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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We wish to lodge an objection to the proposal by Maitland City Council to increase the rates for the oncoming (seven) years. We have had two exorbitant increases over the past 2 years and we find that the current request for increase is outrageous in the current situation.

The Council plans to open the Mall at a cost of \$17million, to one way traffic and repave it at a considerable cost to ratepayers with tiles - not from Australia - but Italy, costing \$820,000.00. That is a joke. The ratepayers are tightening their belts only to have Council letting their's loose.

As for the phone survey of ratepayers, I (Joan) was called, only to have my comments rejected as the company conducting the survey had enough of my age group accounted for (ie. Over 65 years). All the surveys conducted by the local newspaper (The Maitland Mercury) and the written submissions to Maitland City Council indicated more than 80% are not in favour of this increase.

We are at present having to "let go" some of our property which had been in the family since the 1930's because of Council rezoning from Rural to Residential, hence the land rates have escalated and Land Tax also. The waste collection charge is going up and we don't have annual kerbside collection like other councils in the Hunter area.

We believe that Maitland City Council should replace the General Manager with someone who can manage the funds more efficiently.

Signed: Joan and John Mitchell

