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Submission: As rate payers in the Scone township, we do not feel that the proposed increase in rates is acceptable. So many businesses have closed down locally, and beautifying the main street is not likely to improve this situation. With businesses closing down there is less opportunities for local work which is an economic stressor to locals, who do not need any further costs pushed onto them. I do not see why the rate payers should foot the bill, when Upper Hunter Shire Council was a very rich council until they spent in the vicinity of \$8,000,000 of rate payers money on a new and improved Council Chamber, which in the view of many was not warranted.