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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam, As a Coffs Harbour ratepayer ,I strongly urge and request you reject Council's application to increase rates many times the inflation rate for the following reasons. IPART rejected their application in 2014 and many reasons from then are still valid. Council have failed to demonstrate a desire from the community for higher levels of services. A lengthy consultation process and community survey resulted in an overwhelming majority of 71% of respondents strongly opposed to rate rises. These people were fully aware that a reduction in services may well be a consequence of their opposition. Two prior surveys also showed that between 67% and 88% are opposed. Written submissions have shown 90% opposed. Council has chosen to ignore the wishes of their ratepayers and also IPART's 2014 decision and try again in 2015 to gouge increases of around 8% per year compounding over two years. Inflation is 1.7%.! Council have shown no consideration of the impact these rises would have on ratepayers, the majority of whom are on welfare or below average wages. Supposedly they will lighten the impact on ratepayers by freezing water and sewerage charges, how can they do this if they really need the money? This shows they really don't know what they are doing and don't need the money. Council is clinging to the falsehood that ratepayers are happy to pay higher rates in order to allow Council to continue their business of providing an ever increasing range of ancillary non-essential services, based on a flawed survey done about three years ago. Every survey that has correctly informed ratepayers of the options and that they will have to pay higher rates to maintain current services has shown that the people want all the extra services cut and don't want to pay higher rates. Council needs to get back to basics, stop wasting money on festivals, art galleries, cartoon museums and various other activities which have little to no benefit for most ratepayers. Their organisation has been allowed to grow too big, they spend money without careful consideration, planning and budgeting. They need to fix our roads, footpaths and neglected parks, stop wasting money on services we don't need, improve their management, cut expenses and largesse. Most of all they need to listen to the will of the people who pay their salaries, instead of ignoring them. People in Coffs are struggling, we already pay higher rates than those in affluent Sydney and we cannot afford to pay such huge increases over and above the rate of inflation. I desperately request you reject this undemocratic plundering of Coffs Harbour ratepayers. Send the Council a message that they they must learn to live within their budget(like they did in the distant past), and like we ratepayers have to live within ours.