

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 2 March 2019 10:00 AM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Dungog Special Rate rise submission

Dungog Council – Special Rate rise.

Submission from

Jenni Denniss

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Now that both major parties have agreed to reinstate roads in our shire has state owned, and also promised government funding to fix the backlog of bridge repairs, it will be no longer necessary to have such a dramatic increase in rates for our shire. The condition of the roads and bridges is one of the main reasons for the application from Dungog Council and now that this will be funded by the NSW government, Dungog Council will be able to direct the current rates to other areas.

Dungog shire is a low socioeconomic area with many farmers struggling with the current drought. There is much unemployment and very few fulltime jobs which causes financial struggle for many people.

If this submission from Dungog Council is allowed to go ahead it will put great financial strain on many in the community. Almost doubling the rates over a 7-year period will cause financial pressure on both home owners and renters. The population is aging in Dungog and there are many pensioners that are already struggling to make ends meet and with a considerable rate rise many will be forced to sell their homes.

Personally, my rates will increase by about \$2000 per year on our rural property and my daughter's rates will rise by over \$1000 on her residential home. Dungog is becoming unaffordable for the average person.

Besides my council rates increasing, my cost of water will be increasing from \$1000 per year to approx. \$4000 due to Hunter Waters and the NSW Government decision to not upgrade our water supply.

Our expenditure for rates and utilities will add \$5000 per year to our living costs. Or \$100 per week. We cannot afford these increases, we already live week to week.

Royalties need to be paid to the Dungog Shire for the water that is taken from our shire to service the Hunter Valley and the cost of running the shire should not be a financial burden

that the residents should bare. The State government receives 10's of millions every year from our shire and give very little back.

Dungog is a town that is struggling to survive, with many businesses closing and the increase in rates will mean that the residents have less money to spend in town and we will lose more businesses and jobs.

Another kick in the guts for hard working rural Australians.

Many thanks for your consideration

Jenni Denniss