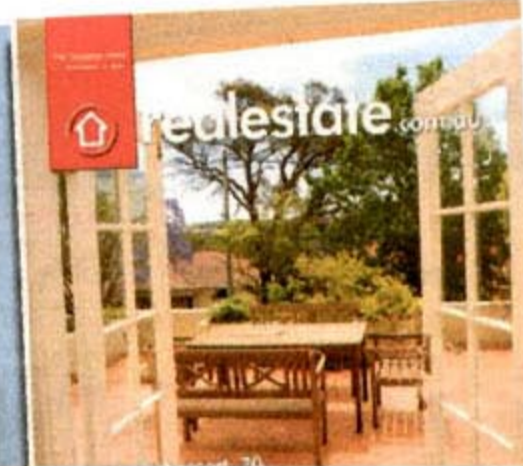


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The Rees Mini-Budget a blatant attack on the North Shore

Tax on wealth

PAUL TATNELL

TAX HIKES, massive parking levy increases, higher ferry prices and the same-old Spit Bridge debacle is what faces lower North Shore residents thanks to the Mini-Budget from our cash-strapped State Government.

In a special report, the *Mosman Daily* reveals how residents and

businesses on the lower North Shore are the big losers from Tuesday's Mini-Budget, with much of the government's fundraising to be paid for by our taxes and levies.

North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery accused the State Government of doing nothing more than introducing a "wealth tax", saying the lower North Shore was

"hammered" in Tuesday's announcement.

Treasurer Eric Roozendaal, who admitted to a Budget deficit of \$917 million, announced several initiatives that will hit the lower North Shore, including slugging local residents and businesses with higher business parking levies and increased land tax rates. Ferry and train users will

also be hit with new charges while questions remain over the future of many of our State Government-owned parks, including Wendy Whiteley's Lavender Bay garden.

The most surprising revelation - higher parking levies in North Sydney and Milsons Point - could derail the campaign to draw more business to the area.

"The levy is outrageous because

basically it is more than doubling the current charge," she said.

"It feels like a wealth tax at a time when they are trying to kickstart the economy. It is just crazy."

Cr McCaffery said she agreed with the congestion toll on the Harbour Bridge, but said it should apply to every toll in Sydney.

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INVESTMENT SEMINAR

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- What are the problems with managed funds?
- How can SMSFs help gain control over investments?

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Business couple are ahead of the pack

KATE CRAWFORD

THERE'S nothing they won't pack and send - from golfing greens to grandfather clocks.

It's a talent for transporting stuff that has helped earn the Pack and Send company a top international award.

The Australian retail, freight and logistics company, which has 92 stores throughout Australia, was named equal runner-up at the prestigious 2008 International Franchisor of the Year Award, held last month in Singapore.

The award ranks Pack and Send as one of the top three franchise operations in the world.

The news was cause for celebration at the Pack and Send store in Crows Nest, run for the past 10 years by owners Kathy and Brian Goodwin.

"We're really excited to be a part of network that's been recognised at the biggest award ceremony in international franchising," Mr Goodwin said.

"We've been part of Pack and Send's system for 10 years now, so it's amazing to see how we've grown and what we've achieved over the past decade."

Both now in their 60s, the Goodwins said they enjoyed owning a franchise that allowed them the independence to run their own store.

The Pack and Send policy is "no limits" on transport, packing and logistics jobs - no matter how small or large.

They specialise in transporting fragile, large, awkward and valuable goods.

Among their challenges, the Goodwins cite packing



Pack and Send Crows Nest store owners Brian and Kathy Goodwin.

"It's amazing to see how we've grown and what we've achieved over the past decade"

- Brian Goodwin

and transporting a putting green, grandfather clocks and live floral arrangements.

Kathy said the trick was to make sure that no part of the flowers or the ceramic bowl were touching the packing box.

"They arrived safe and sound with not a petal out of place," Kathy said.

Each year the Franchising and Licensing Association in Singapore invites a single nomination from each of the 36 member countries of the World Franchise Council.

The winner of the International Franchise Award this year was Chinese fast food franchise Inner Mongolia Little Sheep Catering Chain.

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