Author name: F. Chadwick

Date of submission: Monday, 16 March 2015

Submission: We wish to disagree with the proposed 7% rate rise for Greater Hume Shire Council. The council has not conveyed information regarding its proposed rise very well, most information we have seen has been in the local paper. We did not vote for such a large rise. While 7 % may only be approximately \$50 for some households it will be a larger increase for people with some land such as ourselves. We live on 5 acres on the outskirts of town, we have a private road because the council would not take on the road when the subdivision was established therefore we already have to pay an extra cost for the upkeep & insurance on the road. We have no sewage and no garbage collection yet we are still expected to pay large rates as it is. The council say our roads need repairing which they do but why not repair them instead of wasting taxpayers money on roundabouts that haven't slowed any of the speeding traffic because they just drive over the top of them which you can see by all the tyre marks. They have cut down perfectly good mature trees and have redone pathways that had nothing wrong. Council say they need this increase but maybe if they didn't waste money on things that weren't needed then they would have the funds to continue with repairing the roads that actually need it. We understand that rates will rise but 21% over 3 years is an unreasonable amount to ask. Council needs to re-evaluate their spending strategies and be realistic in their approach to situations and then the ratepayers might be more understanding. There are many families in the community that basically can not afford such increases us included.