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Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
Level 15
2-24 Rawson Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir

Eurobodalla Shire Council voted on 9 December 2014 for a special rates variation of 26% over the next 3 years, and will submit this to the Tribunal for approval.

I am totally opposed to this rates rise which will inflict considerable hardship on many people in the Eurobodalla who are on pensions or low wages.

As part of its decision-making process, Council undertook community consultation, including paying a consultant to survey 602 people in the Shire for their opinion about the proposed rate rise. The results were that 64% of residents were firmly opposed. As well, Council received 92 submissions against this proposal. Despite this opposition, Council has gone ahead.

Residents want Council to be financially responsible and work within its budget, and also expect that their opinions will be taken notice of. By forcing through this excessive rates rise, Council has ignored those residents who were consulted and whose opinions represent the majority of the Eurobodalla population. Moreover, it has wasted money by employing consultants and then dismissing their findings.

The imposition of a rates rise shows very clearly Council's inability to work within a budget, its disregard for the ratepayers of Eurobodalla, and its arrogance in ignoring well-established democratic processes.

What can be done to ensure Council follows democratic processes and takes notice of residents' wishes expressed in their submissions, survey results and letters? I'd always believed that Council is supposed to govern in the best interests of the people and yet Eurobodalla Council ignores views that do not accord with its rigid plans.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Doris Robinson