

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Armidale/Dumaresq Council's Application for a special rate variation 2014/15  
**Date:** Saturday, 22 March 2014 9:56:56 PM

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As a rural ratepayer in the above local council area I write to oppose this special rate increase on the following grounds:

1. the so called consultation on this issue by Council has been a sham. Despite widespread opposition, particularly by rural ratepayers, the Council has chosen to ignore its constituents.
2. The Council has attempted to hoodwink rural ratepayers by constantly saying that the main reason for seeking this special rate variation was to allow greater spending on the upgrade of rural roads. However, Council's submission to IPART indicates that only 14.5% (\$1,426,000) is earmarked for rural road upgrades!
3. During the so called consultation process the Council went to some lengths to hide the fact that the increase, if granted, will see rate increases compounded over the life of the increase; and
4. Rural ratepayers are to bear the brunt of any special increase. Currently this area is subject to one of the worst droughts on record. In my own case my stock water has been exhausted and my property is totally destocked except for four horses, as a consequence I do not know when I might generate any farm income. To impose additional costs on an already hard hit sector is in my view grossly unfair.

Ian Small  
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