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Submission: I strongly oppose any plans to increase rates. We are experiencing increased costs of living across the board and it is beginning to take a toll. We are already paying extraordinarily high rates for water charges (significantly higher than any other local government area, I believe). Our Council has been wasteful, from my observations. One example is recently purchasing a horse sculpture made of bailing twine for \$15000!! I don't don't feel confident that they can spend increased rate income in a valuable way for our community. Both my husband and I travel out of town for work every day and if our rates and charges continue to increase, we will seriously consider selling and relocating closer to our places of work, or to somewhere which has more services, simply because it is becoming too expensive to live in this local government area.