

From: Fran Wachtel
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Rate rise UpperHunter Shire
Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 8:27:21 PM

This email is to object to the 20% proposed rate rise by Upper Hunter Shire Council. This shire has been suffering drought which does not only cause extreme hardship for farmers but also affects small business and employment in the area. It will take several years for the area to recover economically from this drought. This hardship is compounded by the steep rise in energy costs and general cost of living rises with no rise in income. Many people move to this area because they cannot afford to buy homes in large centres and they are already having financial difficulties. We are expected to provide for our families in these difficult times within our tight budgets with no financial relief in sight I think that council shows a total lack of empathy for the plight of many of their residents by considering a 20% rise. From what I can gather from councils publicity the money is mainly to be used for town revitalisation not essential works. (towns should not need revitalising if council has been maintaining them). Rates here are already high and I think council should have to function within their means and be more innovative in the raising of money for non essential projects. I hope you will show consideration for the struggling rate payers when making your decision.

Fran Wachtel

