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Submission: Ipart, As a lifelong resident and rate-payer of the Shoalhaven, I wish to express my deep concern regarding Shoalhaven City Councils application for another special rate increase above the set rate peg. The Shoalhaven region is largely a low socioeconomic area with a consistent unemployment rate at near double the national and state average. This has been the case for many years as industry & manufacturing in this area has declined to a point where it is virtually non-existent. Residents who are fortunate enough to be employed are not receiving wage increases, however general living costs keep rising and housing is becoming far less affordable. Put simply, residents of this community cannot afford such extravagant rate increases. I strongly urge ipart to reject any proposed rate increase above the set rate peg.