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Date of submission: Monday, 12 March 2018

Submission: To Lismore city council I strongly object to yet another rates rise for business in our local area. as a small business owner who rents premises and only in 3d year of operation we are still struggling to catch up financially after last year's floods we lost all stock and suffered damage to premises that all had to be repaired at our own cost. We still had to pay rent and rates during time it took to reopen business and chose to continue paying staff. as renters of our business premises all council rates are past on to us as tenants we cannot absorb another rate rise along with trying to Catch up financially with costs of last flood and ongoing businesses expenses. We employ 4 staff plus ourself and purchase most goods for store from other local businesses like many others we are trying to contribute in a positive way to our local area employment and economy. If business rates and household rates are to go up during this time when many are struggling I fear the economic down turn will continue for all trying to etch a living in our small rural area. Rents are on the rise every year in a area where there is very little employment and very few opportunities for workers and their families services are few and far between raising business rates and household rates is going to be yet another nail in the coffin of our working class residents who understandable may have to close their doors or move from the area to make a living. Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. Hoping you consider the small people when taking your votes.