

Author name: Anonymous

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Submission: AGAINST After recently purchasing in the upper hunter shire, we accepted at the time what we would be paying. Rather than doing a very minor survey (which the majority declined), why did council not employ the AEC to do an online and phone vote AND advertise this proposal on local radio (FM & AM) and all relevant newspapers, this would have given a better consensus of what the community would prefer. I can almost guarantee that if it goes ahead and all things council want to do with the \$\$ gets done, I bet that this rate variation will then not get reduced back to basics, it will just keep staying at that 20% extra for council to rub their hands together and let it gain a tonne of interest. How about the council thinks of the community rather than lining their pockets with ratepayers extra \$. Maybe and just maybe if the CPI ever increased more so people can afford the extra rates ontop of their everyday living expenses I might just reconsider...