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Submission: Submission to IPART re WCC Rate Increase RE: Proposed Special Rate Variation Firstly, we would like to thank the Council the effort that it has made to inform residents of this proposal and its financial impost. Whether or not the residents can personally afford the increase is relatively immaterial although we are sure that there are many residents who cannot afford it. It is important for Council to understand that many people do not receive the large salaries and annual increases that may be needed to support the proposal. Specifically, we believe that:

- Council's business case to support the proposal is non-existent.
- The negative impact of the proposal on low income residents is unreasonable.
- Council has spent a large amount of funds on doubtful and abstract projects in recent years and it is showing signs of bloating.
- When these projects were implemented, all maintenance factors and costings should have been taken into account, and that does not seem to be the case.
- The proposal shows that Council appears to be living beyond its means and it is obviously time to rein-in expenditure immediately.
- Most businesses (and Councils) run a budget to ensure that a proper financial plan is in place. If there are insufficient funds in the budget then our advice is to cut back on spending and stop trying to bleed the residents in order to make up for poor planning by Council and its Officers. Treasurer Joe Hockey has bluntly warned Australians that the days of governments saving businesses and jobs had passed, telling them, "the age of entitlement is over, and the age of personal responsibility has begun". We would like to suggest that the age of entitlement for Local Government is also over and that the age of personal responsibility has begun. We have given it due consideration and wish to advise that we do not support the proposal to increase rates. Of the options presented in your brochure titled "Community Assets" we choose Option 1 – No rate increase above rate peg.