

Following is a report from the Mornington Peninsula Ratepayers' and Residents' Association

Rates Scandal

Victorian councils have lost touch with reality. In the last 10 years rates have risen by over 100% which is more than almost every other consumer commodity. This includes hospital and medical services, health services, education, food, alcohol, tobacco, petrol, gas and electricity, restaurants meals, take away fast food, domestic and international holidays, clothing and footwear, household appliances, and motor vehicles.

When banks, petrol companies and supermarkets raise their prices there are howls of protest from the public and politicians, government inquiries and price watches. However over the last decade councils have left the price increases of these providers in their wake, and yet not a murmur.

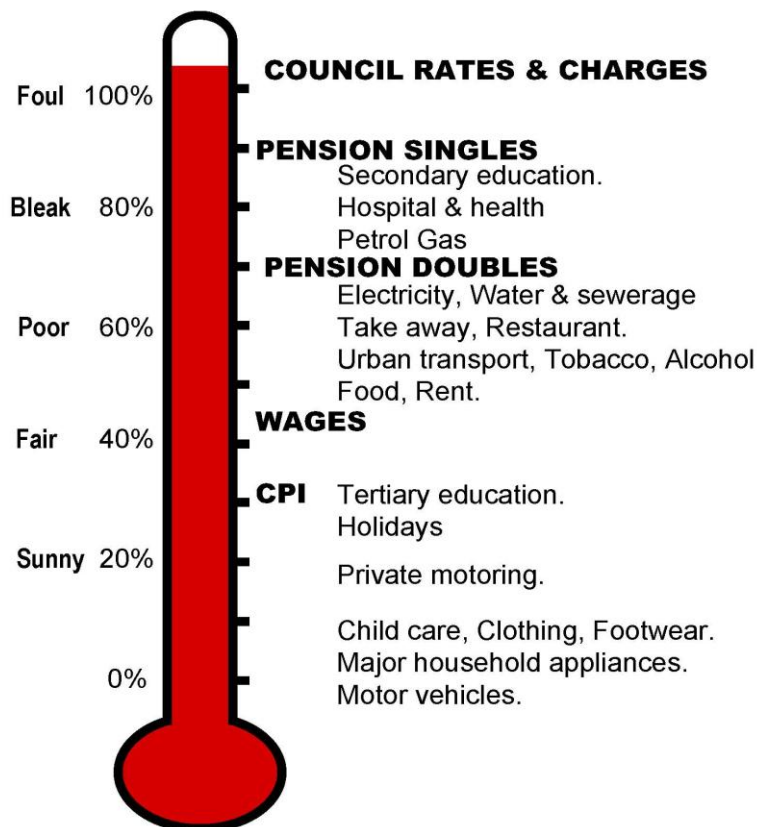
Victorian rates have increased by 30% more than any other state, three times the increase in CPI, and by more than double the increases in wages. Rates just simply cannot continue to rise as they have previously.

An urgent parliamentary inquiry needs to be held into the reasons for the outrageous rate increases and how they can be restrained in the future. Perhaps the government should follow the New South Wales government's example which pegs rates. The rise over the past five years is 50% less than in Victoria.

COUNCIL RATES BAROMETER

Price increases over 10 years

CLIMATE CHANGE



If anyone could forward the MPRRA some advice on how we might get some action on a parliamentary review of council rate increases it would be appreciated.

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