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Submission: Our small rural council is seeking this rate increase not as a one off but as a permanent increase which many of its ratepayers cannot afford. The Council has become a form of corporation with a highly paid executive and a large increase in staff numbers the top 3 managers together are paid in excess of \$500000.p.a. many tasks are outsourced, simple applications now go through a committee process. Ratepayers do not get value for their rates and this council should be investigated to determine its working efficiency. Most ratepayers are not aware of this proposed increase as it was badly advertised giving the council the excuse that there was no opposition from its ratepayers.