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Submission: As a ratepayer in the Hawkesbury I feel the rates increase applied for by the Council is incredibly unfair and exorbitant. We already pay very high rates and if the increase that Council has applied for is approved, it will be a huge hit to many household budgets which are already struggling with the rising cost of living. The average resident has already been stung by countless electricity and gas price rises and does not deserve to have their rates increased massively as well. How will anyone be able to afford to even exist if the cost of these essential utilities keeps consuming more and more of our budgets?