

SUBMISSION TO IPART

RE APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL RATES VARIATION
BY TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

I write regarding Tenterfield Shire Council's application for a special rates variation, and out of a real concern regarding its impact if approved.

As a primary producer/grazier, and one being fully accustomed to ever-increasing costs, I believe the rate increase applied for is unreasonable and excessive given the time frame. This increase will cause financial hardship not only to our farming enterprise, but also to the many other producers and businesses within Tenterfield Shire.

I attended the community forums presented by Council and feel that these sessions were just a formality in this process, and that ratepayers' concerns were not taken seriously, as we at the time were given very little time to comment. Furthermore, at no stage during these consultations did Council or Councillors ever ask what the majority of opinion amongst ratepayers was. It is unreasonable for Tenterfield Shire to compare our current rates with those of neighbouring Shires because in reality they are not comparing "apples with apples".

Whilst I am not against a modest one-off special rates variation for a one-off specific purpose, I do object to the variation amount sought in Tenterfield Shire's current application and the significant financial impact it will have. For our personal enterprise by 2017/18 we will have to find an additional \$87 per week (or \$4525 annually) just for the payment of rates.

Accordingly, in view of the above, I enlist your empathy and implore your Department to consider very carefully the implications and merits of this Application.