

Author name: p. Ridley

Date of submission: Thursday, 20 March 2014

Submission:

After traveling throughout the Tenterfield district for more than 8 years and coming to know many of the folks in the farming community I believe that the rate increase which the council has suggested will cause many people in the area vast hardship.

A 45% increase in rates over the next 4 years may well be the last straw for many who are already struggling to meet the financial demands placed on them. Many farmers who have suffered at the hands of nature, floods and a 10 year drought etc are hard pressed to simply live from week to week, and I believe this huge and unwarranted increase will cause much hardship resulting in illness causing premature deaths, depression and even suicidal thoughts and actions.

The poor in the community will be the ones who suffer most from this huge increase in the cost of rates as this will affect every service provided in the community; pensioners, dole recipients and others on CentreLink benefits are among the folks who will be worst affected. Many of these folks live on or below the poverty line and live a very poor standard of life already, imagine what a 45% increase in rates will do to them! This rate hike will drive up the cost of food and essentials which will make their suffering even more intense.

Please consider the poorest and weakest in this community, and every other person as well, a huge increase such as this will be detrimental to the whole community.