

# 1. unable to identify property owned

Christian Boland  
1 Nereus Ct  
Port Hedland  
WA 6721

28 May 2013

CEO  
PO Box 41  
Port Hedland  
WA 6721

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed rate increase of 12%

I do not support the proposed rate increase of 12%.

The reasons for this include:

- Last year saw a rate increase of 17% and a following increase of 12% is not within the normal range of taxation increases.
- There have been no substantial increases in TOPH services to warrant it.
- Some aspects of the council's operations seem to have poor levels of management. More money doesn't solve poor management. Accountability and professional standards will make more of a difference to results rather than throwing good money after bad.

I would support a rate increase of less than 5%.

Regards,

Christian Boland



2. A103460 26 John Way, South Hedland  
A400830 58 Greene Place, South Hedland

Renee Coles

58 Greene Place, South Hedland WA 6722

25/5/2013

Chief Executive Officer

PO Box 41

PORT HEDLAND WA 6721

Dear Sir,

RE: Proposed Rates Increase of 12%

I do not support the proposed rate increase of 12%.

My reasons for this include:

- Stadium is funding itself of around just over 1/2 Million
  - Already with high costs of living here more Rate Increases means less affordable for people
  - With increase of FIFO, and with Camps not even paying rates ( the one further out for example), why should we subs their easy going living/lifestyle while here in Hedland working
  - Lack of services to this town already, constant fuck up with construction, why should we wear those costs
  - Start looking at Salaries of Staff (CEO included) and us paying their accommodation allowance as well I'm sure many of us don't get that luxury, so why should they
  - Tip Fee increase. Do they want people to move? What's the big increase for?

I would support a proposed rate increase of 5%

Regards

Renee Coles

3. A103460 26 John Way, South Hedland  
A400830 58 Greene Place, South Hedland

Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 41  
PORT HEDLAND WA 6721

28<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Sir,

- I do not support the 12% increase, but I would be willing to pay no more than 5% increase.
- As a Rate Payer of 2 houses here in South Hedland, I am astounded at the 12% Rate Increase for this coming years Rates!! If I worked for Mining Company, it would be a lot easier for finding the money to be able to pay for these! But as a private person in the town and wish to be able to stay here and work, this is going to put a lot of pressure on us to make both of these payments. As we are 2 families living in both of these houses and we don't have them rented out to other people, the extra money will be very tight finding to be able to pay for both of these. What about 2014/2015 etc, are these years also going to have rises as well??? Come on this has to stop somewhere!! Hedland Rate payers are paying more in Rates than those people who live in Luxury homes in the Eastern States and also down South in WA already without putting the Rates up any more than they are now. I have family and friends who are astounded at our Rates and ask WHY when their Rates are up to 1% to what we have to pay now!!
- Maybe it is time that some of the Wages within the Council be looked at cutting eg the CEO's as a prime example. No wonder we have to have this increase as he gets paid more than the Prime Minister of Australia does (as I was once told)!! Also Rate payers having to pay Accommodation Allowance for employees of the Council.
- Why do we, as Rates Payers have to 'wear the costs of your Stuff-Ups' and over spending in areas that you didn't have the full money for in the first place? In this case, I am talking about the Wanangkura Stadium which had a short fall of some \$2.5 Million Dollars and now, we, as Rate Payers, will have our Rates raise to help cover with this 'shortfall' along with other buildings within the Town!! Not to mention the Water Park and South Hedland Aquatic Centre!!
- Although I agree both Port and South Hedland had to have a massive cleanup and beautify the place up, I can see so many 'wasted ornaments' being constructed between the both Towns, thus costing Rate Payers a lot of money that could be spent elsewhere - eg the Stadium or on the

new Airport, hence keeping our Rates down and the ToPH keeping within their budget!!!

- Are we, as Rate Payers, being used as 'scapegoats' for all the Millions of Dollars that has gone missing, that was for the Waliwork Bridge, Airport Funding for Upgrade and the Stadium and any of the other projects that have slip my mind at the present!!!!???
- I was at the meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May and I was shocked at some of the expenditure costs!!! How has the Council, over the years managed to get themselves into so much of a Financial State/mess? Now the Rate Payers are being asked to help pay for the shortfalls because of very much miss-management within the Finance Department? Has someone got very greedy or has it come to being badly managed within Finance Department over the years??? Or is it a case of 'Robbing Peter to pay Paul' and not being able to repay Peter again, of which I am personally suspecting this is the case ??
- PLEASE wake up ToPH and start watching where you are spending the Rate Payers, Royalties and other Funding monies before we do have a Total Bankrupt Council with no money at all!!! The Rate Payers can't always have to help pay for your stuff ups and it is about time you all start looking very closely at what you are all about. The People of this Town voted you all in as our Councilors in good faith, that this Town will be looked after and manage properly with competent Councilors / CEO's and Financial workers etc!
- I first came to Hedland in 1979 and loved it and I still do. Hedland has been very kind to us living here over the years. My 3 Children attended the South Hedland Primary School when they were young and now my Grandchildren are attending at both Baler and the High School. Although I have had to leave 3 times for a couple of years, I have spent close on 29 years in Hedland. I have seen many changes in my time, but times are now becoming very hard and tough here with rising costs that it is slowly becoming too expensive to live here if one doesn't work for a mining company where everything is covered for you! I could not afford to retire in this town as I would not be able to afford the Rates to start with let alone anything else. My Husband has also lived in Hedland for a long time. He first came to Port Hedland on a State Ship with his parents back in 1952. His Father was a Police Officer and was transferred to Marble Bar back in 1958 for 3-5 years! When Hubby was an apprentice Plumber, he came back to Hedland and worked on the first 100 Houses to be built in South Hedland back in the 1970's! So we are both classed as locals and have both witness many changes over the years.

- Airfares are becoming very expensive for the Local People to fly out of here, considering the Mining Companies only pay between \$50.00 to \$100.00 per seat for their workers! We, as locals have to pay the higher extra fares to cover for this and for a family to be able to fly south for a holiday, this could range up to \$5000.00, depending on how many children are in the family!!! It is far cheaper to fly to Bali than Perth at times! No doubt, when the new building is constructed at the Airport, our Landing and Departure Taxes will also rise higher than they already are now.
  
- I am not begrudging the Mining Companies as they are the reason we have the extra daily planes that gives the Locals a chance of flying out on at different times during the day. If someone has to go to Perth for meetings just for the day, it gives that person a chance of coming home on the evening flights without the added costs of staying overnight in the City. I am asking/appealing for fairer fares and not such high costs for locals to fly out of here when they need to.

Cheers

*Glennys Pike*  
26 John Way,  
SOUTH HEDLAND 6722

4. A804596 23/6 Daylesford Close, South Hedland

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

Mr Mal Osborne

Chief Executive Officer

Town of Port Hedland

[ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au)

**REF: RATES INCREASE 2013/2014**

Dear Mr Osborne,

Yet again, first home buyers, owner occupiers and investors are subject to another high rates increase because the TOPH cannot manage funds correctly!

We all know the TOPH have failed dismally with major upgrades such as the Water Park, Swimming Pool and Stadium. What next I ask and why are WE paying for those mistakes!

You must also be aware that not everyone in this town earns a fortune, including me working for a non for profit organisation! 'Seriously, what are you going to do when owners simply cannot afford to pay these excessive rates? Has any thought really gone into this!

Also, why is the TOPH so oblivious to the current housing market? Have none of you noticed that rents and sale prices are declining and not increasing unlike rates!

Come on TOPH, you seriously need to be held accountable for your actions. Sweeping major blunders under the carpet and expecting hard working rate payers to pay for it is not only absurd but day light robbery.

In closing, I strongly disagree with yet another rate increase and will urge anyone with a property in Town to do the same.

Paula Seagrave

First Home Buyer/Investor

5. A401410 12 Kangaroo Crescent, South Hedland

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Richard & Jacqui <richnjq@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 May 2013 9:43 AM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** ICR38292 - ATTN: Chief Executive Officer: 2013/14 Rates Comment and Feedback'

I don't believe the Town of Port Hedland have grounds for increasing rates by such a large percentage or by any percentage for that matter. Last financial year residents were hit with a huge bill to cover the cost of underground power.

As one of the most heavily supported local councils who receive a constant influx of millions of dollars annually for projects such as the Rec Centre, JD Hardie Centre, Pools, Hospitals, Parks, Roads and other key infrastructure from large organisations in town I don't understand or see the justification.

Increasing the funds will prevent the growth of this town and effectively drive home owners and small businesses out. Council seems to consider all residents in Hedland to be wealthy or employed on high wages. This isn't the case. We have individuals who struggle to make the high rents and buy high cost homes. Imposing higher rates will drive these people out of town. The higher rates will also see small businesses struggle and an increase in retail rents will certainly cause more businesses to close – how empty does our local shopping centre have to be before the Council realise this? I believe the rate increase will be damaging to the Pilbara Cities plan and will in fact put the program back. How can we grow if we can't afford to live here?

Many of the council initiatives seem aimed at bringing in visitors which bring in no revenue and I believe these avenues should be more thoroughly explored before hitting out at the local residents who already pay a premium to live here. I'm disgusted at the lack of accommodation options and control of these visitors into our town. Backpackers and tourists are living in our parks and recreation areas for free and rate payers have to foot the bill to clean up their mess.

I also can't see the justification for Hedland rates being so much higher than inner city Perth Suburbs as we don't have as a high a quality of infrastructure, transport or services.

Regards

Jacqui Byrne

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b. A113662 2/4 Haines Road, South Hedland

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Osborne Mal  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 May 2013 7:24 AM  
**To:** brad crehan  
**Cc:** Howlett Kelly; Octoman Natalie; Records  
**Subject:** ICR38279 - RE: Rate increases

Good morning Bradley,

Thank you for your emailed submission with respect to the proposed 2013/14 rates increase.

Your submission will be included in the Agenda report to Council on this matter. It is most likely that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on the 5th June where Council will deliberate on this topic.

I can assure you that the Town of Port Hedland does not wish to see rate increases any greater than what is required to run this business. The Town of Port Hedland is also a business that faces cost increases in its general operations and it is well recorded that the Town has had significant infrastructure upgrades and additions that are required to be maintained. Many of those projects require a full year of maintenance now that they are completed and operational.

Please be assured, that no matter what level of increase Council supports, the Town will be doing its best to minimize costs and increase other revenue sources besides rates.

Kind regards,

Mal Osborne

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**From:** brad crehan [[mailto:brad\\_crehan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:brad_crehan@yahoo.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 May 2013 10:20 PM  
**To:** Osborne Mal  
**Subject:** Rate increases

Bradley Crehan  
2/4 Haines St  
South Hedland

Ceo of Port Hedland  
[ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au)

To Whom it may concern,

In reference to the recent discussions of a 12% rate increase and the invitation for comments, I would like to make it known I feel strongly against this dramatic increase. My partner left her employment as she fell pregnant and with this we lost our company housing, we were not ready to leave town although it was an option but found it more important to finish my apprenticeship. We were faced with the option to buy or rent and with the state of the current rental market it was more affordable to buy a small property. There are a lot of companies with housing in town that may or may not feel the effects of the rate increase but there are also many individuals that pay rates and would. Our recent 25% insurance increase on our strata property bringing the annual cover to \$6000.00 has been hard enough, please reconsider these fatuous rate increases.

Yours Sincerely



Bradley Crehan  
0451 639 008

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7. A126510 14 Bottlebrush Crescent, South Hedland

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Gabriel <zielke.clan@westnet.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 May 2013 5:41 AM  
**To:** Records  
**Cc:** Elmar Zielke  
**Subject:** ICR38275 - Public Submission on proposed rate rises

**Importance:** High

Name: Elmar & Sally Zielke  
Address: 14 Bottlebrush Cres., South Hedland

Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 41  
Port Hedland WA 6721

Fear Sir,

We do NOT support the proposed Rate increase of 12%!

I believe it is ridiculous that we have to pay an annual Shire Rates of \$2280+ and then have to find an extra \$275 for this increase!

Not every one in this Town works for BHP or FMG - a large proportion work for local businesses and we are already struggling with the higher cost of living in thisTown.

Our old house is in Morayfield QLD where we have more local parks than we have here, not just rubbish collection but a fully fledged recycling operation, a two-storey library, daily security drive by's and three fully opted parks for kids. we pay quarterly rates of \$351. I wonder hoe they survive on a mere \$1400p.a.??

One would think that with all the new houses being developed in this Town, AND us, the Rate Payers, funding the new underground Power supply that there would be sufficient income for this Council to operate efficiently!

Keep this up and we won't be able to afford living here and then you will have FIFOs only - I wonder how that works in with your long term strategy! This is disgusting - Im sure there are better options of coping with your increase in operating costs, like getting rid of a Pool, now that you have spent millions on them and they are still not working properly!

Disgusted  
Elmar Zielke

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8. A113662 2/4 Haines Road, South Hedland

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Osborne Mal  
**Sent:** Monday, 27 May 2013 11:49 AM  
**To:** Laura Bentley  
**Cc:** Records; Octoman Natalie  
**Subject:** ICR38229 - RE: Rates Feedback

Good morning Laura,

Thank you for your emailed submission with respect to the proposed 2013/14 rates increase.

Your submission will be included in the Agenda report to Council on this matter. It is most likely that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on the 5th June where Council will deliberate on this topic.

I can assure you that the Town of Port Hedland does not wish to see rate increases any greater than what is required to run this business. The Town of Port Hedland is also a business that faces cost increases in its general operations and it is well recorded that the Town has had significant infrastructure upgrades and additions that are required to be maintained. Many of those projects will now require a full year of maintenance now that they are completed and operational.

Please be assured, that no matter what increase Council supports, the Town will be doing its best to minimize costs and increase other revenue sources besides rates.

Kind regards,

Mal Osborne

**M.J. (Mal) Osborne**  
Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 41 Port Hedland WA 6721  
t: (08) 9158 9315 f: (08) 9158 9399  
m: 0458 694 287  
e: [ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au)  
[www.porthedland.wa.gov.au](http://www.porthedland.wa.gov.au)

*PORT HEDLAND - PILBARA'S PORT CITY*

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**From:** Laura Bentley [<mailto:laura.b.85@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 27 May 2013 11:27 AM  
**To:** Osborne Mal  
**Subject:** Rates Feedback

27 May 2013

Ceo of Port Hedland  
[ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

In reference to the recent discussions of a 12% rate increase and the invitation for comments, I would like to make it known I feel strongly against this dramatic increase. I see a rate rise of 4% - 5% much more affordable.

My partner and I purchased our first home in January this year, a small 2 x 1 in South Hedland to house ourselves and our 5 year old son. Our insurance for the property has just increased by \$2300 p/a and electricity charges are going through the roof. I am due to give birth in 7 weeks so we will be down to one income and more increases to us will force us to need to leave town and try to sell the house.

I appreciate that the council need to cover their own debt but I don't think increasing the rates so drastically is appropriate. The town is facing a down turn and all this rate increase will do is push out more of the everyday people and allow the big companies to stay and take a further stranglehold on the town.

Yours Sincerely

Laura Bentley  
2/4 Haines Street  
South Hedland WA  
[laura.b.85@hotmail.com](mailto:laura.b.85@hotmail.com)  
0422 65 1234

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9. A119420 17 Harwell Way, Wedgefield  
A120900 10 Pedlar Street, South Hedland

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Osborne Mal  
**Sent:** Monday, 27 May 2013 7:51 AM  
**To:** Sara; Records; Mayor Kelly Howlett; Penny Taylor; David Hooper; Julie Hunt; Arnold Carter  
**Cc:** Octoman Natalie  
**Subject:** ICR38227 - RE: ATTN CEO 2013/2410 Rates Comment and Feedback

Good morning Sara,

Thank you for your emailed submission with respect to the proposed 2013/14 rates increase.

Your submission will be included in the Agenda report to Council on this matter. It is most likely that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on the 5th June where Council will deliberate on this topic.

I can assure you that the Town of Port Hedland does not wish to see rate increases any greater than what is required to run this business. The Town of Port Hedland is also a business that faces cost increases in its general operations and it is well recorded that the Town has had significant infrastructure upgrades and additions that are required to be maintained. Many of those projects will now require a full year of maintenance now that they are completed and operational.

Please be assured, that no matter what increase Council supports, the Town will be doing its best to minimize costs and increase other revenue sources besides rates.

Kind regards,

Mal Osborne

M.J. (Mal) Osborne  
Chief Executive Officer

PO Box 41 Port Hedland WA 6721  
p: (08) 9158 9315 f: (08) 9158 9399  
m: 0458 694 267  
e: [ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au)  
[www.porthedland.wa.gov.au](http://www.porthedland.wa.gov.au)

PORT HEDLAND - PILBARA'S PORT CITY

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

**From:** Sara [<mailto:skafv2@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 26 May 2013 2:40 PM  
**To:** Records; Mayor Kelly Howlett; Penny Taylor; David Hooper; Osborne Mal; Julie Hunt; Arnold Carter  
**Subject:** ATTN CEO 2013/2410 Rates Comment and Feedback

Rates submission

ATTN: Chief Executive Officer: 2013/14 Rates Comment and Feedback

To CEO Mal Osborne, Mayor Howlett and Councillors,

My name is Sara Andrews and I am a long term resident of the Town of Port Hedland. I am writing to you all with my concerns about another rate increase.

My family (and many many others in town) are struggling to survive here in South Hedland as it is. We have just been told by the state govt that water costs will increase by 4.5% and electricity by 4%. They are the city rises so the Pilbara ones will be more and now our council is raising wanting to raise rates by 12% and bin levy from \$220.70 to \$265

I am not supportive of a rate rise this year, especially not one of 12%. Some of my reasons for this are-

- When 2012/2013 rates came out, the finance dept said the increase of 20% for residential and 30-100% increase for industry was high but would mean that significant increases would not be needed for the next few financial years. I believe that 12% IS a significant amount.

-There are no significant projects in the town's plan for this coming year

- I do not believe that we are getting value for money- our footpaths are a disgrace, verges are terrible, SHAC STILL isn't open, the Water Park has only just opened and has shut twice since then.

- Myself and all other non mining owner occupiers CAN NOT afford it. This will be the death of this town- locals are already leaving (none of them want to but they have to because they can't afford to live here anymore.)

- I do not believe that ToPH employees need or deserve a superannuation increase. It is not necessary to make me pay more so that you can pay something you are not required to pay.

- My business is struggling with all the costs accosiated with running a business in Hedland (high rent, high mortgages, high staff wages, freight etc). It simply can't afford a rate increase without increasing the hourly rate AGAIN. I do not want to do this as I feel that our rate is too high already and our customers can't afford it- if we increase costs again then they won't come back and we will have to shut the doors.

I also strongly disagree with a bin levy rise of 25%.

Regards,

Sara Andrews

0423524487

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10. A130308 18 Harwell Way, Wedgefield

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CEO TOPH Sent from my iPad

On 28/05/2013, at 7:53 PM, "Camillo Blanco" <[blanco30@bigpond.com](mailto:blanco30@bigpond.com)> wrote:

I have had a lot to say about the councils business over the past 4 years. If all you councillors were listening you would have heard the warnings I was giving about the downturn in our economy, the excessive spending by the town, the blowouts in the budgets of projects, and the question asked at the end of it all, how much will our rates rise this year?

Last year's rate rise was extreme to say the least. The statements supporting the rate increase by council were, the extra funds allowed for new infrastructure development and upgrades, repairs maintenance and expansion to existing buildings like the civic centre, and the creation of a future fund to ease the full impact of expensive projects in years to come.

But when the budget came out in 12/13 the road repair and reseal program is nonexistent, footpath development omitted and I have not seen the future fund started. The staff did receive an outrages pay rise that the town cannot afford, WHY?

The concern is the constant mismanagement of any project the town is involved in which leads to blow out in the cost and at the end of the day someone has to pay. The result is rate increases, the ratepayers are paying top dollar for the executive team and we are also paying for their inexperience in project and financial management.

This conduct does not constantly reoccur in the private sector because the culprits are dismissed, what are you councillors doing about replacing those responsible for the financial mess the town is in which has lead to rates rising to unaffordable levels?

The time has come to support the people that have elected you councillors to the positions you hold.

The role of councillors 2.10 A councillor-

- (a) Represents the interests of electors, ratepayers and residents of the district;
- (b) Provides leadership and guidance to the community and the council;
- (c) Facilitates communication between the community and the council;

You would all have to agree that nobody wants another rate rise especially after last year's extreme rise. As per the act above it is your responsibility to fight for ratepayers by reducing the rate increase to 0%.

Why?

By increasing the rates you are contributing to the pressures associated with unaffordable living in our town. The costs have to be passed on by businesses and landlords to survive and who pays in the end? The local people that you represent.

The decision to raise rates comes down to the 9 councillors, if you decide to increase rates again in double digits for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, you are not representing the concerns of the community and are not in touch with the deepening crises unfolding in our town.

It is up to you to say enough and support your rapidly dwindling local constituents.

Regards,

Camilo Blanco

Hedland Automotive

PH: 089172 5611

Fax: 089172 5601

Email: [blanco30@bigpond.com](mailto:blanco30@bigpond.com)

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## Hanisch Carmen

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**From:** Osborne Mal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 May 2013 9:54 PM  
**To:** Camillo Blanco  
**Cc:** Howlett Kelly; Penny Taylor; Jacob Gloria Ann; Jan Gillingham; George Daccache; David Hooper; Arnold Carter; Julie Hunt; Bill Dziombak; Octoman Natalie; Records  
**Subject:** ICR38276 - Re: Submission into rate increases

Good evening Camillo,

Thank you for your emailed submission with respect to the proposed 2013/14 rates increase.

Your submission will be included in the Agenda report to Council on this matter. It is most likely that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on the 5th June where Council will deliberate on this topic.

I can assure you that the Town of Port Hedland does not wish to see rate increases any greater than what is required to run this business. The Town of Port Hedland is also a business that faces cost increases in its general operations and it is well recorded that the Town has had significant infrastructure upgrades and additions that are required to be maintained. Many of those projects require a full year of maintenance now that they are completed and operational.

Please be assured, that no matter what increase Council supports, the Town will be doing its best to minimize costs and increase other revenue sources besides rates.

Kind regards,

Mal Osborne

**M.J. (Mal) Osborne**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

PO Box 41 Port Hedland WA 6721  
p: (08) 9158 9315 f: (08) 9158 9399  
m: 0458 694 267  
e: ceo@porthedland.wa.gov.au  
www.porthedland.wa.gov.au

**PORT HEDLAND - PILBARA'S PORT CITY**

11. A115140 15 Robinson Street, Port Hedland

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Vickie <warilla@iinet.net.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 May 2013 7:55 PM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** ICR38299 - ATTN: Chief Executive Officer: 2013/14 Rates Comment and Feedback

To the CEO Mal Osbourne

I would like to object to the 12% rate increase in Port Hedland. We are self funded retirees and have lived here for over 50 years and owned our own place in Port hedland for the last 30 years and every year are finding it more difficult to add the large increase to our bubget. There is very little help for self funded retirees and the land rates are not the only thing that keeps going up. We would hope that you would take this in to consideration before excepting another rise.

Regards  
Garry&Vickie Brooks



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## 12. Several properties



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Email: [admin@inlineeng.com.au](mailto:admin@inlineeng.com.au)  
ABN 86 097 684 181

Mal Osborne  
Chief Executive Officer  
Town Of Port Hedland  
WA 6721

CC.: Mayor of Port Hedland, Councillors and Directors

28 May 20013

RE: Rates increase for 2013/14

Dear Mr. Osborne,

My name is James Taylor and I have lived in Port Hedland for 17 years. I have resided in South Hedland, Wedgefield and Port Hedland. I have also managed my own company since 2001.

I would like to start by thanking you for the opportunity to listen and comment on your presentation at the special community meeting held at the council chambers in regards to the proposed rate increases.

Last year we received a huge rate increase in Port Hedland that had an immediate impact in private, social and business areas of the town. Privately rents increased with an impact on social and charity organizations in our town that deal with issues the council either chooses not to or will not deal with. Commercially, as a company that has to provide housing for our staff due to the lack of housing this town has to offer at a reasonable rate, the extra cost of owning or renting houses for our staff has increased.

The cost to business of living in this town has seen some businesses close and others move to a more FIFO oriented workforce. What I can assure you of that no matter what the business, all managers and owners had to adjust budgets and spending to manage this increase in cost.

When the council passed last year's rate increase the community paid the price. However in the same year we also saw the council pass massive pay rises for directors and staff of the Town of Port Hedland. An \$80k pay increase between four (4) directors plus bonuses paid to the same directors. These salaries are to increase this year again by approximately another \$10k each for these same people, while increasing rates to the community for very little improvement that has been delivered on time or in budget.

We have seen many disappointing things this financial year from the Town of Port Hedland. These include;

- The opening then closing of the new sports stadium.
- The constant opening and closing of the water park especially during school holidays.
- SHAC is still not open nor operable.

So as a rate payer my children could not enjoy these attractions during the school holidays due to mismanagement of these projects.

The biggest disappointment to me as a rate payer and business owner is that while other families and businesses struggle to keep ahead, this Council paid a performance based bonus for delivering next to nothing except another rate increase this year.

In short this is my understanding of how the Council works:  
The community votes in Elected Members to the elected Council (similar to a board).  
The Elected Members employ the CEO.  
The Council votes on business issues from the Town of Port Hedland.  
The Council is to vote on what is best for the town and community.  
The CEO manages the Directors and running the Town of Port Hedland Business.  
The Directors manage staff and projects.

If this is correct and I suspect it is, if the Town of Port Hedland was a company the CEO will be asking board for more money to continue operating while approving pay increases that totaled over \$1M last year plus bonuses for projects that have been and continue to be poorly managed.

This argument could be had all-day, every day without an outcome. During the community meeting Mr. Osborne stated that he and the Directors are committed to reducing cost but did not give any examples of how this was to be done. What was given however is how the Town of Port Hedland will increase revenue by increasing rates in double digits again for the second year running.

I propose that the vote on any rate increase is delayed until a clear plan of cost reduction is before the Elected Council Members. This will stop another vote on unmanageable promises such as reducing cost. This plan should be for 3 years at a minimum and showing rate increases, cost reduction, project cost and director wage increases and bonus plans.

It should be clear by now that the community of Port Hedland has low confidence in the ability of the elected council members, CEO and the Directors to manage what is best for the community and the financial operations of the TOPH.

This decision could start to rebuild some of that confidence. No one can or should vote without having the correct information. A manager saying they need more money due to constant mistakes is not a reason to give it to them. A clear plan is what should be voted on not assurances or promises.

A rate rise of 12% and a bin levy rise of 25% is not acceptable or affordable.

Regards



James Taylor  
Managing Director

13. A113320 33 Captains Way, South Hedland.

**Hanisch Carmen**

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**From:** Ron Morris <arende@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 May 2013 3:07 PM  
**To:** Records  
**Subject:** ICR38305 - ATTN: Chief Executive Officer: 2013/14 Rates Comment and Feedback'

Chief Executive officer.

Regarding the rate rises , last year they were raised by 19%, being such a high rise was to offset a rise this year. Certain people in council had substantial pay rises with these increases. Rate increases should be tied CPI, also there should be more preventable maintenance done to roads, to prevent pot holes developing, other councils carry this out why not here.

I see that a lot of work is now being done by contractors, if this is to save money that is false as you will be paying double to what you would if employing your own staff.

Regards

Ron Morris

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14. A803597  
A805198

12 Yikara Drive, Port Hedland  
29 Steel Loop, Wedgefield

Brett and Michelle Nethercote

12 Yikara Drive

Port Hedland WA 6721

28 May 2013

Chief Executive Officer

PO BOX 41

Port Hedland WA 6721

Dear Sir

Re Proposal Rates Increase of 12 %

We do not support the proposed rate increase of 12%. As a homeowner which does not receive any additional support for our housing in Port Hedland this increase will make us to consider our situation and to the viability of remaining in town with our family and business.

Big business and investors can write their rates off as an expense; home owners are not able to claim any of these highly overpriced costs and have to bear the full costs by themselves. Would the Council consider a dual priced rate index to help support owner occupied families living in Port Hedland? Not everyone is able to reduce their costs. The cost of rates whether it is a claimable expense or not is exorbitant and is likely to be the highest in the country.

We think it would be feasible to have a home owner rate and an investor rate charged accordingly to occupancy status. The way the rates are calculated suits someone if the property is rented though as a home owner we do not make this type of money from our house as it is based on a potential rental income where the estimate in Pretty Pool is more than in Cooke Point so we pay \$700 more for our house and rating our house that way has no justification for charging us more as we don't receive anything more for living here.

Perhaps Royalty for Regions could be used to partially fund the reduction of rates for owner occupied houses and small business in commercial blocks rather than being put towards infrastructure that is expensive to maintain and run.

Council could consider their own running costs with staffing/housing and ongoing programs viability. Why is the town being involved in bringing franchises to a workshop? What does that have to do with council? Where would any potential businesses be located, there is not enough commercial property available let alone affordable commercial property in town to house a business.

Mining companies needs to pay for their rateable space and this needs to be a top priority so the town can effectively. This situation needs to be renegotiated to the benefit of the town.

We want the Council to be working for the residence of this town, at this point it seem big business is supported and priorities more than the people pay the rates.

We would also like the council to consider what infrastructure is installed in our town. The cost benefits and likely maintenance/upkeep of them and potential damage that can be caused by vandals. This seems to be a continual issue in our town with valuable dollars being wasted/used to repair infrastructure that has been vandalised and not been respected. The self cleaning toilets across town are a perfect example, they are not self cleaning and as a town we have to pay for an independent cleaner to come through daily to keep them clean. The splash park is another example of poorly thought out location of a council structure. The disruption to residences and closeness to potential damage and maintenance costs should have been considered. The pool in South Hedland is another disaster that has cost the town dearly.

Yours sincerely

Brett and Michelle Nethercote

# 15. unable to identify property owned

## Hanisch Carmen

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**From:** Apelgren Shandra on behalf of Octoman Natalie  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 May 2013 1:07 PM  
**To:** delanydelaney@bigpond.com  
**Subject:** ICR38313 - RE: feedback on rate increase

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your feedback.

This feedback will be taken into account by Council when it considers the adoption of the proposed rates in early June 2013.

Kind Regards,  
Shandra

Shandra Apelgren  
Executive Assistant, Corporate Services  
PO Box 41 Port Hedland WA 6721  
Ph: (08) 9158 9371 Fax: (08) 9158 9399  
Email: [eacs@porthedland.wa.gov.au](mailto:eacs@porthedland.wa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.porthedland.wa.gov.au](http://www.porthedland.wa.gov.au)

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

From: Delany Delaney [<mailto:delanydelaney@bigpond.com>]  
Sent: Friday, 3 May 2013 2:08 PM  
To: Records  
Subject: feedback on rate increase

This makes absolutely no sense at all  
on the one hand you are saying you want to build a sustainable 'city'  
if you do this you will kill this town

on the 'people' side of things, there will be an exodus of people who have brought properties housing is already a crisis in this region, and you now propose to charge people who have invested in the market to actually live here more than the already exorbitant rates they are paying!  
We are and will continue to feel the impact of the slowdown in the mining industry

in regard to business, this will increase the fly in fly out scenario that is already causing problems, this will also see the loss of major business to this town

It is time for all of us to band together and demand more of the Royalty for Regions money that is gathered from the mining industry.  
We require and deserve a much greater percentage here than in the city.

The whole country is benefiting from the money generated by the mining industry through the fly in fly out workforce

again i say  
This does not make sense at all



I challenge TOPH council to take a vote from people who are living in Port and South Hedland as to what they require the council to do, isn't that what a democracy is?

We are at a time when we can build a really vibrant community please do not destroy this

This does not make any sense at all

If the TOPH went into battle for R4R money the whole town would support you

I look forward to your response

kind regards

Delany Delaney  
PO Box 2508  
South Hedland  
WA 6722

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