

# Media Statement

21 November 2018



## LIBERALS PROPOSE HALF THE COUNCIL FOR TWICE THE PRICE IN HUME

The Australian Services Union is asking people to put the Liberals last at the State Election after the Party committed to split the City of Hume Council if elected.

The move would increase rates by an expected 14% per year according to a study that recommended against the move.

ASU Secretary of the Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch, Lisa Darmanin said the Liberal policy would hurt workers and the community and over 6-7 years would result in a doubling of rate fees for residents.

“This proposal would deliver half the Council for twice the price – an outcome no-one is interested in,” said Ms Darmanin.

“The Liberals have done absolutely no consultation on this proposal once again and it is entirely motivated by what is in their own political interests.

“We’re asking all ASU members and the broader community to defend the Hume Council and put the Liberals last at the state election.”

The authors of the Audit report that opposed the split said:

- it could increase council rates by 14 per cent, significantly reduce services and create an unviable, unsustainable Council;
- the previous Liberal Government’s process to split the councils was significantly flawed, based on a legally questionable 10-year transition period and an uncertain and potentially unenforceable share of the voluntary rates from Melbourne Airport; and
- the process had lacked adequate community consultation and had failed to explain the detrimental impact on local residents.

Last state election the Liberal-National Government gazetted for Sunbury to split from the City of Hume, relying on a poll with limited details released. Labor stopped the process.

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