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Submission: This majority of the current council members were elected on the pretence that they would be reducing rate rises after public outcries from increased rates under previous councils. Hawkesbury Council submitted an application in defence of a proposed amalgamation with an adjoining council stating that there would be plenty of funds available within 2 or 3 years. The current council/councillors need to perform due dilligence and work through the challenges of budget constraints, not just apply for huge increases in rates to fund a "wish list"