



City of Albany Records
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Peter. G. Leighton,
150. Frenchman bay Rd.,
ALBANY. W.A. 6330

1ST June 2,012.

City of Albany,
P. O. BOX484,
ALBANY 6331.

Dear Mr. Mayor & Councillors,

Please, no "Sovereign Insolvency" for the City; but factual admission of increases.

At the approach of the fiscal year 2,011/12 we were told that the average rate increase was to be 5%. When I received my rates bill, the figure to be paid had increased by 28.21% & that really infuriated me.

I am the first to agree that the City must raise enough to function to a high standard & as an 84 year old on a limited fixed income, am fully aware that inflation is galloping away with the bit firmly clamped between it's teeth - & this particularly in W.A. - despite frequent statements from 'Treasury & Politicians' to the contrary.

It was not really the sharp increase that dismayed me. It was the statement that the overall average was 5% when I was being asked for over 28%. - What you need, you'll have to have, but please, - No 'pussyfooting' about, - CALL IT STRAIGHT !!

I am a firm believer in "User should pay," but support a small subsidy from the Rates to make the Leisure & Aquatic Centre more accessible to families with children but at least charge enough for the winter water temperature to be attractive to the little ones.

Having said what I have about "Users Paying". I do very much appreciate the substantial rebate that you continue to allow in consideration of our advanced years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Leighton".

Peter. G. Leighton.

Rates 2012-2013

1. The rate increase is immaterial to me so long as the increase is required to meet already identified and budgeted priorities and is not a figure raised as a percentage increase ... as has occurred in the past ... eg. CPI plus 1% model ... and then priorities/ projects found for this increased 'pot of gold'.
2. If priorities/ wish lists/ needs have been identified FIRST, costings done, proposed budget set, rate in dollar established and modelled to see impact on community, then I am comfortable with what is being proposed.
3. I do not support the practices of the past when the rates proposed were based on CPI plus 1% model.
4. I would also trust the rates proposal is in accord with its 5 year plan.
5. I would also like to see greater transparency of process with more? some? intensive modelling of the proposal. Modelling enables the City to answer the question, "What is the ratepayer capacity to pay?" There are many programmes available for the city to do this it may well be the case that the community can pay more than what is being proposed.

http://www.ibisinfosys.com.au/products/ibis_rate_modelling.html

6. I would like a concerted and special effort made by the City to provide relief for those who cannot pay, including the additional option of the offer of sponsored financial counselling through Anglicare etc. I feel this would be a responsible and compassionate approach to take in addition to rates deferral etc.
7. I have previously expressed my opposition to the prize incentive provided to those who pay their rates in full on time. I have argued that the practice is discriminatory, and the people who pay by instalment already pay a penalty for this with admin fees and interest payments. The City has not been able to demonstrate/ prove that the prize increases the payment of rates in full so I think the practice should be either abandoned or open to all who pay on time by whatever method, either by instalment or in full.
8. I applaud the opportunity to make comment BEFORE the rate is officially struck. I have been asking for this for 5 plus years.

Warren Marshall
36 Cliff Street
Albany