



Nillumbik Ratepayers Association

PO Box 451, DIAMOND CREEK, VICTORIA. 3089. Inc No A0037059A PH: 0412 187 697
Email: brian.murray@nillumbikratepayers.asn.au Visit us: www.nillumbikratepayers.asn.au

Submission to Draft Budget 2014-2015

29 May 2014

This budget as have past budgets show that Nillumbik is unsustainable, we object to the proposed rate increase.

It seems the only real growth in Nillumbik is the council, with extra staff employed every year to service a dormant shire.

You are more than doubling rates every ten years, therefore you are deliberately punishing and forcing out the less fortunate so as to produce a wealthy elite shire.

This draft budget uses the same unconvincing arguments and excuses for these unwarranted rate increases that council has used for almost 20 years.

“Nillumbik is 90% rural by land area, however only a small proportion of the population lives in the rural area. This creates additional costs for servicing residents in the more remote parts of the shire.” (Draft Budget 2014-2015)

“Despite being 90% rural, Nillumbik is designated as a metropolitan municipality and is not eligible for certain government grants that fund programs or projects for rural communities.” (Draft Budget 2014-2015)

If these reasons are the continuing justification for the highest rates in Victoria then why are you unwilling to address these identified core issues?

We in Nillumbik should accept what we are, a metropolitan shire, or ask the State Government to have the shire classified as rural, thereby making us eligible for the rural grants you refer to, *“government grants that fund programs or projects for rural communities.”* (Draft Budget 2014-2015)

The community has identified traffic as a major issue, that it wants Council to address. Nillumbik has been active in limiting improvements to the road network including opposition to the completion of the metropolitan ring road and the upgrades of Yan Yean Road and Bolton Street, whilst at the same time complaining about traffic issues.

It seems the only real growth in Nillumbik is the council, with extra staff employed every year to service a dormant shire.

Brian Murray President
29 May 2014