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Submission: As a consequence of the State Government passing onto the local Council costs normally borne by the State Government, and the limiting of rate rises to less than the cost of living/doing business, the Council apparently finds itself in the situation of not being able to maintain the existing services and infrastructure let alone being able to cater for improvements that would advance community living. Hence I strongly support the Hawkesbury City Council's application for a special rate variation. I understand Hawkesbury City Council has not done so for some years, unlike some other Councils. If the application is not approved, it is possible, to meet the infrastructure needs of the community, services may have to be curtailed. Hawkesbury City Council is in a unique geographical situation, sitting across the city and country divide. So much of it consists of National Parks and flood plains making housing development and hence revenue raising very challenging.