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Submission: I am opposed to a rate rise as I believe the ratepayers ability to pay is comprised by severe drought conditions and general financial difficulty. Council in my opinion have not sought funding assistance for the towns beautification projects rather have chosen the easier option of charging the community. It is worth noting that at the same meeting they discussed the proposed rate rise, they voted to purchase a sculpture made out of bailing twine for \$10000.00. Whilst I am not opposed to purchasing of public art, this piece gets damaged every time it gets moved and is unable to be housed outside anywhere it could be accessed by the public. I am mindful that when rates rise, they never come down. As a ratepayer living in Murrurundi, we have limited value for money. No town water, no garbage collection unless we drive the bins to a pick up spot. A road leading to our home in poor condition, a leaking local pool that had to close early due to councils lack of timely maintainance on the pump etc etc.