

Adrian D'Cunha

From: Kath Armstrong <kath.armstrong@empoweringpeople.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 May 2018 2:19 PM
To: Records Officer
Subject: ICR186055 - RV.10 - Objection to the rate rise

To whom it may concern,

I own 4 properties in Karratha (well the bank does but I pay an absolute fortune for them) and because I am so heavily invested in this town (sorry, city) I am struggling to make ends meet. What I owe is far more than what the properties are worth so I can't sell them, I am still paying off the underground power bill (\$17,500.00 in total + exorbitant interest), my last electricity bill was well over a thousand dollars and it costs a ridiculous amount to insure properties in Karratha because of the zoning (a lot of insurance companies won't even touch us because of the location). My son was so badly bullied at Karratha Senior High School that I am forced to enrol him at St Luke's College (another \$7000 cost per year I can't afford) and our shed distribution business recently folded because we weren't meeting our quota and therefore our distribution rights were revoked (without compensation). My husband has lived here for over 25 years and I have lived here for 22. We love it here but our quality of life has really deteriorated since the economic downturn and what toys we haven't sold (because very few local people have the disposable income to purchase motorbikes and boats) we can't afford to operate (we all know how expensive a day out on the water can be).

Give us a break! Please! My last pay rise (which I earned, I had to really prove my worth in my last annual review) equates to \$10.50 extra per week after tax. My husband is working as much overtime as he can. I don't believe you can justify a rate rise under the current economic conditions and the idea of my hard earned tax dollars being sunk into a hotel that we don't need really makes my blood boil! I read an article this morning that said that the current motels/hotels in town are breaking even and you are proposing to add to their woes! Do you not care about local businesses? I also just saw an advertisement for an Indigenous Trainee Operator with a salary package of \$96,373 per annum, are you kidding me? I earn just over \$60,000 a year! Can you please start spending our money more responsibly and re-think raising our rates. Do us a favour for once, see reason and actually reduce the rates to help out your struggling constituents.

Kind regards,

Kath Armstrong
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