

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 February 2019 10:28 PM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission re Re: SRV Dungog Shire Council (Case Ref: UP2059)

Dear Sir/madam I am not sure if our submission regarding the Re: SRV Dungog Shire Council (Case Ref: UP2059) went through.

So here it is attached

Kind regards  
Kerryn Chisholm

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Re: SRV Dungog Shire Council (Case Ref: UP2059)

We wish to object to the SVR proposed by the Dungog Council as the severe increase in our rates will place a significant burden on all farmers in the region including us given that rates are a significant cost item in farming.

In our view this burden disproportionately affects farmers given the size of farms relative to the small landholdings of hobby farmers and township dwellers. Hence a 'blanket approach' across all rate payers is not fair. Essentially you have low rate payers benefiting from improvements to the roads or bridges to the same extent as high rate paying farmers.

From our farm's perspective the increase of [REDACTED] (as we currently pay [REDACTED]) will create significant hardship. Our sole primary production is beef farming and our earnings are already substantially reduced due to the impact of the long term drought. Low beef prices are undermining all farm revenue including ours and this means it is not covering our basic farm costs. Our farming enterprise is financially improving but is only "breaking even" at the moment. We are improving pastures and building up stock number stores to make our beef farm financially secure. However doubling the rates would be financially crippling and we would have to question the merits in farmings in the Dungog region.

We understand that costs of road maintenance and repair are high and many in the Dungog region are in dire need of repair.

Given the positioning of the Dungog region and the almost 'heritage status' of many of the bridges, the State Govt needs to assist more in supporting the region.