

Public Comment Submissions List - Proposal for Levying Differential Rates for the 2021-22 Financial Year

Response	Objection/ Support/ Comment	Comments
1	Support	Agree to both.
2	Object	<p>Many have lost their jobs in mainstream industries and businesses. Qantas continue to lay off staff en mass on a regular basis. The demise of Pindan saw hundreds if not thousands of individuals negatively affected with layoffs in all supporting sectors. Western Australia's booming iron ore industry contributed \$15.4 billion in company tax, contributing over 20% of total company tax paid last year propping up the entire nation during COVID-19. We have a State (WA) surplus of \$2-5 billion yet State funding and spending is grossly misdirected - the hospital and health crises is good testimony to this. Yet despicably, funds are in abundance and spending rampant when it comes to opulent ventures - the City of Joondalup is no exception.</p> <p>The Western Australia Government claims that the unemployment rate has reduced is a fallacy - we currently have over 73 000 Western Australians actively looking for employment - with little, if any success. Adding insult, annual household fees and charges (vehicle licensing, drivers licenses, etc.) are set to rise by \$99 per average household in the 2021-22 financial year, or about 30-cents per day. Opposition Leader Mia Davies said the support being offered to struggling households was a drop in the ocean compared to the projected surplus. And elaborated in that it's measly, particularly when one thinks of those who are suffering within the community with a number of crisis's burning across many portfolios. Her comments concludes, by stating that it'll be cold comfort to those who are struggling to make ends meet.</p> <p>Wage and Salary increases have remained virtually dormant. Pensioners have not been given any increases since 2008 - and many are in perilous predicaments trying to pay for even the basics, and struggle to pay for basic services like Rates, Water, Gas, Electricity and Licensing fees. Concessions are farcical – as what is given is often meager and then offset by the introduction of other punitive charges to balance council revenue incomes. Since the Coronavirus outbreak, unemployment rates escalated, which saw the introduction of the Federal Government Jobkeeper and Jobseeker programs. This has now ended, leaving many in a dire straits and a mass-rotation employment scenario. Regardless of what is being reported in mainstream news platforms, many have lost jobs and are struggling to find suitable employment with ageism and nepotism rife. Albeit our politicians are claiming job prospects are on the increase, the reality is vastly different with many individuals, families and especially businesses, struggling.</p> <p>With the Coronavirus / Covid-19 epidemic our public amenities have been underutilized. Concerts, Music festivals, Arts and Culture displays in the past one and a half years virtually none-existent.</p> <p>Our official inflation rate has remained almost zero, with no foreseeable changes.</p>

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		<p>The City of Joondalup has aborted Bulk Waste Collections to the detriment of the community. Currently, the onus of the Rate payers to employ the use of a skip, which is underutilized to the benefit of the City financially yet a pro-rata Rates reduction has never been calculated or offered to rate payers. In effect, we are paying more, yet receiving less.</p> <p>The City of Joondalup Rates are roughly double than most European country cities.</p> <p>As it is, the City of Joondalup rates are at a prohibitively high cost to the average homeowner.</p> <p>The City of Joondalup appears to be following the State Government trends with much of our hard-pressed Rate payers money being allocated to ventures that are opulent, oversubscribed and unnecessary. Yet some of our roads and in particular, pavements and verges for example, have been poorly maintained. It is not uncommon to see litter, weeds and grass growing from cracks in roads and pavements of many suburbs of the City Joondalup.</p> <p>While the so-called official crime- rate statistics indicate that crime is supposedly on the decline, the reality is far different for a number of reasons. As in underreporting, understaffed and under-resourced police force coupled with ridiculously inappropriate, lenient sentencing by the judiciary. In reality, we are relying on incentives rather than deterrents as crime prevention measures and strategies. Clearly this is not working considering the recidivism rate, per capita, is exceedingly high by first world standards. As a result, criminals, street gangs, thugs, social misfits operate with impunity as we have no meaningful deterrents to address the crime rate. Good testimony of the WA Labour Government inadvertently recognizing our crime rate crises is by the miserly, electioneering promise of a \$400 rebate for Seniors for the purchase / installation of home security systems. While the Government procrastinates, Seniors have no choice but to live unprotected, in fear, in their own homes as purchases on Safety or Security items, including the cost of qualified professional installations made prior to implementation of the Safety and Security Rebate Scheme, will not be eligible to claim.</p> <p>That the Covid-19 pandemic remains unchecked and a uncontrolled is a harsh reality - and possibly for years to come. Given this scenario, one would have thought that the City of Joondalup would have taken cognizance of this bleak situation and international prediction and acted in a more responsible, conservative manner.</p>

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		<p>Given the above, that the City of Joondalup even contemplated a rates rise, is disingenuous. Notwithstanding I am opposed to any form of Rates increases regardless of how seemingly insignificant and how few Rate payers are affected as it sets a precedence.</p> <p>That the City of Joondalup went ahead and put forward a proposal to increase Rates is nothing short of outrageous - and an insult to all Rate payers.</p> <p>If anything, we should be striving for a 15% rate reduction rather than proposed increases brought about by sheer habit (annually) and tradition.</p> <p>I therefore reject the City of Joondalup rate increases as proposed outright.</p>