect me
54. Business are doing it tough enough without you guys putting rates up. Shameful you guys are even asking this 1) This year given Covid 2) We are in a recession.
55. Why is the minimum for businesses less than for residential? So many services facilitate business eg food inspections, large amounts of garbage collection.



56. Give business a break.
57. Businesses should be paying more, much more. Around us they are responsible for crippling parking shortages, rubbish, dumped cars, increased use of services I pay for.
58. Should be the same as residential
59. NO - not at expense of other rate payers - Council should be providing more details of the scale/criteria.
60. I cannot comment - I am unaware of what the current situation is for businesses. But I do support a reasonable minimum business rate.
61. All these increases are to align rates for Marrickville with those for Ashfield and Leichhardt, despite the very obvious differences in amenity and demographic.
62. Businesses should be charged rates according to the services they are provided by council.
63. Why is it lower than residential? That doesn't seem fair to me. Why aren't they paying as much as residents?
64. The business rate should surely be higher than the residential rate. Businesses can include charges like rates as a tax deduction, which actual residents (as opposed to landlords who don't live at the property) can't. Residents are the heart of the community. The council should support residents, not use them to subsidise businesses. Why not have a higher minimum rate for businesses and non-residential property owners?
65. Where has council been this past year, business are under enormous pressure just to continue operating & just to get back on top will take time, this proposed increase will only add more burden. This increase is an example of kill the golden goose, they pay enough already
66. I don't have a business.
67. The minimum amount for a business is less than the minimum rate for a residence. That doesn't seem to me to be fair. However, I do realise that this is the minimum and Inner West houses a lot of small businesses. I would like to understand the rationale for the setting the rates.
68. As Above

69. N/A
70. I don't see why there should be a difference between minimum residence and minimum business.
71. Business rates should be much higher! They bring in profit and affect the foot traffic much more than residential housing does
72. Unfair
73. No idea what this means
74. also reasonable
75. As above
76. This is just another increase in costs , with inflation supposedly near zero why can council's increase rates
77. I don't know about it.
78. Again, it should be based on unimproved land value, as Council is providing land-related services (excluding garbage bins, which it bills separately).
79. I believe business rates should be less to encourage more business. Residential rates should be higher to pay for some of this- particularly for new businesses.
80. I would like to see better management and maintenance of parks, gardens and street trees and less money spent on community programs
81. Council hasn't made a case for this.
82. the business rate should not be less than the residential rate
83. The minimum rate of \$850 should be applicable to both residential & Business General.

84. I don't agree that the minimum rate for a business should be less than a residential property. Businesses bring more visitors to the area and use more infrastructure and services than residential properties. The business minimum should be greater than the residential. I would as a local government professional for over 40 years and was a rates manager for over ten. I have a very good understanding of how council raises its rates and charges and allowances under the local government act.
85. I don't understand why businesses would pay less than residential home owners.
86. Business rates should be more than residential rates.
87. Balmain businesses need all the help possible. Drop rates to 50% for 2021. No businesses , no suburb
88. As above comments
89. Same answer as before
90. you should charge them more
91. There is no financial benefit provided to support the change.
92. I don't know what it is now, nor what the range is for business rates
93. Businesses have had it tough enough this year without your agency putting more pressure on them with this.
94. Should be lowered! Reduced!
95. Don't know enough about types of businesses and what council services they use to know if this is fair. Though seems like very few businesses have to pay the minimum rate, so perhaps it should be higher.
96. What is the reason for the change in calculation. what have you provided businesses to justify this? nothing.
97. Business are struggling
98. It should be higher as business utilise the council facilities more than residential so the minimum rate should be higher than minimum residential rate.



99.	The base rate for Business should be higher as Business can use rate costs as an operating tax deduction.
100.	Outrageous when applied to a small factory warehouse of 120 squares with a land value of less than \$38,000 for which Council provides NO special services, not even waste removal.
101.	Don't have business so not applicable
102.	Need clear information to make an informed choice.
103.	I believe businesses should pay more than the residential rates. They are making a profit (hopefully) from their premises. I could sell my home but it's where I live and my retreat.
104.	This should be increased, Business should be assisting in offsetting costs for the people they make money off
105.	They are using their asset for income and therefore should be charged more because they will use more services
106.	Shouldn't the business rate be higher than the residential rate?
107.	The rates should stay the same for the same services.
108.	The minimum business rate should be at least equal to, if not greater than, the minimum residential rate.
109.	Why is the proposed minimum business rate lower than residential? Especially considering the rate will be a tax deductible expense in the business?
110.	How does Council justify having more expensive residential rates compared with business rates?
111.	Businesses should pay more than residents as they are for profit
112.	N/A
113.	If the proposed residential rate of \$850 is flawed then the business rate will be flawed.
114.	Not sure why business rates are lower than residential rates? What is the methodology behind calculating the minimum rates?

115.	For the same reasons above that the council has properly investigated and analysed the rates people are paying.
116.	I don't know what rates were previously
117.	No point of reference
118.	Why would businesses pay less than households? They should pay more.
119.	Business should be paying more rates
120.	Businesses should be charged according to what they can afford.
121.	It should be based on land size and turnover. We want to encourage businesses as we have a lot of vacant shopfronts.
122.	Rates need to be left as it is, we can barely afford to pay them as they are
123.	I am not sure how the council calculates business rates, but if they are based on land value, I presume that not many businesses would be under this rate.
124.	It's not a bad idea but I'm opposed because it's tied to the rates harmonisation.
125.	businesses should pay more
126.	But wonder why business is cheaper then residential. What is the logic here? Business has a means of raising capital. People on fixed incomes, for example, don't.
127.	Increased rate change when there is no increased output from useless Councillors
128.	Not a business ratepayer but would have thought business rates were paid at significantly different rate to residential. Just puzzled.
129.	As a struggling small business operator, there have been enough tax burdens to take care of. It's the last thing I want to see the rate increases without ANY tangible benefits.
130.	industrial property is excessively charged compared to other councils and yet the change here is almost nil. Mine dropped \$11.
131.	N/A

132.	Businesses earn money and I would assume most businesses have more waste than most households, so why charge them less.
133.	As above. But I would think business rates would be higher than residential
134.	have no idea....but business general rate is lower than residential is sooo ridiculous! they are making money, generally causing more rubbish, using more local resources
135.	I believe the minimum commercial rate should be at least \$50/quarter higher than the minimum residential rate. This is because Businesses produce more waste, contribute more to traffic and parking congestion and are able to tax deduct their rates unlike home owners.
136.	Make it higher; see above.
137.	See Above
138.	I support making Local Government much smaller, get rid of half the Bureaucrats working there, no one will know the difference in service, there is so much waste and duplication it has become ridiculous and all of them on full salaries during the China Virus panic
139.	Could we look at lowering local business rates, not franchise or large business, to support their existence in the inner west? they are the social fabric that we all enjoy and needs to be cherished. Empty shops in high streets is terrible. North St, Parra Rd etc.
140.	Should be same as residential
141.	Rates should be based on the Land Value without a minimum.
142.	Business rates can be used as expenses, and therefore should be higher than for residents
143.	It is a grab-for-cash.
144.	More financial analysis is required for make a decision whether it is supported or not.
145.	Standardising the rate makes sense
146.	\$850 for Ashfield is too expensive comparing with suburbs such as Annandale, Leichardt, Balmain. It is not fair for Ashfield residents.



147.	Business is different to residential
148.	Why is this less than the minimum residential rate?
149.	Businesses should be paying more
150.	I thought business would be charged a higher rate than households
151.	Is there any modelling to support the change and potential impact on existing and potential businesses ? i.e. will the increases in Marrickville be a disincentive to invest ?
152.	N/A
153.	I do not own a business and can not compare to what their previous rates were
154.	Marginally less than residential rates yet they do not receive any waste services. How could that possibly be fair?
155.	Minimum \$820 business rate is a bargain.
156.	Seems low given services used by business
157.	Shop owners are filthy. Just look at the back streets behind Marrickville and Illawarra Roads. They should pay more to cover the cost of cleaning up after them.
158.	The business rate should be higher, at least a \$1,000.
159.	I don't run a business in the inner west. Can't comment.
160.	business rate should be higher
161.	I can understand a minimum residential/business rate as there are fixed costs in the community. Though I don't have the fact and figure to know if \$820 is the fair rate. That said, I am surprised the business rate isn't higher than the residential rate.
162.	my property in Petersham will have a 25% increase. How the hell can you justify this where Leichhardt properties have decreased. You can stick the rate increase up your ass, I am not paying for this increase. You are a bunch of criminals

163.	Businesses should have higher rates than residential properties as they increase traffic into the council area and cause issues with parking/rubbish so therefore should have a higher levy
164.	no comment
165.	as comment above. also we dont use council business disposal, we dont use the foot path. so why so high?
166.	there is not enough information presented to make an informed judgement. For example: no alternatives are presented, there is no comparison with local governments across NSW, no indication of where the significant savings from council amalgamation figure in this, what the money will be spent on (in detail).
167.	Business rates should be higher than residential as they will incur more expense on council and more inconvenience on residents
168.	Please note - it's less than residential rates and that is preposterous
169.	As the differences between the new minimum rates are so small (3.5%) why make them different? Why can't business pay the same minimum rate as residential? Then it really would be equal rates for all (based on land value)
170.	This will only discourage small businesses from starting up, but the Federal Government will wear this with potential increases in job seeker payments
171.	All businesses are struggling
172.	Business needs support not bills
173.	Similar to my comments for residential rates.
174.	See above
175.	It seems low for the minimum business rate to be less than the minimum residential rate.
176.	It should be individually assessed not a one size fits all.
177.	Many businesses have received rate relief, concessions, and decreased utility costs.

178.	I have no idea if this is a good idea as I do not know what the minimum rates bill was previously.
179.	Particularly those Asian/Indian shops with their disgusting back lanes full of rubbish.
180.	should not go up from whatever it is now.
181.	A 200% increase in business rates is completely unjustified, unfair and counter-productive to the economic outlook.
182.	Businesses should pay a higher amount so we can start to get quality shops rather than brothels next to ice cream shops such as the one near the library's end of Marrickville Road.
183.	Have to provide some information about minimum services for me to have an opinion ...
184.	It's a business and they get a lot of tax breaks - households get no tax breaks.
185.	It's lower than the residential rates. They use the roads more, create more waste than do residential rate payers. Their refuse is all over the municipality eg Maccas packaging, supermarket trolleys. They make higher incomes than residents and they use more council services.
186.	It's a fair and necessary minimum rate that will, unfortunately, impact on some residences and businesses. However, council needs to think of the greater good.
187.	The council should spend less time thinking about collecting and increasing rates and more time in measures that improve productivity and services to the community. Please have a close look at your expense line before focusing on revenue.
188.	Business rates should be higher than residential rates. There is no justification for having residential rates higher than for a commercial premises. Generally councils provide more services to commercial premises particularly in the way of garbage collection.
189.	BUSINESS SHOULD BE PAYING MORE
190.	too expensive
191.	Don't know what they paid before.



192.	The business minimum should be MORE than the minimum for residential properties, not less. Businesses are heavy users of council services and pay disproportionately less than residents (think private schools monopolising council parks, large trucks chewing up local roads, noise and visual pollution, massive overdevelopment applications and consequent legal proceedings, etc). At worst the business minimum should be equal to that of residents.
193.	Business is struggling, the government has given support but I think a lot of it from what I read doesn't get to the most needy. There are I believe some businesses who do not play by the rules at all.
194.	Businesses should contribute more to rates for the greater environmental impact they generate.
195.	N/a
196.	Does not seem right that minimum business rate is less than minimum residential rate.
197.	Don't own a business so not fair to comment.
198.	I support a minimum but this seems too low. Business rates should reflect the draw down on common ground/services as well as land value. How was the value arrived at? If land value is a proxy for Residents ability to pay why aren't business rates based on turn over?
199.	should be higher as impact on infrastructure is greater than that of residential--delivery vehicles, rubbish collection, parking of staff and customers (impact roads/footpaths etc)as well as cafes footpath occupation of tables/chairs etc
200.	what am i getting for it, nothing but poor services and not focusing on your core mandate? and why was this send before xmas, clever to strategically ensure limited feedback, unconscionable
201.	It's a tax deduction for businesses not for residences. The minimum business rate should be higher than the minimum residential rate
202.	I don't support the increase in the rates - I don't see the benefit to me
203.	I have no relevant experience in that area.
204.	Why would I support business paying less than me in a tiny 1 bedroom unit? You cannot be serious!
205.	As I don't own a business, can't comment intelligently.

206.	The minimum amount is much too low and has not had any information provided as to how this amount was determined.
207.	Shouldn't amalgamation of council's make things cheaper? An increase in rates during a pandemic and economy in recovery will hurt a lot of business and residents already struggling.
208.	Don't know
209.	I think businesses should always pay more than residents! Don't understand why they pay less.
210.	I assume business land values are higher than residential then perhaps they the minimum should be higher than stated.
211.	???????
212.	Business rates should be higher than residential rates. They require greater council resources and also generate income from their properties, unlike residential properties.
213.	for what? incompetent management of councils?
214.	Why is the minimum business rate lower than the minimum residential rate?
215.	Why would an income generating business that can claim their rates as a tax deduction be charged less than a resident? How does this compare to other council areas?
216.	If the economy was stronger maybe but business is already struggling, the end of jobkeeper and reduction of jobseeker is yet to impact the economy in 2021
217.	Businesses need to contribute more to the council payments, as they already get many subsidies from the got to keep open
218.	Seems to disadvantage businesses with low income such as startups or those having a bad year.
219.	Don't know what the current minimum rate is.
220.	Why should the owner of a commercial property pay less than a private individual in a residential property.

221.	How has this been calculated? There is no transparency on where rates have been spent. How do I know the minimum is accurate? I am not able to complete this and require detailed information from council. DONT KNOW DOES id due to lack of information. Please provide this to all ratepayers.
222.	Busdinese should pay much more - minimum \$1100
223.	This amount should be the same as residential because it will stop people manipulating the classification for avoidance.
224.	Business rates should be at least the same as residential rates. However, a rebate scheme should be explored for businesses who invest in local expansion or increase their staffing footprint from local residents.
225.	We should be incentivising businesses with a much cheaper rate, particularly in the moribund Leichhardt precinct.
226.	I know nothing about the business rate.
227.	The extra rate charge will incur higher rent which will affect the goods and services charged to the public.



228.	<p>If these properties below, are classified as businesses, this is UNFAIR to homeowners who in general as families, pensioners, people on fixed incomes and we will end up paying for greedy landlords.</p> <p>Address: [redacted] Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,240,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,285.96 \$1,592.3</p> <p>This property is on 575 sqm. It is a block of 9 flats and they are paying less rates than us. Charging \$340 per week in rent for each flat.</p> <p>Address: [redacted] Category: Residential Sub Category: General Mixed: 100% 2019 Land Value: \$1,380,000 Charges 2020/21 2021/22 Rates: \$1,431.15 \$1,772.07</p> <p>It's a block of flats and they are paying less rates than us and on a larger block. Charging \$340 in rent per week for each flat.</p>
229.	Why lower than personal?
230.	I do not have a business in the Inner West LGA.

231.	Business rate should be higher or equal to residential rate.
232.	Not applicable to my circumstances.
233.	As above
234.	I am not a business owner; I am a resident.
235.	as per feedback box 4
236.	Do you know what small shopkeepers pay in rent, electricity, etc?
237.	Inflation is 0.75% Where are you going with these increases????
238.	See above
239.	The lower the better and that way it would give residents the opportunity to contribute more towards their family and home.
240.	The flyer & email only say a "new minimum rate". Is the new min amount quarterly or yearly? Please advise! If quarterly DO NOT support. If Yearly DO support.
241.	Why is there a difference between the residential and business rate? I think maybe that they should be the same,
242.	Why are businesses paying less than residential? They create more waste pollute more create garbage on the streets such as takeaway packaging for food businesses and fill our streets with parked cars during the day and create road congestion. If anyone party should have their rates increased it's businesses.
243.	What Council charges businesses does not concern me. I just don't want those businesses to clog up our street all day with vehicles that have no resident stickers.
244.	Why does a business pay less than an residential apartment? They use more council services.
245.	I do not know what they presently pay
246.	If business is getting regular garbage collection yes but don't put them out of business! They employ people and bring people to the area..

247.	N/A
248.	Business does not always generate huge turnover in terms of incomes , profit can be marginally small and cash flow is restricted due to many reasons , especially Allied Health professional in this current unexpected calamities,we are struggling to be alive and probably end up in selling up and be a non productive citizen .
249.	I think business services should pay more than the residential considering they will profit more on the infrastructure (parking, footpaths) than residential occupant
250.	Business rates should be more then privet ones
251.	As above.
252.	but don't support if it is an increase for small business.
253.	Why is the proposed minimum business rate of \$820 less than the residential rate of \$850? Businesses make money, they claim rates as an expense, they come and they go. We survive in our homes
254.	Business rates should not be less than residential. They use the same services.
255.	Think businesses should pay more - tax deductible after all.
256.	Not applicable
257.	It is the same for business rate, which should be different according to the property value and land value.
258.	Believe it would impact small business or small offices who will pay more than previous rates
259.	If business rates increase, that will surely affect prices of goods and services. If minimum business rate means that goods and services increase, I do not support the minimum rate value.
260.	It's not clear to me how a min. business rate might impact businesses in the. We are in the middle of a pandemic...
261.	Why should the business rate be smaller than the minimum residential rate?



262.	The minumum business rate is less than the residential rate. This is not fair.
263.	I don't know how it affects businesses but it will probably affect small businesses the way it affects me increasing cost significantly
264.	Why is a business less than a townhouse?
265.	See above. Same applies for businesses.
266.	business rate should be higher as they create more waste and use more resources all for the purpose of making revenue/profit
267.	Businesses should be paying higher rates than residents.
268.	I'll presume it's an increase given covid 19 most business's are suffering and will continue to do so for sometime
269.	Any changes to rates in this unprecedented and challenging time needs to be gradual and phased over a number of years.
270.	Business should pay more, instead of raising residential rate. Be fair.
271.	I don't know how small business rates are calculated and the impact this may have on businesses.
272.	Why should the minimum business rate be lower than the minimum residential rate?
273.	One size does not fit all - lazy policy
274.	I do not own a business.
275.	Should be one rate of \$1500 a year across the suburbs.
276.	Like residential business should also pay one rate no matter what suburb they are in
277.	Should be one rate for everyone whether residential or commercial
278.	No comments

279.	Rates should be set in accordance with the means that people are able to pay. It is not equitable to set an arbitrary minimum. Some businesses struggle to survive or are desired to serve the community and their rates could be subsidised by businesses who are not as desired.
280.	Does the council not comprehend that some of these businesses were shut for the majority of 2020? Why not a staggered increase over 5 years as we recover.
281.	<p>I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas.</li> <li>2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services.</li> <li>3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers.</li> <li>4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates.</li> <li>5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse.</li> <li>6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges on Council services.</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that can be used to reduce rates.</li> </ol> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
282.	Min rate for business should be same or more than residential.
283.	There should be a minimum rate set . Given it is a cost of running business it could o a little higher
284.	Do not own a business
285.	The minimum business rate is half the amount of what my residential rates will be. How is this fair? I am a single 66 year old female earning \$65,000 a year. If a business earned this amount they would not exist.
286.	Same rate for business in any suburb within the inner west council boundary

287.	Once again, I do not know of any commercial block of land that would make this criteria. If this is worked out on land value as your flyer states. Our residential block is currently being charged at approx. 1,600.00 per annum, and land value is \$1.1 million why would a business pay half this amount per annum - it does not seem fair or equitable to me? Business are making money, I'm not? Can you give me a listing of commercial properties that shows a land value of \$550.00? As I think I would like to make an investment.
288.	There is a Covid19 crisis which is sending many small businesses to the wall. Now is not the time for rate increases nor for responsible councils to make a profit at our expense.
289.	Are you serious? There is a pandemic and business are struggling to survive.
290.	Not sure why the Business rate is lower than Residential rate - I am sure the service costs at your end are the same!
291.	The Marrickville Road and Illawarra Rd businesses have only recently returned to bring more life to the area. And Canterbury Road businesses are yet to really get back on track. Businesses are struggling. Don't be the reason more close their doors! Be Fair. Support local business.
292.	The nature of businesses and not-for-profit business should be considered before a minimum is put in place.
293.	Please refer to previous comment.
294.	What the proposal demonstrates is that the old Marrickville Council would have been the most efficient and Inner West Council wants to adopt the least cost effective practices of the 3 old Councils.
295.	not my area of expertise
296.	Small business is currently really struggling and you are proposing to whack some businesses whilst providing benefits to others.
297.	I believe businesses should pay more than a minimum rate of \$820 as business have more capacity to generate income than the elderly residents in the area. They are also have greater flexibility and can choose to continue their business elsewhere.
298.	Nil



299.	does anybody qualify for the measley \$820?
300.	Why is the commercial rate less than the residential rate? This does not make snce to me at all. Why should the residents subsidise the commmerical owners?
301.	Business rate should be based on services provided by the council and not some unsubstantiated rate.
302.	Not sure given the residential minimum rate is higher. Has this something to do with land area for businesses sometimes being smaller. It would be good to receive more detail in relation to business vs residential rates and what services are received.
303.	Not sure what the basis for charging this is...
304.	All Councils have a direction they need to adopt as spelt out by the Office of Local Government , what are the basis assumptions, index values used to arrive at a rates value and no its not only a function of the Valuation of the land
305.	Please justify this rise. How will the council improve services in my area by 20% in line with this proposed rise.
306.	Refer to my response to Question 2
307.	Local businesses should be supported to bring and retain the life in local life. The business rates seem regressive - high value properties reducing rates with low value increasing. Again, doesn't support small businesses which are the lifeblood of the area.
308.	I don't see why businesses should have a lower minimum than residents. Although there may be some argument that they may make less demand on some Council Services than residents; I am certain they make greater use of other services (eg waste collection, either directly from the business or indirectly through footpath bins outside their business). And if your decision making involved and consideration for the poor struggling small businessman, forget it - they are the biggest group of tax evaders in the country and deserve no consideration at all.
309.	Not fair on business owners especially in the current climate of Covid-19 as majority of business struggle to stay afloat
310.	Why is the business rate lower than the residential ?
311.	Leave everything on hold for at least 3 years until Australia's economy can recover.

312.	We want more busines in the Inner West
313.	Business should pay more - especially in the commercial districts.
314.	This will force more small shop fronts out of business due to higher costs or higher rents when the extra rate charges are inevitable passed on lessees  Any COVID is NOT going away ever
315.	Why is the business rate lower than the residential one?
316.	Business should pay much more. They use the same services and get lots of perks , deductions already
317.	I don't have enough information
318.	This increase is not in-line with other areas in the region.
319.	Ditto response to 4 above.
320.	Surely businesses should pay at least what residents pay.
321.	Not supported – if the capacity to earn more exists, as a going commercial entity, that uses greater level of services and amenities, then there is a justification for higher or proportionally increased rates to be paid, to cater for the extra burden on services, repairs and maintenance, management etc. Businesses are generally afforded other dispensations or have access to other benefits that standard rate payers do not have. It is only fair and equitable that such businesses do not add onto the burden of the local community but enhance and create opportunity, added value and benefit.
322.	Not supported – if the capacity to earn more exists, as a going commercial entity, that uses greater level of services and amenities, then there is a justification for higher or proportionally increased rates to be paid, to cater for the extra burden on services, repairs and maintenance, management etc. Businesses are generally afforded other dispensations or have access to other benefits that standard rate payers do not have. It is only fair and equitable that such businesses do not add onto the burden of the local community but enhance and create opportunity, added value and benefit.
323.	I don't have a business therefore can't comment

324.	See s as bive
325.	As per question 2.
326.	How is a minimum business rate lower than a minimum residential rate?
327.	As above
328.	Rates should be based on merit not a flat charge
329.	Need to attract business to the Inner West so the lower the business rates the better.
330.	The minimum business rate should not be lower than the residential one.
331.	Why have residential at 850 and business at 820 should all be the same ie 850
332.	The minimum rate charged should be related to the actual cost .
333.	As above in relation to a minimum residential rate.
334.	Again there should be no distinction between commercial and residential rate application so long as every property is treated consistently.
335.	Why Business rate lower than residential? You make money from a business property properly negative geared and claim rates for tax purposes why businesses get a better deal over residents?
336.	Similar reasons to minimum residential rate. Not clear why the proposed minimum business rate is less than the residential rate. There may be a good reason, although instinctively it should be the same or more given business costs are tax deductible.
337.	I do not support of the minimum business rate. Keeping business rates low keeps the quirky, interesting businesses in Marrickville. Raising rates will make it more difficult for new business owners to establish themselves with a worse case, long-term scenario of only boring, large chain stores eventually being able to afford Marrickville in the future. Marrickville is unique with unique businesses - please support them by keeping their rates as low as possible.
338.	Why is it more expensive to pay rates as a resident who needs a roof over their head than as a profit-making business?



339.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because:  1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services 3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers. 4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. 7.Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
340.	its unfair that a business who already pays less income tax also pays less in council rates although carbon footprint is greater and services received including cleaning streets , removal of rubbish-are of a better standard than households
341.	Business rates should be equivalent to residential rates
342.	What is the rationale for \$820?
343.	I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation because: 1. It will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas. 2. It will not produce a fair way of charging for Council Services 3. There is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers. 4. There is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay or make Council more efficient to reduce rates. 5. Rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed - this proposal will make it worse. 6. It is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services. 7.Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates. The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.
344.	See the previous comment
345.	I'm not a business owner and therefore not qualified to comment.
346.	As above

347.	it must all be based on a percentage of land value! it should be less than 820!
348.	Business doesn't pay enough now for the waste they generate
349.	I have not looked into this enough to provide a comment.
350.	This will kill already struggling local business
351.	There is no rational for setting a minimum business rate except as an opportunity for unjustified revenue raising.
352.	I don't understand why a business should be paying a lower rate than a resident.
353.	Businesses in the area benefit from the population density and generally have larger turnover than other organizations. This should be increased to support the community paying less.
354.	See above.
355.	Given we're set to be paying almost 4 times the minimum, it's not relevant to me. (I wonder how pokey a business needs to be to only pay the minimum?)
356.	In theory but I don't feel well enough informed by Council to have a final view on this
357.	Businesses must pay for the works that their businesses cause- such as emptying street rubbish bins, cleaning footpaths etc.
358.	Businesses should not pay less than residential.
359.	I was not able to tell how the \$820 amount was calculated however I agree with the principal of having a minimum rate across the whole LGA.
360.	don't know anything about rates for businesses
361.	As above
362.	I think the business rate should be higher than the residential rate.
363.	Help local business always good thing

364.	<p>"The Marrickville Precinct shoulders a lot of pressure and burden of the other precincts especially in comparison to the Leichhardt precinct and the Leichhardt shops. As the Business Chamber we feel this proposal is inequitable and unreasonable as this will result in Leichhardt businesses receiving a very substantial decrease in rates versus a substantial increase for Marrickville businesses. This situation would be more acceptable if we felt that our rates were been fairly distributed and promises made by Council were being implemented. Examples of this lack of action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For years, the council has been saying they are going to fix Alex Trevillion Plaza and to date nothing has been done.</li> <li>- Our business owners have been complaining about the lack of parking, this puts pressure on the businesses and is a liability as prospective customers cannot access the various businesses. In this respect there has been a lack of communication from the council about the parking situation.</li> <li>- Historically the business rates in Marrickville have subsidised the residential rates and now we are being asked to subsidise Leichhardt business too it will destroy the Marrickville business putting additional pressure on top of COVID.</li> <li>- The LEP was supposed to be completed and to date it continues to get pushed back and delayed with no end date in sight. In contrast the LEP for Parramatta Road, which helps the Leichhardt businesses, is being pushed through. We view this as unfair to the many Marrickville businesses - the new Marrickville LEP is needed to increase density in the area to help businesses thrive.</li> </ul> <p>Regards</p> <p>Morris Hanna OAM President of Marrickville Chamber of Commerce</p>
365.	I'll leave this to the business community to respond
366.	Business rates are contentious and I have seen the problem in Balmain over 20 years of too high business rates leading to businesses moving out, particularly small/family-owned shops.
367.	Business people have also been affected by the Covid-19 virus. Give them a break.
368.	Why hasn't council utilised the surplus it received to improve services, streets, abs rate payers including assisting struggling businesses.
369.	The value of property and consideration of wealth in different areas should be considered. the Inner West Council is now spans a large, diverse area where a "one size fits all" is not appropriate.



370.	this is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for council services, which we know is not the case.
371.	Businesses in the less well off areas are in the same boat it is UNFAIR
372.	The new fee structure favours the wealthy and is unjust to the less well off areas of council . It is INEQUITABLE. We have already had an increase in rates since the new formation of council and this new "harmonisation of rates proposal" displays how the council is prejudiced in favouring the well off areas
373.	A flyer that I received states that there is an inequality in the rates charged for businesses across the new IWC and that Norton Street, and Darling St will decrease by 24% but Marrickville, Illawarra and New Canterbury Roads will rise by 24%. How is this justified?
374.	Business's are struggling and do not need a higher rates charge.
375.	Stop raising rates, get rid of useless jobs. Look at yourselves first, don't slug the people to pay for other suburbs.
376.	They make a profit. Residence don't!
377.	Same as above.
378.	That's a fair rate for anyone operating a business.
379.	Minimum business rates are unrealistically low given the significant Council services they absorb, and the income they generate. Eg : rubbish, drainage / stormwater / compliance etc
380.	Minimum business rates too low as commercial businesses generate income and use to a far greater degree council services
381.	Not a favourable climate at the moment to hit business with more expense
382.	As above it is not yes or no. Social enterprises and community organisations should have lesser burdens
383.	Not sure why rates are cheaper for a business than a residence.

384.	Not every high street has the same amenities or potential income. A rate that takes no account of location lacks nuance. It will discourage things like books stores in lower socio economic places. We need the rates to reflect the income of the district.
385.	Do not put undue pressure on businesses-this inhibits the possibility for growth. Rents are already very high. You risk killing small business-look at Europe.
386.	I don't have enough knowledge on the business costs in the innerwest to comment
387.	Not fair
388.	The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised. Businesses in the area are struggling to stay afloat this will put the nail in their coffin.
389.	It's hard to comment on the proposed minimum business rate when you don't specify what the current minimum rate is.
390.	IT depend if the business is progressing earning like earning a millions lets them pay a higher rate. But if in case losing the business should be lesser. People wants to survive as well
391.	Businesses in the local area are finding it tough at the moment, and if business rate can be dropped that's a good thing. My only concern is that residents will be paying more in rates then businesses for services that we all use.
392.	why should businesshas have a lesser rate than the residentials.
393.	Why are businesses any different?
394.	I would need to see a brief analysis explaining this limit. Is is sufficient to cover services provided?
395.	there is no evidence tht this will produce fair value for money
396.	it will not produce a fair way of charging rates
397.	As business rates tend to be higher than residential, the proposed minimum amount is equally unrealistic.
398.	What additional services will they receive to support this substantial increase.

399.	As above
400.	Per above
401.	As above
402.	Rates, as all other business expenses are tax deductible. Businesses usually make much greater use of Council facilities.
403.	I don't conduct business in IWC so I don't feel qualified to comment.
404.	Businesses are people as well and have household expenses even families to look after. An Increase might mean a close of business down if one business can't afford the increase, a little mini recession will happen in the local area and that would be very disappointing for all citizens.
405.	Rates should be set based on projected re-imbursement for services rendered....an arbitrary minimum/maximum will not do this
406.	Harmonisation is fine, but there is no justification for bringing in a minimum rates structure, especially when there is not an equivalent guarantee of minimum services being offered by Council. It feels like Council is just using the required harmonisation to push through a minimum fee, which will undoubtedly result in more revenue--even though harmonisation is being pitched as not doing that. (Because harmonisation won't, the minimum fee will.) Wasn't amalgamation supposed to SAVE ratepayers money? What happened to that? What measures has council undertaken to improve services or operate more efficiently? Without any evidence of this, I do not support a minimum rate structure.
407.	Businesses are struggling to survive under the current economic downturn. And with extra burden of rate hikes you blood suckers are adding to our misfortunes.
408.	Now is not the time to be raising further business costs.
409.	I don't feel it's fair that businesses in Marrickville and Illawarra Roads will have their rates go up whilst in central Leichhardt and Balmain they will go down.
410.	As most of the businesses do not respect the residents environment
411.	Business often take advantage thru not maintaining their premises in joint commercial/residential areas.



412.	It is not obvious to me how this relates to rates on dwellings.
413.	N/A
414.	You're tearing apart the multicultural community that is at the heart of marrickville but forcing these small businesses to pay higher rates
415.	Having moved to the area late 2018, the local mix of Vietnamese and Greek businesses is something we love most in the area. Posh cafes and fancy restaurants are great but every city needs a mix. Don't force the unique local businesses we are so lucky to have to the fringes of greater Sydney.
416.	Why is theirs less than residential, Businesses should always pay more than residential. They damage roads, paths etc
417.	NA
418.	Poor value for money.
419.	Retail business doing it very tough right now.
420.	Not relevant to residential ratepayers.
421.	Why should businesses pay less than residents?
422.	Not relevant to me
423.	As above.
424.	Why is business rate lower than residential?
425.	This should be \$1000
426.	Should be \$1000

427.	As a business owner we feel this would destroy the Marrickville businesses. As a Business Owner I believe the rates are getting continually increased, this is unacceptable, we are facing a downturn in the economy as every tenant is asking for rent reductions especially due to Covid -19. Marrickville Council say that they clean the shopping strip but if you walk up and down Marrickville it looks very dirty and rubbish is on the streets. We believe we should be getting a rate reduction not a rate increase. The Council needs to start working with the Chamber of Commerce and promote the shopping strip or the shopping strip will not survive.
428.	As above
429.	business rates should be based on the lettable square meters of a property
430.	I can see that it would be necessary to manage the larger volume and types of waste generated by businesses. Additionally, businesses tend to increase the amount of heavy vehicles, requiring greater road maintenance and provision for access
431.	There should be a minimum rate but I don't have an opinion on the appropriate dollar amount.
432.	I need further information.
433.	As long there is no impact on residential rate payers.
434.	See above
435.	As per residential rate comment.
436.	see comment in 4 above
437.	No opinion
438.	Why should businesses pay less than residents?
439.	Really business rates being less than residential rates !!!!!!!
440.	I have a small property, this is higher than current rates
441.	I am not a business owner, I can not comment.
442.	Not a business owner. As this may also be not fair for them.

443.	No a business owner. They are also maybe in a hardship already.
444.	Cannot comment for business owner, they may be also facing the same issue as us.
445.	I am the CEO of the Danias Group based in Marrickville. Our Group supports the business community contributing to local infrastructure through the rates system and developer contributions plans . Therefore we support the concept of a minimum rate for all businesses. If not the burden will unfairly fall on those businesses who do contribute.
446.	Do not know much about this.
447.	It seems as the residents are subsidising the businesses.
448.	Why am I still paying for a Mainstreet fund when there is no Main Street coordinator in place on King St/Enmore Rd? Since many Liberal councils fought against amalgamation and won, why doesn't IW council fight to return to the original 3 councils. I was very happy being part of an efficient Marrickville Council.
449.	Have a residential property only.
450.	<p>I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas</li> <li>2. it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services</li> <li>3. there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers</li> <li>4. there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates</li> <li>5. rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse</li> <li>6. it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services</li> <li>7. Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates!!</li> </ol> <p>The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.</p>
451.	Dont know anything about it
452.	business are now under COVID pressures and doing it tough. There are lot of Shops small business that are vacant.



453.	Why should I be paying for the rich?
454.	same as above. Just out of interest why should businesses pay less than residents given they also have usually a higher income - maybe not in every case at the moment but generally.
455.	Businesses are massive users of council facilities
456.	I work for a local business and same as above, everyone has struggled under COVID-19 over the last 12 months and increasing the rates for harmonisation reasons (?) doesn't really sell the increase.
457.	why is the minimum business rate lower than the residential rate?
458.	Business owners especially hospitality often have more than one garbage removal per week. They should pay the same as householders at least.
459.	Why is business paying less than residential - businesses make money, private homes do not.
460.	They are in that space to make money; how is this the same for homes and businesses? It's ludicrous!
461.	Residents are not getting a fair deal whilst they are growing. Rendering business on corner of Brooklyn/highway- Tempe is a disaster waiting to happen with trucks, utes all double parked from 5:30am daily with council patrolling NEVER anymore with problem worse than ever!!!!!!
462.	As mentioned above, this was not explained well enough to be able to support it.
463.	Same principle as answer to question 4.
464.	It is unclear how a minimum would be aligned to council services.
465.	Business rates should be higher than residential rates.
466.	Can't find any information in regards to this and therefore I don't understand what it's about or means to me?
467.	Business should have a higher council rate than private homes.
468.	Businesses already receive many federal and state handouts they should pay their way and be responsible for the mess they contribute to through over packaging and excessive use of plastic.

469.	Business rates should be higher than those for residents.
470.	Stop hiding behind minimums. Just charge what is required to service that suburb
471.	Will this minimum apply to all businesses, even those that are not doing so well due to COVID-19 etc? How is the proposed \$820 minimum calculated?
472.	The business minimum rate should not be less than the residential one!
473.	I cannot comment as a am not a business ratepayer
474.	From the information provided to the community the methodology for establishing the minimum business rate was unclear. Further in applying the new rate structure it appears that a number of business premises will receive a rate reduction. For example under the new rate structure a business premises in Catherine Street Leichhardt will receive a 4.5% reduction in rates and the Marrickville Metro will receive a 1% reduction in rates. This is completely inappropriate given the impact of premises like Marrickville Metro has on the storm water system, local road network and the public domain. Given the revenue generated from this retail premises a rate reduction does not make sense.
475.	Why do businesses pay less?
476.	I believe business rates should be higher.
477.	N/A - Outside my area of knowledge
478.	Same as above.
479.	AGAIN - It doesn't really mean anything - I doubt any one would qualify! Its just accounting jargon!
480.	It's less than residential rates!
481.	Businesses are already suffering.
482.	Not a business person so really cannot comment, except to say it doesn't seem fair for business people..
483.	Why should businesses pay less than 'home owners', some of whom are pensioners and already struggling to keep up with everthing going up except the pension!!

484.	Businesses should pay their fair share. They are big users of services.
485.	It is not clear why the rate is lower than residential rates.
486.	I agree a minimum rate is probably essential, but cannot comment on the proposed amount as I don't know what it is based on, and if it takes in to account individual financial situations.
487.	Rise need to be phased in
488.	Businesses are households and have access to the sane services.
489.	It should be higher. Having a business is a choice, having a residence is human right. Council is ripping off residents and giving businesses the benefits.
490.	Rates ought to be based on assessable data. Income, land value or other.
491.	Why does business pay less than a resident?
492.	Surely it depends on the business turnover - and how much the business uses council services?
493.	No comment.
494.	Can't you see this would be horrible for so many people who can't afford these rates!? Stop gentrifying. Let people live.
495.	They should pay more as they create more waste
496.	Again, its pushing so many people out.
497.	Shouldn't the business rate be higher as I presume they can claim back tax on this amount
498.	less than residential ?
499.	I'm not a business owner, but high rates for businesses often create downward pressure on the wages, hours and general quality experience of working people in the area. Employers can't control the rents they pay so employees often take the brunt of their financial stress.
500.	Businesses should pay higher rates than residential



501.	What about long standing small businesses?
502.	<p>The rate has not been substantiated nor explained in terms of Council's business development strategies. Business is vital to the area but there is nothing to indicate what Council's directions are on this.</p> <p>Increased costs to Shopping Centres seems disproportionally small to the impact they have on surrounding roads, parking, litter, bus services etc (particularly during expansion), and nothing has been said about the approach for any future expansion of those facilities. There are also other types of developments, particularly State / Federal controlled ones, which have an adverse impact on local amenity, including on air and noise quality. What is Council's approach to managing this type of impact re rating?</p>
503.	Once again fair too high and penalises smaller businesses leading to a loss of character and bigger businesses taking over the area. Rents are already so high so to increase this would make trying to start your own business incredibly precarious.
504.	Pushing renters further into poverty is going to cast a dark shadow over the Marrickville area, an area that is home to many people I know who are already spending at least half their incomes on rent.
505.	We should be helping small business thrive, especially with the hardships they've faced during covid, not alienating them further.
506.	The high streets are already half empty due to pandemic and recession, and downscale businesses would be good for the community. Reducing rents should be your main goal here, both residential and small scale commercial
507.	Small businesses are already under pressure, large businesses can handle it.
508.	comments as for the minimum residential rate
509.	<p>From the information provided to the community the methodology for establishing the minimum business rate was unclear. Further, in applying the new rate structure it appears that a number of business premises will receive a rate reduction. eg under the new rate structure a business premises in Catherine St Leichhardt will receive a 24% reduction in rates and the Marrickville Metro will receive a 1% reduction in rates. This is completely inappropriate given the impact of premises like Marrickville Metro on the storm water system, local road network and the public domain. Given the revenue generated from this retail premises a rate reduction does not make sense.</p>
510.	See comment above

511.	It depends on the distribution.
512.	Why is it lower than residential?? Makes no sense.
513.	We need business- keep it to a minimum. Council has killed business in Leichhardt due to the ridiculous over the top parking restrictions! Get rid of metered parking and bring life back to Leichhardt.
514.	I do not own or run a business in the council area.

[REDACTED]  
**Submission 1**

Item 1

[REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 6 Feb 2021 14:49:35 +1100  
To: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Subject: Rates Harmonisation  
Attachments: IWC Rates Harmonisation Response Feb 2021.pdf

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Further to our previous communications regarding the Inner West Council rates harmonisation, please find attached the Submission from MarketPlace Leichhardt Shopping Centre on behalf of the owners, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Attachment 3



## MarketPlace Leichhardt



5 February 2021

Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham, NSW, 2049



Re: Rates Harmonisation



LIF Pty Ltd As Trustee for the Local Government Superannuation Property Trust, is the owner of the MarketPlace Leichhardt shopping centre (the centre) in inner-western Sydney. We are writing to you to lodge our objection to the proposed rates increase for our property. We have been provided information by our consultants in relation to a General Rate increase proposed by Inner West Council for the 2021/22 financial year. We wish to vehemently oppose such an increase in these uncertain economic times and ask Inner West Council to justify such an increase and reconsider its position.

This letter of objection contains the following sections:

1. Shopping Centre Information
2. Scale of Rate Increase
3. Impact and Implications of Rate Increase

### Shopping Centre Information

MarketPlace Leichhardt is located on the corner of Marion and Flood Streets, in Leichhardt, approximately 8kms west of Sydney's Central Business District. The centre represents the primary retail offering within the Leichhardt activity centre. The centre is configured as an enclosed shopping mall and includes basement car parking, two levels of retail and rooftop parking.

MarketPlace Leichhardt can be described as a sub-regional shopping centre and comprises approximately 18,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail floorspace.

The Centre presently accommodates 64 businesses anchored by an Aldi, Target and Woolworths. Specialty retail and commercial services include:

- Banks (3)
- Hairdressers and beauty-related services (8)
- Fashion (9)
- Fashion Accessories and Footwear (5)
- Fresh food (4)
- Takeaway and Eat-In Dining (9)





- Health and Medical (12)
- Homewares and Leisure (4)
- Service-related businesses (10)

Additionally, the centre includes a 300-seat food court, public conveniences and a number of community spaces.

MarketPlace Leichhardt is owned by Local Government Superannuation (LGS) and managed by JLL. Established in 1997, LGS has traditionally been the industry super fund for current and former NSW local government employees and currently manages \$12 billion in retirement savings for its members.

## Scale of Municipal Rate Increase

Inner West Council has advised LGS that the General Rates payable for MarketPlace Leichhardt will increase from \$199,965 (FY2020/21) to \$318,373 (FY 2021/22).

The increase represents a rise of 59.2% or \$118,408 on the figure for the 2020/21 financial year.

In our experience, a single year increase of this magnitude is unusual and borders on unprecedented. This is considered inconsistent with typical movement in asset values and pricing over the last 12 months.

## Impact and Implications of Rate Increase

A rate increase of the magnitude proposed must be considered in the context of the current economic environment and the potential impact and implications for the centre. These are considered below.

### Uncertain and Volatile Economic Conditions

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty and volatility in the national and local economies. Although Australia appears to have fared comparably well when measured at an international level, there remains a high-level of uncertainty. The removal of the JobKeeper subsidy in March is expected to provide a more realistic picture of the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic outcomes associated with recurring restrictions and lockdowns.

Recent ABS data indicates that, although the unemployment rate fell in December 2020 to 6.6%, 900,000 Australians remain unemployed, and a further 1.2 million are underemployed and looking for additional work.

### Challenging Retail Environment

The traditional retail sector was experiencing a number of structural challenges prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, including for example, competition from online retailing. In the past year, the pace of change and the significance of these challenges has accelerated.

Coupled with the general economic downturn, retail owners and managers have seen constrained rental yields and increased vacancy rates.

In short, the scale and sustainability of the retail recovery experienced since lockdown and restrictions have eased remains uncertain, and conditions remain volatile as different



elements of the retail sector show an initial rebound often followed by a decrease in trading conditions.

#### Impact on Centre (Property) Value

A single year increase in annual overheads associated with the ownership of MarketPlace Leichhardt of approximately \$118,000 represents a \$2.36 million reduction in the value of the asset based on a 5% yield, unless the costs can be passed on to tenants.

#### Reduced ability to pass cost on to tenants

Ordinarily, increased costs associated with the ownership of a retail or commercial asset will be passed on to tenants. In light of current conditions however, an increase of the magnitude proposed is unlikely to be borne, certainly in full, by the centre's tenants. The ability to achieve this in the current retail environment is considered highly unlikely and will further impact on the long term viability and sustainability of the asset. This should be considered in the context of the centre providing essential retail and convenience based services for the local community; the importance of which has been further highlighted during the recent pandemic.

#### Summary

This letter of objection is provided as an overview of the impact and implications of the intended General Rate increase proposed by Inner West Council on the MarketPlace Leichhardt shopping centre. The proposed single year increase of 59% is considered:

- excessive in its scale
- unusual as a single year increase
- unprecedented in terms of the application of an increase of this magnitude during the most significant and uncertain economic events in recent history
- unpredictable in terms of its impact on the centre and, ultimately, the businesses accommodated within the centre and their ability to service the local community.

MarketPlace has served the Inner West community proudly for the past 45 years and has become a social meeting place for the community, both young and old. The owners of MarketPlace Leichhardt Shopping Centre welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue of Rates Harmonisation in a face to face meeting with the desire to understand the proposal. We would like Inner West Council to justify its notification and reconsider its position on this matter. As a matter of course Local Government Super, (LIF Pty Ltd), will be exploring its options to taking action on a more formal level if required.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Sent:** Sun, 17 Jan 2021 08:46:02 +1100  
**To:** Inner West Council  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form

My Apologies. I am on 278 (two hundred and seventy eight square metres) JB

**From:** Your Say Inner West [mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 17 January 2021 8:43 AM

**Subject:** Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form

Hi,

Thanks for completing the survey.

Your responses are listed below.

**Overall, do you support the proposed new rates structure ?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the proposed new rates structure (limit 200 words).**

My sister- in-law in Croydon Park is in a detached property on 673 sq mts, I am in Dulwich Hill on 378 sq mts. why will my rates be \$387 MORE than hers??? I look forward to a reply. [REDACTED]

**Do you support the proposed minimum residential rate of \$850?**

Don't know

**Do you support the proposed minimum business rate of \$820?**

No

**Which best describes you? Select all that apply**

Residential rates payer

**In which former Council area is your property located?**

Marrickville Council

**How did you hear about this engagement? Select all that apply**

Flyer/letter to my home

**Your email**



Thanks again

Your Say Inner West

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This email has been scanned by Symantec Email Security cloud service on behalf of Inner West Council.

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**Item 1**

**Attachment 3**



Submission 3

INNER WEST COUNCIL

08 JAN 2021

Doc No

ED IN RECORDS

4 - 1 - 2021

Brief Executive Officer  
Inner West Council

Dear [REDACTED],

Making the rates fairer across the Inner West.

In reply to your letter, No date, regarding the above matter, I would firstly like to say that rate paying Residents have been advised to reply on line with their comments and if they consider they are affected use the rates calculator on line, how do Residents do this if they have not got this facility, maybe some of the staff that work for the Inner West Council consider that all Residents have this facility.

Harmonising the rates system across the Inner West does not say that there will be an improvement in the maintenance areas and in addition there will not be an increase in our rates.

I consider that the Residents in this area live in the forgotten part of the Inner West Council, I cannot remember how long it is since we had a street sweeper to clean the gutters and because of no cleaning of the gutters when it rains all the rubbish and leaves get washed down the drains, which is against the environment regulations.

In addition I have been a rate paying Resident in the Inner West Council for over fifty years and there has not been any maintenance done to the footpaths in this street during that time and there are a number of areas that need repairing.

I sincerely hope that if Harmonising the rate system is agreed to, this area is given more consideration for maintenance.

Yours sincerely

## Submission 4

Item 1



Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
PETERSHAM NSW 2049

The Marrickville Precinct shoulders a lot of pressure and burden of the other precincts especially in comparison to the Leichhardt precinct and the Leichhardt shops. As the Business Chamber we feel this proposal is inequitable and unreasonable as this will result in Leichhardt businesses receiving a very substantial decrease in rates versus a substantial increase for Marrickville businesses.

This situation would be more acceptable if we felt that our rates were been fairly distributed and promises made by Council were being implemented. Examples of this lack of action include:

- For years, the council has been saying they are going to fix Alex Trevillion Plaza and to date nothing has been done.
- Our business owners have been complaining about the lack of parking, this puts pressure on the businesses and is a liability as prospective customers cannot access the various businesses. In this respect there has been a lack of communication from the council about the parking situation.
- Historically the business rates in Marrickville have subsidised the residential rates and now we are being asked to subsidise Leichhardt business too it will destroy the Marrickville business putting additional pressure on top of COVID.
- The LEP was supposed to be completed and to date it continues to get pushed back and delayed with no end date in sight. In contrast the LEP for Parramatta Road, which helps the Leichhardt businesses, is being pushed through. We view this as unfair to the many Marrickville businesses - the new Marrickville LEP is needed to increase density in the area to help businesses thrive.

Regards

Attachment 3

Sent: Saturday, 6 February 2021 5:02 PM

To: Inner West Council <[council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>; My Rates <[myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>

Subject: Submission on New Rate Structure

I am writing to you regarding the harmonisation of the residential and business rates for Inner West Council and to outline my issues and concerns in relation to the significant rate increase that will apply to my home and other homes within the Don Street and Reiby Street areas of Newtown.

My issues and concerns regarding the process and the new rate structure are outlined as follows:

- The Your Say survey has 3 questions, which do not enable the community to comprehensively comment and provide information on their concerns about the rate increases or provide suggestions for alternate ways to approach a rate increase or reduce costs (so a significant rate increase is not required).
- The increase of residential rates of up to 24% for home in the Don Street and Reiby Street areas is totally inappropriate when compared to the activities in the current economy where inflation is close to zero, interest rates are 2%, wage growth is stagnant and the unemployment rate is at over 6% .
- The setting of rates is a complex process. The information provided to the community was inadequate in explaining the methodology for setting the minimum residential rate of \$850 and the business rate of \$820 – in particular in explaining how the rate increases will improve or increase service delivery across the LGA.

It was difficult to understand the rationale for the rate structure and its implementation when applied to properties across the LGA. For example a property in Louisa Road Birchgrove will receive a rate reduction of 4.5% while the properties in Don/Reiby Streets will receive a rate rise of 24%. However both areas will continue to be subject to the same level of service provision.

A similar issue arises for the business rate – a large retail facility like Marrickville Metro will receive a 1% reduction in rates ( a rate decrease from \$49,485 to \$49,031). This is completely inappropriate given the impact of a premises like Marrickville Metro has on the storm water system, local road network and the public domain. Given the revenue generated from this retail premises a rate reduction does not make sense.

- The community has not been provided with information on the expenditure of the Stronger Communities Fund and how these funds were used by the Council to assist in creating efficiencies and savings.
- Inner West Council has been in existence for nearly 5 years and many of the services and programs have not yet been harmonised - e.g. planning, graffiti removal . The harmonisation of these services and programs may result in savings and efficiencies. The implementation of a new rate should not occur until full harmonisation of services and programs is undertaken.

Suggested Way Forward



I recommend that residential rate increases over 5% should be delayed until further work is done on the following:

- The harmonisation of services and programs in order to identify savings and efficiencies.
- A review of the capital works program and maintenance program to reduce or streamline activities in order to find savings

Once this work is undertaken, this information would assist the Council and the community in determining an appropriate increase to our rates. Any rate increase should occur over a staged timeframe - say between a 5 -10 year period.

Thank you for considering my submission.





## Submission 6

Item 1

Sent: Wednesday, 3 February 2021 3:22 PM

Subject: IW Council Rates Harmonisation Proposal

Dear Counsellors and MPs,

As a resident of Lewisham NSW 2049, I oppose the Inner West Council rate harmonisation proposal because:

- it will produce big increases in rates for people in the less well off part of the LGA while decreasing them in wealthier areas
- it will not produce a fair way of charging for Council services
- there is no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual ratepayers
- there is no proposal to improve services for those who would pay more or make Council more efficient to reduce rates
- rates in some areas have already gone up significantly since the new Council was formed – this proposal will make it worse
- it is based on the false suggestion that charging residents and businesses largely based on land values can produce fair charges for Council services
- Council produced an \$82 million surplus in 2020 that could be used to reduce rates.

The proposal should be dropped and a fairer system devised.

Could you please let me know your thoughts on the harmonisation proposal and how you will be using your official capacity to make sure it doesn't go ahead?

[Redacted]

Attachment 3

## Submission 7

Item 1

**Sent:** Sunday, 7 February 2021 4:13 PM  
**To:** My Rates <[myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Inner West Council <[council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Submission - [REDACTED]

Please see attached submission for the 'Proposed changes to rates' on behalf of [REDACTED] and the tenants of Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre and Ashfield Mall.

We have detailed our specific concerns and supporting arguments in this letter which relate to the discriminatory rating policy proposed for the tenants at both centres.

As the proposal has a very real and immediate impact on the centre's businesses, we seek an immediate opportunity to meet with the project team leading the harmonisation policy for Inner West Council to discuss the matters raised herein.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Urbis recognises the traditional owners of the land on which we work.  
 Learn more about our [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

[REDACTED]

Attachment 3

## Submission 8

As newspaper reported yesterday, Inner West Council want to increase rates for Marrickville for more than 20%. If it's true, I strongly and categorically object. I am a retiree now and as per attached letter from my Super, my pension payment 'increased' in accordance with the latest CPI index, i.e. by -1% (yes, it's not a typo, minus 1 %). How Council can justify rate increase by more than 20%.



Item 1

Attachment 3


Submission 9



MarketPlace Leichhardt



18 December 2020

  
Chief Financial Officer  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham, NSW, 2049

  
**Re: Rates Harmonisation**

We are in receipt of the letter from Council regarding the Rates harmonization arising from the council amalgamations, with respect to the estimated 2021/22 rates for MarketPlace Leichhardt, being \$318,373.00.

Can you please direct us to the correct and appropriate authority for this matter to adjudicated and mediated, prior to the issue being escalated to the Ombudsmans office.



Item 1

Attachment 3



## Submission 10

Item 1

[REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 14 January 2021 5:23 PM

To: Community Engagement <[engagement@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:engagement@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: Clarification about Inner West Council's Rates Calculator

Hello,

1. I see, the rate shown online is only one part of the overall payment. The omission of the other parts is deceptive – people look at the bottom line; are they also changing? Further:
  - a. What does each part cover?
  - b. Why do we pay stormwater charges to council in addition to stormwater charges to Sydney water?
2. Why are rates continuing to rise well past inflation? There has been no justification of this.
  - a. Where is the efficiency dividend of the merger?

[REDACTED]

Attachment 3

Sent: Sunday, 7 February 2021 9:27 AM  
To: My Rates <myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: Rates Harmonisation Submission  
To the Rates Harmonisation Team,

## Submission 11

7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021

### Submission on "Making rates fairer across the Inner West".

Although the comments below do not relate directly to the rates harmonization currently underway, they are important to consider for the future resilience of the Inner West residents and our infrastructure as climate change worsens.

#### High Level Changes

An excess of permeable surfaces and insufficient trees on private properties mean that active travel is not pleasant in many parts of the Inner West. If residents are not comfortable walking or getting on a bicycle, and choose to travel by car instead, our collective emissions rise. The use of private vehicles result in a cost to our society, whereas walking and cycling actually save money overall<sup>1</sup>.

The urban heat island effect also results in higher cooling costs for residents in summer<sup>2</sup>.

Finally, permeable surfaces and insufficient trees, and too few rainwater harvesting systems, impact stormwater run-off. This water is lost to us, and must either be transported away for treatment or diverted to the ocean<sup>3</sup>. (The Inner West Council's rainwater tank workshops and rebate are a fantastic initiative, but further, revenue neutral incentives, would be welcome.)

Why not use the rates system to incentivise more private green space and rainwater systems? There could be a sliding scale component to the rates to reflect the proportion of non-permeable surfaces on a property, and the consequent impact on stormwater requirements and the urban heat island effect. This could either be introduced for all households, or immediately for new development and renovations and phased in for existing rate payers. This could be revenue neutral.

Trees on private properties are not given value that reflects the benefits they bring<sup>4</sup>.

Is the maximum amount of \$25 for stormwater management service charges allowed by the Office of Local Government sufficient to pay for this service<sup>5</sup>? Is it possible to request that this be increased in the current *Release of Exposure Draft Bill on local government rating reform*<sup>6</sup>?

If residents must pay for the currently externalised costs of large driveways and paved areas, they will be more likely to rethink these building works, which could lead to a reduction in the amount of concrete used within the Inner West and so further lower our collective emissions.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800918308097>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-01-25/making-your-home-resilient-to-heatwaves-and-severe-storms/12880698?nw=0>

<sup>3</sup> <https://watersource.awa.asn.au/environment/built-environment/rethinking-water-make-better-more-livable-western-sydney/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-21/western-sydney-heatwave-alleviated-by-tree-cover/11721698>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/laws-and-regulations/rates-charges-and-pensioner-concession/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/council-circulars/20-42-release-of-exposure-draft-bill-on-local-government-rating-reform/>

## Submission 12

Item 1

Sent: Friday, 29 January 2021 9:51 AM  
To: Inner West Council <[council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Proposed General Rates Increase

PLEASE PASS ON THIS REPRESENTATION TO [REDACTED].  
THANK YOU.

[REDACTED]  
Acting General Manager Newtown NSW 2042  
Inner West Council 29 January 2021  
E: [council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

### Re: Proposed General Rates Increase under harmonisation

Dear [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] I am a ratepayer to the Inner West Council (IWC) and live in [REDACTED], formerly part of the Marrickville LGA.

The purpose of this letter/email is to express my deep concern about the IWC's proposal to increase my general rates - I don't want that to happen.

I should add that I have already submitted feedback to your community engagement line on the IWC's proposal to 'make rates fairer across the Inner West'.

### Why is the IWC increasing my rates by 23.82%?

I have used the IWC rates calculator online.

It showed that the rates for my property - a terrace of about 120 years old - was \$943. 73 in fiscal year 2020/2021. If harmonisation goes through, IWC wants to increase that to \$1, 168. 54 in fiscal year 2021/2022. That represents an increase in my general rates of \$224. 81 in one year, a huge increase of 23.82%. I don't want that to happen.

For the current rate year, I paid all-up rates of \$1, 558. 82 on 19 August 2020 - that's a lot of money.

### Fact Sheet:

I have read the fact sheet on these various issues, especially the table the IWC presents on the proposed changes in the former Marrickville Council LGA, page 4. If you look at the last column in that table, it tabulates the percentage (%) rate increases from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022. The range of increases is from 18.6% for the 'high' unimproved land value (\$1, 070, 000) to 19.7% for the 'low' unimproved land value (\$233, 272).

The NSW Valuer-General valued the land at my property at \$910, 000 as at 1 July 2019. That means that the value of my property is between what the IWC calls 'average' and 'high'.

The IWC wants to increase my general rates by a massive 24% in one year even though my property is significantly below the 'high value' of \$1, 070, 000. I find that massive increase unacceptable and inequitable.

Query: please advise how the IWC actually computed an increase of 24% in one year for my property when the high-end properties in Marrickville will only have an increase of 18.6%?

Sir, I look forward to receiving your answers to these matters. Thank you.

Attachment 3



Item 1

Attachment 3



**To:** [Community Engagement](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Clarification about Inner West Council's Rates Calculator  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 January 2021 1:40:11 PM

Thank you for your email , from this am I to gather that waste and storm water charges are not the same for all like habitats , that is are all houses in the council area charged the same , are all units charged the same .  
 Will the properties that have been charged a higher rate since the " amalgamation " be receiving a refund or credit for their overpayments .  
 regards [REDACTED] .

----- Original Message -----

From: "Community Engagement" <engagement@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>  
 To:  
 Sent: Thursday, 14 Jan, 2021 At 3:20 PM  
 Subject: Clarification about Inner West Council's Rates Calculator

Dear Community Member

You are receiving this email because you queried the figures generated by the Rates Calculator in your feedback on this project  
<https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my-rates>.

We have now added further information to the Rates Calculator to explain that the amounts shown relate to General Rates per annum only and do not include waste and stormwater charges or pensioner rebates.

You can find out about the charges and rebates which apply to your property/s by checking the rates notice you received in the first quarter of the financial year (issued in August 2020) or by contacting Council's Rates Information line on 02 9392 5859 8.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday or emailing [myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:myrates@innerwest.nsw.gov.au).

Please consider re-visiting the calculator here  
<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/information-for-residents/rates/rates-calculator> in light of this additional information. We apologies for any inconvenience this has caused and thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Best regards

The Engagement Team

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This email has been scanned by Symantec Email Security cloud service on behalf of Inner West Council.

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This email has been scanned by Symantec Email Security cloud service on behalf of Inner West Council.

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Sent: Sunday, 7 February 2021 11:00 PM

Subject: Submission on New Rate Structure

I am writing to you regarding the harmonisation of the residential and business rates for Inner West Council and to outline my issues and concerns in relation to the significant rate increase that will apply to my home and other homes within the Don Street and Reiby Street areas of Newtown.

My issues and concerns regarding the process and the new rate structure relate to:

### Consultation process:

- The Your Say survey has only 3 questions, which do not enable the community to comprehensively comment and provide information on their concerns about the rate increases, provide suggestions for alternate ways to approach a rate increase or reduce costs (so that a significant rate increase is not required).
- The Your Say survey questions seem inapt. ie asking respondents to say if they agree with the minimum household and business rates - when these rates are unlikely to apply to most respondents and there is no explanation as to how the proposed rating system works, and how these amounts are calculated.
- Poor notification process – many of the people contacted in the area were unaware of this change (either not notified or they overlooked the letter that was sent). Given the large increase proposed, Council should have sent a reminder of the impending 7 Feb 'your say' deadline.

### Inequity:

- The increase of residential rates of up to 24% for homes in the Don Street and Reiby Street areas is poorly timed in the context of the current economy where inflation is close to zero, interest rates are 2%, wage growth is stagnant and the unemployment rate is at 7%.
- A similar issue arises for the business rate – a large retail facility like Marrickville Metro will receive a 1% reduction in rates (a rate decrease from \$49,485 to \$49,031). This is completely inappropriate given the impact of a premises like Marrickville Metro has on the storm water system, local road network and the public domain. Given the revenue generated from this retail premises a rate reduction does not make sense.
- It was difficult to understand the rationale for the rate structure and its implementation when applied to properties across the LGA. For example a property in Louisa Rd Birchgrove will receive a rate reduction of 4.5% while the properties in Don/Reiby Streets will receive a rate rise of 24%. However both areas will continue to be subject to the same level of service provision.

### Level of service

- There is no evidence of any improvements to levels of service that could justify such an increase. The closure of the Petersham service centre, for example, has forced former Marrickville residents to travel to Leichhardt for any face to face services.

### Lack of Transparency

- The setting of rates is a complex process. The information provided to the community was inadequate in explaining the methodology for setting the minimum residential rate of \$850 and the business rate of \$820 – in particular in explaining how the rate increases will improve or increase service delivery across the LGA.

### Other issues

- The community has not been provided with information on the expenditure of the Stronger Communities Fund and how these funds were used by the Council to assist in creating efficiencies and savings.
- Inner West Council has been in existence for nearly 5 years and many of the services and programs have not yet been integrated - e.g. planning, graffiti removal. The integration of these services and programs may result in savings and efficiencies. The implementation of a new rate should not occur until full harmonisation of services and programs is undertaken.

### Suggested Way Forward

I recommend that residential rate increases over 5% should be delayed until further work is done on the following:

- The harmonisation of services and programs in order to identify in savings and efficiencies.
- A review of the capital works program and maintenance program to reduce or stream line activities in order to find savings

Once this work is undertaken, this information would assist the Council and the community in determining an appropriate increase to our rates. Any rate increase should occur over a staged timeframe - say between a 5 -10 year period.

Thank you for considering my submission. I would be happy to discuss this with you further.





Submission 15



## JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Item 1

### INNER WEST COUNCIL

Doc No

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049

10 FEB 2021

RECEIVED IN  
BUSINESS INFORMATION SERVICES

4 February 2021

I have been contacted by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], in regards to the proposal to harmonise rates across the Inner West Council local government area.

I have enclosed [REDACTED]'s correspondence to my office and ask that you please respond, consider [REDACTED]'s views and include them as part of the formal consultation for the proposal.

I have also written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [REDACTED]'s concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900  
summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Attachment 3

**Sent:** Friday, 15 January 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice SummerHill  
**Subject:** Proposed local government rates increases

As I long term resident of Dulwich Hill with family and friends located in various suburbs of the previous Marrickville Ville Council area we are greatly disturbed by the proposed rate increases. Our understanding was a larger council merger would drive efficiencies and better service it now appears to be the opposite driving additional cost.

I would like to discuss this further to understand what your position is on this matte. As a fighter for local members issues we are keen to understand your parties position.

My family and friends have asked me to speak on their behalf and I would be happy to provide list of names should that be of interest.

## Submission 16

Item 1

**Sent:** Fri, 5 Feb 2021 19:59:35 +1100  
**To:** "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Rates harmonisation

Dear Rates Department ,  
 I have completed and agreed with Rates Harmonisation , it does mention the minimum business rate of \$ 820 /  
 proposed rate .  
 I am a business rate payer since 1987 , and the rate of this year has increased significantly ? .  
 Small business does not always generate huge turnover in terms of incomes, profit can be marginally small to nil thus  
 cash flow is restricted due to many reasons especially the Allied health professionals in this current unexpected  
 calamities , we are struggling to be alive and end up in selling up and be a non productive citizen thus non  
 contributing to the society .  
 I am very much appreciated council consideration in this current atmosphere for giving us chance to be up and going  
 again by giving us leniency of reducing the rate and time extension , as we have been a long term with good history  
 of supportive citizen .

Document Set ID: 34533490

Attachment 3

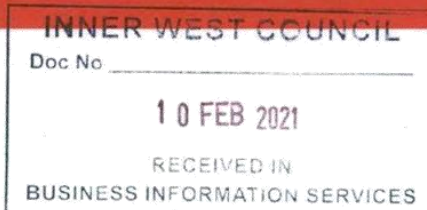
Submission 17



## JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049



4 February 2021

I have been contacted by [redacted]  
in regards to the proposal to harmonise rates across the Inner West  
Council local government area.

[redacted] notes that the proposal will see [redacted] annual rates increase significantly  
and [redacted] is deeply concerned that the proposed increase is both unfair and  
will cause [redacted] additional financial strain.

I have enclosed [redacted] correspondence to my office and ask that you  
please respond, consider [redacted] views and include them as part of the formal  
consultation for the proposal.

I have also written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [redacted]  
[redacted] concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900

summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Version: 1, Version Date: 10/02/2021

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Item 1

Attachment 3



[Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 January 2021 3:19 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice SummerHill  
**Subject:** Proposed rate changes

Dear Politicians and Local Council Representatives, I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the proposed rate changes in the Inner West.  
The proposed changes are unfair and do not consider the socio-economics of the area. To expect us to pay the same as Balmain or Annandale is unfair. I could not afford to live in these areas and so paying the same rates is not equitable. Our land values are not equal to or better than these areas either. The Inner West Council has also in the last two years considerably increased rates with little or no improvement in services.  
Please advocate on our behalf for fairness.

[Redacted]

## Submission 18

Item 1

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 January 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** Inner West Council <[council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Proposed rate changes

Dear Politicians and Local Council Representatives,  
I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the proposed rate changes in the Inner West. The proposed changes are unfair and do not consider the socio-economics of the area. To expect us to pay the same as Balmain or Annandale is unfair. I could not afford to live in these areas and so paying the same rates is not equitable. Our land values are not equal to or better than these areas either. The Inner West Council has also in the last two years considerably increased rates with little or no improvement in services.  
Please advocate on our behalf for fairness.

[REDACTED]

Attachment 3

## Submission 19

Item 1

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Jan 2021 13:30:38 +1100  
**To:** Inner West Council  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form

I completed the rates harmonisation feedback form today.

I have more comments:

- 1) There is no room for an individual opinion. This means your survey is too/very limited and will only tell you a narrow and limited by you set of information, not a range of opinions.
- 2) you only supply rates figures and state this. However this is misleading in the overall picture presented on the survey. Ratepayers will be paying significantly more than the sums mentioned in the feedback form.
- 3) Calling the changes "harmonisation" is insulting and disingenuous.

On 14 Jan 2021, at 9:44 am, Your Say Inner West <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Hi,

Thanks for completing the survey.

Your responses are listed below.

**Overall, do you support the proposed new rates structure ?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the proposed new rates structure (limit 200 words).**

This is unfair. There is a huge difference in income in inner west suburbs. This proposal means poorer residents rates will rise and match rates of those with higher incomes. Moreover this inner west council already neglects the environment of my suburb, with weeds so out of control that heritage pavements look like lawns. Never a problem with earlier council. Please consider a fairer arrangement for rates.

**Do you support the proposed minimum residential rate of \$850?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the minimum residential rate (limit 200 words).**

Attachment 3

Is this for a year or a quarter?

**Do you support the proposed minimum business rate of \$820?**

Don't know

**Which best describes you? Select all that apply**

Residential rates payer

**In which former Council area is your property located?**

Marrickville Council

**How did you hear about this engagement? Select all that apply**

Flyer/letter to my home

**Your email**

[REDACTED]

Thanks again

Your Say Inner West

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This email has been scanned by Symantec Email Security cloud service on behalf of Inner West Council.

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Submission 20

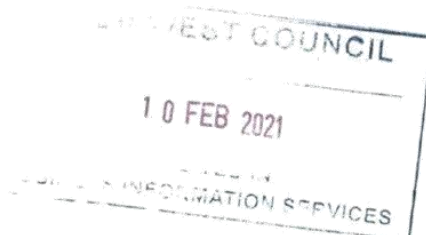


## JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Item 1

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049



4 February 2021

I have been contacted by [redacted] in regards to the proposal to harmonise rates across the Inner West Council local government area.

[redacted] notes that the proposal will see [redacted] annual rates increase significantly and that this will cause additional financial strain that may impact [redacted] housing security.

I have enclosed [redacted] correspondence to my office and ask that you please respond, consider [redacted] views and include them as part of the formal consultation for the proposal.

I have also written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [redacted] concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900  
summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Version: 1, Version Date: 10/02/2021

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Attachment 3

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 January 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice SummerHill  
**Subject:** Proposed increase in Inner West Council rates by 24%

[REDACTED]

As a Marrickville resident I was horrified to find out that my proposed rates for 20/21 are to go up by 24%. This is entirely unfair, and as a retiree I may not be able to afford to live in my own home. Is it possible for this unfair redistribution of rates to be dropped and a fairer system devised.

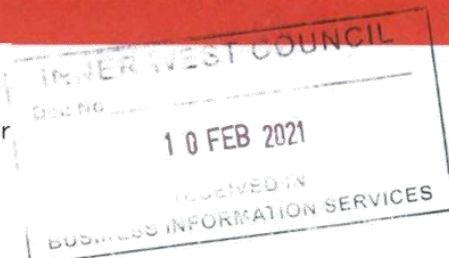
[REDACTED]

Submission 21



**JO HAYLEN MP**  
STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049



2 February 2021

I have been contacted by [REDACTED], in regards to the proposal to harmonise rates across the Inner West Council local government area.

[REDACTED] notes that the proposal will see [REDACTED] annual rates increase significantly and [REDACTED] is deeply concerned that the proposed increase is both unfair and will cause [REDACTED] additional financial strain.

[REDACTED] explains that [REDACTED] does not have regular access to the internet and is concerned that [REDACTED] objections to the plan will not be considered. [REDACTED] has subsequently asked me to write to you to ensure [REDACTED] views are considered as part of the consultation on the proposal.

I ask that you please consider [REDACTED] views and include them as part of the formal consultation for the proposal.

I have also written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [REDACTED] concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900  
summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Item 1

Attachment 3

Submission 22



## JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049



4 February 2021

I have been contacted by [redacted] in regards to the proposal to harmonise rates across the Inner West Council local government area.

[redacted] notes that the proposal will see [redacted] annual rates increase significantly and that this will cause additional financial strain.

I have enclosed [redacted] correspondence to my office and ask that you please respond, consider [redacted] views and include them as part of the formal consultation for the proposal.

I have also written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [redacted] concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900  
summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Version: 1, Version Date: 10/02/2021

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Item 1

Attachment 3



[Redacted]

Sent: [Redacted]  
Thursday, 21 January 2021 9:20 AM

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my email.  
I do appreciate the push to harmonize rates is driven by the State Government.  
However, I do not see the need to penalise lower socioeconomic communities while rewarding the more affluent communities in our council areas with decreases in rates .  
Its good that the government has conceded to support a 4 year phasing in period.  
Council's commitment to not increase the overall rates burden on property owners is a commendable principle but may be misguided in the current economic environment.  
It's now time to work on the best model that will achieve a fairer implementation.

With COVID 19 impacting so many of our local businesses and residents it's not the time to be hitting the most vulnerable.  
Many of the residents are renters that will be impacted by higher rental costs because landlords will have to pass on the rate rises.  
The arts and entertainment industry is strongest in the Marrickville LGA and has been impacted more than any other sector by COVID 19 in the Councils coverage.  
Other businesses in the area will be forced to raise prices to cover increased rate costs. That will jeopardise jobs and employment in those commercial / industrial areas.

As I said in my original email, property prices are expected to continue to increase over the coming years and provide increased revenue to councils based on current land value formulas.  
Perhaps the council should trade off future increases by not passing on increases in LGA where they propose to reduce the rates and apply only CPI + 0.5% over 10 years.  
That would be more equitable and produce a similar outcome over time in terms of harmonisation.  
It would also provide a larger pool of funds for council can contribute more fully to the economic recovery or even health needs so desperately required by its citizens.

Kind regards  
[Redacted]

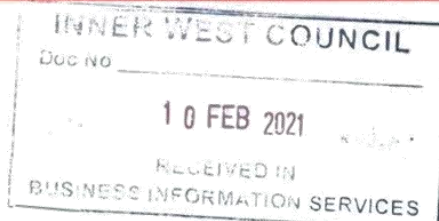
Submission 23



## JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049



4 February 2021

I have been contacted by [redacted], in regards to the proposal to [redacted] local government area.

[redacted] notes that the proposal will see [redacted] annual rates increase significantly and he expresses frustration at the [redacted] given what he perceives to be a diminishing of services.

I have enclosed [redacted]' correspondence to my office and ask that you please respond, [redacted]'s views and include them as part of the formal consultation for the proposal.

[redacted] so written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [redacted] concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900  
@summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Item 1

Attachment 3

**Sent:** Saturday, 23 January 2021 11:51 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice SummerHill  
**Subject:** Raising of Council Rates

It's come to my attention that InnerWest Council is planning on raising the Rates. Many people are against any such raise, in the past 3 years they have raised them by 17%, now they want to raise in another 20%. There is no thought on how people are supposed to live/survive?!

Council spends money like its going out of fashion. They built a pool (Enmore) with a budget blow out costing millions, then turn around within a very short period of time and build it, again, with yet another budget blow out, no thought seems to go into these ideas. They hire people for fluffy jobs, up until now I didn't know there was such a thing as a bicycle officer, but there is. Councils amalgamated only to get bigger and fatter, now they want to raise rates on the cash cow which are the residents. The idea of milking one suburb to supplement another doesn't sit well. So one group ie: Marrickville council residents will pay more to make it fair, as though we don't pay enough already. Council is too busy spending money on speed humps, trees and not much else. The roads are some of the worst in NSW, footpaths are not much better. How about public money spent on things that people use. Our services use to include our grass verge being cut regularly, the last time mine was cut it grew to almost 1 metre. Some elderly people I know are considering selling because of this. If the aim of this exercise is to attack the elderly, then they've done a fantastic job.

You represent us, the people. Can you please look into this, as there are many that are unaware that this price hike is happening, and will be shocked when it happens. Life is hard already, we certainly don't need to have price hikes in a time people are losing their jobs, business closing etc.

Submission 24



## JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

Acting General Manager  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
Petersham NSW 2049



4 February 2021

I have been contacted by [redacted]  
in regards to the proposal to harmonise rates across the Inner West  
Council local government area.

[redacted] notes that the proposal will see [redacted] annual rates increase significantly  
and that this will cause additional financial strain.

I have enclosed [redacted] correspondence to my office and ask that you  
please respond, consider [redacted] views and include them as part of the formal  
consultation for the proposal.

I have also written to the Minister for Local Government directly to raise [redacted]  
[redacted] concerns.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Haylen MP  
Member for Summer Hill

299-301 Marrickville Rd Marrickville NSW 2204 (02) 9572 5900

summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au JoHaylen.com

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Version: 1, Version Date: 10/02/2021

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Item 1

Attachment 3



[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** Saturday, 9 January 2021 7:52 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice SummerHill  
**Subject:** Inner West Council rates proposal

[REDACTED]

I'm emailing to express my concern regarding the Inner West Council rates restructure.

For me the key issue is equity. Why should people who live in a less valuable and less wealthy area of the council pay higher rates than those who live in much more valuable properties and have a higher average income? There appears to be no trade off in increased services. The Council is not running at a loss so there's no need to increase rates. In any case weren't rates increased after the amalgamation? The whole point of amalgamation was to use economies of scale to increase efficiencies and reduce the rate burden. This initiative is unnecessary and unfair.

[REDACTED]

## Submission 25

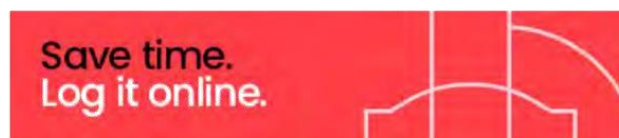
Item 1

**Sent:** Wed, 27 Jan 2021 18:59:57 +1100

**Subject:** Fw: Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form



Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.



**Subject:** FW: Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form

We're contacting you to voice our disapproval to the proposed Inner West rates 'harmonisation'. We have included our response to the survey below but also wanted to register with you our absolute objection to this proposal.

**From:** Your Say Inner West <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 January 2021 10:59 AM

Attachment 3



**Subject:** Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form

Hi,  
Thanks for completing the survey.  
Your responses are listed below.

**Overall, do you support the proposed new rates structure ?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the proposed new rates structure (limit 200 words).**

I oppose the Inner West rate harmonisation proposal because not only is there no evidence that this will produce value for money generally or for individual rate payers, but if the Council has a 2020 surplus of \$82 million this should be used to reduce rates in the areas that are currently 'overpaying'. Additionally, our rates have already risen 17% since 2016 and we have not seen any improvement to the services Council provides. We have lived here and paid rates for 27 years and have greatly contributed to our neighbourhood - keeping it cleaner & safer, knowing & assisting our neighbours and supporting our local businesses - this must be saving the Council money. So now for our support and commitment we are being punished. We are recent retirees and an increase of \$390 pa will greatly affect us, particularly in these Covid times!

**Do you support the proposed minimum residential rate of \$850?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the minimum residential rate (limit 200 words).**

It's hard to comment on the proposed minimum residential rate when you don't specify what the current minimum rate is.

**Do you support the proposed minimum business rate of \$820?**

Don't know

**(Optional) Comment about the minimum business rate (limit 200 words).**

It's hard to comment on the proposed minimum business rate when you don't specify what the current minimum rate is.

**Which best describes you? Select all that apply**

Residential rates payer

**In which former Council area is your property located?**

Marrickville Council

**How did you hear about this engagement? Select all that apply**

Flyer/letter to my home

Direct email from Council

**Your email**



## Submission 26

**Sent:** Sun, 7 Feb 2021 16:42:20 +1100

**Subject:** Objection to 'rate harmonisation' in the Inner West Council area

**Re: Objection to 'rate harmonisation' in the Inner West Council area**

As resident owners of a house in the former Marrickville Council LGA, we are writing to object strongly to the 'rate harmonisation' scheme proposed by Council.

The name of the scheme is a ridiculous euphemism and the rate rises to be imposed on residential property owners in the former Marrickville LGA are outrageous.

The rates on our Stanmore property stand to rise by 23.8%, for which there is absolutely no justification.

Briefly:

- There appear to be no additional Council services in our area to justify the rise.
- It would appear that Marrickville LGA residential rate-payers will be subsidising benefits enjoyed by people in the former Leichhardt and Ashfield LGAs, whose rates are being *lowered*.
- Residential rate-payers also appear to be subsidising the lowering of rates for commercial properties, which are a huge drain on local services.
- If there have to be rate rises then it is totally inappropriate for them to be increased in one huge jump.
- Why is Council 'harmonising' rates when services in the IWC have not (yet) been harmonised?

In sum:

No rate-payers in the IWC, including ourselves, should suffer a rate-rise of nearly 25%. If and when a full 'harmonisation' of services in IWC has been implemented, and if it is found that increases in rates are justified, then the increases should be introduced in stages.



## Submission 27

Item 1

**Sent:** Sun, 7 Feb 2021 12:11:08 +1100  
**To:** "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for completing Rates harmonisation feedback form

In checking rates analysis.

Figures shown for current 20/21 as \$1,400.04.  
 Actual is around \$2,015....three payments of over \$500 per quarter has been made...one more due.  
 This \$2,000 rates figure has been paid for the last few years.

Showing for 21/22 is \$1,733.55.

There is a big discrepancy of 30% to actual paid for Current figure of 20/21 rates.

So, on current figures for 21/22...there should be appx \$282 decrease in rates, unless this figure is incorrect.

On Saturday, 6 February 2021, Your Say Inner West <[council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi,

Thanks for completing the survey.

Your responses are listed below.

**Overall, do you support the proposed new rates structure ?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the proposed new rates structure (limit 200 words).**

Keep as previous 3 Council areas..... Properties are rated and rates paid against Valuer Generals determinations.

**Do you support the proposed minimum residential rate of \$850?**

No

**(Optional) Comment about the minimum residential rate (limit 200 words).**

Means paying \$1200 more per annum

Attachment 3

**Do you support the proposed minimum business rate of \$820?**

Don't know

**Which best describes you? Select all that apply**

Residential rates payer

**In which former Council area is your property located?**

Marrickville Council

**How did you hear about this engagement? Select all that apply**

Other (please specify) - 2203 Facebook page.

**Your email**

[REDACTED]

Thanks again

Your Say Inner West

## Submission 28

Item 1

Sent: Sat, 6 Feb 2021 19:58:11 +1100  
To: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: Making rates fairer????

I see no need to increase council rates as in reality land value has not gone up.  
I looked at the "yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/my rates"  
And it said I would be paying \$1306.16 a year.  
Is this correct????  
This is less than last year which was \$1702.78.  
However on the same site it lists that my charges for 2020/21 were \$1099.29?????  
I have in fact been charged and paying \$1702.78 for 2020/21????  
Could you please verify what charges I will be paying for this coming year?  
I will definite be against any increase in this time of the COVID19 virus.  
I am retired on very limited funds.



Attachment 3

