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Submission: I do not support the application for a Special Rates Variation which has been requested by Mid Coast Council. At the extraordinary meeting on 31 May, Council resolved to make an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) under section 508A for a special variation to its general income being a 4 year permanent increase as follows. No elected members were part of this decision.

We have no elected representatives on Council at this time. Council does not have a Mandate to request this increase. The lack of democratic process with varied community support for this proposed increase indicates that the SRV request should be placed on hold until after the Elections in September 2017.

From the Council's own survey there is up to 18% of ratepayers who will struggle to pay the increased Environmental Levy. 25% of ratepayers would struggle to pay the Rates increase. 38% would struggle to pay the combined increase due to Environmental Levy and SRV.

With the NSW State Government in surplus opportunities may exist for council to apply for special funding to achieve its perceived targets. Savings could also be made in limiting expense on items such as the Forster Library Precinct which we have been told will swallow \$12m. (Given the survey results indicated a very high satisfaction level with Libraries already)