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Submission: The rate variation submitted by Dungog Shire Council I feel as an individual is far to high. The local community is already struggling with little to no industry. The community is made up of young families and retirees from different ends of the economic field, being well off community members that have moved to the area after retirement because of the cost of real estate and have plenty left over for a comfortable retirement. On the other hand we have struggling pensioners just surviving with day to day expenses.

My personal situation is my wife and I both travel an hour away for work because of the lack of work in the area which puts a massive strain on our expenses. If rates increase we might as well move closer to work as we would be paying the same amount as other council's in the area and we would benefit from all the extra facilities that we would NEVER have in Dungog. This will hurt the local community and a lot of young families in the area.

The majority of our council is too incompetent to use the extra money to sustain Dungogs future. It needs to be increased slowly I understand that. But I think we need other options, which have not been offered.