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Submission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Wyong Council's application for a rate rise of 6.9% per annum over seven years.

By my calculations this would mean that the rate would be 29.7% higher at the end of seven years than the rate increased by the current maximum of 3%.

I have attended Council's very structured briefing and do believe that they need a rate increase. At the same time I am not convinced that they have made a genuine effort to reduce costs at this time.

I believe that they should be allowed an increase of around 6.9% for two years maximum and then should be made to show that they have made a serious effort to reduce waste. This would give them an additional 7.7% permanent increase.

A further important consideration is the demographic of the current populations income levels. There are a high proportion of people in the area on fixed incomes who would be adversely affected by a large increase.