# Group submission:

**Norma Hemmings for residents of 24 Orara Street Urunga. Strate Plan 11948**

I would like to submit an objection to the Bellingen Council’s request for a rate increase of 11.8%. I live in a Unit which is part of a group of 6. 4 other Unit owners in my block are age pensioners/disability pension and the other a self-funded retiree. I would like to include all 6 Units in this objection to the rate increase.

In 2012 our block experienced a rate increase of 19.5%. And in 2013 we had a rate increase of 3.15%. The following spreadsheet details the annual rates for myself and the other Units were similar, with small variations.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Individual rate** | **Rate increase in $** | **Percentage rate increase** |
| 2011 | 1266 |  |  |
| 2012 | 1511 | 245 | 19.35229068 |
| 2013 | 1564 | 53 | 3.507610854 |

I am a senior age pensioner and receive a weekly income of $420 per week. Council rates cost me $30 per week and body corporate rates $30 leaving me $380 per week to live on. This is to run a car, insure my property and pay for electricity, phone and food.

Another rate increase of a proposed 11.8% would cause severe hardship for myself and the other pensioners in my block.

I have had to ask someone to do this submission for me as I am not computer literate, as are the others I am speaking for. Our ages range between 56 and 95. It is very difficult to submit our objection to the rate increase electronically and would like to know how such submissions can be conducted in the future by those who are not computer literate?