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Submission: I object most strongly to the application by Wingecarribee Council to seek rate increases of 45% over four years, the highest increase of any Council in NSW. While “consulting” with residents Council never disclosed the level of increases it has already received over the last many years. On figures I have obtained from Council, a “typical” ratepayer in 2001/02 paid \$312 in rates. In 2015/16 that figure is \$805. This represents an increase over 15 years of 158%, or around 10% pa in simple terms. In the same period the CPI has increased about 40%.

The increase Council seeks is the highest of any Council, on a per annum basis, in NSW and comes on top of these past increases that have been about three times the rate peg level. It appears Council wishes to perpetuate these approx 10% pa increases forever.

I ask you to direct the Council to limit themselves to the rate peg level of 1.8% pa.