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Submission: I am opposed to Dungog Councils request for a special variation in its current form. Dungog Council has faced numerous challenges which has affected its ability to provide essential services to the community. One major contributing factor is the obligation to maintain roads which were previously maintained by the State or Federal Government. This added obligation has placed Dungog Council in a situation where it cannot complete necessary works throughout the shire.

I am opposed to the significant increase applied for by Dungog Council, over five years. This variation will place significant financial hardship on community members. A lower variation would both benefit council and not place that financial hardship on community members. Further whilst part of the Dungog Shire, Clarence Town is very much forgotten by Dungog Council which is evidenced by the recent closure of the camping facilities at Williams River Tourist Park and potential closure of the Caravan amenities at the same Park in the near future.

Clarence Town residents have lost faith in Dungog Council to provide the necessary services to its town and question Council members agenda in their decision making.

Potential Conflicts of interest have arisen recently and whilst I personally will be happy for a slight increase to our rates I oppose the significant variation being requested. Further, residents only options when voting on this issue were a "no increase" or the increase Council has applied for. No option for a lower increase was ever provided.