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# Hefty rises in land tax just a blatant rip-off

**Y**OUR articles on land tax (March 9) highlighting the hardship being suffered by retirees are most timely.

Owners of land in the Wollongong area will pay at least 20 per cent more in land tax this year than last year even if their land values don't go up one cent. However, present indications in Wollongong from the Valuer General are that retail shop sites have gone up by 5 per cent and small industrial sites by 30 per

cent. If these indicators are correct then the owners of those properties could face average increases in their land tax bills this year of 30 per cent and 90 per cent respectively.

Huge increases such as these are appearing throughout the state as assessments are being issued throughout NSW. The highest increase so far to our knowledge has been a staggering 137 per cent.

In November the Premier

announced that \$12 million more in land tax would be collected this year than last year. The figure is looking closer to \$300 million more. We have called on the Government to stop this blatant rip-off, which threatens to totally undermine the investment property market in NSW.

**- DAVID SINGER,  
DAVID LANDA STEWART,  
Broadway.**