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Submission: The rate rise by Hawkesbury Council of over 30% should be rejected for the following reasons. 1) The Mayor during the previous term of Council stated in local newspapers that the Council should not raise rates and once re-elected and she became the Mayor she has supported this rate rise. 2) The Council has been wasting \$100,000s on numerous studies and management plans which are unnecessary because other tiers of Govt have already done them. The aim of these additional studies is to use for political purposes against the NSW State Govt. 3) The Mayor and Some councillors went to the election stating they are going to make the rates "fairer". When elected these same people changed the rating structure to a lower base rate so that certain areas, that they consider wealthy, are affected with much higher rates that are simply unaffordable. These areas cannot withstand another massive 30%+ increase to their rates on top of the recent increase caused by the rating structure change. The current majority of councillors who voted for the rating structure change and more recently the special rate variation have acted completely politically in their decision making rather than acting professionally and impartially when making decisions which will force so many into financial hardship. Please reject this rate rise request so that people can remain in their homes and not be forced to sell up the family home. 4) This Council voted for the most expensive rate rise proposal which was not supported by the majority of people who returned surveys, the majority of the public who were involved in the survey only supported the smaller rate rise proposal. Council has gone for the most expensive "gold plated" rate rise which will financially hurt people the most when it is totally unnecessary.