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Submission: The rate rise application will be compounded over the period which makes the increase substantially higher than any increase to wages, pensions or income from self managed funds. It is totally unfair to apply for an increase of this magnitude knowing the financial difficulties this will place on people already struggling to pay their bills.

Would council entertain applications from its staff of 7.5% increase in wages, compounded over 7 years? I think not!

The work the rate increase is to be used for is general in description and there is concern the funds could end up in general revenue and be used for projects other than the broad spectrum of projects on the current wish list. E.g. a change in council could mean the funds are used for alternate projects that may have been "sweeteners" in the run up to an election.

One-off special rate variations with projected income and expenditure (specific to projects that have been costed and are not generalisations) would better serve the community as a change in councillors would not have any effect on the projects the funds were approved for. The community would have ownership of the project and support for the variation would have a better chance of success.