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Submission: I wish to register my support for Hawkesbury City Council's application for a Special Rate Variation.

I understand many in the community will object to an increase in property rates, however my desire for the Hawkesbury to be well represented, maintained and supported at a local level outweighs the increase required to pay with the SRV.

I strongly believe in the role of local Government in providing the area with the specific and tailored support to move in to the future whilst ensuring the individual needs of smaller community groups and residents are met.

Confusing the issue of the SRV is the sharp increase in the rates of some properties in the Hawkesbury, particularly in Oakville, due to the reevaluation and massive increase of the unimproved capital value of these properties by the Valuer General. This was then seized upon by local member and State Treasurer [REDACTED] and the Liberal Councillors as a means to highlight the inefficient running of Council.

However what was not explained in this campaign was the increased cost shifting by the State Government, increasing the burden placed on Councils. It is my understanding this cost shifting by the Government cost our council \$6.9 million in the last financial year.

I find it deeply disingenuous for [REDACTED] to criticise Council for economic inefficiency when his Government has effectively robbed this area of almost 10% of the yearly working budget.

To then have [REDACTED] boast about the strong financial position of NSW, when many LGAs in the state are suffering due to the actions of the State Government is a kick in the teeth to the people he is supposed to be representing.

My objections lie with the actions of the State Government, and not the SRV. I choose to support and invest in my local community, and therefore willingly accept the changes to my rates needed to make that happen.

Thank you for accepting my submission.