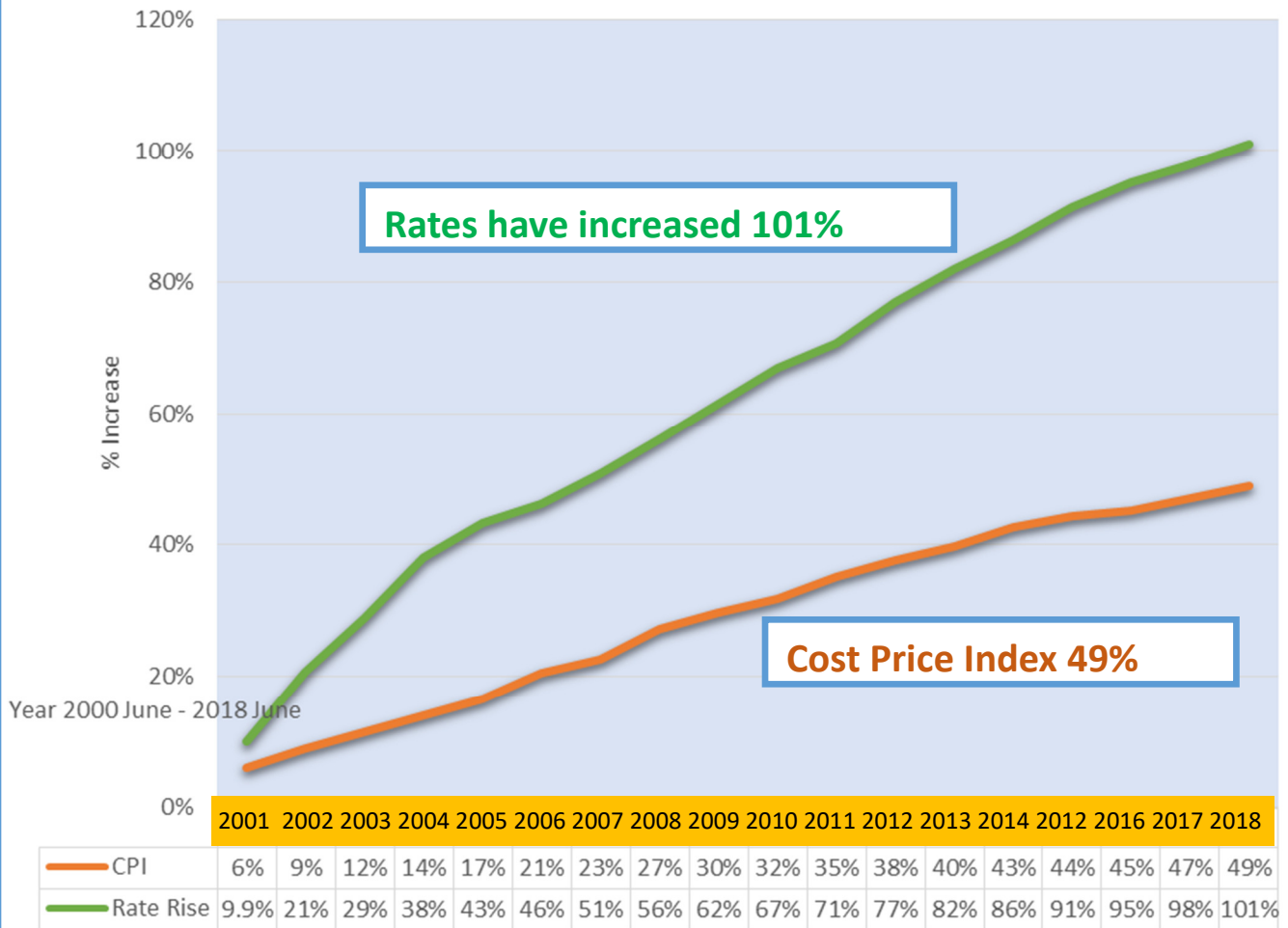


# Michael's Rate Policy

- **Maintain quality services**
- **Set a fair rate first** and cut our expenditure to fit.  
Unlimited money is unlimited waste!
- **Zero real Rate Increase** our rate is the same as the previous year but adjusted for the Local Government price index to ensure a financially strong council.
- **Council is to seek a community mandate** if the rated increase set by the Council you elect has an increase of more than a 1% real rate rise.

## Unley Council: Average residential rates from June 2000– 2018



## Achievements

1. Our rates would be 20% higher if I had not been on Council. All talk low rates... only some vote for it.
2. Council set KPI's and staff have found \$3,114,000.00 in savings in our annual expenditure... 8% less rates every year for all of us. No loss of quality of service but improvement.
3. After 8 years of unlimited rates with Lachlan's quiet support the staff present elected members with a target rate first.... But we still fail to achieve this.... We get closer to a fair rate now. Different leadership... **rates could explode!**



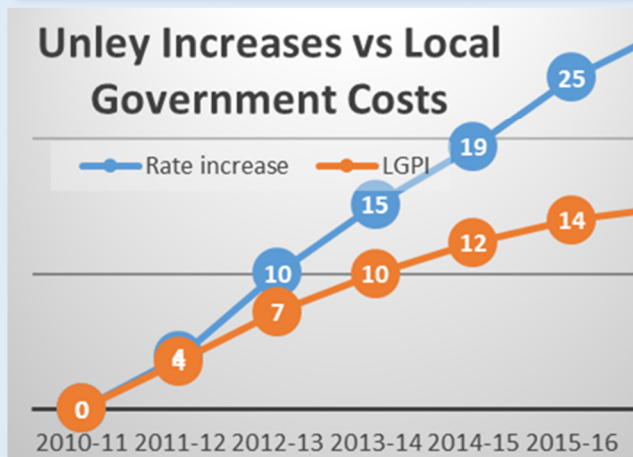
# Rates ..quality not size.. unlimited \$\$\$\$\$, is unlimited waste!

Local government is becoming bigger and bigger. In just six years, a 41.4% rate increase across Australia. Unley 25%! Having fought for low rate increases I thank others for compromising.

“Set a target rate first and cut the cloth to fit.” When I joined Council and for eight years Councillors all had their wish list and to ensure theirs got up... we all added up the costs and set the rate. **Unlimited money is unlimited waste.**

Rates should be held at the Local Government Cost of service increase. This means we can maintain all our existing services despite increasing prices like electricity because they are part of the index. The orange line shows if we did this that our rates would increase by 14% over five years. However our rates went up by 25%! As I am the ONLY current elected member with this view I would support a decision to increase rates at LGPI plus 1%. In the five years our rates would be 6% lower with a 1% plus inflation increase.

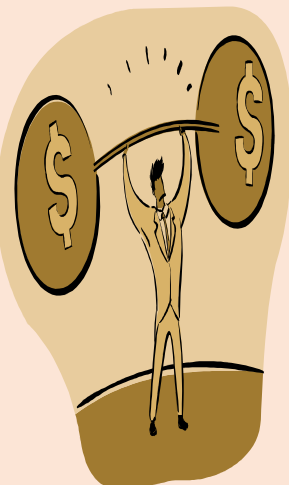
HOUSEHOLD SPENDING GOODS AND SERVICES	
Prices influenced by public sector (% change 2010-2016)	
Mortgage interest	-1
Rates	41.4
Electricity	21.4
Gas	35.1
Alcohol	-1.2



## WORDS ARE CHEAP Rates rise again.

In June a majority of councillors voted to set a target rate first and then cut our cloth to fit. When it came to actually implementing this only Councillors Koumi and Hughes joined with me and voted to set a target rate. We were told that no one complains about rates.

We have raised our rates by over 40% above inflation in the past decade. This year our staff found 1.2% savings and the motion allowed for all existing programs to continue and between 1-2% new items to be added or our debt paid down. Some costs rise for us all, including our council...water and electricity as well as our waste collection services. I wish you were there to hear the debate! Unlimited money again? Even with increased costs we can do everything as well as provide for a 3% of our budget to pay down our debts with rates rising less than 1% above inflation. It's not wages.... With record period of wage increases in the past decade **our rate rises are 16.2% higher than wages.**



ITEM 1027 MOTION – COUNCILLOR HEWITSON – RATES INCREASE 2014/15

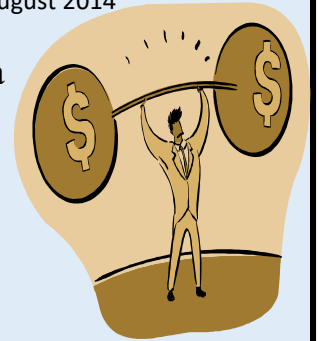
That in framing the 2014/15 Budget, Council requests the Administration to provide options and their implications within the target rate range of a 3.3 – 4.0 percent increase in rates. Lost with

**Only CRs Hewitson, Hughes and Koumi voted for a lower rate.**

# Voting for an outrageous rate rise

Extract Michael's newsletter August 2014

The Perfect is the Enemy of the Good (Voltaire) Why has your councillor voted for a budget with a 4.95% rate rise despite our staff finding savings with no loss of service of 1.2% ? We could maintain our existing services by having a **rate rise of 2%**, or to keep pace with local government costs 2.9% and use the 1.2% saving to pay down our \$14 million debt. Our rates have risen 16.2% above wages during a 10 years wage boom... this boom is over.... Yet I vote for the budget....**why?**



You will know that I voted to set a fair rate first and to cut our cloth to fit. CPI March 2013-14 is 3% and Council inflation is 2.9%. (LGCPI) In running for another term I am hopeful that other councillors are more prepared to do this. With an election coming I hope electors will support candidates who commit to setting a target rate first of no more than 1% above LGCPI. In the past 21 years the rates for a house in Langdon St Unley have risen from \$900 to \$2,800. The owner asks, 'My fears are, will I be able to fund the future increases over the next 20 years, if they keep increasing at the same rate? \$8,400.

UP GO THE METRO COUNCIL RATES	
2004/2005 - 2013/2014	
26 May 2014, advertiser p 1	
Adelaide City	72.57%
Burnside	57.77%
Holdfast Bay	74.14%
Mitcham	73.03%

**ANSWER. to Why?** Some Councillors in private voted for 6 to 6.5% rises. *“Money is no object”, “Ratepayers never complain about rates”* was again trotted out. *“Only one ratepayer turned up to our budget consultation”*.

The 4.95% was a compromise. By working with and not just opposing, my voice as your councillor is being included. Am I being conned? Just look at the percentage rate increases quoted in the Advertiser for other low growth councils like Unley. We have in my time on

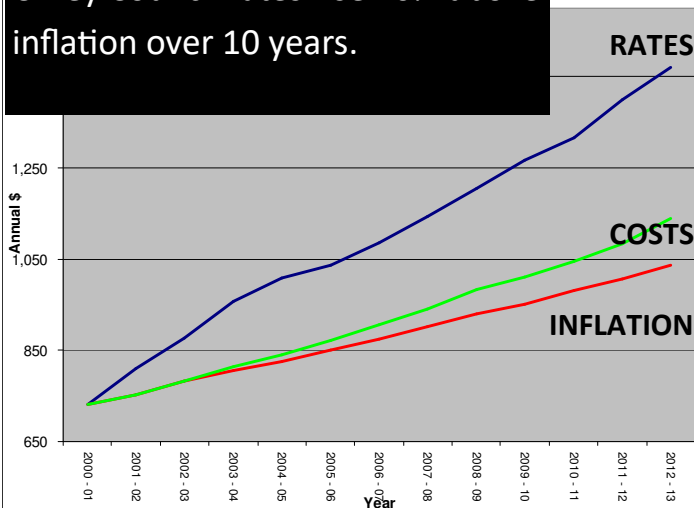
## Expenditure

### Does reduced expenditure mean reduced services?

**Staff have cut \$3.144 Million** without reducing the quality of services.

Others said it could not be done! My motion to cut just \$240,000 K in 2010 lost.... Supported of just four! This is an 8% saving on our annual rates! *Actions speak louder than words!*

Unley Council rates rise 40% above inflation over 10 years.



Rates Rise by over 100% since 2000—2017

How big do you want your Council to be?

