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Submission: I am against Byron Shire Council's application to raise our rates by 7.5%, as indicated in their application. Council has not given us residents good evidence that a rise of this amount is necessary and has ignored ratepayers' insistence that Council review their options so as to avoid such a massive increase. For one thing, we are overwhelmed by tourists, thanks to the popularity of Byron Bay as a destination and to such tourist magnets as mega-festivals that have been imposed by the state government on our shire. Yet the state is not working with council to make sure the tourist industry pays their fair share of the costs to our infrastructure that continually increase, thanks to increasing tourist numbers. Our council is now expecting us to again foot the bill for expenses that tourists should be paying for. I object strenuously to this and ask that you reject this enormous increase and send Council back to the drawing board. I think the rates should remain at the level that IPART has set for the year, without any additional increase.