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Submission: We operate an accommodation/hospitality business in Scone. We have done so for the past 10 years. Over the past 5 years we have seen a massive decline in business due to the slow down in mining construction. We have not been making a profit now for some time, and any increase in business operating costs, will most likely mean that our business will no longer be viable, which will in turn put 5-6 casual staff members out of work. While improving the look of the main street might be appealing it is not going to fill the ever increasing empty premises, that cannot make ends meet. I think the proposed increase in rates be the final straw for many businesses that are struggling to keep their businesses operating.