

[REDACTED]

From: Geoff Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 October 2018 9:15 AM
To: DLGSC Act Review
Subject: Submission for consideration re Act review

Categories: Acknowledgement email sent, Vanessa

Dear Minister Templeman,

In previous correspondence your office invited me to forward submissions for consideration.

SUBMISSION 1

There is too much disparity between residential rates levied from property to property. Gross rental valuations do not necessarily reflect an owners income or ability to pay – in is unfair and inequitable – especially as each entity is sharing equally in the services a Council provides.

My proposal is for residential rates to be struck with a nominal 50% component comprised equally apportioned share of the total cost of providing Council services and the remaining 50% as per the current valuation and RID system.

This would better bring individual rates levied closer together and more fairly reflect payments for common services used.

SUBMISSION 2

Currently Councils strike rates around July /August and request immediate payment in advance of services to be provided over the ensuing 12 months. If a ratepayer opts to pay by instalments they suffer additional costs per instalment and an administrative fee to boot. The current interest rate is, I believe, 5.5% and in Geraldton the aggregate of both totals 9.37% p.a. per instalment. This is unfair and inequitable and gouging. Councils borrow from Treasury and sources at well below 5.5% and this impost not required.

The proposal is that, as per Water Authority rates, one may pay in nominally four three monthly installments throughout the year without any penalty.

This would introduce basic consumer fairness and equity.

SUBMISSION 3

That Councils need to obtain Ministerial permission to increase rates beyond the established c.p.i. increase.

We in Geraldton have in the past been hit with a 27 % increase in rates on one occasion and regular increases well beyond inflation. This is unsustainable, unaffordable and imprudent. The only remedy is to prevent it in such a way.

With regards and respect,

Geoffrey Barrett - [REDACTED]