

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 July 2022 4:39 AM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries
Subject: ISUB2272194 -

Hi rate payer here.

Shity time to increase rates. However if you do it. Would you mind providing more of service please.
scotsdale rd. No rubbish collection. No public water. No phone reception. Thanks.
Citizen. You just asked about increasing rates too.

Get Outlook for Android

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 July 2022 5:21 PM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries
Subject: ISUB2272220 - Public Comment regarding RATES

The majority of the population of Denmark is being affected by a world situation of raging inflation that has causes outside our control. By Oct or Nov 2022, fuel prices are likely to be above \$2.50 a lit; we are all having to rein in, and our shire administration should follow suit.

Three years ago, my rates went up by 21%, then another 7%. Last year because of COVID, there was no increase that should not now be used as an opportunity to catch up. I am, like many here in Denmark, on a fixed pension; I do not have the choice to say I want more because I have a private pension fund, my income is frozen. My fund diminished by \$100,000.00 over the last three months, and if people who have been paying into a pension fund all their lives should check theirs, they will find some horrific figures. I think Denmark should be cutting back, not driving forward, looking for more projects to spend our rates on, or glory projects.

We should be making sure that the holidaymakers that come to Denmark pay their way. Why should I pay for others' holidays? We should focus much more on a user-pay system. Those people in Denmark who have mortgages, and that includes the landlords of the many rental properties, that are negatively geared, are going to start to hurt by the end of this year; many will be faced with either charging more or getting out or, going in the direction of more holiday accommodation that gives a better income. That is not what Denmark needs. Many of the facilities paid for by ratepayers are not paid for by those who use the facilities. Increasing the rates may well result in more holiday home accommodation and fewer rental properties available.

An example of people not paying their way is the Denmark airport, which I know something about. Although the users are in the main multi-millionaires, they don't wish to contribute to the maintenance; they don't want to pay landing fees. They actually sit and debate how one would fool any system you introduced. There is never anyone about when a job needed more than one person; very convenient. The AGM minutes of the Denmark Airport Association Inc clearly state that they think that the shire should be responsible for the maintenance of their assets and that the DAA should be the "Voice of the Airport", ie tell the shire what to do and when. Most of the hangars have multiple aircraft stored, charged by the hangar owners \$25/\$35 a week. One of the hangars is set up for indoor tennis. For the use of a fully sealed runway, taxiways, lights, windsocks, maintenance, and a fully fenced airport, the users should be paying. The airport is not just hangars, Users pay. If you can't get the money from landing fees, none of those hangars should be rated at less than \$100.00 a week; they are paying around \$23.00. I pay \$13.00 a week for refuse collection! The bin at the airport is full again 2 hours after the rubbish truck leaves.

In my view, there are residents and visitors not paying their fair share, and there are those who use up our facilities and do not contribute at all. It's easy to just hit those who are seen as having no choice but to pay, that way nobody has to think. There have been until recently many rural property owners using the public bins, it's still going on what about some fines? or extending the rubbish collection areas and charging accordingly.

There are organisations constantly asking the shire for money or help with rooms, somebody should get no as part of their repertoire. It is my opinion that it is not the shire's job to support all these satellite social organisations. I haven't seen a printing press for \$100.00 bills out the back of the shire.

There are projects being completed that are very poorly managed. Some of the recent road building is a disgrace. Clearly, the grade of concrete used for the steps outside the RSL in Strickland street is substandard and will need to be replaced before it becomes dangerous; it won't be long, more disruption for the CBD and property owners. Money going out on increasing rents because of rate increases does not get spent with local businesses.

Do what you are already doing and be satisfied. Get right what you are already doing rather than creating more problems. I am not in favour of a 7.9% rate rise, especially since there is not a fair distribution of cost to those who use the facilities and I am not happy with the quality of workmanship that my current rates are being used to complete.





The Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Denmark
PO Box 183
Denmark WA 6333

15082272230	
Shire of Denmark	
20 JUL 2022	
MCORPS	✓
FOR	✓
DCS	✓

Dear Sir,

Re; proposed rate increase

I would like to object in the strongest possible way to the proposed Shire of Denmark rates increase of 8% (as reported in the "Denmark Bulletin", number 1062, July 14 2022).

As a self-funded retiree, I have seen my superannuation funds drop by about 10% in the last few months. The other day, my local bank proudly informed me that should I have \$49,999 to invest with them, they will reward me with the princely rate of 0.1% pa interest.

Clearly, I am not in a position to hold my hand out to anyone for a CPI rise in my annual spending allocation, so I am startled and appalled that the shire considers it reasonable to charge a CPI rise (5.1% according to the latest figure I saw) plus an extra few percent to fund its budget shortfall. This increase is extraordinary and well outside the norms and expectations in this time of forced frugality for those on a fixed income.

The shire MUST learn to live within its budget like so many of its ratepayers who have no recourse to external funding grabs to help them along. Let's see some efficiency brought into the shire's operations, restraint in pay/allowance increases or perhaps even some trimming of its bloated bureaucracy.

Yours faithfully



17 July 2022

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 8:48 AM

To: Denmark Shire Enquiries

Subject: ISUB2272228 - Rate Hike

To whom it may concern

I was sad and disturbed to read that you are proposing a 7.9% rate hike for 22/23.

It is very high and considering the cost of everything having gone up so much already it seems rather harsh and will be very painful for a lot of residents.

There is no need to reply to my email and ordinarily I wouldn't even get in touch about it, but seeing Denmark is such a small town I feel every voice counts and you asked for submissions.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Via my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 July 2022 10:58 AM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries
Subject: ISUB2272235 - Proposed rate rise 2022/23

To the CEO of Denmark Shire

We would like to object to the proposed rate rise of 7.9%

Together with the extreme cost of living rises at this present time such a large rate rise will put an added burden on young families but also the whole community including the aged who have no way of earning extra to cover the costs.

It also adds to the stress of living in Denmark which already experiences a high cost of living but also adds pressure on to the rental market.

Between the previous rate rise of 4% and this proposed rate rise of nearly 8%, that's a 12% rise over 2 years. At this rate we will be doubling rates at an unsustainable time frame.

Maybe it's time for our councillors to ask for an evaluation of the shires spending eg too heavy administration compared to public spending .

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

ISVB2272246	
Shire of Denmark	
25 JUL 2022	
2022 / 2023	MCS ✓
	FOR ✓
	NCS ✓

RTS-2

To The Shire of Denmark

Comment on Rating Proposal 2022 / 2023

21-7-22



To Whom This concerns.

I do not agree with the latest rating proposal for the 2022 / 2023 year.
 The average 8% increase on rates is more than I can remember and even more than the annual 2021/2022 CPI increase of 7.6% for Perth and every other capital as-well!

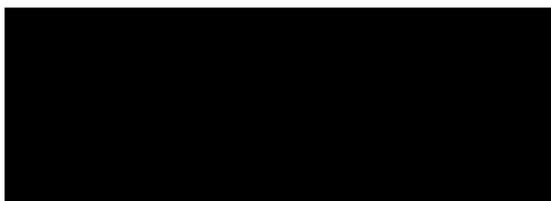
I suggest a more economical budget by cutting back or deferring projects to next year when inflation is not so high and not going out buying any more expensive electric cars! Buying a hybrid vehicle would have been a lot cheaper and less of a funding shortfall.

I know it is nice to go clean & green environmentally and carbon neutral, but not till 2050 We do not have to achieve this in the 2022/23 budget.

We are all paying more for everything and hitting pensioners and low income people much worse and I hope you can have another look at the Budget to see if you can get the increase in rates to a lower percentage. We all have to make cutbacks due to inflation so I feel the Shire of Denmark should do the same.

I hope my comments are helpful in finalising the 2022 / 2023 budget in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely





25 July 2022

Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Denmark
PO Box 183
DENMARK WA 6333

Dear Sir,

Subject: Proposed Rating Changes 2022/2023

I wish to lodge my objection to the further changes to the Shire of Denmark's Rating system that will see my rates increase to at least \$2832 which is double my 2020 rates (\$1469). The behaviour of the Denmark Shire reminds me of the 'Oliver' quote "please sir can I have more". I guess it's a case of coming up with a new formula each year that increases rates at levels way above those that could be deemed reasonable.

There is no rationale for the different classifications of rural land use. For a developed rural property, traditional agriculture such as grazing can be a major commercial enterprise and provision of holiday accommodation and/or other commercial activity is a means of making or supplementing farm income, (in some cases traditional options are not viable due such factors as block size, vegetation or soil types). I don't believe that it is sensible to differentially rate rural land in the manner proposed.

The actual and proposed rating increases over the last 2 years seriously discriminate against rural property owners who have tried to establish a commercial activity on their property to supplement their rural income. These activities can vary widely in their establishment cost and financial returns.

By way of example, let me explain our situation. We have owned the 40 hectare rural property at  for 32 years and have practiced small scale agricultural and horticultural pursuits. We have supplemented our rural income by renting part of one of our buildings for a café. The annual rent of the café is around \$10,000.

Historically there has been some commercial activity on the property since the 1920's. In 1998 the property was rezoned Rural – Additional Use to allow the establishment of a cellar sales and restaurant by a third party. Facilities were

upgraded at significant cost in 2005 to accommodate these commercial activities. A winery's cellar sales operation utilized these facilities until 2017, We have since rented out part of one building for a café that began operation in January 2022.

Our rates for 2020/21 were \$1469 increasing to \$2812 in 2021/22 - an increase of **90%**. Under the proposed new system our 2022/23 rates will be at least \$2852 ("how long is a piece of string I ask?") The increase over 2 years will be around 100%. **This is totally unreasonable.**

The level of consultation by the Shire on the proposed changes has been inadequate. The letter dated 27 April 2022 allowing 21 days for comment is the first and only communication of the subject of the latest increases that I have received. The latest "consultation", a further 3 weeks, was advertised in the local press. I didn't receive any other notification and have not had any response to the points raised in my earlier correspondence. (21 July 2021 and 18 May 2022)

In my opinion there are several considerations with respect to rating of rural property :-

- Many rural properties including our own are remote from the town and receive very little, if any, service from the Shire.
- Increasing rates will discourage rural land holders from establishing and/or operating businesses that can add to tourist attractions further from town. In the past such decentralization has been an objective of the Shire planning strategy.
- Small businesses out our way struggle to survive due to the quiet winter season. This results in lower rental incomes. These impacts are probably less severe with businesses closer to town.
- If commercial activities on rural property are to be taxed then it should be on a sliding scale depending on the projected profit of the activity. For example 4 holiday chalets are going to yield much more income than rental of a small café (as we have on our property).
- Alternatively rural rates should be set at a level that assumes some sort of commercial activity but not discriminate as to the type of commercial activity. A minimum rate should be levied on vacant land or properties that only have owner's accommodation.
- I would like to see a breakdown of the financial impact to the Shire of the proposed rating changes. I suspect that the increase in revenue from rural property owners will not justify the financial hardship it will cause. **I ask myself what additional benefit do I get from \$1800 in additional rates since 2020.**

- I understand that the Shire believes that it needs to raise its revenue base to service the Shire and in particular the town. If this is the case, then in my opinion, additional revenue should be raised by taxing short stay residential, and holiday accommodation in town to a greater degree rather than unrealistically levying rural property.
- Assuming that Denmark Shire can justify increased rating revenue against other options such as reducing expenditure. There may be other more equitable ways of changing the rating system that doesn't discriminate against a group of rural property owners who have invested to secure the sustainability of their rural lifestyle.
- If such changes are legal and publically acceptable then they should be phased in over a period of say 5 years.
- The rating changes applied and proposed over the last two years supports the view that the Shire does not value its rural residents and sees its future as a vacation town such as Margaret River.

I hope that further thought and consultation can take place before these changes are implemented.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: David Schober
Sent: Monday, 25 July 2022 11:13 AM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries
Cc: David King; Claire Thompson; Gina McPharlin
Subject: ISUB2272242 - FW: SUBMISSION / OPPOSITION TO RATE INCREASE / ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER [REDACTED]

For recording, thank you

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 July 2022 10:33 AM
To: Councillor Ceinwen Gearon <cr.gearon@denmark.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Kingsley Gibson <Cr.Gibson@denmark.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Clare Campbell <cr.campbell@denmark.wa.gov.au>; cr.carmen@denmark.wa.gov.au; Councillor Jan Lewis <cr.lewis@denmark.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Janine Phillips <CR.Phillips@denmark.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Jackie Ormsby <cr.ormsby@denmark.wa.gov.au>; 'mailto:cr.devenport@denmark.wa.gov.au'; 'mailto:cr.clarke@denmark.wa.gov.au'
Cc: David Schober [REDACTED] Gina McPharlin [REDACTED]
>
Subject: SUBMISSION / OPPOSITION TO RATE INCREASE / ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To the DENMARK SHIRE COUNCIL

ADDRESS : [REDACTED]
BUSINESS: [REDACTED]

We have been operating [REDACTED] for 17 years and during this time our running costs (rates, electricity, water, linen, laundry, food, cleaning etc.) have been increasing beyond our income. We know we have choices which include tariff increases and or closing our business. As one of the small businesses that operate in the tourist industry we believe that accommodation services are essential to tourism in Denmark.

We have reached the limit of the accepted tariff for our accommodation & any further increases associated with your proposed rate increase cannot be absorbed into our tariff. As a small business we feel we are being penalized for providing a much needed service for Denmark. What do we get in return for continuous council rate increases?

An anomaly in the system as a comparison, is the earth moving & diesel mechanical repairs(two businesses operating out of one premise) which is across the road from us [REDACTED]) This business operates from 630am to 7pm every day. Large SEMI TRAILER trucks, freezer trucks & other equipment are coming and going continuously.

It is also used as an overnight parking area for the semi-trailers & other heavy equipment looking for somewhere to park their equipment for the night.

We are subjected to noise pollution, visual pollution, diesel fumes.

95% of the road damage and subsequent road maintenance which has to be costed into the council budget is as a result of this heavy equipment on Holings Road & Inlet Drive.

These trucks pass through residential areas, a school, local community venues(men's shed, machinery group, Lions Den)

The pollution coming from the run off from this site is flowing into the Wilson Inlet.

The drainage from the Denmark sewerage farm runs through this site and then into the Inlet(not exactly environmentally friendly one would think)

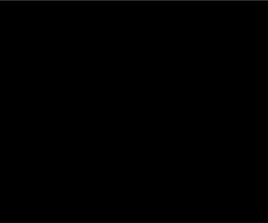
We raise the items above because visitors to Denmark who stay with us have to tolerate these issues as well as us. We feel that this type of business is more suited to the new Industrial site on East River Road.

The rate increase for our small business compared to this business is not justifiable.

: We are strongly opposed to the proposed 15.6% increase in our council rates

We ask that you think seriously about our submission, and the rate increase proposals & hopefully find other ways to balance your budget

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com



25th July 2022

Submission regarding the 2022/23 Rate Increase.

I wish to begin my submission by acknowledging that this submission is not an attack on Councillors or Council Staff who I have always found polite and professional to deal with.

In relation to the advertised rating increase for the coming year 2022/23, I find it difficult to reconcile the 'amount' of the increase with the current cost of living pressures that many Denmark ratepayers are struggling with. With more interest rate rises to come (as the Reserve Bank has advised) the impact on household budgets will become even more acute. When faced with a fixed income, rate payers will be forced to look at their personal budgets and make cuts to their discretionary spending.

I am aware that the demographic of many Denmark ratepayers is in the 'older' bracket, and many are on a pension of some sort. Those lucky enough to be able to work, find that their wage increases have not kept pace with the current cost of living increases, and they are also worried about being able to make ends meet.

I appreciate that the Denmark Shire has many varied calls on their budget dollar, and the Shire will also suffer from an increase of rates on their borrowings. However, based on a budget blow out, surely it is incumbent on the Council to look at their own budget and make any necessary cuts to reign in their spending for a year or so until the current crisis is averted.

The Council is suffering from a real '*perception problem*' at the moment and this will be exacerbated by an increase in a rate rise of the advertised magnitude. I completely understand the need for rate rises as costs increase, but the rate of increase should consider the current pressures on rate payers ability to pay.

Council is accused (mostly on social media I agree) of asking for submissions in relation to a number of community projects and seemingly going ahead with whatever is proposed by groups with vested interests against the general view of the community. Unfortunately, too many rate payers are quite apathetic, believing Council will do whatever it wants anyway and why bother putting their point of view forward. This is of course difficult for the Shire to manage, but this perception exists and should not be ignored.

The answer is to be more transparent and accountable to the whole community. For example, if there are a high number of submissions against the 'amount' of the rate increase, the community needs to know before Council approves the budget.

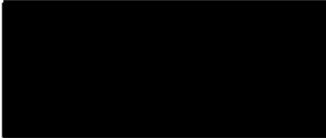
One last point I would make, is that although the Council 'publishes' its budget, for a lay person it might as well be printed in Chinese. Surely, someone could point out exactly where the budget over runs came from, a simple pie chart might be a great idea. Otherwise, it will appear to the majority of

rate payers that the Council simply cannot manage its budget, which of course is not necessarily the case.

I am not certain where Council needs to exercise more restraint/cuts in its budget, I appreciate that last year's weather had much to do with increased costs, however, we suffer from similar weather every year so we cannot simply keep on increasing rates to such a high extent and blame the weather.

Council needs to be brave and let the community know what they have done or intend to do to keep the budget under control.

Respectfully yours



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 July 2022 1:39 PM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries <enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au> Subject: ISUB2272258 -
Differential rates objection

I wish to lodge my objection to the hefty 15.6% rate rise for holiday properties. Every year we have seen a higher rate for this category. I am not opposed to a rate increase when necessary but as you say it has to be fair and equitable. Your reasons for slugging holiday purpose properties are rather dubious. You claim that additional revenue is needed to provide a level of service to these properties (what does the council provide?) & the costs that result from visitors to these properties (what costs?). You claim these properties have an impact on infrastructure & the environment. I would like to see the statistics for such claims. Holiday people are only here for a short time. Their impact on the infrastructure & environment cannot be more than a person living here full time.

You also claim these properties have an impact on housing availability & affordability within the Shire. This may be so but it is not the obligation of the owners of these properties to provide affordable housing for people. Everyone has a right to make a living or to invest their money as they see fit. Holiday property rental is a small business & owners have as much right to make some money out of their property as the person who runs the local cafe or farm.

These properties offer a valuable service within the town employing cleaners, handymen, gardeners, window cleaners, etc. It is important that you don't view these properties as cash cows. For most owners it is a minimal income, just covering costs if they're lucky, after paying for services as mentioned above. If you rate these properties out of existence these people may lose their jobs as a consequence.

Visitors to the town staying at these properties spend up big. They support the restaurants, wineries, supermarkets, dress shops, service stations etc & without their liberal spending many of these businesses may collapse.

Finally, again, I register my objection to the 15.6% rate rise for holiday properties as this is not fair or equitable & should be set in line with other non holiday properties. If you need to raise more income raise the rural, non holiday properties & others & lower the holiday property rate. In other words, make everyone the same.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

ISUB2272270 - Rate rise - 27.07.2022

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2022 10:24 AM
To: Denmark Shire Enquiries
Subject: ISUB2272270 - Rate rise

Attn Shire management and Councillors.

Good morning,

I propose NO rate rise in Denmark Shire and that instead Shire Councillors and all staff/management above Level 2 have No increase in wages/salary. Admin costs need to be reined in and reduced to cover any shortfall in budget.
Please allow more budget towards our Gardeners and road crews.
Please acknowledge receiving this email and comment.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

██████████ is the registered owner of ██████████ in the Shire of Denmark covering the site known as ██████████ which is zoned Tourism and falls within the Rating category “Holiday Purposes”.

We note that the Shire is proposing to increase rates for 2022/2023 on tourism properties by 15.59 percent on top of a GRV increase of 13.78 percent. This proposal follows substantial and disproportionate rate increases in prior years and is unsustainable in the current economic environment.

Current Economic Environment pertaining to Tourism Operations:

CPI increase over the past 12 months – plus 5.1%

Increase in minimum wage – plus 5.2%

Increase in Super Guarantee Levy from 10% to 10.5% - plus 5%

Increase in fuel costs from \$1.60 to \$2.30 per litre – plus 43.7%

Increase in Commercial laundry Charges (Zenith – Albany) – plus 6%

Increase in contract cleaning rates (Yarra Ladies) to \$49.50 per hour – plus 10%

Increase in bagged firewood from \$12 to \$18 per bag – plus 50%

Increase in Energy costs – plus 30%

The forgoing does not encompass all operating costs incurred by the Tourism sector however they clearly demonstrate the difficult operating environment the sector faces. In many regions of Australia local governments are supporting their tourism sectors to ensure their towns remain sustainable (Refer ABC documentaries like Landline and Back Roads). Denmark Shire approach is at odds with the rest of regional Australia, and it is unsurprising there are very few new Tourism ventures commencing within the Shire of Denmark.

Comparable Rating Levies by Other LGO's

The City of Albany adjoins the shire of Denmark and therefor offers the closest analogue to managing local government finances. Albany is proposing a 4.95% increase in 2022/2023 rates which is in keeping with the CPI compared to the proposed 15.59 % increase on Tourism properties in Denmark. Albany does not impose differential rates for Tourism despite this being a major industry in the region.

Tourism Outlook

Borders are now re-opened and following a spike in regional accommodation occupancy rates will revert to long term levels at circa 42 percent for Australia's southwest region. (Refer comments below on Use of funds - fairness). With ballooning costs this regional industry will struggle going forward and will require government support if it is to be sustained.

Use of Funds - Fairness

Shire of Denmark literature states “Local Governments examine each rating category to ensure all rate payers contribute in a **fair and equitable** way. Some categories might increase more than others, depending on what Council decides is **fair and equitable**”. The differential rating system imposes an unfair impost of the tourism sector – possibly viewed as a soft target due to holiday homes held by absentee owners.

Clearly a local resident (in town most of the year) would utilise more infrastructure than a tourism property where tenants are in place for only 42 percent of the year. There are also some industries drawing down more Shire funds on costs of roads for example. The heavy haulage truck depot in Inlet drive causes more damage to the roads than casual holiday users; yet this industry (which should not operate along Inlet drive for safety reasons) does not carry its fair share of rates.

Shire Needs to address its own financials

The Shire Notice states "The proposed rate charges as listed will cover costs in line with the consumer price Index". This statement is flawed and at odds with the facts - namely the published CPI running around 5.1 percent versus the proposed increase on tourism operators of 15.59%.

YOUR RATES ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Responded at	Signup Form Q5 (Your Email)	Signup Form Q7 (Your full name)	Signup Form Q8 (Your Suburb - deleted)	Q2 (Please provide your comment in the space below)
2022-07-06 20:40:59 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>Generally I am supportive of rate increases to ensure our standard of living and amenity in Denmark remains high.</p> <p>This year I believe constraint should be exercised, and major projects should be delayed, until the RBA is satisfied that inflation is at acceptable levels.</p> <p>A 7.9% rate increase on top of 0.5% monthly mortgage rate rises, on top of increased fuel, food, power and other costs will push many families to breaking point. To date, wages are not keeping pace.</p> <p>A twelve month delay on commencing a project will seem insignificant in the future, if remembered at all. I believe it is much more important to support our community through this financial uncertainty, and reduce the burden where possible.</p>
2022-07-06 21:36:11 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>7.9% is ridiculous, as a ratepayer I would seek to demand an independent review of spending before paying that. Roadworks, for example, seems like a perpetual money sink. They start with one stretch of road, then move on to the next, and the next, and the next without having finished the first lot. Then when they finally get back to the first they have to redo everything because weather/traffic has undone all of their work. Not to mention the fact that half of it is unnecessary in the first place (whilst there's actual necessary roadworks that get neglected). The Kemsley Estate intersection has been butchered, it's worse than before (and there wasn't a problem with it before). And the Lights Beach upgrades were completely unnecessary.</p>
2022-07-07 17:11:16 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>For what? I'm not connected to town water and my bins are not collected. I get the equivalent of 1 full size wheelie bin a month in tip passes. Unless there is a big improvement in the services I'm provided, the rates should not be increased.</p>

YOUR RATES ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Responded at	Signup Form Q5 (Your Email)	Signup Form Q7 (Your full name)	Signup Form Q8 (Your Suburb - deleted)	Q2 (Please provide your comment in the space below)
2022-07-07 20:34:45 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>Hello, I appreciate the need for rates and potential increases to assist with operational and capital costs however as a rural landholder I feel we are let down by the lack of services in the Shire that assist us and we are paying more for services which only benefit non rural. In other shires I've resided in rural landholders have an unlimited tip pass and more frequent gravel road grading throughout the year.</p> <p>Would be useful to have link to document on what the budget expenses for 2022/2023 are going towards for greater transparency. I feel rural rate increase should be lower than non-rural. Fully support the proposal that landholders using their properties for holiday lets paying a higher rate increase due to the additional pressures put on Denmark by tourists.</p> <p>Regards.</p>
2022-07-08 14:35:01 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Inflation and global market pressures are obvious. Adding a 7.5% rates rise passes and worsens the inflation(growing) to all rate payers. My pension is giving me a 3.5% adjustment.</p> <p>Inflation spirals when we all keep jumping after it.</p> <p>Maybe at this unprecedented time spending on “beyond normal council operations “ such as ocean beach improvements, volley ball courts etc is not rational.</p> <p>Please revise what is essential to community and what for this FY could be delayed until global supply, fuel price etc normalises.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p></p>

YOUR RATES ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Responded at	Signup Form Q5 (Your Email)	Signup Form Q7 (Your full name)	Signup Form Q8 (Your Suburb - deleted)	Q2 (Please provide your comment in the space below)
2022-07-09 09:17:18 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>Is the proposed hike of 7.9% legal? All Australians are feeling the pinch with inflation at 5%. All households have to live within a budget and generally do. The Denmark shire should learn to do the same. We probably have the highest staff to rate payer ratio in W.A. if not Australia. Time to cull the ridiculous amount of staff at Denmark shire. Leave the road fixing and building to professionals.</p>
2022-07-13 10:27:36 +0800	withheld	withheld	OCEAN BEACH	<p>Not happy about such a dramatic rate rise with no explanation of how the money will be spent in the next financial year. I can't see the budget for the coming year on the Shire Website! How about some serious belt tightening on spending by the Shire and Councillors? Appalled at the poor standard of road work at kemsley estate junction, was that really necessary???</p> <p>Rock work in front of DSLC that potential becomes another financial cost for the ratepayers as now a logistical problem for Shires machinery to circumnavigate for bar opening. Poor state of local roads and footpaths in town centre. Etc etc.....But then the Shire has ratepayers "over a barrel", we have to pay!!! so what is the point of offering public comment? Shire just ticking the boxes without paying any attention to the community AGAIN.</p>
2022-07-14 12:39:57 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>I feel that the rates are high for a dwelling on a 500 square metre property in the townsite and an 8 percent increase is extreme. Rates increased enough last year and this year is no better in tougher times. If the shire has such a large shortfall in funds they need to look more wisely on where they are spending it. With this rate increase I would expect to see some more and better facilities for the town.</p> <p>Thankyou.</p>
2022-07-15 22:26:28 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>Apart from bike trails and Lights Beach I see little capital improvements and what should mostly be just maintenance, larger works should require external funding. In short, I'm not convinced that shire is doing its best with what it has. Slug rental properties to fund tourism, that's fine because it's tax deductible, but the rest of us shouldn't foot the bill.</p>

YOUR RATES ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Responded at	Signup Form Q5 (Your Email)	Signup Form Q7 (Your full name)	Signup Form Q8 (Your Suburb - deleted)	Q2 (Please provide your comment in the space below)
2022-07-25 12:19:34 +0800	withheld	withheld		<p>I strongly object to the proposed 7.9% rate increase. As a rural property holder with 1 holiday home I have already been slugged with a 32% rate increase from FY21-FY22, when the valuation of my property increased by only 8%. I do not object paying more for the holiday use but the previous increase was excessive and the proposed additional 7.9% is unjustifiable considering that I receive no waste collection or scheme water from the Shire and now pay a "UV facilities maintenance fee" and an annual Holiday Home Registration fee of \$77 (I'm sure the state government is soon to add an additional registration fee as well)</p> <p>In response to these increased costs, I have raised my holiday booking fees 6.7% in 2022 and if I passed on 100% of these increases it would seriously impact on holidaymakers ability to afford my holiday home or any other in the Denmark area! As a proud and professional tourism operator I am happy to pay my fair share but these increases are hardly fair and equitable, especially in light of our transition to a tourism based town.</p> <p>It is interesting to compare our rates history to Albany's when they had a modest 1.5% increase in 2021/2022 and more importantly they do not levy additional charges for holiday accommodation at all!</p> <p>May I suggest the Shire look at more effective internal cost cutting measures than continuing to burden the local populace, especially holiday home providers. We've all had to to tighten our belts in this challenging environment and I expect the Shire to live within it's means too.</p> <p>Kind Regards, </p>