

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 July 2015 2:17 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** DUNGOG SHIRE COUNCIL RATES

*Dear Sir/ Madam,*

*My wife & I are residents in Dungog, NSW. We are in our 70's & are partly self-funded & partly on aged pension.*

*Just yesterday we learned that Dungog Shire Council had an application in with your department requesting permission to raise our land rates by 13% per year for the next 6 years. It is also my belief that Council should have made residents & ratepayers aware of this application well before now so that we could make our submission to IPART prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> July.*

***We are totally opposed to an increase of this magnitude*** as it is well beyond the increases in wages & especially retirees' pensions such as we have. Also my wife & I are not isolated cases, because Dungog has a large number of people just like us who have opted to sell our homes in Sydney to have both a "tree change" & also use the difference in home values to add to our allocated pensions. In addition to the retired residents there are many living here who are unemployed or on low wages, as Dungog's local industries of dairying, logging & timber milling have all but disappeared. Even the option of selling ones property because of exorbitant rates is now made impossible due to the recent storm damages on many properties.

*It may be a standard action of Councils, but many residents in Dungog are annoyed that our Council makes unnecessary purchases of private land as it becomes available. Some land is simply leased out for cattle to feed on & some is left totally unused.*

*We all appreciate that our Council was left with a lot of additional road maintenance due to roads ownership being passed on by the State Government of the time, but it does seem a bit much to pass on this burden to those of us who can least afford it.*

*It seems that every Government, be it Local, State or Federal, plus every utility company is hell-bent on extracting as much funds as they can from the Australian population. Luckily private enterprise must compete with their competitors & find ways of becoming more efficient in their operations.*

*Kind Regards,*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]