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Submission:

Whilst council may require an increase to make up for poor past management practices the whole process of public consultation appears to have been based on an "ambit claim". Because of its past poor performance council should not be allowed to gain its increase for seven years (maximum permitted) and then have it as a **permanent** increase. Whilst I have been supportive of some increase, I believe that council should be permitted an interim increase only for say 2 years after which its financial performance should be reviewed in order for any increase to continue beyond that time. Also once councils currently identified backlog of capital works is complete then rates should be adjusted more in line with ongoing needs. IPART should be aware that councils original proposal of a higher increase would have led to Wyong becoming one of the highest rated councils in NSW within 3 years - a clear AMBIT claim which was unjustified and treated ratepayers with contempt.