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Submission: From: richard bayly [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 4:43 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Shoahaven Council's Rates increase

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to object to the Shoalhaven Council's proposed rate increase of 13% increase this coming financial year (2017 - 2018) and a further 13% increase in financial year (2018 - 2019). This increase is just one of the increases in payment for water rates, sewage rates, electricity price increases, private health fund increases, cost of living increases etc. Shoalhaven area has a large proportion of pensioners and low income earners along with a frightening number of homeless people who don't appear to have much prospect of finding any work or any way to lift themselves out of their current situation. It was quoted this morning (Tuesday 21 - Feb.) from the bureau of statistics that we have 11% of adult workforce and 20% youth unemployed, and manufacturing companies closing which will only add to the figures quoted above.

These details will only worsen the situation as more of these people who are currently struggling to pay bills will find themselves unable to pay their increased rates. This surely has the potential to increase the homeless population along with an increase in crime.

Having lived in the Shoalhaven for a number of years my family and I have been perplexed at what we see as council having the wrong priorities set on work to be done and we believe that if priorities were set properly there would not be any need to increase our rates by the huge amounts as quoted above.

I urge you to reject these rate increases and only allow the normal rate pegging rise.

Yours Sincerely Richard Bayly
[REDACTED]