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Submission: I would like to advise that I object to the special rate variation that the Hawkesbury Council have applied for. I live in [REDACTED] and my rates increased from [REDACTED] in 2016 to [REDACTED] in 2017. If the SRV is approved my rates will increase to about \$5300.

I am 64 and this increase will delay any thought of retiring as a \$60 increase per week would be hard to find on a pension. This increase is due partly to the value of my property increasing but also the charge rate per \$ has increased and the % of the valuation that is used to work out the rate has also increased. We have very little services in our area - no sewer, no street lights, no kerb and guttering etc. We get nothing for the increases. When there was talk of council amalgamations, the Hawkesbury declared itself a viable council but that was only on the condition that the SRV gets through. I understand rate pegging was introduced so that councils would not put through such big increases. If a business finds itself in financial difficulties it needs to cut costs as there are competitive issues with increased prices. Not so the council. It runs short of money it has a monopoly so just increase rates. I don't have the capacity to go through their mountains of paperwork to offer a solution but IPART should surely investigate as if the Hawkesbury succeed in this, many other councils will follow suit. Perhaps look at where they are spending money. It seems to me that they have just grown over the years and is becoming a white elephant. I would think they should go back to basics, rather than thrive on red tape. I am an accountant and hardly any of my clients are aware of the increase. So people have not been made aware of the change. So in short I object to the SRV.