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Submission:

I oppose any rate rise which is higher than the rate peg of 3.4% set by IPART with my objections being;

- The 3.4% is above the rate of inflation and therefore, considered adequate to cope with the rising costs in managing our community.
1. Replacement of aging infrastructure should be covered by budgeted depreciation over the life of the infrastructure and not paid for by current rate payers.
 2. New infrastructure and services should be provided on the basis of affordability, Government grants and fund raising.

I have to live within my means and I elect councillors on that basis, to manage council business with the available finances, which already includes a 3.4% increase for this year.

The 6.9% submission by council was not part of the recent community consultation and most certainly would have been rejected if it had.

There is no point in having an independent umpire if Wyong Shire Council can simply apply for it to be overturned. If the elected councillors have a problem managing council finances and let's not forget that they have already found that more than ten million dollars has been wasted over recent years, then we need an administrator, not a rate rise.

I ask that you (IPART) reject Wyong Shire Council's application and enforce the rate cap of 3.4% for the current year.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit my point of view.