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Date of submission: Monday, 23 February 2015

Submission: Dear Sir or Madam As a Business Owner in the Eurobodalla Shire, I write to support the Eurobodalla Shire Council's application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 6.5 %. I understand the case that has been put in support of the variation and commend Council on being pro-active to maintain our standard of infrastructure. The strategy of financial management is sound and well formulated with projected spending of the additional funds to be audited to ensure it is spent on targeted projects. The level of infrastructure support that is provided by the State Government in the 1980s and 90s has substantially been reduced over time leaving Council's with infrastructure that is quickly approaching end of life. This has been further compounded by cost shifting of both levels of government and the imposition of more services that Council must provide in the community care sector. The substantial cost of replacement or repair of infrastructure assets has fallen back on Council. Generally these assets are a priority and consequently the funds are taken away from other valuable 'usable' community projects. Given the long list of other Council's seeking a SRV, the drain on infrastructure costs is being felt across the state which is testament to what is happening in Eurobodalla. Council's decision certainly is not popular with all, however they are responsible to make tough decisions and lead our community. This is exactly what they are doing and they are to be commended for making tough decisions for the good of the community. regards Michael Hallahan