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Submission: I support the proposed 98% rate rise as it is required to enable Dungog Shire to renew and maintain essential roads and bridges within the shire to facilitate access and improve safety for residents and visitors. The fact that this is necessary, due to state governments' long-term failure to adequately fund the regional roads network, is a bitter reality. I am concerned for the impact of the rate rise on vulnerable residents, ie pensioners, low income individuals and families and rural producers but trust that council will effectively use its hardship provisions to assist and support these residents on a case by case basis.