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Submission:

I have attended a number of meetings relating to the "Special Rate Variation Application" organised by the council or the ratepayers association. It is clear that the council is currently unable to meet its obligations without either a substantial rate increase or significant cutting of costs. It would seem to me that rather than attempting to cut costs and improve efficiencies the council continued to squander public funds on non essential expenditure and some obvious recent ones are, the replacement of signs throughout the district. Consultants are hired to provide advice and yet council ignores the advice. The General manager sacked just months before his contract expired wasting yet more precious funds. A major problem has been the deliberate obstruction of new industries wishing to operate out of Armidale in the 20 years I have lived here (and probably long before). Frankly I believe the council has been dysfunctional for decades and the culture of entitlement within the council staff has led to a large inefficient organisation that has stagnated for many years and now finally has ground to a halt. I would like to see the council sacked with the appointment of an administrator to work with council staff to create a leaner more efficient organisation.