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Submission: I have been living in the Hawkesbury for 6 years. I have been regularly attending council meetings and community events. The Hawkesbury is very run down. We have seen many years of the previous councils failing to address huge infrastructure backlogs, damaged and dated roads, crumbling community facilities and an all-around tiredness of our historic towns. Council reports show that there is a \$100 million infrastructure backlog. The Hawkesbury really needs investment in our facilities and infrastructure right across the LGA. I believe that the rate variation will enable this to happen. The council held community consultation sessions which I attended and explained very well the implications of not getting a rate variation on our degraded infrastructure nor will it be able to deliver the services and roads the community wanted and expected. This variation is very modest compared to other council variations approved IPART. Some in the community have complained that their rates have gone up steeply. In 2012-13, the then councillors approved a rating restructure that saw those living on small blocks get a huge rate rise. This included pensioners and families. We have now returned to a more fairer rating structure that sees rates more equitably shared across the LGA rather than those on properties with low value effectively subsidising those on multimillion-dollar properties. Without this rate variation, we will continue to see a decline in our infrastructure in the community and services will have to be cut. This modest rate variation should go ahead.