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13th March, 2019

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Dear Sir/Madam,

We own and operate a beef farming property in the Dungog Shire region.

Our family has been in this area since the 1830's, so we have a longstanding presence in Dungog. We also have additional country in the Gloucester area.

I have seen rationalisation occur over my lifetime in the various industries that apply to this region.

The dairy industry had a factory in Dungog. It closed in 1990. Milk is now carted to Sydney to process.

The beef cattle produced are carted out of the area to process.

There were a number of hardwood timber mills here, now all closed down.

The only thing left is Local Government and we are far and away too small to have a future on our own.

The burden to pay for Local Government will fall on large property owners.

We already have Council Rates above \$10,000. If this figure doubles as it will, with a 98% increase it will have a substantial impact on our Business.

Having said that however, my objection largely lies with the fact that we will still be stuck with a small, inefficient Council with no scale to carry out the necessary work required.

Gloucester has now become part of the Mid Coast Council area. They have size and scale and the comparison is quite substantial. Although we pay a slightly higher Council Rate to Mid Coast Council, we see a much healthier future there.

We therefore strongly oppose the special Rate variation and urge a different view.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]