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Submission: No, I do not agree that a council that already has a special rate variation can have this made permanent and apply for another variation. Cessnock LGA has many pensioners and unemployed and it is wrong for the council to assume that everyone can afford that much rise. Most incomes in our area would only have increased at the inflation rate so that should be the set rate increase for the council as well. I do not believe they have looked at other areas for savings e.g. reducing middle management?. I am not aware of any community consultation that has been advertised for people to vent there frustration with the council.