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Submission:

I am against the Councils proposed increase above the 3.5%, as :

1. I believe the increase will effect or local economy far to negatively, our local shops are already under stress, due to the low interest rate (we have a large population of retirees) coupled with the effects of increasing electricity costs. Further strain on our populations pockets will only reduce spending and create more job losses. We have already had large business fold in or area, were once our area supported 4 take-away shops we now only have 2. Mannering Park is not alone, where it comes to shop closures the same has happened in Lake Munmorah, Elizabeth Bay, Gwandalan etc.. Each time a shop closes it's door more people are put out of work. Many of our remaining shops have reduced their employees hours.

2. I do not believe our Council has had effective financial controls in place, this they claim has been rectified recently. As our Council has displayed bad money management I believe giving them more money to manage badly to be unwise.

3. I think it unfair to be asked to pay increased rates which will only be spent at the other end of our shire. Yes I guess, that should there bid for an increase fail, our end of the shire will receive even less attention - but they don't do much up there anyway.

4. Wyong Council continually complains of lack of funding one example of their financial incompetence is highlighted by the time Wyong Council said they needed extra funding to cover a litigation sum award by the court, after receiving the increase they appealed against the verdict and won their case, the original ruling was over ruled resulting in no compensation payment to be award. - Wyong Shire kept the extra monies raised from rates and complained the following year of lack funding.

5. The Council has other avenues of increasing funding, such as the many large developments they have in the pipeline - charge the developers a higher rate - the developers are making profits and have some recourse of re cooping the levies imposed on them where as retirees and pensioners do not have such recourse.