

**From:**   
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Upper Hunter Shire Council, Special Variation Application  
**Date:** Tuesday, 6 March 2018 10:43:59 AM

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I have been a Murrurundi ratepayer for 26 years, first to Murrurundi Shire and more recently to the Upper Hunter Shire.

For each of about 20 of those years our residents have endured months of severe (level 5) water restrictions as the responsible Council has failed to provide this basic life requirement.

My research comparing rates and charges in similar locations in Australia suggests we already pay excessively high amounts, about two times higher than for the vacant land I paid rates for to the Beaudesert Shire.

Regarding the survey Council recently conducted in our area I suggest the silent majority do not bother with such surveys as it is a generally held belief that Council pays no regard to the results and will continue to provide less service and attention to our area as it does to other parts of the Shire. We have heard the same story for years - town beautification, road upgrades, water pipeline etc. etc., but very little happens.

While Council pat themselves on their collective back and continue to charge more and more for less and less our land and property values continue to plummet, in my case from \$81,000 in 2008 to \$68,700 in 2016, the latest valuation I have.

As this community includes a large cohort of low income households, I implore you to NOT approve the rate variance applied for by the Upper Hunter Council.