

## **Rate Caps**

Hello ESC

I have had a lot of experience with local govt ( about 4 very different councils ) & strongly urge capping rates at CPI.

Councils are not nearly accountable enough. Individual councillors come & go - any submissions are replied to by saying it's a staff recommendation, or they went along with a majority of other councillors & staff say they have to work within policies laid down by councillors.

It is almost impossible to pin anyone down to take accountability for a decision.

There is also a culture of spending - I believe most individual councillors put in a lot of hours & are not spendthrifts, but they find it hard to resist the constant pressure to spend up.

There is no need to specify examples of waste - from the trivial to the major - I'm sure you see that every day.

Councils are virtually monopolies - they have increased rates way above CPI for as long as I can remember - the compounding effect of this is of course huge.

I can afford to pay the rates, but I worry about older people no longer working who have lived in a suburb for many years - it must be a terrible burden on them to pay rapidly escalating rates every year. They haven't really got the choice to move to a different council - the upheaval, the hard work of finding another place & huge costs & stress for them of buying ( including stamp duty), selling & moving mean that is unrealistic.

Please, please cap rates & make councils focus & prioritise better, rather than let them take the easy way out every year.

Regards

Frank