



and

McCRAE ACTION GROUP

PO Box 4087  
Rosebud Vic 3939  
E-mail: [alanne@ihug.com.au](mailto:alanne@ihug.com.au)  
Tel: 0413 457 092

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Dear Member/Supporter

*Graham Harder*

**Re: Please support the capping of Council rates increases** *Yes*

The Essential Services Commission is preparing a framework for the capping of future Council rate increases,

This is a very important issue as it is a "once in a lifetime" chance for unreasonable and over-blown rate rises under control. **Please do not let this opportunity to be lost forever**

All we are asking you to do is add your name and address and **post the attached draft letter** supporting capping of rates to Commission before 15 May 2015.

**Post to:** Local Government Rates Capping and Variation Framework Review  
Essential Services Commission  
Level 37, 2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**We thank you for your kind support**

Dr Alan Nelsen  
President

*Graham Harder*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Over the last 10 years council rates have increased by more than 100% which is more than the increase in the cost of nearly all other household goods or services incurred by Victorians.

The Herald Sun (18 March 2014) reported that "Councils have stung Victorians with rate rises totalling more than \$2 billion above the rate of inflation over 10 years".

By any measure Councils' rate increases have been outrageous. The rise over the last 10 years is:

- (a) **Three** more than the cost of living (CPI).
- (b) **Twice** the actual increase in costs incurred by councils.
- (c) **Twice** the increase in wages.
- (d) Approximately **double** the increase in age pensions for couples. ?
- (e) The **fourth highest** increase of 40 household expenditures measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. ?

Rate rises impact on those least able to pay in the community such as; those on low incomes, pensioners, ✓  
retirees, and fixed incomes. They also impact on business competitiveness. Further information on the review can be found on the Commission's website at: <http://www.esc.vic.gov.au/Home>