

Hepburn Shire Council higher cap application

Submission received via email

Date submitted: 17 March 2025

Submission written by: David Martinelli

I wish to raise an objection to Hepburn Shire Council's request for a 10% increase in the rate cap. My family own a property in Hepburn Shire.

I believe that they have misrepresented to you their reasons for the increase, in particular they have not disclosed to you their financial mismanagement in the purchase, attempted renovation and then sale of The Rex building in Daylesford. The Rex was supposed to be the community hub building for Daylesford.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The council spent a substantial amount of money on the renovation, uncompleted, then sold the building for a huge loss, totalling millions of dollars.

I believe that this gross mismanagement of a substantial amount of money is the real cause for the funding shortfall facing council now.

Furthermore, I believe council has misrepresented community acceptance of a rate rise. If you refer to their community survey, and the results, I believe you will see that they have biased the questions, and more especially the misrepresented the results to you.

The council needs to look more deeply at their expenditure, their quality of service and efficiency.

There is a strong community push at the moment to probe the council more deeply, and some are even suggesting that we would be better off with a clean sheet that administrators could provide.

I don't believe that their behaviour, past and present, should be rewarded with a 10% increase in the rate cap. They need to manage their business better.

There is increasing community frustration with the behaviour of council, and no community support for this rate increase.

Regards,

