

Launceston Ratepayers' Association Inc.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Examiner Newspaper
Paterson Street
Launceston.

Dear Editor,

The burden of rising taxes and local rates

It is through no fault of working families and pensioners that they cannot afford Launceston's local rates, not to mention the land tax on their humble holiday or fishing shacks if they are so lucky to have them.

So the call by the Editor (Sep 23) for northern-based politicians and Launceston Aldermen to take up the case of Launceston business owners caught up in a "meagre" land-tax spiral of just 65% in less than 4 years is a little hard to stomach.

Exorbitant land tax does affect businesses, but at least it is for them a tax deduction and also in business there is a reasonable chance of such overheads being recouped.

In July 2005, Launceston's commercial rates were reduced in favour of increasing residential rates for many (over 8000 households including many pensioners were subjected to AAV increases of up to 200% in just 1 year, increasing their rates accordingly).

The excuse then, as it is now is that the increase is due to rising property values and that nothing can be done about the increasing rates and taxes.

In fact, much can be done with a will, Launceston Aldermen could choose to stop over-spending ratepayer's money on pet regional projects designed to favour small self-interest groups and gain political patronage. The real reason for increases in rates is that LCC is spending more than the community can reasonably be able to afford. The State Government follows the same pattern.

To the last-elected Aldermen, deliver on your promises about rates.

To Mr Bartlett, show us how connected, kind and clever your government is by repealing the land tax increases this year, and aim to abolish land tax in the next budget.

Max Plummer

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer
Launceston Ratepayers' Association Inc.