



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931. Celebrating 75 years of service in 2006.

Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

4 May 2006

Pensioners call for 13 per cent increase in council rate REBATE

“Comments by the chairman of an inquiry into local government sustainability, Percy Allan, to increase council rates by 13 per cent because some councils are experiencing third-world conditions should be taken with a council truck load of salt”, said CPSA State President Morrie Mifsud today.

“It is the pensioners of New South Wales who are experiencing third-world conditions. Their pensions continue to be eroded.

“These wild proposals to increase council rates totally ignore that pensioners who must make ends meet on less than \$500 a fortnight. These are the people who have slaved all their lives to pay off their homes and are now forced out of them because unaffordable rates and charges.

“Council rate rebates were set in 1993 and have not been adjusted since.

“The Local Government Act 1993 sets a maximum \$250 rebate on ordinary rates and waste charges and a maximum rebate of \$87.50 each on water supply rates or charges and sewerage rates or charges. Councils are reimbursed by the NSW Government for 50 per cent and by the Commonwealth for 5 per cent of the revenue they forego in this way.

“The report by Percy Allan commissioned by the Local Government and Shires Association cost \$600,000 to prepare. If councils can afford to throw their money away like that, they should not be getting any rate increases at all.

“Councils may have been subject to 30 years of rate-capping, but at least they got regular increases. Pensioners got nothing for 13 years to keep up with annual increases in council rates.

Page 1 of 2

“Councils should start managing their affairs properly. How come 40 councils are doing badly and the other 112 are doing fine?”

“CPSA calls on the NSW Government to amend the Local Government Act 1993 and grant the pensioners of New South Wales an increase in their council rate rebate of 13 per cent and annual indexation in line with rate rises.

“CPSA also suggests that Local Government try to achieve an increased cut of the Federal Budget to fund its operations”, said Morrie Mifsud.

Media Contact:	Morrie Mifsud, CPSA State President	02 9281 3588
	Paul Versteegen	02 9281 3588