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Submission: My partner and I are in our late 50's. My partner works full time, and I work part time. We do not claim any benefits and pay our fair share of taxes and medicare levies.

Our annual rates are \$1800 per annum. We save for them, but can rarely pay them by the due date as we do of course have plenty of other bills to pay as well as our mortgage.

We would like you to know that we will be struggling to pay any additional rates. We rarely go out and would not be using sporting facilities that the rate increase is supposed to be funding.

We are normal people and we feel that any increase over what we are currently paying is unacceptable to people in our age bracket and our employment situation.

We feel that we have not been given a say in the increase and suggest that rate payers should be able to vote for or against the increase.