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Submission:

I object to the Armidale Dumaresq Council's application for a Special Rate variation for the following reasons:

The Council's consultation process with the community was misleading and confusing. The Council allege that they conducted a phone survey. I was not contacted and I have not met anyone who has. Information was difficult to find and understand. Many ratepayers still believe the increase is a one-off for 12 months.

The Council has mismanaged the running of some of its programs, most notably the delay in the landfill project which is being funded on borrowed money and for which the ratepayers are paying interest.

The Council has not managed the funding provided by ratepayers efficiently or equitably, for example I live outside the town limits and I receive little to no services for my substantial rates contribution (over \$11,000 per annum). There is no garbage collection, water or sewerage service. The Rockvale Road is a disgrace for a busy country road and the public road into my property has been neglected for over 10 years.

I am a third generation farmer and with the increase in the rates on top of the continuing drought, low commodity prices and increasing overheads it will be extremely unlikely that my children will be able to continue on the land. The stress is enormous.