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Submission:

I am writing to object to Wyong Council's proposed rate increase of 6.9% per annum for a number of consecutive years. Wyong Council advises the public that the average rate payer will only have to pay an extra \$30.39 in the first financial year. For my situation this is incorrect. Presently, my rates are \$2,057.38 per annum. An increase of 6.9% would require me to pay an additional \$141.96 in the first year; almost 5 times the amount advised by Wyong Council. In addition to this, my rates will rise by \$151.96 the following year; \$162.96 the year after that, and so on.

I already struggle financially to meet my current rates and increases in the cost of living expenses such as food, electricity and water rates, as well as the costs associated with raising children; all whilst receiving Austudy payments.

I feel the proposed increase of rates by Wyong Council is unrealistic in terms of what the average person can afford to pay; and it far exceeds the suggested \$30.39 per annum increase. Thus, I would like to formally object to the proposed rate rise of 6.9% as I feel this places too much financial stress on me, and could quite possibly lead to the loss of my house should I be unable to pay future council rates in full; in which case myself and my children will find ourselves in a much worse off position.

I implore you to consider carefully the implications of such a rate rise to the average person already struggling financially with the costs of living. Thank you for reading my submission.