

## Hepburn Shire Council higher cap application

### Submission received via email

Date submitted: 13 March 2025

Submission written by: Julie Lee

Hello I live within the shire of Hepburn [REDACTED] and I strongly object to the increase in rates on the following points:

Currently the community and ourselves are severely constrained due to the cost of living

Hepburn Shire Council has not shown they can reduce funds \$1.5million in 2024/2025 why cant they continue to reduce their expenses and pay for their mismanagement that way instead of asking the community to pay. I object strongly on this basis.

Hepburn Shire Council is in this predicament solely due to their own mismanagement of funds to do with the purchase of the Rex in Daylesford.

The need to raise rates is not due to circumstances outside of their control such as stated.

The need to raise rates should not be used as a go to when councils mismanage funds as it sends a poor precedent for councils to use.

Rate rises are in circumstances of great need not to fund mismanagement of funds by councils

The rate rise should not be approved as it can place residents into a higher risk of default on loans at a point when the risk is highly possible.

The need to raise funds should not be approved as council cannot demonstrate constraint and it is not the community's fault to pay for.

The need to raise rates shows no community engagement or advertising by the council and demonstrates a lack of basic respect for the community that they need to fix their mistakes.

The request from council does not truthfully state why they have such a shortfall and this is an untruth not disclosure and transparency.

Councils that legitimately have natural disasters can get federal and state funding and this council has had very little natural disaster albeit storms. This is funded elsewhere and should not be used as a claim to request more from the community.

When the public mismanages funds we don't get an increase in our pay from the government so allowing this rate increase which is so strongly based on mismanagement is blatantly wrong.

The council's lack of transparency in this application needs to ensure that lying is not going to get you the rate rise; if you give it then it will be based on lies and you will be allowing this to continue based on lies.

The rate should not be allowed as council is placing the community under more financial stress and could contribute to homelessness.

Warmest regards

