

Author name: S. Tomlinson

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Submission: From: sharon tomlinson [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2019 1:07 PM  
To: Local Government Mailbox  
Subject: Objection for Rates increase Dungog

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to submit my objection to the Dungog Shire Council's application to IPART to increase the rates in the Dungog Shire by 97.8% over 7 years.

The Dungog Shire has canvassed the local rate payers giving those rate payers only 2 options, To have the rates remain at the same level OR for the 97.8% over 7 years. No other options have been put forward by Council.

While there is a necessity for some increase to be applied in order to maintain some repair to assets such as roads and bridges, the proposed rise would place an unnecessary burden on a great proportion of the community. Those adversely affect would be substantial and include farmers, and struggling businesses within the community as well as residents on low and fixed incomes. Business is already struggling because of drought and rising costs of essential services and such an obscene increase would in my opinion have an extremely detrimental effect to the community.

I would recommend an increase in the rates of a more modest rise of approximately 15% over 2 years (total of 32.23%) in line with the opinions of Councillors Low, Wall and Connors.

Yours sincerely  
Sharon Tomlinson

[REDACTED]