



We The People

Program 47

Council Rates Inequity.

Most Gold Coast rate payers will have recently received their rates notice and most will begrudgingly accept what's on the bottom line. It should be relatively pleasing though as this is the first rates notice delivered under the new mayor Tom Tate. In his latest undated news letter he proudly proclaims that because of his savings program the proposed rate increase of 5.5% has been kept to 2.5% (average) which on the surface seems reasonable. Note his use of the word 'average' which is not defined or explained as far as I can see. Nevertheless a large number of rate payers and listeners have contacted me quite disturbed about their rates notice and rate rise.

I've looked into this and find that it appears the rate change across the Gold Coast is between a 9% reduction and a 16% increase and not typically the 2.5% average the Mayor led us to believe. How can this be if we all get the same services and why on earth would our rate change be different. Bear in mind that the value of your land drives the general rate which is utterly inequitable of course and has nothing to do with the delivery of Council services. It's just a clumsy wealth tax applied to those who can least afford it. Nonetheless that still doesn't explain why some rates increased as high as 16% or is Council expecting us to believe land values have risen. I don't think so. My own rates are up 9% and my land value is unchanged while I was expecting a rate increase of 2.5% as the mayor suggested. Surely the statement made by Tom Tate leading us to expect a 2.5% approximate increase is a cruel one when genuine Gold Coast people are slugged disproportionately yet again at a time when we can least afford it. What's worse is that some people get a big rate reduction paid for by we mugs who wear an increase. What a shambles and I invite the Mayor in to 4CRB today to explain to listeners what the apparent anomaly is. Campbell Newman is right when he says about we the people..... "**It will always, always be about you,**" It appears not to be on the Gold Coast Tom.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley