

## Hepburn Shire Council higher cap application

### **Submission received via email**

Date submitted: 14 March 2025

Submission written by: Name withheld

I write in relation to the request by Hepburn Shire for a rate rise of 10%, and wish to lodge my strongest possible objection to this request.

Hepburn Shire has an appalling record of financial mismanagement. It will essentially be insolvent and unable to meet its longer-term financial obligations if it does not get a 10% increase in rates.

This shire has misrepresented their case to ESC for such a request. Furthermore, they have misrepresented the extent to which they allegedly sought input from ratepayers on this matter.

Following the REX project collapse and subsequent loss of millions in public monies, they severely curtailed services to some select towns e.g. reduced rubbish collection, reduced opening hours of libraries and information centres and closed swimming pools.

Now it appears that despite service minimisation, they seek to extract significantly more money from ratepayers in order to cover their tracks, without an adequate and transparent explanation.

This is a direct result of poor governance and Management failures. It defies logic that any organisation with such an appalling record of financial mismanagement and losses, could then seek further public funds to cover their mistakes.

Such a request in any case would cause undue hardship to many ratepayers and residents who are already struggling with a cost of living crisis. This will shift a burden and place social services under increased pressure to supplement many more households than they already do.

The issue of community consultation has been hideously misrepresented by Hepburn and requires further independent examination. The demographics, the timing, methods of inquiry etc. - none of these have been transparently demonstrated by Hepburn in order to judge whether they are truly a fair representation of our population.

Hepburn Shire needs forensic accounting applied with searing intensity and should show cause as to why they should not immediately be placed into administration.

