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Date of submission: Thursday, 8 March 2018

Submission: As a rate payer i oppose the 20% rate increase. The council need to learn to live within there budget. They have wasted enough of ratepayers money on useless projects such as artwork in one town that do not benifit the greater comunity. I would rather the council demonstrate that they can use the money allocated beter instead of wasting it then asking for more. My income is not raising by 20% so why should theirs? Residential properties in some of the outer edge and smaller of shire towns such as gundy, murrurundi, merriwa parkville just to name a few should not have to pay for the main street of scone to be dug up and turned into garden beds. The low rates and property prices are what made me move to one such town, if the rates go up there will be even less apeal for people to move into areas with little to offer in the way of jobs. Murrurundi water suply is poor, murrurundi pool is shutdown due to poor pump maintenence, there are schools, volunteer rescue, ses, and rfs units, sporting groups in the shire that would welcome increased funding from local government before things like dog parks, cycleways and big blue horse artwork should have money spent on them yet they have the hide to ask for more. I am 100% against any rate increase, there is little to entice people to live in some small towns that will be affected and the rate increase may well be a final nail in the coffin of towns already struggling. I put it to you that the members of the council forfeit 20% of their salary and use that money instead