COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SPECIAL RATE VARIATION AND LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

28 NOVEMBER 2022 – 31 JANUARY 2023



Ref: Doc Set ID XXXXXXXX

Executive Summary of engagement report:

Community consultation was undertaken from 15 November – 31 January.

Face-to-face consultation

Three community meetings were held:
15 November – Braidwood – 30 attended
22 November – Queanbeyan – 20 attended
24 November – Bungendore – 20 attended

The General Manager and Mayor attended the following community association and resident meetings:
16 November – Jerrabomberra Community Association – 8 attended
19 November – South Jerrabomberra Resident's Association – 40 attended
27 November – Greenways s355 meeting - 8 attended
28 November – Fernleigh Park – 12 attended
29 November – Braidwood – 60 attended
1 December – Braidwood and Villages Business Chamber – 20 attended
6 December – Queanbeyan Residents and Ratepayers group – 6 attended
11 December – Majors Creek Progress Association – 24 attended
12 December – Bungendore Town Centre & Environs Committee and Bungendore Chamber of Commerce – 8 attended
15 December – Araluen Community meeting – 36 attended
19 December – Googong Residents' meeting – 20 attended
20 December – Wamboin Community meeting – 18 attended
30 January – Gundillion Community Meeting – 8 attended

Online consultation

The Special Rate Variation proposals and Long Term Financial Plan was placed on our Your Voice website from 28 November – 31 January 2023.

Advertising
The December edition of the QPRC News had three pages dedicated to the SRV proposal. This is delivered to all properties in QPRC via Australia Post.

We released two media releases, on 16 November and 28 November. The proposed rate rise received coverage in the Regional Independent, Canberra Weekly, 10 News Canberra, ABC Radio Canberra, About Regional, City News, 2CC Radio, ABC News (TV), Spectator Australia, Canberra Times, and The Braidwood Bugle.

The link to items on Your Voice to find information was included in Council's fortnightly advertisements in the Regional Independent on 30 November, 14 December and 27 January. It was also included in Mayor's columns that appear in the Regional Independent.

We made three posts to our Facebook page. The reach and engagement of these posts is as follows:

- 28 November – reach of 13,176, 728 comments, 37 shares, 147 reactions, 1,177 link clicks.
- 1 December – reach of 9,080, 332 comments, 15 shares, 81 reactions, 179 link clicks.
- 12 January – reach of 15,110, 262 comments, 23 shares, 79 reactions, 1,503 link clicks.

The proposal was included as an article in four eNewsletters on 2 December, 13 January, 20 January and 27 January. It was also listed as an item open for comment in all the other weekly eNewsletters during the period.

Two emails were sent to subscribers on the Your Voice platform – on 5 December and 12 January.

What we asked

1. How important are the following assets and facilities to you?

- Sealed and unsealed roads
- Footpaths and cycleways
- Bridges
- Car parks
- Public toilets
- Cemeteries
- Community facility buildings
- Parks and playgrounds
- Pools and aquatic centres
- Sports fields and netball courts
- Libraries
- Skate parks
- Showgrounds
- The Q
- Bicentennial Hall
- Museums
- Saleyards and truck wash

Options
- Very important
- Important
- Slightly important
- Not important

2. How important are the following services to you?
- Performing arts - theatre, comedy, music at The Q and Bicentennial Hall

- Family Day Care
- Community development services
- Pools
- Development assessment and Planning
- Biosecurity
- Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Libraries and local history
- Youth services
- Grants support
- Tourism
- Arts and Culture
- Community events (Music by the River, Community Christmas Parties)
- Animal management services
- CBD and town centre maintenance and gardening
- Community land management
- Economic development
- Food safety and environmental health
- Water and sewer services
- Stormwater management
- Waste services

Options

- Very important
- Important
- Slightly important
- Not important

3. An additional pensioner rebate is currently provided to pensioner ratepayers in the former Queanbeyan City Council area. Should the pensioner rebate be extended and increased across the local government area?
   Options
   - Yes
   - No

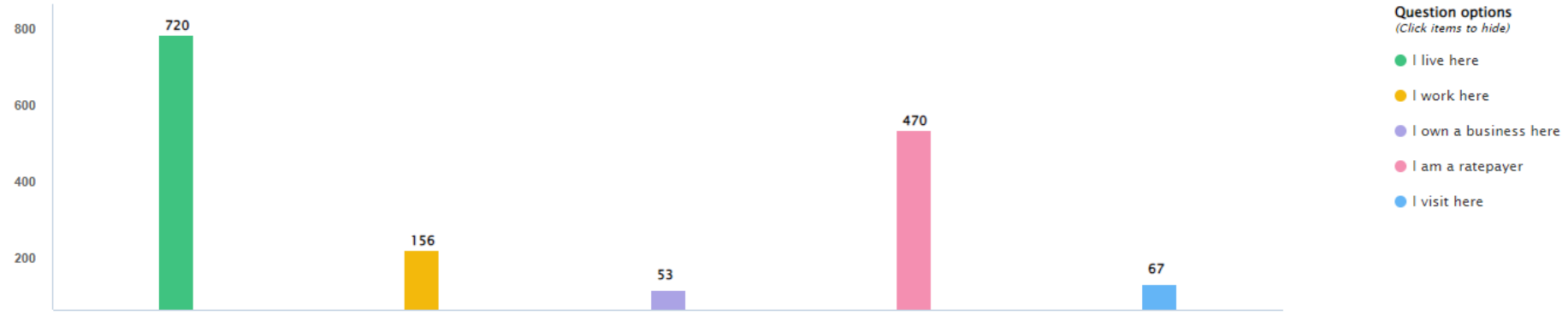
4. Are there any services you think Council should change, reduce, or stop doing? If so, what are they and how should they change?
5. Please provide your comments on the three scenarios and service levels.
6. Do you have any comments on the draft Long Term Financial Plan and draft Delivery Program?

Participation in engagement:

1,116 submissions were received. 827 submissions/surveys were completed on Your Voice. In addition to this, we received 270 email submissions, 15 hard copy surveys, 3 hard copy submissions and 1 in-person comment to a customer service representative.

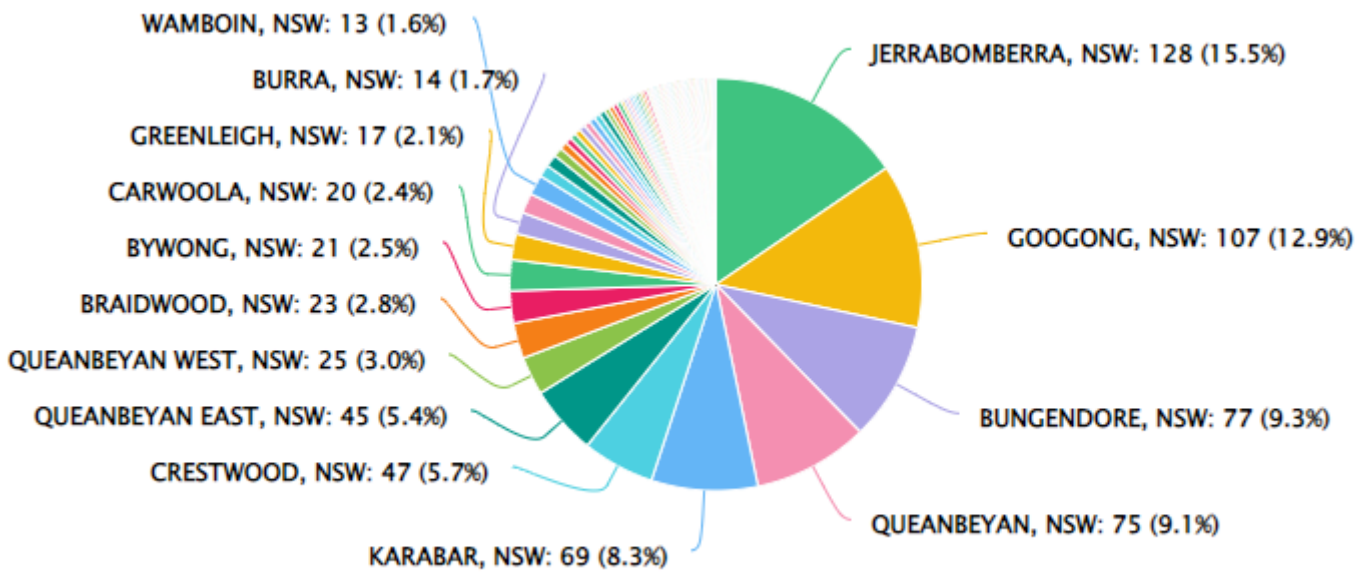
The Your Voice page provides some demographics about participants.

In relation to their connection to QPRC - 720 participants indicated they live here, 156 indicated they work here, 53 indicated they own a business here, 470 indicate they are ratepayers and 67 indicated they visit here.



Suburb data shows that submissions were received from around the LGA:

128 submissions were from people in Jerrabomberra (representing 15.5% of Your Voice participants), 107 from Googong (12.9%), 77 from Bungendore (9.3%), 75 from Queanbeyan (9.1%), 69 from Karabar (8.3%), 47 from Crestwood (5.7%), 45 from Queanbeyan East (5.4%), 25 from Queanbeyan West (3%), 23 from Braidwood (2.8%), 21 from Bywong (2.5%), 20 from Carwoola (2.4%), 14 from Burra (1.7%), 13 from Wamboin (1.6%), 13 from Captains Flat (1.6% - not shown in graph), 8 from Royalla, 8 from Mongarlowe, 6 from Sutton, 5 from Majors Creek, 4 each from Tralee, Araluen, Currawang, Warri, The Ridgeway, Mount Fairy, Hoskinstown, and Bendoura.



Comments received:

All the comments received via Your Voice, email, hard copy or in person have been included in the following pages. Personal details, private information, profanity or potentially defamatory comments have been redacted or removed but otherwise the comments are included in full.

Q4 - Are there any services you think Council should change, reduce, or stop doing? If so, what are they and how should they change?

Submitter Number:	Submission:
1)	Council need to stop worrying about changing flowers in the main street and get back to basics. Mow, fix roads and collect rubbish
2)	I don't really know enough about services run by Council. I do think that the beautification is a bit misdirected. it's nice for the centre to look good but i wish it was more pedestrian friendly because at the moment it's pretty crappy to walk through because of the amount of cars, not because of how it looks.
3)	Stop blowing our money on things we didn't need. Like the multi-million-dollar Council office block currently under construction.
4)	Suspend membership to the Southern Tableland Arts Group. Suspend all grants and scholarships. Suspend all sponsorships for events (eg: $50K for Ocktoberfest). Suspend all free or reduced use of any council owned facilities.
5)	No
6)	Reduce their pay and superannuation back to at least what it was at the end of 2021. It shouldn't be up to them to approve them. Sell the $76m new council chambers and put that money back into the community and make do with the current, underutilised builds across the council area. It is mind blowing that in a council area where rates are some of the highest in the state that they can't effectively manage the budget. It is a disgrace and even worse now for them to go out and raise rates past the point of affordability of many in the community. They should be ashamed of themselves!
7)	Remove council pick up services to all except pensioners and disability services
8)	How about you don't spend $72 million on an Uber building that is not needed and now make the town pay for your own stuff ups. We don't need street Xmas parties, symphony by the lake or any of that crap. Focus on the ease ribs and not make us all have to sell our houses
9)	Stop with the unneeded refurbishment and upgrade of facilities (The Q for example). Maybe change house zoning and rules so higher density housing could be built with less hurdles.
10)	Reduce street sweeping
11)	Unsure about all the projects current or planned but if there is anything "net zero" or "woke" get rid of it, complete waste of time and money
12)	Stop paying high level executives so much. Don't give the management an enormous salary increase
13)	Grants for community activities art, playgrounds, parks.

14)	Pay increases should not happen. Like everyone else council should be looking internal for savings before cutting grass cutting, maintenance and pools and sporting grounds. The more you cut these the harder it will be to fix later putting us in an even worse state.
15)	Stop wasting resources. Why are council workers driving around in council cars when not on duty why does it take 10 council workers to mow a nature strip why does it take more than 1 council worker to drive around in a car past schools. Your council figure out how to reduce costs and not by putting our rates up
16)	The Q should be privately funded.
17)	Make the planning process more streamline and less bureaucratic. I have many examples of significant waste over the years dealing with this council.
18)	Anything other than fixing roads and maintaining assets. No parties or other free events if we can't afford safe roads and have to put further pressure on people who are already struggling financially. Rate rises will push up rent which impacts our most vulnerable. Get drought wise plants, minimise gardening requirements and get back to basics without raising rates. Interest rates are rising. Terrible timing for young people starting out.
19)	Sell the q Privatise pool Get back to basics
20)	Why did you need to build a massive eye sore building in the middle of town? So many redundant and empty buildings in the main streets that could have been better utilised and refurbished. The planned library move is a complete waste of resources. Stock has been reduced over the years with a shift to electronic eBooks etc. Why is it necessary to waste further resources and move something that does not need moving?
21)	Focus should be on essential services like waste, roads, maintaining parks and gardens in the centre of town. No paid parking.
22)	No
23)	Increase fees for use of arts/culture, pools and sports, so people who do not use them are not forced to pay for them.
24)	More road improvements. Plus thinking more about those of us who live in outlying areas like ours here at Wyanbene. It is not fun to be stranded for weeks on end (25 days is the longest so far). Maintenance of cleaning out the pipes under the current Wyanbene Road crossing has not been managed in many years. This at least should be addressed so the water can drain away quicker for all of us Wyanbene residents. Another thing that needs to be fixed is the lights at roadworks. They are often not working and this could cause major accidents. It has happened often on Cooma Rd and Araluen Rd sites.
25)	Perhaps emulate what the federal government does and reduce your staffing and building costs. Do you really need a brand new building when the vast majority of the world has flexible working arrangements where they work a mix from home and then hot desk when in the office! If it's good enough for those that work in the ACT it's good enough for council desk based officers. Reduce your staff!! I don’t see in these proposals what you're trying to do in terms of reducing these costs. Perhaps a de merger should be considered? It doesn't make sense that residents of Queanbeyan city which is basically a suburb

	of the ACT are financially supporting an extremely large regional area. Queanbeyan residents should be responsible for Queanbeyan and its surrounds, we shouldn't be responsible for an expanded area such as Braidwood or Araluen. Residents that live in these regions should be responsible for the upkeep.
26)	Paid parking in the CBD (particularly of Qbn where it relies less on drive through tourism to function), increase prices at The Q, consider supplying community groups with the facilities/equipment to mow their own lawns etc. if this is needed/could save cost
27)	No one in the community has a clear understanding of what services are offered and how much they cost. A full financial breakdown needs to be provided to the community including a list of all FTE positions, their pay rate and duties. People cannot responsibly comment until they have a deeper understanding. If people were more aware of all services and associated tasks being undertaken at council maybe they would understand the need to increase rates.
28)	Council should stick to roads, rates and rubbish and not involve itself in other activities
29)	If you really needed to, things like museums, the Q theatre, large-scale community events and local history/heritage work could be reduced or ceased but it would be a shame. I think community services and programs are more essential than the Arts/Culture services QPRC provides.
30)	It's disappointing that the community are now put in a position where they have to deal with another increase to their living expenses due to the mismanagement of QPRC finances and general business. Having read through all the documentation available on the QPRC website it is clear that you are looking to resolve this. We expect annual increases but the delay is obviously going to cause a massive impact for all involved. It's also disappointing that you knew the financial position of council and still went ahead with a multi-million dollar construction of a new council head office. It may have been beneficial to engage Morrison Low prior to the commencement of that project to see if it was a good use of money or if there were other options available.
31)	Council should do the work they are paid to do - mow lawns, fix potholes and public toilets. Stop paying for the painting of alleyways in the main street where nobody walks downs. The Quartey pat on the back newsletter that council puts out should be cut and put online waste of paper and money.
32)	General rates should be charged to churches they make a lot of money and can help reduce the burden on other rate payers.
33)	Nothing
34)	Stop wasting money on ridiculous beautification such as planting annuals on the main street of Queanbeyan etc. Use perennials or natives for god sake. Rural payers are being screwed - no waste collection but paying fees anyway, poorly maintained roads, Focus should always be on ensuring the basics are maintained well eg safe roads, not building expensive new sites for millions which apparently we don’t have money to ensure services anyway. If there is money left after the key services are managed properly, then spend on the "desirable" things like theatres, new buildings etc. Just stop wasting the money!!!!
35)	Stop paying the Council members who got us all in this situation!
36)	Reduce the staff used for decorating, planting and beautification projects. Just maintain areas to keep snakes, etc to a minimum Sell off the huge expensive Council building in Crawford Street that you built knowing the budget was in a deficit.

37)	Spending money on building buildings when we have heaps of buildings empty. Upgrading lane ways with murals and crap when we are apparently broke.
38)	Stop building the new council chambers !!! We cannot afford this absurd pipe dream.
39)	Stop wasting money on services and infrastructure that is not required. Learn how to budget. if you do not have the funds then don't do the project. New buildings and grants are not necessary when you do not have the money this is just bad management. Road repairs, garbage collection, and water supply are important try and get this right first before you give away rate payers money.
40)	Reduce spending on infrastructure that cannot be recouped via "user-pay" systems. Pause on any Councillor pay rises until the QPRC can run at a slight profit. (At least not at a loss) Implement pay parking on Council maintained car parking within the CBD. Provide an incentive for free parking when more than $20 is spent at a local business.
41)	The 22% councillor payrise.
42)	Stop any service that is not essential until the budget is under control.
43)	Never reduce the waste disposal if fogo bins come in. A lot of families need weekly waste with our small bins.
44)	Stop wasting money on pointless things like painting the skatepark and ally ways. No one cares
45)	You need to be more transparent. Provide a list of major expenses in a format granular enough for people to understand cost/benefit
46)	The could stop thinking that QBN is the only part of council that they should care about - see earlier survey. What about regional facilities, roads and public transport? Not mentioned not considered not serviced.
47)	Delivering minimum services only such as roads and cease funding and waste management. Provide discounted rates to ratepayers who receive no benefits other than roads maintenance. Privatise and or user pay only funding for non-necessary facilities such as arts, pools etc.
48)	Absolutely there are changes that should be made. 1) review and realign employee salaries for senior managers 2) reassess and reduce the scope of the cultural precinct in Queanbeyan where possible. 3) reduce the scope of the sporting fields at Jerrabomberra 4) cancel the beautification of Monaro street 5) introduce paid parking throughout the council region 6) release the scope of the independent financial review to the public 7) review and reduce the scope of all council office blocks to priorities wfh and shopfront services 8) initiate an metrics driven optimisation program across council operations to introduce greater levels of automation to reduce or redeploy headcount where possible 9) release detailed financial models that demonstrate the impact of the new developments being constructed at Bungendore and south Jerrabomberra. 10) explain to the ratepayers why they paid 20mil to construct an intersection for a new suburb when this expense should have

	been funded by the property developer. 11) apologise to the ratepayers for your unprofessional management of our rates and resign.
49)	Remove all the costs for Queanbeyan developments in the BUNGENDORE rates fees.
50)	They should not spend any money on non-essential community buildings e.g. renovations, upgrades. If the costs are too large then council need to lobby for more government assistance and look to other councils with similar areas for advice. Less money should be put into googong, it has enough for now.
51)	There appears to be no consideration given to waste services in our part of QPRC area (Currawang). We pay for it in rates, but pay again at Collector tip. This must be addressed! Also, road grading is almost non-existent here.
52)	Stop increasing the councillors rates of pay above the wage price index.
53)	Stop funding the Q, building fancy buildings in Queanbeyan. Focus on regional town services. We pay the same rates if not more with no benefit and now you want to increase those rates. Stop funding cultural and historical attributes, Queanbeyan parks and sporting facilities are adequate. No need to spending money upgrading those until there is money in the budget to do so. Charge developers more and expect more services provided by them as part of the agreement.
54)	Proper road resurfacing, refilling potholes is a waste of time and money
55)	Tighten the belt and start managing your resources like they actually matter.
56)	Provide bare essential services until such time as the budget situation can be resolved, perhaps by sales of assets.
57)	Council should be charging the ACT 100% more for the use of our sporting grounds, showground, swimming pools given that locals can't access them because of swimming carnivals, football games etc
58)	I think Council should install paid parking across the region. I'm very supportive of this as it creates revenue in both parking and fines. Maybe for pensioners/disabled rate payers, a windscreen sticker could be provided that exempts them from paid parking. Only one sticker per registered car at an address within the council boundaries (the Northern Beaches Council do this for all rate payers, I propose it only applies to pensions and disabled drivers in QPRC). I also strongly believe that Council should make this a NSW State Government issue. This issue is on them, they caused it, and they should assist in addressing the issue. In early 2023, there will be a state election, and if a party decided to address the issue and meet the community half way, they'd gain quite a few votes, especially if they made it a 'cost of living' commitment.
59)	Upgrade all roads. Make Captains flat road bitumen the whole way bit just to Captains flat. This road is used as an alternative from Braidwood to QYBN and has very high traffic load.
60)	If Council is seriously so underfunded and in such financial disarray, then all non-essential services should cease immediately - and the only services maintained are those essential for public safety and health (e.g. road maintenance; environmental health; sewerage; animal control). - All works on Council buildings should immediately cease, unless urgently and directly required for the health and safety of Council staff. If buildings are left half-finished or incomplete, then that is the consequence of financial incompetence. - Any Council assets and services that can be privatised should be immediately transitioned for sale/tender - including Council buildings; water services; waste services; planning/development processes and approvals; pet registration; and libraries.

	- Council should immediately independently audit all expenditure and financial control/planning processes of the past 5 years - to identify where financial deficiencies first began and who is responsible. - Council should refer any examples of financial mismanagement to regulatory authorities; NSW Police; and ICAC for investigation of misuse of public office. - All Councillors and the Mayor should immediately resign, and request that the NSW Government appoint an Administrator with significant financial management and auditing experience - e.g. KordaMentha (as Council, if it was a company, would be insolvent). - Council should urgently seek advice from local council authorities in the United Kingdom, who have faced similar financial pressures and have all been able to cut services and outlays, without any increase to rates remotely like the ones proposed. - Council should urgently request additional emergency support funding from the NSW Government - noting that 2023 is a State Election year.
61)	Arts, any environmental issues other than keeping areas clean. No additional nice to have climate disaster rubbish. No provision of electrical veh charging.
62)	Heritage.
63)	Sell off The Q, reduce funding to community facilities and activities, reduce heritage grants, increase fees at aquatic centres and stop developments of new sports and aquatic facilities. Developers should fund these in new developments. Introduce or increase fees for user pay facilities, so that people not using facilities aren't subsiding others. Stop street sweeping but maintain current mowing, maintenance and cleaning services. Introduce pay parking for all day parking or parking over two hours.
64)	Stop building great big edifices at huge cost the rate payers
65)	I think the council needs to stop wasting rate payers' money. I don't see improvements. I have put in requests using an app that was a complete waste of money and nothing ever gets done.
66)	Stop wasting money on beautification projects that add no real value - ie alleys. Reduce Council overheads and spend ratepayer monies on core Council responsibilities
67)	Anything to make rates not increase
68)	If you want people to shop local then please get something decent in the Target space that has been empty for years.
69)	Stop providing 'services' that are not relevant to the majority of rates payers
70)	stop funding needless stuff eg the 74mil building in QBN. Get rid of any assets that are not cash positive.
71)	What minimal services that are provided I don't think our community can afford to lose more
72)	The management/board should all be sacked. No bonuses, pay cuts across the board. The number of councillors should be reduced. Stop getting sued by former staffers please. Obviously the whole organisation is toxic. No cars for councillors, no pay rises!!

73)	Way too much is spent on council property and sports. Sell the old Library in Braidwood and the council office in Bungendore. Open more council land for low cost housing. We should not have to pay for the last councils lack of planning they should never have built the large office in Queanbeyan blind Freddy could see that. Why should we pay for their mistakes?
74)	Customer service centres outside Queanbeyan (such as in Bungendore where I live) are barely used and appear to be kept only for bureaucratic reasons. Therefore the community are paying for this bureaucracy. This should be addressed and these additional underutilised service centres should be closed. All services should be from Queanbeyan or online which is in line with modern standards. Funding and/or grants to private businesses should cease. I believe a car show held in Queanbeyan was provided funding to support their operations. This organisation would have made profit, and probably would of held the car show in Queanbeyan regardless. Essentially, the council supplemented a business's expenses at the cost of the community. This should not have occurred and should be scrutinized more closely in the future. Scenario 1 and 2 proposes to reduce the number of Councillors. This implies that there are additional councillors than are necessary. The number of Councillors should be reduced to the bare minimum. In fact, when Councillors gave themselves a pay rise it should have been offset by a reduction in the number of Councillors. Contracts should be routinely reviewed, and compared to third party organisation quotes, to ensure Council is receiving the best value for money. I have concern that some contracts are held with companies from which Councillors receive financial benefit.
75)	get rid of the free wifi, family day care could be private, the q could be sold off
76)	Support more business initiatives to come to Googong township.
77)	Stop building!!!! We don't need any more new council buildings.
78)	Keep up the good work
79)	Smaller bins for single pensioners.
80)	QPRC is doing practically nothing now. Hard to say what they should reduce or stop.
81)	Downtown QB should have paid parking just like every other main city, family daycare is not usable for actual working families (parents work longer than from 9-3), the pools at Bungendore, Braidwood and captains flat are already not very usable and we go to Googong or Batemans Bay b/c of this either make one of them proper or stop wasting money.
82)	Reduce expenditure on council i.e. staff numbers and salaries, number of councillors, costs of council office accommodation, number of vehicles etc.
83)	Reverse your pay rise take the minimum increase in rates and spread the total rates so Palerang is not subsidizing Queanbeyan same rate for same 4 bed house in QPRC
84)	Stop all unnecessary projects, extravagant projects like the Bungendore/Qbn signs and Street upgrades etc. sell unnecessary assets. Sack some councillors. Hold management accountable - the management staff have clearly done a horrible and self dealing job. Get developers contributions to fund a minimum of 5 years maintenance, and fund the full cost of infrastructure, like the total cost of the Bungendore water. Your asphalt provider does horrible jobs, and needs to do them all multiple times (great at charging you money) yet they have

	lavish facilities in qbn east. And if more people from more Developments = more costs, I suggest you STOP approving them!
85)	Stop building the Bungendore High School in an inappropriate place in the village. Stop favouring Queanbeyan over the smaller towns and villages. Perhaps sell the new monstrosity of the Council building and use that money wisely.
86)	Everything
87)	Cut the pay and entitlements of councillors. Stop spending a squillion dollars on that new council building.
88)	Ban on street parking
89)	The Q. Scenario 2 makes rates barely affordable for people on the aged or disability pension.
90)	I'd love to know how much it cost to brand the recycle tubs we've been given, We nave recycled our food waste for years without the help of council, I'm sure QPRC is spending money it doesn't need to in a time of financial uncertainty
91)	reduce number of councillors
92)	Food scraps into green bin extended to QBN Googong, reduces waste collections.
93)	Council should stop doing everything that's not the councils job
94)	Opportunities to save money: Privatising or sell The Q, it is not core to council. Stop funding Arts, it is not core to council. Stop funding Community Development, it is not core to council. Stop funding heritage grants, there are other mechanisms outside of council. Stop First Nations activities, there are other mechanisms outside of council. Cancel planned developments that are not core business. Close customer service centres at Bungendore and Braidwood, at least Bungendore. Do we really need it, its 15 min to Queanbeyan and I live in Bungendore. Sell the land that was purchased. Increasing user charges and fees for all community services, 10% increase in user charges would more then cover the money required to cover the increases. Fully fund economic development and tourism through user charges. Remove community grant support. Introduce paid parking for Queanbeyan CBD immediately. Adopt a similar approach as the ACT. Remove additional pensioner rebate. Divest the saleyards at Braidwood. Goulburn and Yass are within transport distance for farmers. Braidwood is just not competitive. Stop main street and heritage grants. Remove $1.3m environmental and sustainability program. Remove $400k new and upgraded community infrastructure. Remove $1.9m for asset renewal. Cancel the Sister City Program travel. Include user charges for Community Development. Divest the Queanbeyan Family Day Care. This is not core for council and does not benefit Bungendore, Braidwood or Burra.

	Divest the Aboriginal Play School to the local community. This is not core for council and does not benefit Bungendore, Braidwood or Burra. Divest the Bungendore Library (sell to the School). It is 15 minutes to Queanbeyan. Review the Mobile Library Services, is it VfM. Divest the Bungendore Pool, the opportunity is there. Opportunity to use contract mowing or robotic mowing. Try something innovative! Cemetery pay extra if you are being buried out of the council area. I am a rate payer in QPRC but will pay extra to be buried in the family plot. Charge more if you want to be buried and not cremated. Plant a tree, environmental cemetery. Do something radical in this area. Opportunity is to increase the margin on water usage. The more you use the more you pay. Cancel Free WiFi in Queanbeyan.
95)	Council members, granting themselves pay rises, within nine days of taking office.
96)	Reduce the senior management teams salary for a start . $400,000 for not managing is ridiculous! Go through all workers that are not needed first and cut some salaries! No one should be paid for this mess . I'm surprised it's not in court .
97)	For a couple of years, if you have to, don't do things like fireworks, or carols at Christmas - people could go to ones in Canberra.
98)	Stop all the irrelevant spending - you don't need a shiny new council building when the one you have is lovely. Stop giving out grants for a few years until you can manage a budget. Sell off the assets you can't afford to keep - The Q, The Pool, start leasing the sports grounds to sport groups to help with the cost of maintaining these.
99)	No pensioner rebate. Stop finding indigenous things and community parties- this can all be funded by those with an interest, not mandatory payment by all of us. Sell off assets like the q and the pool- can be run by a private company.
100)	You should stop voting to give yourselves a pay rise when you have done a pathetic job managing public money, now you need the residents to fix your cock up
101)	I think council really needs to focus on the 3 R's (roads, rates, rubbish), plus basic utilities (water, sewerage) and then everything else is a bonus. Like it makes no sense to me why we borrowed $40 million to fund this new council building. Yes the council will save in rent but that's a lot of money in the big scheme of things. Can we sell it and have a lease back arrangement to recover funds and keep the space? The main street of Queanbeyan is functional as it is and I would 100% be against any big money being spent on remodelling it. Priorities right? A harsh as it sounds why are we expanding pensioner concessions when we are in such deep financial trouble. At the end of the day the council needs to take a serious look at the budget, line by line and ask 'do we really need this in the context of the situation we find ourselves in'.

	As sad as it might be, do we need all the staff we have now? People are expensive and a quick way to save money. Especially when we're paying almost $400k a year to the GM. To not consider reducing staff right now just comes across as lazy and lumping the problem 100% on rate payers (even if that's not the intent). Another thing I'll add is the commentary surrounding this has mentioned that the council seems to lose money when more ratepayers are added. So why are we adding more? We spent a heap of money on Ellerton Drive, which has now allowed Jumping Creek to be built. Googong will be massive. So why are we continuing to add people if it just puts us further in the hole?
102)	Stop giving yourselves pay rises. Stop building unnecessary buildings like the new QPRC office.
103)	Over staffed administration
104)	QPRC is too large. The merger should not have occurred. Either need NSW Government to provide more funds or succeed to ACT. More land development and make the developers pay for more.
105)	Here's a though, stop giving yourselves pay rises! DO NOT bring in paid parking. This would be the WORST idea you could come up with. The shopping and amenities in Queanbeyan are already terribly inadequate, if you bring in paid parking all you will be doing is disadvantaging the elderly who can't go to Canberra. Everyone else will shop elsewhere. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE THE WORST SHOPS IN QBN ALREADY! You need to think of ways to make people want to bring their business here instead of price gouging! Seriously, paid parking is not the solution here.
106)	DO NOT bring in paid parking in Queanbeyan. Councillors could take a pay cut, the recent increase in wage does not pass the pub test. You should serve as a councillor because you want to service the people and community not because you earn a wage. You should close the library. Stop making and maintaining cycleways and footpaths Stop upgrading facilities, including sports fields, skate parks, the Q Only do gardening services at intersections and round-a-bouts to ensure safety of cars
107)	Stop excessive spending on community facilities like the new council building and new Riverside development. If you don't have the money to service your rate payers you don't have the money.
108)	Increase services across road maintenance and gardening. The area is in an atrocious state. Stop wasting money on needless beautification projects. At this point we don't need anything to look beautiful. We need to ensure what is there is maintained. Stop paying increases of 22%! Open up the Bungendore tip full time then I will take my own waste and you don’t have to pick it up! But no, it’s closed 4 days a week meaning I then have to sit in a traffic queue on weekends to throw my stuff away.

109)	The council offers the minimum that is expected. There is nothing they should reduce or cut back
110)	Development of council buildings, sporting events and community events. Keep these in Canberra where they don't effect the rates of the people who are already struggling to feed themselves.
111)	Save money by getting rid of the new food composting bin. We've all survived without them so far.
112)	Child daycare should be privatised, it's not council core business. Council shouldn't be providing services the private sector can provide. Similarly, skate parks, aquatic centres, sports centres, theatres, should all be privatised.
113)	Stop all non-core non-essential services. Transfer all other services to the private sector. Reduce the number of councillors. Defer construction of the new council building.
114)	1. Pay increase to self 2. Give themselves new buildings 3. Conducting surveys that are structured to give the answers they want to hear
115)	Stop trying to make us into a "cool" town with murals and artwork and spend our money properly.
116)	Review the communications - seems expensive for what is being done - and the publication we receive is always thrown out without reading, the content is bland and biased to council. The child care should also be reviewed - child care is important but not sure this is a council activity (there are plenty of not for profits that operate in this space) Economic development and tourism - not sure what you actually do here, seems to overlap with other areas - should consider leasing the caravan park and riverside restaurant - 5.8 employees in the space seems excessive. Also as a small business I have tried to find council driven economic/sme forums with no luck. Consideration of contracts for things like mowing, weeding, road maintenance - especially using smaller contractors. 52 employees for urban landscapes + machinery seems like it could be done more efficiently through contractors.
117)	Stop wasting our money on lunches when you have meeting. Commonwealth departments are not permitted to do this, yet you do it all the time.
118)	Any service or expenditure related to climate change or 'woke' crap should be defunded.
119)	It would be good if the roads/potholes could actually be fixed and done properly the first time, if they were done properly the need for costs to redo them time and time again would be lowered. A review on how and when services are provided could be conducted to see if they are being completed efficiently and are value for money, instead of just increasing rates to continue services that could actually be done more effectively and would save money.
120)	Increase Library Services
121)	Stop building unnecessary flash centres.
122)	See 5. Go to a user pays system rather than penalising homeowners. It will become unaffordable to live here. It is already so much more expensive than living in the ACT.

123)	Council should have a better financial management system. The current council appears to be very poor financial managers if they are so unable to 'balance the books', they feel they have to raise rates, particularly for current rate payers who receive NO SERVIVES except waste mgt, and we pay extra for that already on top of our rates. To raise rates for Royalla residents is extremely unfair.
124)	Art stuff and focus on basics like roads
125)	Recoup the $74 million plus on the white elephant new council building and cultural precinct. It's an eyesore, unsympathetic with the character of the city and a wasteful extravagance in light of the financial problems now facing the council. Do something for the people you represent instead of yourselves. Privatise. Stop developing car parks and destroying the amenity of the Qbn CBD area.
126)	Privatisation of public Pools, childcare services, youth services, The Q theatre, tourism, stock yards and truck wash. This would reduce employee cost as there would not be the need to employee people within these areas and would reduce the upper management or directors of these portfolios. QCC did this with success with the age and disability services. Also would reduce the maintenance costs the buildings and facilities. Stop painting 'art work' on hard stand places that preforming the job they were built for, no need for art work and fairy lights.
127)	Seasonal planting of gardens in Bungendore is not needed. Support selling the queue. Reduce legal fees by reducing the amount of advice sort on matters like the Bungendore high school.
128)	It is unclear beyond road maintenance and rubbish collection what council provides me
129)	Stop the development of more housing in Bungendore. We don't have the infrastructure to support it, the additional rates from these dwellings are not adding value so there is no money to do it.
130)	Just do the essentials
131)	Council should stop spending money on things that only benefit people in Queanbeyan city if at all.
132)	Stop spending money on useless projects like Queanbeyan laneways. There are other places in QPRC other than Queanbeyan. Stop building monuments to your own importance such as new council chambers in Queanbeyan when there are perfectly adequate offices already in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood.
133)	Privatise the Q, it's an unnecessary vanity project. It's not council's responsibility to entertain the public. Stick to services people need and gut everything we don't.
134)	No identified changes provided current services are warranted an cost effective.
135)	Sell the new council building, The Q, reduce the library hours, reduce staff,
136)	Can't think of any service I'd miss - bottom of the food chain at Majors Creek.
137)	Stop providing anything that does not fall into essential business. Cease arts and cultural services, city events and festivals, aquatics, provision of any grants and donations to third parties, close the library, sell the Q and reduce councillors - essentially, adopt Scenario 1.

138)	Indoor sports/ community centre tenants/ uses should be required to pay fee or lease of some description. Sporting bodies should pay a reasonable fee to use ovals etc. As these facilities have maintenance and running cost involved. Annual plants etc look great, but longer last perennial are more beneficial, If the work crew are performing and covering their duties, there is no need to create new positions. To enhance the development of say apprenticeship employees when they are already spread throughout the organisation in crew.
139)	Stop placing flowers that just die and are constantly replaced at rate payer's expense. Events like community Xmas parties should be stopped as they only benefit a small percentage of rate payers. Rates should be determined by the amount of services provided. Rural rate payers shouldn't be paying more than urban rate payers when they receive far less services ie- sewerage, water, etc.
140)	Whilst the Christmas party and music on the river are great surely sponsors can take this on and the money be spent on infrastructure. I wouldn't even know what museums the council runs. Why are we updating buildings when the roads are shot to pieces and with all the development around Bungendore why aren't the developers paying for more?
141)	Monitor your road workers. They are always on their phones and there is no work happening. What a waste of money.
142)	Council's first action upon election was to give themselves a pay increase - https://citynews.com.au/2022/councillors-vote-themselves-a-22-per-cent-pay-rise/ - this was pretty unethical given their lack of experience and their next broad communication being that there is not enough money in the council coffers to fund basic services. There needs to be a NSW Audit Office inquiry into how QPRC's finances have deteriorated to the point where such drastic price increases to rates are even suggested. How did council not realise savings during the past 3 years of pandemic where services were significantly reduced and non-essential staff were moved to income support payments? You have a fiduciary duty to manage the contributions that rate payers make and this is shameful behaviour. How did council go from "Unrestricted cash and internal reserves was $12.5m at 30 June 2021, an increase from $9.4m at 30 June 2020" to only $0.25m in unrestricted reserves just over one year later?
143)	I believe annuals although pretty are a huge waste of money to purchase and maintain. Better plant choices and plant /tree placement for streets. To reduce having to prune under powerlines. I believe better use of green waste could be used maybe having the old nursery site as a community hub / garden. We need a tourist stop. Selling Queanbeyan even if only in library. Postcards trinkets etc to outsiders to show friends etc. Peak sport teams to have more of an interest input of maintenance etc of places they use. Eg. Ovals have some pride and sign saying they play here. Could reduce council line marking and maintaining gardens. I do believe council should look into its staff. I have worked in many places and the ones that are management heavy do not work well. Also good staff with knowledge are leaving because they don't feel appreciated. Also a lot of contractors seem to do the work that I thought council had employees to do. That would be extra money wasted maybe council staff are not working to their potential due to lack of appreciation.

144)	Stop with the ovals and parks in Googong. 5 ovals when the first 2 are never used???? Don't get it. Parks. Way too many already. Save money like that.
145)	Fix roads properly the first time not over and over quick fixes such as the money wasted on doing cheap repairs on Macs Reef Rd near the Waste Transfer Station
146)	Support for local business. Look after the community, local environment and Council built assets and businesses will benefit (through community events and well maintained environment, heritage and other assets that subsequently also attract visitors and tourism dollars) - otherwise let business look after itself.
147)	Underutilised facilities that currently cost more to maintain than revenue raised such as remote village pools. Note The proposed Bungendore pool will service a large region and offset the Captains Flat pool. Pensioner rebates can be reviewed and ultimately removed. Home owner pensioners should be encouraged to down size. Over 55s affordable housing and retirement villages should be better promoted and allocated.
148)	You should stop paying yourselves so much because the younger generation will never want to be in your positions, so stop kidding yourselves.
149)	I currently pay for waste collection in my area, however waste collection is not provided I am being charged for a service that is not being provided. Furthermore when I take my rubbish to the deposit depo I then have to pay to deposit my rubbish. The roads are poorly maintained and the work done on it is often incomplete an example of this is currently on Macs reef road near the tip, a pot hole there has been developing there for quite some time left for long periods then when refilled a couple of days later it's the same again, machinery brought in a crew etc road dug up temporarily filled not sealed then crew leave and road deteriorates once again however it's more problematic now as it's a far larger area now. When the crew return all they ever do is put more gravel flatten it and the process starts all over again.
150)	Cutting back on the number of councillors as we don't need that many representatives. Have the general rate payers decide on council pay rises and why they need a pay rise.
151)	Any service which is duplicated by other levels of government.
152)	Sell the Q or privatise it, reduce councillors, reduce heritage and community grants. Go back to the most important needs for the community such as safe roads and paths, environmental issues, health, education, wellbeing, libraries, community support for smaller communities who rely on local meeting places.
153)	Stop doing temporary fixes to the roads in favour of longer term, more permanent fixes. However I realise this may not be do-able.
154)	Stop projects in the Queanbeyan area which serve no purpose, eg streetscaping
155)	I love living here.
156)	Cultural precinct is a waste of money.
157)	Rubbish collection Eaglehawke.
158)	Get back to basics and just do roads and do them well instead of the half-hearted job you are doing at the moment. Stop trying to make everything look beautiful. Especially when you can't afford it. Eg parks riverside etc. when you can't afford certain things we normal people who live within our means go without things. DO THE SAME. We do not want a rise in rates. We also pay LLS RATES on top of council rates.

	We pay levies/ taxes when we sell cattle We had to pay for our own sewage system on farm and still have to pay for someone to come out and inspect it. We paid for our own water tanks and diesel pump to supply our own water and then we still have to pay extraordinary high council rates for WHAT ? Our road is atrocious. We don't use swimming pools parks cultural buildings q buildings museums or tourist facilities. If you can't afford it be like the rest of us and live within your means. Cut services!
159)	Severe increase in Maintaining rural roads
160)	I live in a rural area where the only council benefit I see is on road repairs/grading.
161)	Some activities Council supports eg Braidwood Xmas party in the park could be scrapped/swapped for something else if there is a community organisation that is able/prepared to do it the Lions Club used to run it. It may be that they don't have the capacity anymore, but checking with community organisations about what they are able to provide in the first instance may help in some small way to reduce costs for Council.
162)	I think building the new council building is quite over the top. I understand the requirement for a new office space however this could have been achieved by leasing a building for less money. Perhaps the free 2x council pick-ups per year for households could be reduced to a one time per year, and rather than households selecting their own day, suburbs could have one specific week for pickup per year like other suburbs do in Sydney. This also promoted reuse of other people's discarded goods and many families can explore the rubbish and reuse some of the "rubbish" other families throw out that is actually good quality.
163)	Public amenities and services are critical to the social health of a community. These are important for mental and physical health. As Qbn suburbs have been expanding and planned for expansion for some time, sports areas such as playing fields and pools need to be kept in good working condition. For example I swim regularly at Qbn pool, which is heavily booked out indoors in winter, and is already too small. It keeps me healthy and I enjoy positive social connections with fellow pool users there. Perhaps the planned sports complex near Hume could be put on hold? Unfortunately the expansion of population with Googong especially, will put additional pressure on what limited facilities we have. Having read through notes supplied I can't see that the public amenities we do have should be closed or privatised. The ripple effect across the whole community along with people's interests would be disastrous.
164)	How about do a time and motion study of the administrative function of the Council.
165)	Privatise the Q and other infrastructure where the cost vs benefit is low and the utilisation by the community is low. Stop borrowing money and repay debts.
166)	Stop funding the arts.
167)	You're going to double our rates? No you're not **** *****.
168)	Stop wasting money on new office buildings
169)	REDUCE AMOUNT COUNCILLORS .
170)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As a rate payer in QRPC I would suggest scenario 1 to reduce services and increase rates the least drastically. Even under this scenario the proposed increases would significantly affect household budgets on top of increasing inflation and significant interest

	rate rises. Could there be a longer term solution increasing rates more gradually?
171)	Maybe reduce pool cars Sort out development and building teams, especially the lack of help from their admin staff Charge more for community facilities hiring
172)	N/a
173)	Stop building stuff in Queanbeyan
174)	To be honest I don't see many of these things actually being done around the Sutton area. Grass along the roads is always long (often locals mowing these areas is the only way to keep the grass low and safe). Trees are over hanging on the roads even growing along the roads. Potholes are terrible damaging vehicles often. There is NO garbage pickup in the area around Sutton where my property is, to get your rubbish picked up you need to pay another company to come and take your rubbish. My property is fully off the grid so there is no power or water to my house, so council doesn't maintain this so not costs here for the majority of homes in the area that are off grid. There is NO town swimming pool in Sutton or library or any of the facilities really that are mentioned in this and that we pay our rates for. I don't see any real value or benefit from the rates I pay now.
175)	FOGO bins are a total waste of money. There are already options for residents if they wish to compost and recycle.
176)	Stop providing wasteful grants to family day care, pensioners and community groups. The federal government provide a number of similar opportunities and the local council should focus on the basics of roads, rubbish, infrastructure and planning activities. It is not fair for those of us who don't use any of the service you are saying would be cut if reared don't rise.
177)	Get rid of The Q - it is an absolutely waste of money and barely utilised. Stop beautifying areas that are inaccessible and not important (e.g. laneways) Queanbeyan is never going to be Melbourne. Cut Rebecca Ryan's salary and have her repurpose the council chambers that have cost million and millions of dollars to build and are still not finished.
178)	No, all council services are greatly needed. It is ridiculous that Councillors voted themselves such a large pay rise in such challenging financial circumstances and demonstrates a severe lack of judgement from our community leaders.
179)	Services like FOGO, community arts or beautifying the Queanbeyan streetscape should have a lower priority than: -fixing roads - maintaining stormwater systems and drains -supporting emergency services -better advice on flooded roads (eg keeping the emergency dashboard and livetraffic information up to date)
180)	This question seems to be a distraction from the main issue - how did Council get into this financial situation where it is requiring large rate rises from taxpayers, and how do we know these issues that caused the financial situation Council is now in, will be fixed? Where have the issues been identified?
181)	There is no need to build an expensive Council headquarters in Queanbeyan. You have a Council Headquarters in Bungendore which is stupidly being turned into a high school. Council needs to lobby the state government to abandon the Bungendore High

	School on the Bungendore town centre and ask them to build a purpose built high school on another site. This would give you a Council Headquarters and you could sell the new building in Queanbeyan.
182)	I am not aware of any Council services which should be minimised or cease to enable Council to operate efficiently.
183)	repeating the same services (Pools, Customer Service and libraries) in three difference site seams redundant, May only required in Queanbeyan and Braidwood. to reduce costs
184)	No.
185)	Rather than raise to an extent which will mean they're tougher to pay, if prefer to see a review of every dollar of non essential spending. Maintaining infrastructure and amenities are your critical role, anything else can and should be scaled back rather than throwing your constituents into further hardship.
186)	1. Reduce councillors fees and expenses to what they were before the last election. 2. Let the Federal and State Governments cover ALL welfare and associated matters - as they should. 3. Focus on sewerage, water, waste management, roads, bridges, parks and other local infrastructure. 4. Continue library facilities at same or similar level.
187)	Privatise the multi storey council chambers
188)	It would be nice to see the council change the frequency of grass cutting in Jerrabomberra. The bushland around Halloran Drive and the oval along with the roundabouts are disgustingly long.
189)	Clearly we cannot afford any non-essential services. Arts and culture, community events etc are an unnecessary luxury until the Council learns to better manage its budget ie our money
190)	Yes. many. I shall write by snailmail.
191)	Stop paying the pensioners
192)	Stop all non-core service; Stop funding community activities, halls, meetings, community grants; close aquatic centres sportsgrounds and playgounds in smaller towns; close libraries, service centres and depots in Bungendore and Braidwood; stop funding tourism; reduce maintenance on urban amenities; reduce the number of Councillors; stop building sealed roads in rural areas; new developments should be cancelled cancelled.
193)	I don’t know enough about the services local council is providing. I do know we have had a large fissure and potholes developing in our street for several months with no action taken despite reporting. I can see a lot of capital improvement around Queanbeyan in recent years that could stop
194)	Stop building roads, put the building of roads, out to tender, keep relevant staff and machinery for maintenance only. Start using recycled and composite materials for road surfaces
195)	What more could you possibly stop - the verges are no longer mowed, the gardens are poorly maintained and the roads are full of potholes.
196)	Fluffy art festivals and sell the q
197)	no
198)	Finish building the new council chambers and precent then sell the entire building - There is a $75 million dollar saving at least in one transaction
199)	Fewer Councillors, introduce paid parking, sell the Q.

200)	Quickly increase deployment of renewable energy, batteries, electric vehicles for the council fleet and electrify any gas appliances/infrastructure to reduce energy and fuel costs.
201)	We are not seeing adequate return for our rates in Wamboin and I do not agree to any increase without better service in rural areas.
202)	Reduce number of Councillors to 9
203)	Stop wasting money. Perhaps it's time to scale back to the bare essentials and fund other things as required. Manage money better.
204)	You should charge Queanbeyan residents more rates as Googong and Jerra is already paying way more
205)	Roads should be a priority
206)	Stop building your new office building .. who approved that n where is the value for money
207)	Stop trying to make Braidwood and Bungendore like Queanbeyan. Council should live within its means.
208)	Less money for consultant and pretty plans where nothing is delivered. Focus on essential services. The pool is also not useful as its not indoors. Either get a Federal Govt grant to build it indoors or close it.
209)	Sell the Q - Its not core council business.
210)	Stop wasting money on things that are not essential to living.
211)	Feel good, woke projects. e.g. youth services etc (other specialist agencies should provide these). Libraries are great but are way overfunded. The service is fantastic but does not provide discernible return. Business support to the Qbn CBD and town centres is critical. Rejuvenate the main street infrastructure and continue to support the economy with business support, skills/education/labour force support and tourism programs. This benefits all society with strong economy and educated, engaged youth.
212)	Increase mowing services. Long grass is a safety hazard in Australia because of fire potential and snakes. Don't stop anything that will maintain or improve safety in the community. Don't stop library services as it is essential to allow people from all demographics to have access to education materials.
213)	The council should adopt a user-pays philosophy - with limited exceptions and rebates. For example, I do not see why saleyards would be subsidised by the council and I don't see childcare as a local government function. I am hoping that new developments are footing the full cost to the QPRC infrastructure - although, if they are, it would be the first in Australia! I don't see much by way of initiatives to seek economies of scale by cooperation with the ACT - why does QPRC need to replicate so much infrastructure and deliver separate services when most of the population live adjacent to the ACT?
214)	Pools - they’re all complete garbage anyway. Either build one worth using or close them all down and stop pretending to offer this valuable community asset.
215)	Transparency in the way in which rate payer funds are being distributed in the community/council. Council does not need new offices/building
216)	Yes, stop doing all discretionary activities and focus on the essentials (like the rest of us are having to do in our household budgets), ie roads, water and sewerage, waste collection/management service, keeping the storm water drains clean and mowing. Also review the use of council vehicles for personal use.
217)	I’m ok to see all community facilities, performing arts, museums etc reduced if it meant the rates weren’t increased.

218)	All services should be self-funded except the libraries
219)	Better animal noise management
220)	Increase mowing in Jerrabomberra. Increase investment in kids recreational facilities. Build new kids recreational facilities in Jerrabomberra, in particular a new skate park as the current one is depressing.
221)	Council must develop a policy to prevent and actively intervene to stop hoarding and assist ratepayers who have to live next door to unkempt properties which massively devalue their own properties. I object to paying high rates in Ullamulla Crescent where so many unkempt properties exist which are a health and snake hazard and are unsightly littered with old cars, industrial waste eg old air conditioners timber old boats discarded building products etc Also active clearing of fire risks behind properties in Ullamulla Crescent. The riverbank area behind these properties have extremely long grass, St John's Wart, privets, blackberries, non native trees. This area is a huge bushfire waiting to explode. Ratepayers rates need to be spent on necessities not higher council wages, bureaucracy and multi million dollar council buildings!! Also so many degraded pothole filled roads need repair!!! This is what our rates need to be spent on!!!
222)	I think there is too much focus on roads and mowing grass from the public. I would much rather see important community services like the library, pool and The Q maintained.
223)	Sell the q and all museums, stop finding community activities and anything arts-related, reduce number of councillors, remove all rebates, close or reduce hours in less busy facilities such as Bungendore/Braidwood
224)	Start charging developers more
225)	I would prefer less councillors and less staff costs, less community grants, less activities, pensioner issues are something for state and federal governments to worry about not local councils. Focus on roads, water and waste, and parks.
226)	Prioritise the things that are 'must haves' rather than 'nice to haves'. Eg focus on safe roads, not on nice to have arts centres or beatification projects.
227)	Duplication of services. The LGA should have services (i.e. schools and swimming pools) but these do not have to be duplicated in every local i.e. Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood.
228)	Services are about right though the financial ability to respond quicker and better to environmental circumstances such as road damage repair after rains/flooding and maintenance of reserves and road sides, including clearing cuttings with the recent rains should come with increased rate funding.
229)	No reduction
230)	Stop wasting our money on building stupid roads that no one voted in. Eg the EDE. All it has done is generated more traffic through residential areas and increased bottlenecks and congestion at the Bungendore road. This issues were raised and blatantly ignored when the road was under development. All for the sake of opening up jumping creek.
231)	Stop opposing the Bungendore High School site and start working with the Department of Education to maximise benefits for the region. Finish the new Bungendore Sports and Aquatic centre but look at savings eg the pool could be 6 lanes not 8, maybe we don't need as many fields or buildings - look at all new works and determine where cutbacks can be made, look at the community engagement function, look at the QPRC structure and number of councillors to reduce top heavy layers, look at improving cost effectiveness of all services, look at privatisation of services and things like the Q and B, stop the proposed new works to Queanbeyan showground, only do the minimum of the Queanbeyan beautification works. Once the seasons change back to dry

	weather will the huge roads maintenance demand/cost reduce? Examine how developer contributions may be maximised vs the cost of infrastructure required for development, as this does not appear to have been done well in all instances in the past. Look at the Council facilities outside Queanbeyan and determine whether some may be centralised, eg the new Council building to be built in Bungendore could reduce the services provided there but this must be considered in the light of local employment and only where real advantages can be gained from centralisation.
232)	Reduce number of Councillors regardless and institute paid parking over 2hrs
233)	Sell or lease out the pool.
234)	Introduce some payed parking in town centre
235)	The plans for the Showground ...Need to be held over till funds are available. A Nonsense to be doing so much all at once given economic Conditions have changed so much in the past few years..... Community need be secure in their economic ability to pay and maintain their current standard of living. The expenditure this Council has entered into seems excessive when now faced with this proposition and points to a Miss Management if it continues. NSW and FEDEDERAL Grants for Regional roads is available; Queanbeyan Council should be applying and THEN Reassess its budget and commitments. This proposal of rates Increase is Obsessive and unjustified IF Management is good. Perhaps a Review of Council expenditure is called for?
236)	QPRC should increase investment in services for local businesses such as co-funding facade improvement or subsidising new product lines or service expansions. The vitality of our entire community is dependent on thriving CBDs and the twin aims of ensuring local residents spend money locally AND increasing tourism expenditure supports this agenda. Activities like The Q, art galleries and councils tourism marketing campaigns are critical to the economy and support my business.
237)	Make roads, bridges and culvert maintenance a basic priority over all other services. Review all staffing levels and restructure to ensure labour numbers and costs are no more than comparable benchmarks from other councils
238)	In the day of the internet, Libraries are no longer viable.
239)	No
240)	No comments to add about reduction or stopping of services other than to say more funding and more services !
241)	Spending money on new council buildings where mowing is not being done in a timely fashion. Rates are currently high and an expectation to increase would force a lot of people out of the region
242)	Services and facilities provided over and above those required to support base rate payers should be run cost neutral or at a profit through supplemental charging. Example: cost to use pools should pay for all pool operational costs; cost to run entertainment at the Q should be fully recovered.
243)	Roadworks should be subcontracted
244)	No.
245)	Stop spending on upgrading Queanbeyan streets. Reverse pay rise for counsellors.

	Cancel projects to offset revenue deficit. Review operational budget.
246)	Yes the council should have a policy about native planting in our street scapes and parks. Native plants are sustainable, beautiful, water tolerant and support native wildlife.
247)	Councillors should stop voting themselves a 22 per cent pay rise. Forget wasting money on Pools, Heritage, community events and focus on your core business of maintaining roads and collecting the garbage.
248)	Improve the development application process
249)	Do we really need libraries? Information, books etc are readily available online and from other avenues eg. schools maintain libraries to provide for students.
250)	Although I am a massive music fan and a fan of the arts. Do we need to have the Canberra Symphony by the river as a free event? We charge for everything at the Q and I consider it is all of great value. Hence, what should we be doing for other cultural activities. For me it is all about return on investment. Are the activities provided financially viable or not? If they aren't what can we do about it. Some of them are non-negotiable for me though. When it comes to Family Day care, Youth services, Mental Health and Libraries. You need to have these services for the wellbeing of the community.
251)	Rather than hand out the new food waste bins to everyone, make it an option as I know a lot of people won't use it and there you've wasted a heap of money on handing those out to all.
252)	The little green bin not good on the bench top it smells should have been instructed to put it the green bin
253)	The green small bin is a waste because no one is going to put their scraps in it and we could just put it in the large green bin
254)	New buildings for council chambers - not necessary.
255)	Sell the q Reduce councillors
256)	Sell the Q. Take more library services online. The Covid-19 pandemic and reduced library hours seem to have broken the ftf business model irretrievably.
257)	New food bin is a joke! I am all for recycling but seriously bigger picture stuff is needed, maybe start with actually recycling the stuff in the bins that are provided already around town instead of making out it happens.
258)	Stop giving councils pay rises.
259)	Reduce number of councillors. Just do basic services, rubbish, roads, nothing else. Leave everything else to state government.
260)	Stop doing large community events - like Christmas in July markets etc. Focus on giving grants to community organisations to support their events - that builds community and makes sure the events are what the community wants. Economic development - waste of money and resources and clearly ineffective.
261)	If council's budget is so tight it would probably be wise to sell or privatise The Q.
262)	1. Reducing the number of councillors is a really sensible option. To be totally honest I have no idea why we need so many councillors or what they bring to the table. I know that several of the councillors have other employment so how are they 100% committed to the elected role. All good to turn up to meetings and make a lot of noise.

	2. Stop funding community halls - users pay if they wish to use. Most people don't have a use for them so why should they pay for the funding? 3. Remove additional pensioner rebate - if rebates cannot be offered across the board then forgo them. Sour grapes do occur if the average joe who are struggling and don't fit "the mould" for rebates. 4. Reduce funding for community activities - seems to easy to get funding for things that never get large attendance numbers. 5. Consideration should be given to not outsourcing so many services. Conduct a scenario to measure wages v outsourcing. 6. The country feel of the town is disappearing at a phenomenal rate. Large 5 story buildings? Why was this really needed when everyone bangs on about heritage? 7. Sustainability reviews - are these done prior to new suburbs? Need to ascertain if the council can support without rate payers suffering.
263)	Sell assets that would be better in private hands. If it's viable someone will run Services like the pool and arts center. Dilapidated buildings in the name of heritage need to be allowed to be redeveloped to current standards. Some of them are really an eyesore in such prominent locations and are a wasted opportunity.
264)	stop building new complexes
265)	Focus only on rates,rubbish and roads as first priority. Creating ridiculous jobs and increasing pay for overpaid positions is not acceptable. Queanbeyan inherited a great group of rate payers from Palerang and with plenty of funds in the kitty, the merger has only sent Palerang backwards.
266)	Reduce staff where possible, day care involvement as this is a state and federal issue, reduce councillors.
267)	Recycling should be collected once a week, garbage "red bin" should be collected once a fortnight. This will encourage more recycling, and reusing, with less going to landfill.
268)	Perhaps the Q Theatre could be sold and managed buy another entity.
269)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would think that introducing paid parking to the Queanbeyan CBD will simply kill the businesses there.
270)	Many services could have more meaningful KPIs and reporting in the integrated planning docs to provide more accountability in an environment of intense public scrutiny. Non-core services should have strict ROI measures. - Council could look at reassessing services that are duplicated in NFP sector, such as in community development, environment areas. - There is wastage in extensive service delivery with limited community usage (e.g. council could reduce number of pools, reduce library opening days in each town). - Council investment in tourism marketing, tourism industry development and economic development generally should be increased - as long as the program continues to be managed well, with tight reporting. There is enormous opportunity to build the dual economies within our region (the rural/villages etc and Qbn CBD are very separate) and there is enormous opportunities for better leveraging of collaborative partnerships with the ACT and wider Canberra Region.

	- Areas such as performing arts, visual arts etc could have much tighter ties to economic/visitor economy outputs. We shouldn't be supporting artists simply to 'make art' for social benefit, but if the program outputs are tied to economic measures, visitation, visitor dispersal, then this can have a clear and demonstrable economic/social benefit through increased employment and investment throughout the supply chain. - Similarly, The Q is the primary driver for the Queanbeyan CBD night time economy and should be run as a commercial entity, not as a community asset. The operating deficit that The Q runs at should be quantified in the context of its contribution to the economy. QPRC should consider developing a dedicated Night Time Economy strategy for the Qbn CBD within its economic development program, given the rapid residential and commercial growth expected in the CBD over the coming decade.
271)	Both The Q and Bicentennial Hall are not required in a city of 45 thousand people, any time I've been to either of them they are never near full and how often are they used. All the buildings council own in Crawford St should be surplus to requirements when the new monstrosity is built (there was no shortage of money when that was being built). Also, councillors getting $50,000 for part time work is obscene, especially as most of them are already in well paid jobs including public service jobs, there are plenty of people in Queanbeyan who get that much for full time work and pensioners certainly don't get anything like that. I say sack the lot and have an administrator appointed. Some councillors have been there for years so how come they let it get this serious before they do anything about it. Oh yes, they have just been elected and have four more years on the gravy train. Personally, I've never used the library or the pool, so their existence doesn't bother me
272)	From what I know, the services Council provides are all important.
273)	Focus on the areas people use. Stop the Crawford street development until it can be afforded. Stop grants until they can be afforded
274)	reduce councillors
275)	Maybe if there was a way for council to start charging for the events like Boogong etc. Admittedly, I haven't been to one in 3 years so you may already be doing this? Like even just a gold coin donation. Hard to patrol but might help??
276)	That’s a difficult question to answer, you simply do not consult and tell the people within the council what you do and therefore you are asking something that is almost impossible to answer. What would be good to see is your internal responses to these questions, your leadership, your innovation, your consultative approach and your executive leadership.
277)	I see residents doing council work, not council doing council work. It's a disappointing service from council
278)	Potential to reduce or defer non-essential capital works into forward years
279)	Reduce the employment costs of top-tier management employees. I’m sorry to say they’re never doing as much as ground staff. They need to take a pay cut, and so does council. I know council argues that they’re not paid as much as councillors in some Canberra suburbs. We’re not Canberra. Please stop the comparison. It seems a lot of our budget has gone towards infrastructure in the cultural precinct. I feel council has overspent on this and needs to immediately stop spending on new infrastructure.
280)	As per scenario 2

281)	If the Council cannot manage within its resources, please maintain essential services for a period and a plan to enable it to return to a manageable position.
282)	Activities that do not directly improve the bottom line.
283)	It seems quite the coincidence that you can build a 70 million dollar building and then want to increase rates.
284)	Stop spending money on unnecessary programs and focus or core requirements of the lga.
285)	Reduce services that are available to access in Canberra ie. Library, pools and arts.
286)	Reduce the number of council depots.
287)	stop wasting money on alley ways to make them look like a child done them. I am all for tidying them but that no name alley I don't even understand. Why have a photo of a couch on the front lawn, it's like you are trying to advertise Queanbeyan being a rough place
288)	No new programs or services until scenario 3 stabilises the current asset base and cost structures
289)	Cost saving area for nonessential services, such as museum and history. This could be done on a volunteer basis
290)	I'm not aware of any.
291)	If the council is as financially troubled as it says it is then it should not be running Australian Day and similar events and paying for fireworks and the like.
292)	Arts
293)	The new council building was not needed at this time. Rural (and urban) park makeovers of over 1 million dollars are a complete luxury at this time. Potential two sets of traffic lights on Collette Street and Erin Street, why? Are two really needed. Are there cheaper alternatives? Roundabout(s), speed/stop camera(s) or speed bump(s) on intersection(s). Would love to see transparency at work on this example. Would be great to see a graph show how much each option would cost and were the pro's and con's are. I feel we want the modern look and feel for our historically "little rural town" in order to be competitive to new hip areas and draw in population growth. We are unfortunately doing too much to fast in the bid for modernisation, which is bringing us to financial breakdown.
294)	Reduce their administration spending. If they are providing services then the user should pay NOT all ratepayers.
295)	I strongly believe in user pays, if council wants to provide a service the individual who wants to use that service should pay for it NOT every ratepayer, I say cut unnecessary services.
296)	Get back to basics when times are tough.
297)	Stop doing anything other than the essential services. No community halls, art galleries, concerts, festivals, libraries or other unnecessary expenditure which could be financed individually by the users. The only services that I believe Council should provide out of ratepayers funds are roads, footpaths, rubbish collection, water provision, storm water and sewage disposal.
298)	I think council employees needs a pay cut
299)	Not aware of any
300)	It will cost more but closer oversight of buildings and developer projects is needed. A land development in the Elmslea Estate in Bungendore is appalling. The design is poor and the actual construction is worse.

301)	Compost bins to all households, how much did this program cost?
302)	Wasted money on the mini bins to every home. Most people don't use them.
303)	Reduce their administration spending. If they are providing services then the user should pay NOT all ratepayers.
304)	Operating the Q caters to a few, and costs a heap of money. Selling it raises funds. Let special interest groups raise their own funding. This isn't core council business. Also, let the communities run their own events. Private enterprise, fund-raisers and good old fashioned donations will see them continue. Get back to basics.
305)	Introduce paid parking in cbd and Crawford St. Reduce hours for facilities or close on certain days.
306)	It looks like the kerbside clean ups twice per year are a luxury the council can't afford
307)	Perhaps the payrises could have gone without this year. Roads and paths aren't maintained as they are so there is no change there. Other areas outside the CBD aren't looked after ie mowing. The additional 6 draftsman hired haven't seem to help with the backlog of DAs were they actually needed?
308)	Stop wasting our money
309)	Councillor pay rises. Upgrading things that don't need them - I'm all for progress and improvement but I can't afford the proposed rate rises and you'll be ruining so many families if you continue with this ridiculous proposal.
310)	Reduce the 'nice to haves' and only deliver essential services until the budget can be fixed.
311)	Council chambers in Queanbeyan is a joke and there should be a criminal enquiry
312)	Optional services such as food waste trials, community group support, the Q
313)	You can reduce or stop the first nations activities as there is federal funding for those anyway, so they won't actually be stopped.
314)	The new building in Queanbeyan should be sold. That can fund services.
315)	Provide free tip access for rural land holders who pay a waste management fee in their rates and then pay again for the privilege of taking their household garbage to the tip.
316)	Delay works to the main street until finances are improved. Reduce the number of Councillors. Keep the Queanbeyan Pool and close the others. Reduce community funding. Increase charges and fees for community services. Not ideal any of these but I think it's more important to keep the rates down.
317)	Building yet more spots facilities and the like, very expensive to run and maintain the region has plenty already
318)	get rid of community grants, if they can't stand on their own feet they shouldn't exists as the services aren't that important to their consumers. Stop spending so much money replacing plants in the main street. Discontinue services on the weekends and reduce overtime to employees. Introduce productivity dividends. Cut non essential services. Raise revenue from developers, ensure they are contributing more to the community as they make huge profits. Increase land available for development to increase revenue base.
319)	Grass cutting in front of private residences i.e. on Araluen Road Braidwood, remove all gardens in the middle of streets, stop expending capital on sporting facilities. Increase waste charges at the transfer stations to 50% of the charges in Sydney. At the Lucas Heights tip it is $139/ton. Outsource the running of the waste transfer stations. Sell the council chambers and "Q" in

	Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood. Explain why rate payer funds were used for the 6 property access driveways on Majors Creek Rd 15 December 2022 considering they looked suitable for access considering the potholes near the Majors Creek Bridge were not filled and is still dangerous, who authorised it and why are they still working for QPRC. Stop all QPRC vehicles from being taken home under any circumstance including directors if applicable even if the employee is on call. Stop road construction/replacement in the western area of QPRC and start the taring of roads in East i.e. around Majors Creek, Cooma Road, etc. Stop assisting with the painting of private buildings, tourist and shopping support around Bungendore and Braidwood as this is a private business cost or if necessary a State Government cost, if the private business cannot afford the maintenance costs they should not be in business. Lease all the pools to private contractors, offer each sports club a user discount if the club maintains the buildings & grass, courts, equipment. Look at outsourcing the garbage collection noting the outer areas in the east only get 1 rubbish or recycle collection per week. Nothing else is available. The Araluen and Majors Creek green waste be closed with the transport to Braidwood as the only solution. Investigate the transfer of the water supply to a corporation such as Sydney Water. All council vehicles to be kept for a minimum of 10 years or 150,000kms whichever comes first
320)	Upgrading of laneways around Queanbeyan and selling of new QPRC building.
321)	I have to wonder why we are building new Council offices!
322)	Stick to basics of council - playgrounds, rubbish etc no need for tokenism or left wing type projects
323)	Services that are focused on a sub set of users who should be paying for those services. Eg stockyards , child care , community facilities etc . These should be coat recovery with accessibility options for those who are underprivileged.
324)	No reductions. Our current council is fantastic and deserves the same opportunity that the past one has to appropriately deliver services for our council area with funding that is in line with all other comparable councils.
325)	I support scenarios 1, getting rid of first nations grants and reduce the numbers of councillors will provide you with savings.
326)	Stick to roads, rubbish and water and not be involved in community activities which do not benefit all ratepayers
327)	Think there needs to be more public parking in CBD. Better public transport into Canberra
328)	Pensioners are not the only people struggling to pay rates as they are. Single and lower income families are doing it tough with no subsidies at all and full rate.
329)	Duplication of mail to households do not address one letter to the addressee then the same letter to the occupant this is waiting time and money. Council vehicles being used for personal use. Also since the merger Queanbeyan has been neglected to provide more work and infrastructure for Googong and Jumping Creek these areas do not add any value to my area.
330)	Increasing fees at the Q or privatising.
331)	The use of QPRC vehicles after hours. Vehicles as part of employment agreements.
332)	It is not understood why every dwelling in QBN City has an individual set of waste bins (1 red 1 green 1 yellow) - why not have three big skips for a cluster of properties instead. This is done in many cities in EU. Not a big deal to walk to the skips once a week to drop a bag.
333)	Arts and festival totally unnecessary from public funding leave it to private enterprise
334)	Two pools is one too many.
335)	unsure

336)	Some services in the area of arts and culture should be self funded through attendance fees, sales etc.
337)	Reduce the number of unnecessary office staff and the amount of staff with council vehicles. Also better management of jobs and services council undertake ensuring staff aren't slacking off and getting paid for it.
338)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** To whom it may concern, I am writing to have my say on the proposed rate rise by Council. I have been waiting for the fallout from most of the previous Councillors leaving prior to the last election and now I know why. I know it is inevitable there will now be a rate rise and I may be naïve in thinking that if Council stuck to it's core tasks and not wasted money on "beautifying" main streets in the CBD (Crawford) which is now an eyesore. Building a massive new Council HQ which I foresee will become another white elephant like the carpark where the bus terminal is. May I suggest that all the buildings the Council have bought and have staff working in now be sold off as they will presumably all be located in the new building. Also that when a structure is erected that it is not dug up soon after for remediation of some sort. I refer to the path along Ellerton Drive near Jumping Creek. I also saw the proposal for the upgrade of the top of Monaro St, which I see as another huge waste of money as there is nothing there to entice shoppers and to widen the footpath and lose more parking spaces I find totally incomprehensible. I was not impressed by the comments by the spokesman there whose comment was "if we build it they will come". I pointed out to him that the final nail in the coffin for that section of the "MAIN STREET" was when the bank and the Post Office moved out. I also suggested to the spokesman "Council would do better to fix up the top end of Morrisett St". To my chagrin he replied "where is Morrisett st". Might I suggest that any major projects that are not critical, be put on hold until they can be better funded (if it ain't broke, don't fix it). Also, I really don't find it helpful comparing our rates to other areas as some of them are not the same size as our shire and do not have the same infrastructure as we do. I am not impressed and maybe with a new CEO and fresh eyes she could have a different view.
339)	The Q. Privatise or sell
340)	I think the development of the Q needs to be looked at closely at what you can do to make it a profitable enterprise, while keeping the community costs down. Keeping and improving the sporting facilities you do have eg pools and looking at working with private industry to possibly codevelop any future developments.
341)	No need for pools - better waste disposal service - new contractor perhaps? They keep breaking my bin lids
342)	Not that I can think of
343)	Funding unnecessary community events signage etc
344)	Unsure
345)	Sell The Q if it is unprofitable. It is not that Council should stop their services. They have a responsibility to provide services to the community that we already pay for. Council needs to find a way to deliver their services in a cost effective and efficient manner.
346)	If building costs have gone up then projects that have blown out should be paused or scrapped. The most important services are waste management, water and sewerage, bridges and roads, street cleaning/maintenance. If cuts need to be made it should be to the grants and discretionary spending.
347)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** If we are to increase rates as suggested we will require roads to be serviced as required and no pot holes left to get worse (as they currently do) eg: The damaged surface on Hill, George, Aruluen and Seymour Streets the whole of the bitumen needs to be renewed. All the gravel roads get some attention this is needed more often with the change in climate. Path ways - there are no path ways in the village and as there is an increase in traffic we have no choice but to walk dangerously on the roads. Storm water drains are not doing what they are supposed to, They are blocked, some undermine roads.

	Elrington lane is also impacted by the run off, water running from the south. There is an old race (water course)that needs repairing so that water can again be directed to the creek , to the west. (Not onto properties and houses) We have several earthmoving contractors in Majors Creek that would be very helpful to Council to do this work.
348)	Increase fees for all development and building applications. Reduce the staffing levels where there is no fee for service (hopefully through natural attrition). Increase the times between servicing the urban landscapes. Reduce the daily opening times for the libraries, not closing them. Council grant programs need to be examined for their usefulness. Halt the pensioner rebate for all new applicants only keeping rebates for those currently receiving them. The Queanbeyan CBD transformation Stages 3-8 should halted. Apart from the new Sewage Treatment Plant, all other development plans need to be re-examined and either delayed or cancelled.
349)	Reduce number of councillors. Stop planned developments for sports and aquatics (pools have a high running cost compared to their use level). The Q could do with an organisational revamp as I find theatre tickets to be quite expensive, especially as it is often smaller theatre groups performing. Have clear information about what will be required for a building development application, such as when they are required and what checks will be required at particular stages of the project. My renovations a few years ago were made more stressful than they needed to be as I received opposing information from different council building inspectors.
350)	Sell off or privatize The Q. This is non-essential and expensive, and is only of interest/used by a very small group of people in the Local Government Area. Services like Arts programs are not essential, and to spend money on them is wasteful when we are looking at cutting essential services.
351)	The Q and other community, arts and cultural events would appear to be extravagances for the benefit of a minority of residents, that Council can no longer afford. Opportunities for leasing or selling the Q should be explored.
352)	Get rid of the Q, it's a vanity project that the ratepayer shouldn't have to pay for. If there is a demand for a theatre in Queanbeyan the private sector can manage it.
353)	Reduce the pay rise given to staff. This will help with budgets.
354)	Stop laying loser stone Ashley on previously smooth sealed roads. You are upgrading roads that were perfectly fine :(.
355)	I would like to see more mowing of public land during the summer months
356)	Yes. Remove last pay rise for councillors and reduce councillor numbers prior to next election. Make council staff work over Christmas stand down period and not take off (public hols accepted). Reign in spending on new council buildings and make do with what you have.
357)	I wish there were more parks in Jerrabomberra. I would like more services in general maintenance/gardening eyc.
358)	Stop building big new offices. If need bed lay the upgrade of the main street.
359)	Community party’s and events, cut administration staff and cut wages of said admin staff
360)	Maybe by having more thongs available in queanbeyan like cinemas and more shops then more people will come to queanbeyan. Arts are nice but not a necessity. Cut back on your high paid councillors etc. But do t increase our rates theyare high enough with the cost of living in every other thing increasing.
361)	Arts, Culture and libraries
362)	Those green bins that were put on everyone’s front door step for compost - total waste of money. Stop wasting money on intuitives like this and do things people actually need and want. I honestly don’t care about the arts, parking, heritage maintenance, public pools, environmental planning etc. I am going to assume the majority of people want maintenance of suburbs as a priority.

363)	No
364)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I, **** *****, vote for scenario 2 in the new financial plan.
365)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Good evening I have read Council's three scenarios for raising rates for ratepayers in the QPRC. My wife and I have considered the options and we have decided we want you to know we ask you to go with Scenario 2, please.
366)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Hi there, we live at williamsdale, I'd love to get in contact to have a discussion with someone as to see how these rates increases will benefit out where we are. The suggested increase of rates is exceptionally high, considering that we get subpar maintenance where we are. The roads are trashed and all we get is essentially bins collected, So to raise rates that much for zero impact where we are seems absurd. I'd love to discuss this further with council to get a further break down of the situation
367)	It is hard to see where Council could/should reduce services. If you look at Canberra, which has become full of potholes, long grass and graffiti, this is not a path Queanbeyan should follow, particularly if it wishes to attract tourists, new residents and development. No-one wants their rates to increase, particularly in these difficult times but the alternative will be worse.
368)	N/A
369)	I don't know
370)	Consolidate admin staff and better use of maintenance crews and staff. Also a digital strategy with the ability to self service better online and allow rate payers to see reduction in operating overheads and outsource IT services including service desk functions.
371)	STOP the Gravyard on Old Cooma Road
372)	Reduce number of libraries, they are almost redundant given proximity to Canberra. End the wasteful community grants the NSW and Federal Governments already give enough to organisations without Council also jumping in. End the additional pensioner rebate it duplicates existing NSW scheme and diverts funding away from community services. Focus on Roads, Rubbish and Development.
373)	Council is doing very well, but stop the 'nudge politics', we're adults. No, the weather isn't any more extreme and my water use is no higher than it's ever been, my children have left home.
374)	Unecessary Bureacracy should be targeted
375)	Funding halls, community centre, the q, skateparks. Make things cost netiral or make a profit to fund other things!
376)	Sell the pool and the Q to a private company
377)	Make profit from pools, events and the q
378)	Many services can and should move to a user pays model. Pools in particular should have increased fees. Do we really need a sports hub? I'd like to see sports clubs paying for their own use and access.
379)	Reduce arts grants. They only benefit a very small fraction of the community. Focus on things that benefit as large a group of people as possible. Improve road care.

380)	Show Grounds need to be reviewed particularly in Braidwood and Bungendore. The amount of land they consume and buildings some of which are only used once a year eg. Poultry Halls! Look towards the local community holding more events at these sites or renting out to other organisations.
381)	Reduce pandering to minority groups wants and less focus on damn lanes and council offices in QBN City and support more of the regional communities needs.
382)	I'm sure there is a lot that the NSW government provides that QPRC duplicates, maybe look at this?
383)	Focus on the core services - maintenance of lawns/grass/gardens, waste management, pool, library, etc.
384)	Council should stop funding things that are not providing a benefit to the majority of the community. The Q for example is something that should be sold off and focus on ensuring roads, infrastructure and essential services are maintained. Some areas within the region don't have a kerb side bin collection as an example.
385)	Pools. pensioner rebate
386)	No increase to council annual rates on properties at the moment due to unstable financial inflation increases
387)	I think Council should either learn to manage its budget correctly or, if the issues have arisen due to amalgamation, seek further assistance from the NSW Govt as opposed to increasing rates.
388)	I would hate to see any negative changes (reduction/ cancellation) to current services. In saying this i would be supportive of paid parking in the Queanbeyan CBD as a way to create more revenue for the council to support local services.
389)	Playground in Braidwood was quite expensive and is not used by Braidwood children only travellers. Other things looked as though Council had too much money.
390)	Please do not give rate concessions to wealthy old people. They're literally the most capable of paying on often the most rateable land.
391)	Reconsider cost recovery pricing for use of QPRC facilities: Commercial = The Q, Bicentennial Hall, etc (higher recovery); Health and Wellbeing = sports grounds, pools, etc (lower recovery); Waste management = kerbside collection, recycling, waste management/ transfer centres, etc (lower recovery)...
392)	Stop funding the Q performing arts centre - this is a commercial business and should run as such without council funding, or close.
393)	The Q and The B could be privatised. For community events (shows etc), an entry fee could be charged (move to a user pays system). For community activities (participative), consider some base funding plus user-pays top-up system.
394)	Reducing some of your workforce that are overpaid and services that are not "needed".
395)	Education - Senior council staff should all go on a financial management course before entering a council position. Your proposals reflect financial mismanagement practices.
396)	Manage roads better Fill potholes and repair the roads Gut grass on roads everywhere so cars can see around corners and pedestrians especially in googong it's dangerous for kids to cross roads as they are small and cannot be seen Collect yellow bins weekly and drop red back to alternate weeks What's the point of the fogo bin? Do we really need another inside special bin

	Stop wasting more money on pointless crap like the fogo, just say you can now put this into your green bin. And why deliver them couldn't those that wanted one go and pick up from council.
397)	Services that can only be accessed by minority groups should be STOPPED; the practice of subsidising minority groups based on majority contribution is divisive and inequitable. Entities that can be divested through privatisation should be DIVESTED, example Braidwood Sale Yards. Swimming Pools and other community amenities should be retained
398)	Stop wasting money. Think before spending on expensive items. i don't need a statue or an overpriced garden in a park. I need my bins collected and to be able to afford to live in my house.
399)	Stop giving yourself payroceses. Your staff sit around on the roads doing stuff all. Laziness shouldn't be rewarded.
400)	Sell the Q.
401)	Cut down on waste.
402)	I do believe that peoples expectations are more than they were some years ago, especially people who move to regional areas from cities. I live in Braidwood and am sad that some of the granite gutters have had to be infilled to provide footpaths, the traffic causes many problems being mostly out of area vehicles and there are many more large trucks going through our main street. I believe we need to get rid of State Government.....what savings would that make. Sure our Councils would have to get larger. We in Braidwood are really on the wrong side of the Great Dividing Range unfortunately, not many employees in Queanbeyan know much about Braidwood and its surrounds.
403)	No more new things like the sports facility you want to borrow money for! If you're broke you don't do it. You only do what needs to be done till your books are fixed. Your CEO takes a pay cut. No bonuses no perks
404)	If you're short on money stop funding the arts and things that are nice to have but not critical to infrastructure and society.
405)	The importance is fixing roads, fairness in cost distribution between Braidwood, Bungendore and Queanbeyan. Planting flowers I. The Main Street of Queanbeyan is not important when smaller towns pavements are a trip hazard and planning permissions are raking excessive timing
406)	I can't comment on which services
407)	I would be OK with paid parking.
408)	Reduce staff
409)	Council should look at more sub-division and more affordable housing, that would bring in more $$
410)	It is an absolute shame that Queanbeyan has progress so far and now it is being proposed to reduce services, which will see the decline in Queanbeyan's very good services status and of being a city of choice to live in.
411)	In a time of crisis we should pare back our services- eg the q, not be issuing grants etc Some services should be user pays eg parking! to keep the pools maybe there needs to be a price increase! We should not be spending money we don't have
412)	Close Captains Flat and Bungendore pool
413)	We currently receive zero services from the QPRC on Doust road in Bywong, and we are happy with that but not happy that we are paying towards things we do not receive. we pay for our own garbage removal, weed control, water storage, electricity.... EVERYTHING. I am in no way supportive of any increase in rates for our area what so ever.

414)	Council should focus on its core obligations to its ratepayers. Get the roads and rubbish sorted and then see what funds are available for the other stuff. I do not understand what the Q does for us and so it along with pools should be privatised. If they are viable then they will be sought after, if not then that tells you they should be closed.
415)	Increase the maintenance of gardens. Out at googong the gardens are getting to a point that are unsafe, you can't see cars that are coming and they are crowding around the paths - residents are having to do it themselves.
416)	The building of additional pools/aquatic centre in Queanbeyan - it is a facility used largely 3-4 months of the year. I use Queanbeyan pool and I have never seen it that full that participants would need to be turned away. One pool in a region is acceptable, eg no requirement at Googong, South Jerra etc. Likewise the use of libraries - as much as I loved the library when I was young (in Goulburn) with street library, ebooks, etc expansion of this asset would not be in line with increasing rates for more important services eg water supply, roads.
417)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I object to any rise in rates. This council has been wasting money for years, and wants to continue wasting money but needs more rates money to do that. Many of the functions currently performed by council are excessive, expensive and done poorly. The paid staffing heirarchy is top-heavy and expensive. The essential functions of a local council are done in a bureaucratic, busy-work fashion, nothing is done efficiently. The council's functions and payroll should be trimmed back to essentials, the layers of management need to be cut right back, and the fluffy functions removed. Council should be looking at how it can become a co-ordinator of services rather than a provider of services, in the case of many services. Groups of residents should be facilitated and co-ordinated to provide non-essential functions and services, with the council facilitating them. The way in which council provides essential services should also be scrutinised. Numerous people in the road building and repair industry have commented that the way council "manages" our roads is inefficient and expensive. I object to funding Business-As-Usual of a bloated and inefficient council. What this council does and how it does it needs to be thrown open for public scrutiny.
418)	Customer service centers in Bungendore and Braidwood
419)	Don’t know enough to comment
420)	The number of councillors should certainly be reduced. Tourism should be a revenue and not an expense. While outlying areas like Braidwood and Bungendore could benefit from sports hubs etc. Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra seem too close to have duplicate services.
421)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am very concerned that the Special Rate Variation is necessary due to actions and unnecessary expenditures by QPRC and not just rate pegging, and now ratepayers are being asked to foot the bill. Some of the instances that I am aware of are: QPRC made a decision to construct an obscenely large building in Crawford Street, twice the size required when QPRC did not have the funds, and which will cost almost $100million to complete – a totally unnecessary waste of money. We ratepayers expect QPRC to provide basic services and not trying to be entrepreneurs when QPRC has no money. Last year QPRC was road contracting at Lake Bathurst outside QPRC’s area which occurred over an extended period in a very wet year – how much did that cost ratepayers? Another unnecessary expense and tying up equipment badly needed in QPRC area. Again, QPRC should not be not be risking ratepayers money and equipment when our roads are/were in such diabolical condition. Against local resident’s objections, QPRC approved a private commercial entity ********** to dump a large quantity of excavated material, with trucks travelling on Hoskinstown Road. This activity, which profits ****, has no benefit for ratepayers and still has 3 years to run. Ratepayers and QPRC are left with ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance with little contribution from ****. This is an

	obscenely unnecessary expense for ratepayers, who are now paying towards ****profits and the resultant damage caused by their trucks . Of course then there is the Bungendore High School fiasco. The government authorities including QPRC are needlessly wasting more millions. These unnecessary expenditures have to stop and QPRC has to be more focused on providing basic services which the ratepayers need, rather than QPRC going off on its own agenda.
422)	look at the staff ratios and see if u can mange better with less higher payed management,
423)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICE - QUEANBEYAN** We, ***** ******, owners and ratepayers of our property at ** ********* ****, Karabar, NSW 2620 Do not agree with any of the three scenarios put forward to ratepayers. These are our reasons Over expenditure by QPSC on unnecessary items 1. The unnecessary expenditure on a multi million dollar council building which we believe to be unnecessary when council already own multiple premises which can be used for this purpose eg the heritage building where council was originally located, the former whites rugby union club building where council office is now located and other premises already owned by council. Rather than borrowing huge amounts of money for a new building and expecting rate payers to pay back a loan surely these properties could be sold and the revenue raised be used to pay back the loan, 2. Neglect of issues important to rate payers.We are appalled at the total lack of concern by council to urgent matters affecting rate payers at a basic level!! Surely the total disrepair of all roads within Queanbeyan and also the wider shire require attention before voting for higher council salaries and huge beaurocracy infrastructure as in the new council building!!! Dangerous potholes are all over our city and our roads and footpaths need thorough resurfacing. 3. Decrease Expenditure: Review every program and apply a cut to cost!Council wages need to decrease rather than increasing because it appears that council in many areas are not doing the job they are paid to doll Also the burearocracy needs to be smaller rather than larger. A staff structure review must happen and a review of packages of all senior staff appointed for 5 years prior to the last election must take place ASAP 370K to run the show, 4 deputy directors at 250K, 4 others at 200K 4. Motor Vehicle Policy All leaseback arrangements and the type of vehicles leased and who has use of a council vehicle must be reviewed and scrutinised ASAP. Independent advice must be locally sourced to set up a system for leasing of council vehicles. 5. Set up of a strict Anti Hoarding Policy is required to protect residential ratepayers from devaluation of their properties and health and safety and fire risk issues for unfortunate rate payers who have hoarders as neighbours We have contacted QPSC council health and safety and building department numerous times in writing re a severe hoarding problem at the property at ** **** Crescent next door to us where rats and snakes nest in the total mess of old cars,old timber, discarded air conditioning materials, and all manner of paraphanalia litter the front yard of the property. Flammable materials eg paint tins stored on the verandahs of the property(fire risk when we live in a bush fire prone property backing onto bushland)We have had no reply to our recent letters and the problem just escalates!! We live in a high rate paying area here in Karabar overlooking the river and we object to paying higher rates when council does not listen to its ratepayers!! Surely a hoarding policy must be developed by council to address this issue?? This property is not the only one in *** Crescent which resembles a rubbish tip! Council needs to insist on a clean up of **, ** *****,Karabar.These properties are an absolute disgrace. 6. Defer council expenditure on the main street QPSC should seek assistance from NSW and ACT governments for a traffic solution to the main street before spending any funds of taxpayers, Redirect main street expenditure to areas that need urgent attention for the safety of ratepayers :clean up all the overgrown vegetation and bushfire risk posed to properties backing onto the

	Queanbeyan riverfront. lives and properties could be lost in the event of a bushfire.This issue is extremely important to us as ratepayers 7. Review developer contributions fund and make public to ratepayers the amount held.DA approvals must also be speeded up to assist businesses to set up and expedite building of new homes etc. 8. Use local not overseas consultants to assess and report on the council's financial position. 9. QPSC must adhere to rate increases only as set out by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. This is designed to protect ratepayers and must be adhered to. 10. We object to the implied threats of reduced or disbanded services and facilities by QPSC. We believe there has been mismanagement of ratepayer funds with no accountability to ratepayers of this shire. QPSC needs to become accountable to its ratepayers both financially and in improved work ethic by its employees in order to earn the.excessive wages being paid to top level executives who are not achieving the results expected by ratepayers from those claiming such high salaries and perks such as council vehicles, As Shakepeare wrote long ago "Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy!" QPSC has overspent taxpayer funds and a new broom needs to be swept through the entire council infrastructure and bureaucracy to cut costs instead of asking ratepayers to fund this gross excess. It is appalling! Solutions to lack of funds must be sought within the bureaucracy that is QPSC before any rate rises are made. Cuts must be made there first, Put ratepayers FIRST not last!! Attend to the most urgent ratepayer needs first before spending on unnecessary items please! We require written feedback on this letter with a full explanation from QPSC of how council plans to reduce expenditure within the bureaucracy rather than, reducing services and facilities to its ratepayers if they don't agree to QPSC demand that exhorbitant rate rises be approved.
424)	Stop spending our money on stupid buildings that are not viable
425)	As a weekender "blockie", I pay a significant amount for waste as part of the service fee. There is no waste facility where we are, and it as much as I appreciate making a general contribution "for the good of the environment" it seems a poor proposition overall. In the LGA I reside, our waste service includes waste, recycling and green waste yet is less than the QPRC charge which includes none of these. I appreciate this is out of scope for the SRV but it is more relevant in the context of a potential significant rate rise.
42(	Stop increasing rates
42	Maintenance and beautification of Queanbeyan CBD is excessive and has no benefit to regional people. Braidwood's roads are literally falling apart. The development of a regional sports hub has absolutely no alignment for me as an expectation of council to provide much less invest 80 million dollars in. The development of a bespoke top of the line council building provides no benefits to me as a ratepayer. There is no need for a building to cost that much.
42	Council do not provide many of the services listed in the first questions of the survey in my area, and I do not seek to use facilities that are designed for urban dwellers, therefore we have learned to live without them or with a modified version of them (e.g. fortnightly bins, not weekly). The rest of the urban community could be given the same choices (if those were included in this survey and not just a list of inflammatory examples on the consultation website) in order to get cheaper rates.
42	Close Macs reef red transfer station. Refuse the open hours of all transfer stations. Close Captains Flat pool due to running cost Vs patronage. Lease all pools and charge only enough to cover running and maintenance costs.
43(	Stop building large scale and expensive new facilities financed by loans paid back from Rates income. Keep libraries and pools open, and consider leasing the Q.
43	mow the grass more often

432	I would like to see less focus on Queanbeyan upgrade and a more equitable spend on smaller towns and facilities.
433	I would like to have maintain all services
434	Sell, or give, Water and Sewereage services in total to ICON Water . This will save $50-100 m on a new S. treatment plant. Also will avoid S outflows to Molonglo River.
435	There a many services that I don't use, but I think should continue. For example pools, skate parks, etc are good for youth and may help reduce crime/etc. I don't think we need to heavily fund the arts (eg the Q), as there are facilities close by in Canberra.
436	Our only direct Council service is road maintenance, I would like that to start. Several road repair areas have been identified for several years, council has ignored the safety of our roads.
437	New buildings where previous buildings were still fit for their purpose.
438	New buildings in the centre of Queanbeyan are not sensitive to the country town feel. Money would be better spent on the services the residents use. People rather than flash buildings.
439	Council should expand their 'user pays' approach for facilities such as The Q and community halls and pools, rather than expect all ratepayers to subsidise those facilities even if they do not use them.
440	Sell the Q to a private operator.
441	I am not across all the activities that the Council undertakes and the depth of those activities so at this stage I could not comment. i am sure that looking at what the Council does would uncover areas for savings e.g. the amalgamation of functions. In any bureaucracy there is always some level of 'fat'.
442	There are 6 areas I think Council could consider: 1. The Q My recollection is that when the Q was being built, part of the approval process included the condition that it would be self-funding and even return a profit into the future. If indeed, this was part of the approval process, then the decision of whether or not to sell the Q is made easier. If it is covering costs, keep it; if it is not, sell it. 2. The Sporting Hub: Council needs to stop and rethink the high-quality sporting hub. My question is whether a new high quality sporting hub, (including Aquatic facilities) is a priority, when Council has a structural debt concern and when so many of our existing sporting facilities are in high need of maintenance. I have a number of concerns about the proposed sporting hub: • It is difficult to understand the rationale for building further sporting facilities in the Queanbeyan–Palerang Region, when World Class Sporting Facilities at the Australian Institute of Sport exist within 30 kilometers of Queanbeyan and many other sporting facilities exist in the ACT. Queanbeyan–Palerang has a population of around 64,000 people; the ACT has a population of over 400,000. In the current economic environment, it may be more cost effective to maximise the use of existing nearby facilities as opposed to building new ones. • I note the Draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategic Plan APPENDIX 3 – Economic Return Modelling in regard to the proposed sporting hub. This modeling relates to a single event. There is no analysis of o how many events of this type would be available to be held over what period of time and therefore no analysis of what the actual financial benefits to the Queanbeyan-Palerang region would be. o whether the Queanbeyan–Palerang region would be successful in the bid for such a Sports Championship Event - especially when excellent facilities, accommodation and a number of National attractions already exist in the ACT. The Economic Modelling may be theoretically correct, but in practice unlikely to eventuate. In my view, the new sports hub and associated facilities (if we have the financial resources to complete them) could place significant financial demands in the future on both the Council and the ratepayer. 3. Existing sporting facilities: Council needs change its approach to sustaining existing sporting facilities so that they do not come into disrepair. As an example -the outdoor pool at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre is in high need of retiling - yet this is not considered a priority in the draft QPRC Sports Facilities Strategy and this strategy will not be reconsidered for another 5 years.

	By then it may be too late and the historic pool may be in disrepair. It is not the only sporting facility in high need of repair. The question for Council is why are new facilities prioritised over sustaining and improving existing ones? Council has previously developed plans for upgrading the existing QPRC Aquatic Centre to include a 50 metre indoor pool, gym, creche and new change facilities. Council may wish to reconsider these plans as it may be more cost-effective option than building a new sporting hub. 4. IT systems Rates billing has become more complicated after Council amalgamation. Instead of one rates notice, I get three. As evidenced by the misunderstanding about the potential rates increase, which only impacts part of the rates notice, this causes confusion and makes it harder for ratepayers to manage their financial budget. Simplify things and put all rate payments back into a single notice! 5. Environment Council needs to start doing something about the woodfire smoke evident in Queanbeyan on foggy days during winter. I raised this issue two years ago with Council staff and am not aware of any progress. Council must start to pay attention to the harm woodfire smoke causes to our environment and to the people who have to breathe it in and who live in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region. 6. Gateway The Queanbeyan-Palerang region can be viewed as gateway to o the coast for people in Canberra; o Canberra for people living in coastal areas of South East NSW and o to the Snowy Mountains for people living in Sydney Council needs to start maximising these natural strengths and facilitating services that make the most of this gateway role.
443	More focus outside of Queanbeyan. Where I live we have roads literally falling apart and sinking, no kerb and guttering and no storm water management.
444	Reduce services to match your budget. Focus on agreed priority areas
445	There are many things the council does that are nice to have - eg music by the river, but not essential. Would like to see council focus its funding on the essential council services rather than look to increase rates by 100% over three years. No guarantee that rates won't rise more and that is not sustainable for ratepayers either.
446	Stop doing Family Day Care, sell the Q, stop cultural, Main St and heritage grants. Close faulty and unprofitable pools like Captains Flat, review staff numbers in areas like communications and IT (far too many, needs restructuring) implement stricter oversight of road work operations (waste and inefficiencies) increase user charges relaying to pools, ovals, libraries, halls etc.
447	It would appear that Council can no longer afford the Q and other community, arts and cultural events. Opportunities for leasing or selling the Q should be explored.
448	Why did the council decide to build the large multi storey office in Qbn if they were so short of funds?
449	Given private and community providers provide family day car, why is Council involved in providing such services?
450	Local Government Councils should stick to their core purpose of providing ratepayers with garbage/rubbish collection and sewage services; local roads and maintenance (including street sweeping); local sports fields and playgrounds (including mowing & cleaning of toilets); local building controls. All other "feel good" services that have slowly been adopted or incorporated over the past 40 or so years should be handed back to the State and Federal Governments, that includes funding libraries, child minding/family day care centres, heritage funding, environmental issues and planning - as well as all education and health programmes.
451	Levels of regulation and examination of DAs are completely over the top. Staff salaries are over the top. The new Council building is a gross indulgence.
452	The little bins the Council provided was a great idea but the plastic bags break easily which makes a mess of the bin.

453	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL** The new Council building I consider was an unnecessary expense, no wonder the Council are short of money. Could have upgraded or utilised an existing building. The councillors all recently gave themselves a payrise??? These two issues have not gone down well with ratepayers.
454	All roads should be cleaned with a street sweeper periodically, not just the roads around the CBD. Also some sort litter removal program.
455	Stop building sports complexes
456	Perhaps having dedicated work crews, instead of paying exorbitant contractor fees to perform services.
457	Stop wasting money on revisiting programs that have already been agreed to, eg Bungendore High School. Councillors give consideration to taking a pay cut. Take into consideration local knowledge of an area when planning, it is no good raising a bridge to prevent flooding when the road on the other side of the bridge is not raised and still floods, recent example being Tarago Road with Elmslea cut off. Captains Flat road seems to be taking sometime to complete even allowing for rain delays and why was it not started from the Captains Flat end which was most in need of fixing, rather than from the Briars Sharrow end? I would rather see gardens planted with shrubs than pansies, etc which need replacing annually. Kids don't need flashy playgrounds, just some good quality safe equipment to play on.
458	With regard to garbage collection, my non recycle waste is less than 10 litres a week, it seems a waste to have even the small red bin, maybe communal street corner waste bins and communal flat and townhouse bins could reduce the cost of collection by having fewer stops for trucks. With regards to library services, I wonder how relevant this area is, there is so much now available on the internet that traditional libraries face redundancy anyway. Also I understand that one of the first actions of the new council was a large pay increase for councillors, was this part of their election platform and why are we all having to make sacrifices to cover this largesse.
459	No, we need to continue and improve not reduce and go backwards.
460	It sounds like there is a fair bit of dead wood in the development applications and regulation team. They completely ignored my request for help with a non-complying development, so they could be terminated
461	The council should live within its budget which may include changing services. Citizens have to live within their budgets and so should government organizations.
462	See our submission on the SRV
463	Yes: 1. Stop putting in new traffic lights - people have been driving these intersections for many years and know how to use them. 2. Stop putting down poor quality road seal - it's a waste of money. Contractors use huge amounts of loose rocks and leave them to clog gutters, fill stormwater, and make a mess of driveways - see Donald Road. 3. Stop cancelling community events like Christmas celebrations and decorations - they are important for the fabric of the community, and the community relationship with Council.

	4. Stop threatening paid parking - free parking is an attraction of Queanbeyan. Otherwise Council is doing a great job and the current levels of service need to be maintained.
464	**RECEIVED VIA HARD COPY SURVEY** Council should focus on core services like roads, garbage, sewer, parks and stormwater.
465	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Please find my response to “have your say” on the proposed SRV and Long Term Financial Plan. 1. When discussing these three options (all of them lacking merit) you used 2019 land values. I raised this online and was met with the response that 2022 land values were not yet available. I was able to find them within 2 minutes of that response. You should have held off your community consultation until you could have an honest conversation. You have a $ shortfall and have used figures from 2019 to justify increase to rates to meet this $ shortfall. Yet using this calculator it seems to me that you have asked for far more than what you need to address the problem. You should revisit your data modelling accordingly. Some examples below: a. Recently you have published 2022 land values and a calculator (this calculator not fully tested and many have had mixed success rate with the use of it). b. I was able to understand that land values are vastly inflated post 2019. This impacts both my properties in Queanbeyan by up to 110 percent increase for Option 3. Not 97 percent at all. I did not check the other figures but could only imagine they are equally as flawed. I talked with some , they were at 97 percent, I talked with others they were at 50 percent. i. Should this logic flow through to others who live in Inner City Queanbeyan I imagine they will be in the same boat. I imagine it will apply to Jerra/Googong etc. ii. How does this impact your requirement for X dollars to meet Y shortfall ? At this stage it looks like gouging best case and blatant lies worst case. 2. You indicate that these changes are necessary to maintain financial viability. Yet you voted councillors a 22 percent pay increase in the same year. How is this fiscally responsible and demonstrating leadership ? 3. You have not demonstrated a reform program within QPRC to address rising costs, financial challenges and look at ways that you can achieve efficiencies. You are potentially asking people to continue to fill a black hole. You have made vague noises as to previous council causing this problem, COVID , Merger , Flooding etc. Not once have you laid it out in exact terms , what has caused the problem, what is the size $ of the problem and what are some of the approaches to tackling the problem. 4. In summary , perhaps the three options proposed are the only way forward. If so, get your data modelling correct and ensure that the cost of fixing this problem is spread equally. Don’t tell me 97 percent is the option when calculators tell me I’ll be paying 110 percent more for services in 3 years if I accept your statement that it will be 97 percent. I reject all three options.
466	I am fascinated by the precis under the heading how did we get here? By definition where an entity cannot meet its debts or obligations when due or in other words there expenses exceed their income, they are on a fast track to insolvent trading. The directors of companies found trading insolvent trading can face jail time yet politicians and councils can disregard any financial logic and expect the public will bail them out. The only chance this country has is for stupid old politicians and council workers to leave stuff they don't understand the f*** alone and retire their old incompetent asses.

467	I feel that most Councils waste money on a great deal of things...including trips to see what other areas are doing. This is not necessary as research should be done over the web. I appreciate wages should keep pace but some of the incomes of councillors and others are very, very high. Seems to me that more and more money seems to be disappearing on Admn tasks rather than action.
468	I am authorised to write on behalf of my elderly retired parents who live in Karbar, Queanbeyan. Vote: APPOINT ADMINISTRATORS - terminate the Council. Let me be direct and to the point. You are a Council and expected to manage on allocated budget and funding without threatening ratepayers to stop basic services. My vote is to place the council into administration, sack you and start again with a focus on BASIC council administration. Stop all these nice to have projects, stop the engagement of expensive consultants who soak up only to deliver reports to justify your agenda. Live within your CURRENT BUDGET - citizens have to - or they go hungry to pay bills. Citizens and businesses must live within their income streams. We can't go ask for a pay rise or magically generate 97% more money to pay rates! What planet are you living on? All 3 options are unacceptable. In regards to your proposed projects on the Queanbeyan website, I can assist you with decisions here. STOP ALL PROJECTS AXE - Monaro street upgrade. The last attempt changed a 4 lane road with side parking into a 2 lane bottleneck to traffic, sent businesses bankrupt and delivered no outcome Axe - spatial Master Plan review. Axe - reclassification of googong land. Option, the developer payers all costs and drives it within council guidelines. Axe - redevelopment of Queanbeyan Showground redevelopment Axe - Affordable housing work - this is a State and Federal govt issue, they fund the council to deliver or nothing happens. Axe funding to Queanbeyan Multilingual centre Sell the new council chambers building currently under construction in Crawford street – costs have exceeded budget so sell it. Myth 3 - If Council claims that additional land development adds more cost than net revenue, then why the continued expansion of new estates? The solution is easy: Reject all new estate development. Clearly this will save the council money. Otherwise change the rules and ensure developers pay all related costs and more. If developers can't make money, they won't build. Problem solved. Your statement suggests Council is subsidising land developers and wearing the cost and this is unacceptable. Myth 7 - day to day projects maintenance. Council must focus on basic core maintenance, all projects to be cancelled. All expenditure on consultants at all levels ceased immediately, this work is to be performed using Council staff or not done at all.. In closing, it's about time the Council understands citizens are not bottomless pits from which to extract cash to fulfill Councillor dreams. Focus on the basics only. Manage within your current budget (plus CPI) or leave.
469	No change
470	There are a few "nice" things that is funded by about 90% from rates, Maybe these need to be mothballed until we can afford them again. Other services like the pool and the Q that could be self funding by patronage should be restructures to make them closer to 100% self funded.
471	Stop wasting our money on: • Fighting the Department of Education on the High School for Bungendore.

	• Pandering to special interest groups which DO NOT represent the majority of rate payers. • Building insanely expensive buildings in Queanbeyan that are only marginally of advantage to most rate payers. • Whatever it costs to be against progress for Bungendore. • Poor quality road repairs and maintenance which is false economy in the long term. • Poor quality and appliance destroying tap water. • Corruption and non-transparent processes. • Incompetent budget management. • Poor value procurement. • Excessive Councillor salaries. Perhaps this could be dependent on performance? Is Council prepared to reduce their salaries by 97% over 3 years to offset your proposed increases? • Inefficient non-digital processes. • Unnecessary administrative staff. • Grant programs.
472	Given the services received in Carwoola currently, any services other than roads and tip are superficial. All other services could be reduced and it wouldnt be noticed here.
473	Services that can be picked up privately eg The Q
474	make better decisions, do it right in the first place and don't waste money re-doing things, don't react and spend money on unnecessary things (eg plans to change the big Jerra roundabout when there are other more important issues, and it's not coordinated with other changes, like Tomsitt drive/Poplars; and now somewhat wrong/irrelevant because traffic has changed).
475	Is it possible for QPRC to 'hire' some ACT service provision? Eg Public transport,
476	Council doesn't do much at present as it is, I've been walking along the river for the last year and now due to the increase proposal the walkway has been cleaned and maintained, nothing got done by council previously and nothing will get done after the increase
477	Discretionary spending, random grants and vanity projects should cease. The council should be firmly focused on delivering essential services (roads, rubbish, water, sewerage, mowing, parks maintenance and compliance activities). It's not glamorous but it is important work.
478	Make it all a user pays system, for example the Q, charge patrons what is needed to operate it. Swimming pools, increase the usage charge to cover costs.
479	Pay reduction for councillors and reduction in number of councillors and council staff
480	I think Council should focus on core services, source grants to supplement its financial position, divest itself of land, buildings and services that duplicate what can be provided privately, and reduce councillor numbers and staffing levels. Council should certainly stop fighting the delivery of a new high school for Bungendore. Ratepayers should not have to pay for the legal costs of these challenges and what looks very much like a political campaign.
481	Councillors should not be able to request a pay increase until they have proved themselves. Similar to other new employees on probation. Maybe we need a 6 or 12 month probation and KPI's for Councillors.
482	Get rid of Captain Flat Pool costs. Reduce subsidies for Museums, Arts, and the Q - if they don't pay their own way then they are not important enough for the community in general.

	Reduce increasing future costs by paying down current debts and stop new borrowing unless it can be clearly proven by a large margin that it will be beneficial in the long run.
48	Kerbside collections can go.
48	As a rural rate payer there are very few services available therefore we would not suggest any reduction in what is provided
48	The Council should not accept any further grant funding which required matching funding. No new major capital projects should be undertaken. Council should concentrate on core business and cease all discretionary spending. It should 'get back to basics'.
48	Services are at a good level. City presents well, so lawn moving, gardening is on a good schedule. It is important to maintain community events, playgrounds, etc especially for young families. QBN should continue to prioritise upgraded footpaths, etc. New footpath near barracks flat drive area along the queanbeyan river is a good example. This has encouraged a lot more use of a great area in QBN and the path should be extended fully along the river. There does seem to be a lot of unused/underutilised small shops around Queanbeyan. Not sure if it is owned by Government and if there is an opportunity for this to be redeveloped into medium density housing. Parking needs to be improved in some areas to allow access and use of shops. Would be great if public transport was improved and if the ACT Government buses would pick up from Queanbeyan. A cinema would also be great, but this is probably more a private investment issue. Lastly, a lot of money has been spent on playgrounds in QBN, while this is great, however if the financial position is so bad, it may be better to reduce this for a while.
48	Fireworks, community events, the Q, any non essential development including govt grant money where Council has to make a copayment.
48	If we are in such dire straits why is council still throwing money at Monaro Street, that's been ongoing for years and still doesn't look any better. Community events are great, however, Council doesn't have the money so perhaps rethink that. Also, the large eyesore being built behind Council Chambers, maybe rethink that one.
48	Lease the pool.
49	Council should take a long hard look at the vanity projects it has committed to (Monaro St beautification, Regional Sport Facility potential White Elephant, Bungendore Sports Hub) and decide if it can really afford to undertake the work, and maintain and depreciate the asset. Contemplating selling the Q while building a Regional Sports Facility is hypocritical. The number of managers, and the number of leased cars with private usage, all need to be examined. And as the proposed SRV is substantially above what either predecessor council was contemplating, Council needs to consider whether demerger would reduce costs in the long term. It would have to be funded by the NSW Government, just as they funded the forced merger.
49	Development of Queanbeyan and areas closest to it, whilst areas east of Bungendore are left without basic services.
49	As a farmer I don't get any services from Council indeed despite be levied for waste collection by council I have to take my garbage and recycle to the tip AND pay to dispose of it.
49	Stop - grants for heritage painting

494	DO NOT SELL THE Q/THE B
495	None - Council is doing great as it is.
496	Is it necessary to have as many playing fields as you do are they being utilised to their full potential for use or can they be reduced. Sell off the land for development?
497	Do not sell the Q More funding for performing arts
498	Please do NOT sell the Q
499	Keep the Q Performing Arts Centre
500	Sell the Q. No need to re-vamp main street. Hiking rates will only encourage more Queanbeyan businesses to close and move to Fyshwick. Reduce number and pay rates of senior executives on council. De-merge Queanbeyan and Palarang if financially unviable.
501	PLEASE DONT CLOSE THE Q DOWN
502	Reduce sports ground maintenance and encourage sport groups to maintain the facilities.
503	Council should reduce or cease all funding to services under Culture and Performing Arts and Events and instead concentrate on providing core services to the entire community. Council should also NOT take on any new projects until such time as borrowings have been reduced to a manageable level. Council should review all user pays services and do more to reduce waste and recoup savings within council by also reviewing internal spending on discretionary items, vehicle leases and overtime payments. Do not close pools but reduce opening hours for smaller pools such as Captains Flat to school holidays only. Investigate whether there is community interest to support volunteer resources for pools and libraries to help reduce costs. The community may be more open to this if it is temporary or if it means that volunteers were to learn valuable skills. Investigate setting up part-time council shopfronts in Bungendore and Braidwood in existing buildings instead of duplicating services and requiring new buildings in each location.
504	I'm very dubious of services and facilities that are only used by a minority of residents but the cost is borne by us all, unless the minority is a very disadvantaged group. Core revenue should be focused on the basics, like roads, waste management, parks, gardens and streetscape maintenance. Other services and facilities like the Q and the bicentennial centre could be commercialised or privatised. For rural residents like me, the only service we get is access to roads, and at the moment they are in such a poor state it's really galling to be asked to pay increased rates to prop up the services that are used by people in the Queanbeyan CBD. Something that could be changed is developing a focus on providing value and service to the community. I have been trying to get basic repairs done to our road for over a year. I can't even get anyone to call me back, let alone get a pothole filled! Perhaps if QPRC had more of a service mentality - and at this point even a returned phone call would feel like a win, even if the road isn't fixed - it wouldn't seem so infuriating to be asked to pay more in rates. At the moment, I don't have a sense of value for money.

	I notice in one of the documents, population increases are noted as driving cost increases that exceed rates growth. This suggests that suburban developers are not being charged the full cost of their developments. Developer contributions for initiatives that increase costs should also increase.
505	As a family without kids, i rather not contribute to kids or parents only services like playground or fireworks event.
506	Perhaps hold off on the cemetery on Old Cooma Road to save the future of our performing arts centre
507	Do not proceed with building additional pools. Invest in the Queanbeyan Pool facility.
508	No
509	Keep the Q, outsourcing to Eclipse is a waste of money and having one dedicated full time technician with casuals would be more cost effective. Even an alternative company like Sidestage, eclipse is very expensive and not the best. The Q is absolutely the best community theatre in the Canberra region and gives the most enjoyable night out. Queanbeyan does not invest enough in the arts which are often neglected and forgotten, please save the Q
510	Definitely not reduce services
511	Grade out of town roads
512	Council should enhance cultural assets, supports and services - create value - otherwise we will move to Canberra.
513	The Council does a good job. The level of services and maintenance of public spaces, including parks gardens and informal open spaces is great. Lowe Street Park is beautiful and beautifully kept. The tree planting program is wonderful not just for the look of the area but also for the environmental benefits. Cultural and physical activities are an important part of a diverse and engaged community. They are important for mental health and help young people become part of the community. It would be a great shame for the level of services and activities to be reduced as this would impact on the quality of life and community in our local areas.
514	All non essential services should be suspended, until QPRC has regained control of its finances. QPRC needs to get back to basic council operations. I believe to many services are being undertaken, that are outside QPRC theatre of operations, and are solely politically based and not in the best interest of QPRC rate payers.
515	Council is in place to provide the basic infrastructure and services required. Roads, waste management. Stop building expensive playgrounds on every vacant block. There's more than enough playgrounds.
516	Reduce the number of Counsellors to cover the Councils deficits.
517	The Council should get back to basics - consideration should be given to discontinuing any non-essential service if a user pays system does not make that service financially viable.

	The Council should concentrate on the essential services of maintaining roads, water and sewage services as well waste management.
518	The gardens in Bungendore on the roundabouts and near them in Gibraltar St should be planted with local natives that require minimal to no maintenance. Until the plants grow up they will need some weeding until they cover the area and thus shade out the weeds. The novelty street signs for Bungendore in the two main streets was completely unnecessary. The Bungendore library hours are not enough, yes this is adding $ to the equation, however, it could be considered to have maybe library volunteers. Could there be a possibility of community volunteers to be trained in the basics of borrowing and returning books so the library could be open all week days say 10-4 plus the current Saturday. Before the merger we used to have the grass on the major rural roads mowed. Why did this stop? It needs to be resumed it is hard to see and is also a major fire hazard. As a rural resident it would be nice to see some focus on us instead of the city and towns/villages. I still think persisting with the NSW government to take on the major roads as state roads would be benefiting to the budget. The use from ACT residents going to the coast is a massive toll. Can Federal funding be sort for these roads maybe?! I would also like some data on our Bungendore pool usage. I would attend the pool regularly if it was indoors (and would go all year round) as I burn significantly and get heat stroke easily I prefer to swim indoors. Whilst I have been occasionally to Queanbeyan pool it isn't as close as the Bungendore pool. Would be nice to have a small heated therapy pool for those with medical conditions to access all year round. There has been wasted money with the pandering to those with the LEP in the rural areas. There was an agenda and it was disappointing that a significant amount of money was spent on something that had previously been decided and I think council needs to look at some of these vocal groups and the agenda and funds associated with these. That $150k could have been better spent on other things. I am glad it didn't proceed further but the money spent on this was a complete waste as individuals do have the opportunity to apply for a change of zoning I believe. I have significant concerns with the proposed high school and can see council is in between a rock and a hard spot with the NSW government and residents (for and against).
519	I think that QPRC needs to take a good look at what is happening within before attacking rate payer's wallets. To my knowledge the council is "top heavy" & carries a lot of "dead wood". It needs to get back to basics & I believe that the finances would then improve & be more manageable.
520	Not being across all the services that Council provides, it is hard to identify any one or range of services that should be reduced or cut. I would have thought that the operation of saleyards in the Queanbeyan area wouldn't be viable any longer given the changing nature of local farming such that it is no longer viable due to the subdivision of larger holdings. I would think these would be more efficiently handled at Yass and Goulburn.
521	Stop or privatise the Q Delay Monaro street upgrade

	Stop new office development Reduce non profitable social events
522	Spend only on essential goods and services whilst in debt. Be transparent in overspends. New Council building fit-out (IT, equipment, furniture) etc can wait. Arts and craft and entertainment should not take precedence over road maintenance, sewerage, water, rubbish.
523	I don't live in or near Queanbeyan. I live on a bush block outside of Braidwood and I have no inclination or need to go to Queanbeyan. Our road gets graded once a year but other than that I get no services from council. In fact I have to pay at the tip to empty my bins. The solution would be De-amalgamation. Oh...but Council voted against entertaining a discussion about that.
524	As I don't live in Queanbeyan I don't have a strong view on this.
525	Footpaths - kerb and guttering in Bungendore No safe crossing in Malbon Street Complete cleaning of stormwater drain to Lake George Have The Q the self sustaining A portable office on council land in Butmaroo Street would suffice for council office in Bungendore or hire a vacant shop
526	This is just one case of the council staff doing road widening on the Captains Flat Road 2022. They went along cutting down road batters and widening the corners. It was a total waste of rate payments money, because your then paid a contractor to redo all the work the Council done. My guess that Council staff can't read a tape measure. Not only they did it 2 times and the contractor had to redo it as well. Just wasting rate payers money. 2 - Council digging out bog holes on the Braidwood Road with contractor not knowing how to go about draining them they just dig out the muddy section and fill them up again they don't try and draining away the water. They just break out bigger 3 - The Council doing rock armouring of the table drains starting from the Cooma-Captains Flat Road going up Burkes Hill all the way to Captains Flat. They used under sized rock - Burkes Hill 2ims section washed away before they finished. They kept going all the way to Captains Flat - it all washed away in a few months. My guess it was $1million dollars wasted. The Council need proper supervision of its jobs and they won't cost so much?
527	Will Queanbeyan council upgrade and maintain the roads to Captains Flat? Instead of giving us a scrap recycle bin that does not work appropriately spend the money on more important things : ie: the roads and not just put a band aid solution to the pothole.
528	The sale yards and truck wash facilities haven't been used for 20 years in Queanbeyan. Bungendore haven't been in use for many years and Braidwood one a year. All sales are held in Yass and Goulburn now! Stop wasting time on shoddy workmanship on our roads. More training and supervision is needed to keep our roads in good repair.
529	In relation to the proposed Special Rate Variation and Long Term Financial Plan and associated request for feedback, we suggested Council rethinks the Sporting Hub outlined in the Draft Sports Facilities Strategic Plan, particularly in relation to a new Aquatic Centre. As an independent voice in the community, we (the Queanbeyan-Palerang Action Group supporting health and wellbeing in the local community) are working on a Masterplan for the existing Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre. In the context of income received by Council being less than the expenses incurred by Council we think this work could provide different options for Council to consider. Such potential opportunities seems to align more readily with the vision of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Community Strategic Plan 2042:

	The Queanbeyan-Palerang region is a safe and relaxed place to live, offering a wonderful lifestyle for all members of our community, where we can enjoy excellent services and facilities while experiencing the benefits of a healthy natural environment. “ The Queanbeyan-Palerang Action Group supporting health and wellbeing in the local community.
530	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have completed your survey, but I have a couple of other points I should have included: Mowing, in our rural community we mow the set-back at our cost, to protect our property and the neighbours. You have never done this for us; It is a bit disingenuous to reference rates in the ACT. The ACT is a city focused form of government, that provides a more complex set of services to its population. You have a vast rural population with a fixed set of needs…roads and bridges; Swimming pools, I understand the pool in Bungendore will be removed at the end of this season to begin the building of the high school. As a personal observation, as a retired professional educator, a new school is needed, but should be located in a place with enough space to expand and support the full range of student needs. I feel the survey questions are slanted to people living in Queanbeyan and major urban areas, which will skew the results at the expense of your rural population. None of the scenarios will change the service we receive, so Scenario 1 would have the least financial impact to me. As a suggestion, work with our State and Federal members to get some of the petrol tax monies we pay for roads. Thank you for providing clear transparency of the issue and the options to go forward. The amalgamation should never have occurred.
531	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** One would hope that a balance can be reached between huge rates rises and cuts to services that hit ratepayers and other QPRC residents hard. I would like to put in a plug for heritage funding to be preserved. We are now in an era of demolish and develop. We have been in that mind set in previous times eg 1960s and have later had cause to regret it when heritage buildings have gone and we have realised the importance of our heritage to us and future generations. My understanding is that heritage funding is a comparatively small item in the QPRC budget and therefore won’t affect the bottom line to any extent. Some buildings eg churches, Masonic lodges though once central to society do not have the support from members that they once had and need outside help for their maintenance. Further, without council regulating development of heritage houses and other buildings much heritage would be destroyed or vandalised.
532	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I hope this email finds you well. I write to you concerning the Special Rate Variation and Long Term Financial Plan which you recently published. I am sorry to hear of the financial strains you are experiencing and admire the actions you are taking to rectify this

	situation. However, I strongly oppose the suggested sale of The Q theatre, as outlined in Scenario 1 of the plan. The Q has for fifteen years been an important and much valued cultural fixture, not only for Queanbeyan residents but also for those in surrounding areas. The Q houses dozens of theatrical, corporate and cultural events each year. These include both those which come from interstate and significantly, those which are run by local organisations such as the Queanbeyan Players, the disbandment of whom could potentially result from The Q's closure. This is not to mention the hundreds of professional artists and theatre staff who would lose employment (I should disclose that I am myself currently employed at The Q but I assure you that this does not impact my opinion and I would have voiced my support for the venue regardless). The arts are as important a part of Queanbeyan-Palerang's culture as sport, festivals, etc. They provide much needed opportunities for our community to come together and be entertained, challenged and inspired; such vehicles for reflection and unity are even more vital as we emerge from the pandemic. The Q is perhaps the premier local arts venue of its kind and in bringing together residents of Queanbeyan, Palerang, Canberra and other towns around NSW, it strengthens the social fabric of this community as well as, if not more so than, any other area of local culture. The QPRC Mission Statement says that council values "cultural diversity" and "creative opportunities." To rob the Queanbeyan-Palerang community of its main performing arts venue in these times would go against both of these values, to the ultimate detriment of the region. The Q is a venue that means a great deal to myself and many others in Queanbeyan and beyond. I humbly ask that you alter the plans outlined in Scenario 1 to prevent its selling off, for the sake of the community and its residents. Thank you for your time and consideration,
533	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Please do NOT sell the Q - the Q is the only theatre in the ACT/Queanbeyan area which can support/house local community and is used multiple times a year by several local companies. The production of performances at the Q brings money to many local Queanbeyan business from hiring spaces for rehearsals and audiences and performers attending local establishments for meals before performances. Queanbeyan Players is a not for profit community organisation that has been part of the Queanbeyan community for over 50 years, we rely on the use of the Q. Selling and privatising the Q would literally mean the end of Queanbeyan Players. Community involvement and events are vital, please please please don’t sell the Q.
534	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to express my support for keeping the Q and a public, cultural institution integral to the community. I attend the Q regularly and would not like to see the values change. Supporting our local artists and creative is more important now than ever.
535	I believe that there are ways that Council can save money, by reducing or stopping non necessary services all together. Sell or lease out the Q. Introducing charges for shared publicly funded sports fields. Sell community centres. Close rural pools like Bungendore, Braidwood and Captains Flat on days where the weather is bad and there are no patrons to save money on paying for staff. Limit hours of pools. Introduce paid parking around areas of the CBD. Charge more money for small services such as photocopies and borrowing books in the Library. As an employee, limit options for new work supplies such as work chairs (for the new building we were offered a new chair however not everyone needed a new one). Charging certain ratepayers different amounts depending on

	what services they use in the area to cover the costs rather than every ratepayer paying for services regardless if they use them or not e.g. use of pools and sports fields, the Q, the Museum, events etc. I know that I would be more than happy to pay for the services I use so that others that don't use them don't have to pay. Only spend money on projects that benefit majority of ratepayers like roads, waste collection, maintenance of common areas and major issues like fallen trees, burst water mains and leaks.
536	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Can I ask when it comes to council members salary is that salary part of why the rates are also going up? If so why did the council agree to give themselves a massive pay increase knowing the state of the council finances?
537	See my answers to earlier questions on what is not important for council to do.
538	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I appreciate that the current council has been left with a can of worms to sort out by the previous council, nonetheless we are where we are. The council represents the community and needs to serve the interests of the community or what is the point of its existence. You have the power to change course and to fix this problem. I would encourage you to think outside the square and have the courage to kill off projects that do not deliver real value to the community and to pare back services where necessary, to remain within a reasonable budget and avoid the need for these large SRV increases which will have a negative impact on many people. While it has been stated by council that the special rates increases are necessary to maintain services, there are a number of very big ticket items in the proposed capital expenditure budget and it begs the question: is it the provision of these that will actually put the squeeze on services? Perhaps what should be discussed by the council for the benefit of their community is (a) the actual need for some of the bigger items and (b) what rule changes would be needed for the council to spend our $200M that we have in cash that is currently restricted and can only be used for certain purposes (from your document 'SRV - Some Rate Myths'). If it is 'our' money, then can we not change 'our' rules. Is it not possible that some of the larger capital expenditures could indeed be funded from the $200M - and notwithstanding the answer to that question: how essential, or indeed community supported, are these large projects?
539	Stop cultural activities they cost too much money. Stop the beautification of Queanbeyan streets and CBD. Your rates are supposed to be fair for all ratepayers but farmers are asset rich and cash poor and you want to hit us with exorbitant rate increases. Live within your means. If that means you cant have a beautiful CBD in QUEANBEYAN SO BE IT. LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS Stop spending money you dont have.
540	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Whilst QPRC ratepayers have been advised that the QPRC has been in financial difficulties for some time, and we will have to pay for yet more rates and probably also have less council amenities available to ratepayers in the future, the QPRC, under its 2022 Salary System, is currently (as of 28/1/2023) advertising for at least 10 new council positions, on the QPRC website. The QPRC therefore gives the impression that it can continue to spend ratepayer monies unchecked, and ratepayers will just have to continue to subsidise its continual and ever-increasing council expenditures, without any seemingly restraints.

	The QPRC also contributes to a Sydney type smaller council complex that supposedly helps advertise the QPRC, but has to be staffed and payments made for office payments etc. Ratepayers are therefore expected to continually pay for all current and future QPRC excesses, but the QPRC has seemingly become a law unto itself, and is accountable to no one, so it does not have to try to decrease its alarmingly large council staff payments, or other large expenditures. I would like to see a de-amalgamation of this excessively expensive council, as it has continued to try to rapidly increase ratepayer payments, yet provide us with fewer and limited council amenities. What a sad scenario of a seemingly lack of QPRC concern for its ratepayers, over several years.
541	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am quite angry about this proposal. As a long-term resident, I have seen many ambitious initiatives by Council that have appeared to me to be purely cosmetic and a waste of money. Some of them are actually counter to our wellbeing; the narrowing of Crawford Street and the blocking of turns has made driving around our city slower and more complex. The supposedly Parisians-style wider footpaths are not used, and we drive past them gnashing our teeth. This sort of pet vanity project that delivers only problems is what we're paying for now with these rises. I have also heard many stories of wastage on perks – like cars. I would like to be assured that the taking home of cars will stop, if it hasn't already, and that any new building projects will be put on hold. That said, I believe that the amalgamation of Councils created huge logistic and financial problems. It's not just about waste and vanity projects; it's about recognising that Councils are now more limited in their options and operations. They cover huge areas and can no longer focus on a single community. Challenging. I suppose we're meant to go for the middle option. None of them is satisfactory, as you know. I don't personally use many Council services except the basic ones like rubbish and trees. I don't swim, don't go to fireworks and don't play sport. I guess asking people to pay a bit more for the extras they do use makes sense under the circumstances. I can live with the middle option but respectfully ask that you consider expenditure more carefully in future. Every project that lights up your eyes winds up costing us money. Keep it focused and stick to essentials. Thanks for the opportunity.
542	Family Day Care stopped Operating the Q. Lease it out. Community development ceased Cultural, heritage main st grants abandoned.
543	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am writing to make a comment on the long term financial plan for the QPRC. I believe that a significant number of comments have been put to council that recommend the sale of The Q as a solution for the current financial situation that council faces. I wish to express my very strong opposition to any such plan and to put forward my view that any such sale would lead inevitably to the detriment of the community. The Q is a fantastic venue and amazing performance space that services not only the QPRC region but also the whole of Canberra. The facility gives both professional and community performers and organisations an extremely high standard of space to use at a rate that allows them to maintain operational profits while keeping ticket prices low, thus ensuring accessibility to a wide range of

	audiences. This provides the whole Queanbeyan/Canberra region with an arts and community events program that is unrivaled in other regional areas. This community facility should never be sold and should at all times continue to be held by the people of the QPRC region.
54	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** To whom it may concern, I strongly object to scenario 1 where “The Q” to be sold off. How shortsighted is that!!!
54	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As a long time member of the Queanbeyan Players I was devastated to hear that the Council is considering selling the Q. When I first joined Queanbeyan Players in 1979, I was astonished to find that a city of Queanbeyan’s size did not have a theatre. I had lived in Wagga and attended performances in their theatre, I had actually performed in productions in the theatres in Orange and Albury, so joined in the campaign to get Queanbeyan its own theatre with enthusiasm. Lead by our founder, the late Norma Roach OAM, we fought long and hard for that theatre and have called it our home since it opened in 1988. Now, it seems, all that hard work and dedication was for nothing. The Arts has taken a serious battering in the last few years. Companies, both professional and amateur have gone under, to the considerable loss of not only those concerned in their running, but the public as well. The loss of the Q would mean that Queanbeyan Players would once again be without a suitable venue to perform our shows. After nearly fifty years of providing an opportunity for keen amateurs to enjoy a great recreational activity and audiences with quality productions, we, like so many other organisations might be forced to close up shop. This would be a serious loss for Queanbeyan. Yes, times are hard, but I would urge the Queanbeyan Council to reconsider the idea of selling off the Q. Once gone, it will be very hard to retrieve.
54	Overspending on Arts, Culture and Grants should be stopped. All unnecessary spending should be stopped until Council has the funding and only carryout essential maintenance. Utilising both the Bungendore and Braidwood existing depots and staff. Road maintenance both sealed and unsealed needs to be re-evaluated and increased due to the incredibly poor state of the roads. Whilst Council says that they have the funding for road repairs, the roads aren't being repaired, indicating that the Council is holding back funding whilst crying poor.
54	Support the idea of reducing the number of councillors (and increasing their quality)
54	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** **FREE-RAIN THEATRE COMPANY RESPONSE TO SRV & LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN** On Saturday 29th January, 2023, I was alerted to a survey which has been instigated by QPRC with three potential scenarios to support financial sustainability of the Council. While deeming it inappropriate to participate in the survey, I determined to share the relevant Free-Rain Theatre Company data to support The Q. The information is based on Free-Rain Theatre Company’s financial data and audience patronage at The Q from 2008 to 2022

	inclusive. Free-Rain Theatre Company has been based at The Q for its music theatre productions since 2009. The company has been instrumental in: . Building an ever-growing audience base at The Q. From 2008 to 2022, Free-Rain has brought 48,686 patrons to The Q. . Injecting $2,678,494.00 directly into The Q through Box Office sales between 2008 to 2022. . In the years 2020 to 2022, Free-Rain's Box Office sales at The Q were $1,470,108.00. The Q is the cultural centre at the heart of Queanbeyan. The patrons and company have also supported the local business economy. Especially – Eclipse Lighting and Sound; hospitality e.g The Royal and Walsh's Hotel plus numerous restaurants and cafes; service centres; major hardware centres including Bunnings; materials and soft goods – Spotlight. It is important to recognize The Q, as a vital institution for the performing arts. For Free-Rain, it is a vital link between Canberra/Queanbeyan and regional NSW.
549	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** **QUEANBEYAN LANDCARE SUBMISSION** On behalf of members of Queanbeyan Landcare Inc, I submit the following comments in response to the survey Council is currently undertaking for the Special Rates Variation (SRV) proposals. It is with great concern that members and the community note the situation with regard to Council finances, particularly as funding for Natural landscapes Services is already woefully inadequate for an area twice the area of the ACT. It is regretted that the review process is accelerated and in the holiday period (we understand necessarily), as this should be subject to a Public Hearing so that the options can be adequately presented to the public. On the other hand, there is an opportunity here to set a new direction for Council operations and the sustainability of our communities. A much longer range of planning is required, to contend with the challenges of looming climate change, biodiversity loss and quality of life for residents. The proposals point out the 1.9% population growth rate for Queanbeyan, as though that was an immutable given. However, this rate extrapolated for 50 or 100 years would mean a million plus people in Queanbeyan, which if even nearly eventuated would place impossible pressures on our environment and quality of life. Members will be submitting their comments on the SRV individually via the survey on preferred scenarios, and any other possible scenario. Queanbeyan Landcare itself is concentrating its comments on the financing of environmental management, which has suffered greatly to the point where many activities have halted, when climate change is increasing the pressures on natural resources, through steadily increasing fire risk, more erratic rainfall and the accelerated spread of a whole range of invasive species. Queanbeyan Landcare has put submissions to Council previously, in particular, March 2018 and 18 September 2020 on the issue of funding natural resource management and addressing out of control invasive weeds. Landcare also participated in the Council Workshop held on 9 December 2020, reviewing the operations and funding of the Natural Landscapes Services particularly the Weed Team. In summary, the community concerns are: • QPRC has an unusually large range of ecosystems (woodlands, grasslands, forest, wetlands, heathlands, riparian zones and riverine zones) set in regionally significant corridors as well as huge rural residential estates and farmland. There is a lot to lose in terms of degradation and fire risk. • serious invasive plants such as African lovegrass (Eragrostis curvula) have invaded much of temperate parts of the world and has as we have seen, taken over much of the ACT. African lovegrass is very flammable as we saw with the dangerous Piallago fires.

	• with a warming climate and more erratic rainfall, such weeds as African lovegrass have the advantage to spread and dominate, leading to greater challenge to all land managers. • Council's Natural Landscapes Section (NLS) is poised to help prepare management plans for at least 150 land units, to protect environmental assets, including threatened species and systems, and managing roadside vegetation, on top of implementing the formal management plans for iconic assets such as Mt Jerrabomberra and the Queanbeyan River Corridor. Council is also yet to prepare and manage its Biosecurity Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy. • reliance on contracting and securing one-off grants for Biodiversity and Conservation projects, staff and spray contractors is administratively onerous. What is needed is a permanent, well trained, dedicated Natural Areas management team. • Much of the community's concerns partly arise from repeated cases of lack of follow up work to many projects in Queanbeyan, eg re-invasion by weeds of the Queanbeyan River Corridor (blackberry, ivy, honeysuckle, ash, privets). The 2019 National Tree Day planting was almost destroyed by weeds with no follow up maintenance). • There is also an urgent need to bolster community education and liaison to tap into the huge level of goodwill of the community and Landcare, resources that can become a strong ally. Already groups exist, such as a growing Qbn Landcare, which plays a critical role in managing Bicentennial Park, Mt Jerrabomberra , Buttles Creek, Bicentennial Park, the Queanbeyan River and elsewhere. However, Landcare needs ongoing support and strategic planning and coordination from Council. • Our small Landcare movement needs more strategic direction to grow and concentrate on priority areas, and this probably can only come from Council staff who are the eyes and ears across the Council area – ultimately to emulate our neighbors, the world class, flourishing Parkcare network in the ACT. • There is also a need to direct more resources to catchment management and Environmental health, part of the NLS mandate, including water quality monitoring across the shire. • Resources are needed to implement Council's newly adopted Urban Forest Cooling Strategy and all its actions, and the Council and Community Climate Change Strategy. Even under the current QPC financial situation, it is not at all clear where resources can come from for most of these processes. Source of Funding for the Environment: Landcare in its September 2020 submission to Council plus the 9 December 2020 Workshop proposed a possible source for funding for Natural landscapes Services, by seeking from the ACT Government a fair percentage of the revenue paid by Queanbeyan residents to the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC), now 65 cents per kilolitre per year, amounting to about $3million pa. This is an environment levy introduced in 1999 for valuing the water resource, but paid to ACT Consolidate Revenue (not to ICON Water), and the ACT Government provides some funding for managing the principal town water catchments. However, QPRC manages the greater catchment of the Molonglo/Queanbeyan Rivers on behalf of the ACT /Commonwealth, where the National Capital has 'paramount rights' to these waters. • It is disappointing that the previous or current Council haven't made a formal approach to the ACT, when there were discussions and approaches involving ACT Water and Environment Ministers and the ACT Region Catchment Management Coordinating Committee. • It is recommended as part of the current adjustments to the sustainable financing of Council, that Council now make a formal approach to the ACT Government for a share of the WAC revenue attributable to Queanbeyan residents, to be directed to managing the natural landscapes and other values of the Queanbeyan, Molonglo and Jerrabomberra catchment systems within NSW and that Council undertake to match this amount $ for $, using the proposed $1.3 million additional funding for new environment programs in

	Scenario 3. Finances of Council: The Rates Scenarios proposals include reference to possible reduction of services and possible sale of assets to alleviate and avoid huge rate increases. • Queanbeyan Landcare suggests that the Bicentennial Hall be sold to private interests, for renovation for a movie centre or similar recreational facilities to complement the grand plan for the new Council Community and Cultural Precinct. The acoustics are not fit for purpose. The highly valued Q theatre should not be sold as it will be the heart of the new Cultural Precinct • It is understood that ICON Water and the previous Council in 2018 considered the possibility of setting up a regional Sewerage Treatment Plant. The proposal was rejected then. However, given that Council now requires dramatic and permanent solutions to achieve sustainable financing, this proposal now needs to be seriously re-considered, given that the new plant (cost of $160million at this stage) did not proceed as planned (ie, was to open in 2024). There was an earlier offer about 22 years ago by ACTEW Water to purchase the Sewerage infrastructure, which the then Council rejected. The ACT does not want any Sewerage Treatment plant at the location on the Molonglo River because of the long history of effluent discharges. Climate Change increases the risk of this re-occurring. ICON Water have the capacity to manage sewerage for Queanbeyan and this would release a very large fund for other purposes, and possibly provide for cheaper sewerage rates. Council could offer the asset to the ACT and negotiate to retain the maximum staff within the ICON Water system.
55(	The pool should be able to self sustain itself, pet adoption fees should increase to assist with funding the facility as wells as stronger legislation around pet ownership and compliance.
55	Stop supporting the Killing of our National Heritage Brumbies in our National Parks. The sewage upgrade was done in recent years yet we are going to be paying again for it and an increase in our water rates.. Out the current Mayor Winchester, **********. council to stop wasteful spending and carving up our beautiful greenfields Make the Q accessible to Big name movies and open the doors, a theatre has been ignored for more than 25 years. stop new major capital projects And for gods sake, buy some Christmas Decorations for the township. Please do not play Scrooge on a few lights and glitter when our town loves Christmas.
55	Reduce the amount of sports amenities (ovals and swimming pools) as there are more than necessary.
55	Fireworks for every event is ridiculous, 15 mins of fireworks costs thousands of dollars and does not benefit anyone. Money being spent on new council chambers The Q is a waste of money and absorbing unnecessary funding.
55	Council should reassess services that can be provided by private providers that are better equipped to manage these risks. ie Sale Yards, Caravan Park, Child Care, Swimming Pools, Performing Arts.

55	I believe that there are some things that should not have been done such as the new council building to the size it is and the type of energy use it has been built with - gas. This was a cost that was not needed. Although probably too late I hope that the new build will not cost more in running costs as to what the old one did and and in maintenance . The Queanbeyan pool should have some maintenance done asap such as the showers, even to change the shower heads to water saving ones . I already provided info on this and they are still the same. :(I would like to see The Q or Bicentennial Hall have new release movies . It does not look like we will get a cinema any time soon so the Q or Bicentennial hall could apply for a licence to hold movies, or short film festivals etc on a regular basis. They are wonderful venues and it would be great to see them utilised more. NO paid parking. The infrastructure to put this in place would be very expensive and probably not worth the pain. Probably better to spend a bit on enforcing the shopping trolley laws so we don't have so many littering the streets and water ways. Remove the rural recycling stations . These are a nightmare and always contaminated which is costly (even if it is from the waste budget) Council now has two fairly new transfer stations in Bungendore and Braidwood . Residents that use the recycling stations would have to come to in order to dispose of general waste so they can bring recycling with them as well.
55	None please
55	Council should not be involved in services and activities that fall outside the paremeters of roads, rates and rubbish even if they received grants, as grants usually involve $ for $ funding
55	Council should do more to encourage small business to flourish and offer more wholistic support for people with a passion and drive to make this a better place to visit and live. I think if Council are going to cut grant funding to the arts that they should be supporting all groups and communities with free and regular promotions of up-coming activities and events on all their newsletters with a dedicated arts and culture whats on section of their mail-out to the community.
55	No services should be stopped. they are the minimum we should expect and a lot less than exist in many city base council areas
56	Employ competent Road maintenance teams to make roads properly & fix potholes the first time, not have all potholes repaired multiple times and ineffectively (shovel fulls of cold tar rolled with a tyre). Surely this is a waste of money.
56	PROVIDE FREE TIP ACCESS FOR RATE PAYERS WHO DO NOT HAVE GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES FROM COUNCIL.
56	Do not sell the q or Bicentennial Hall. This is the only form of entertainment this city brings to residents in the region and also the Canberra community. It also allows the restaurants, clubs etc. To stay afloat due to people going to dinner etc. Before a show.
56	Spend less on sporting facilities and more on the arts like The Q
56	Councillor pay increases should not be so large. Stop posting the water bill and the rates separately to save postage. Stop putting in traffic lights. Stop allowing all the trees to be pulled out at jumping creek development.
56	As a previous employee, the Q was not effieciently run from a staffing perspective. I don't know if this has changed at all in the time since I left but there was definitely effieciences that could have been acheived in that space.
56	I think we have enough sporting facilities for the moment and could promote our beautiful green spaces more.
56	Roads need to be adjusted ASAP. you mention that there is work happening on the roads, however as a road user of the surrounding areas this is not in fact true - bandaids are not solutions.
56	Council should take austerity measures. Co-locate library services with council services.

	Reduce grants. Increase enforcement. Decrease councilers. Try to minimize the impact on the bottom 20% of the community. Increase fees on developers. Reduce impact on economic growth. Captain's Flat pool may have to go. Don't bring in paid parking as this is just a rate rise in another form especially for commercial properties. Has reharmonizing been looked at
569	The clearing of land and vegetation along the edge of rural roads needs to be changed to a higher quantity, since most of those roads would be cut if a bushfire were to jump across them due to overhanging trees or excessively long grass. Due to that, how many homes and lives could be lost?
570	We receive minimal services except for maintaining roads in Wamboin
571	More information should be provided to the community on the usage/demand for all Council services, to inform decisions about future service levels.
572	Council must reprioritise all services no reduce services that are not within councils remit. For example, public me affordable housing is a state matter, not council.
573	Stick to core business and execute it as efficiently as possible. Get rid of non-core issues. Use the resources more wisely. Do not expend any resources whatsoever on the activist issues eg climate, gender, aboriginalism, The Voice, etc. For example, the recent CBD Wayfinding study was obviously focused on aboriginalism rather than giving clear and simple directions. The consultancy was definitely not needed and the expensive signs that will be vandalised are also a waste of money. It appears that the same 'focus' is now proposed for the showground and similarly for street naming. I suspect that the new council HQ was a bit over-the-top but it is too late now. I have seen a perpetual stream of council strategies for improvements in the last decade but I don't see the 'rubber hitting the road' at the same pace. The planning needs to slow down so the doing can catch up. The planning and consultation must expend a lot of resources that can be better utilised elsewhere. Also, Councilor pay rises were a joke for any first termers - why not base rate for first termers then mid-rate for 2nd termers then top rate for 3rd termers. Does council have a list of services that are being under-utilised ? Maybe they should be trimmed or axed. Also, why am I not hearing of any proposed solutions to the Yass Rd Bungendore Rd traffic nightmare. Although I don't often use

	this road at peak times I do hear never ending complaints. It is a vital intersection for a huge amount of people. However, I keep hearing about Dunns Creek Rd which is very expensive (including council staff & resources) and will benefit relatively few people. Why does this road appear to be a super priority when we had to wait nearly 50 years for the EDE ? Do you realise that we are in a marginal seat and have leverage for better financial outcomes at both the state and federal level ? There is a NSW election in 2 months and I am yet to see a priority list from council to give to the 2 big parties.
574	They need a new organisational struture that is leaner and efficent to be able to support the future growth of the area.
575	Significantly reduce your services, happy to travel to Canberra and get better quality than what QPRC offers through maintaining its current services.
576	All services are valuable
577	Council is not doing enough to address climate change. How is water security being addressed in Braidwood since the last drought? Water and food security are the first item that should be addressed. You make no mention of grants received to deal with major road works or the Sport Hub funding in Bungendore. Why does council continue to support development like North Elmslea with little regard to adequate sediment control, new building environmental improvements, biodiversity offsets and rain garden water harvesting? You know that Bungendore is a urban heat island but the amount of trees planted is not sufficient or planning controls adequate. The consultation process for major developments like this is not good enough.
578	Only plant native plants that do not require the cost of water to keep them alive.
579	Speed restrictions on local streets. Especially where two side parking.
580	The new scrap waste bins were a waste of money, and we didn't need them. they are ineffective and not as good as the ones provided 8 years ago. And to only have council approved green waste bags allowed in the green bin is doing more damage than good. all that food scrap is going to landfill when it could be going to where it is mean to go, just cause a different bag isn't council approved, yet breaks down as per the purpose of use.
581	Sell the Q. Rates are paid for, at a minimum, upkeep and development of services ie sewage plants, maintenance of roads footpaths etc. I do not go out and earn money so somebody can go and watch a play at a reduced rate. The Q should be sold and all money raised be used to pay off debt.
582	stick to core business - Rubbish, Roads,
583	More funding into climate change adaptation and emergency preparation (including our volunteer fire brigades)
584	Don't sell the Performing Arts Centre
585	1. Inspecting septic systems is a total waste of time and money. The last 2 times our septic was inspected the QPRC Inspector advised me that he DOES NOT even look at the reports which our septic maintenance company sends to him EVERY quarter. WHY NOT? Also ,when he comes out to inspect our septic, he also advised that he is only looking at one septioc on the road at a time. It would make a lot more sense to inspect the entire road's septic in one trip - not make a dozen or so more trips at diffent times.

	2. Weeds inspectors - again they do not do anything to enforce weed control - so why waste time and money on inspecting peoples properties. I am 100% for weed inspectors if they can enforce weed control - but as advised by the last weed inspector he advised he has no power to do anything to those who are not complying. 3. Move to a 100% user pays model for : *Library and library activities - reduce funding for library services, seniors movie mornings, book clubs, scrapbooking, etc. *Pools - price increases to cover all operational costs or closure of some pools. *Graffiti removal - business or individuals pay for removal. *Events facilitated by council - cancel or charge entry for Christmas carols in the park, Music by the River, Bungendore Multicultural Festival, Queanbeyan Multicultural Festival, Christmas in July Markets. *Youth services - reduce funding for youth services and remove or charge for the school holiday programs. *Parks and facilities - stop work on the Braidwood skate park *Sports - stop work on the Bungendore sports hub - move access to sports grounds to user pays to cover maintenance costs. *Council grants for art, education and the environment - cancel or reduce.
58	Stop the subsides in relation to painting of heritage businesses, landlords should pay their own way
58	1. A complete review of all Council employment arrangements needs to be undertaken, to assess what roles are essential post-merger and what roles are redundant or excess to needs. For example, in 2021, I attended QPRC office in Qbn to pay an animal registration fee, and none of the three staff in the office were able to accept payment and process the form, because only the rangers were permitted to do that. 2. Road repair needs to be prioritised and a public information campaign conducted to make clear what the priorities and repair timelines are. The expectation that all potholes will be repaired all the time is financially unsustainable. 3. Planting of new gardens, especially annual flowers, should be suspended; planting of trees should be continued to the extent funds allow to ensure environmental cooling (costs might be reduced by planting smaller tree stock).
58	Comparing QPRC annual property rates to ACT general rates (houses) for Tuggeranong and Gungahlin is not right. In 2012 the ACT government began phasing out stamp duty as part of its 20-year plan to reform the ACT's property tax system. To compensate for the loss of revenue, the ACT government introduced higher rates and land taxes for residential and commercial property owners. What savings have been made by the merged QPRC? Council needs to make additional savings to offset the need for substantial rate increases. Council needs to look at ways to save money, reduce its costs and raise additional revenue. For example, reducing the number of vacant blocks would reduce maintenance (mowing) costs and also earn revenue from rates. The vacant block of land at the corner of *********, Karabar, could be sold off. It's very close to a public reserve at the top of ********, Karabar, and why waste money planting some trees on the block when it's not used by anyone? Council needs to get better value for the money it spends. For example, how could the small road roundabout (with a street light) at the corner of Southbar and Donald Roads, Karabar, which was officially opened on 4 August 2014, cost a whopping $823,000! (The Chronicle newspaper, 12 August 2014, p. 10 refers).

	What opportunities are there for Council to make with respect to administrative savings?
589	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I've provided comments on Scenarios 1 & 2 in detail below. I don't believe Scenario 3 is a realistic option, both in terms of affordability (particularly as it raises further costs), but also because I believe that there are many opportunities for more streamlined, efficient service provision, and I personally would object to propping up a an unsustainable and inefficient business as usual scenario involving significant increased spending. Comments on proposals under Scenarios 1& 2 are dealt with in detail below. · Privatising or selling the Q (Scenario 1 – S1) or significantly increasing user fees (S2) Privatising or selling the Q makes sense if indeed there is a market for this kind of venue so close to many such venues in the ACT. I suspect this is a hard ask, in which case there would be no option but to increase fees, which would price many community users out of the market, particularly if community funding for cultural activities is axed or significantly reduced, in which case, ratepayers are left with a very specialised white elephant of a facility. · Stopping (S1) or reducing (S2) community funding by 50% (arts, community development, youth, seniors, heritage grants and First Nations activities) This is a puzzling suggestion given the previous emphasis on clawing back funds from arts and other community users to keep the Q afloat. Surely the pandemic taught us that these are the things that make our communities distinctive and cohesive. We're lucky to have a strong First Nations community in QPRC, who give and give, and QPRC is happy to be recognised for its pretty minimal support. Similarly with heritage – we have the ONLY heritage listed town in NSW and council largely ignores (or even vandalises) the tourism edge this gives our community, as well as our heritage and civic pride. The Community Strategic Plan clearly places great importance on culture and heritage of all QPRC citizens. Queanbeyan prides itself on being a multicultural city with many parts/ arts/ hearts – let's keep it that way! · Stop funding community halls and meeting spaces (S1) Presuming this rate rise and associated financial planning has been some time in the preparation, why support and fund NEW facilities such as the Mongarlowe Community Hall, which has recently been approved? The value of these places as safe refuges during the recent fires was incalculable. If support is withdrawn from groups as suggested above and there's nowhere affordable for people to meet, the inevitable consequence is that groups supporting youth, seniors, cultural groups and artists will dwindle. When a similar user pays system applied to buildings excess to Council requirements in the Tallaganda/ Palerang merger, our 25 year old community choir couldn't afford the weekly hire charge, and were faced with demise, until a community member with a large and no-longer-used studio space stepped in. A sensible user-pays system is quite acceptable, but this involved a deposit of over $200 every week plus a non-refundable weekly charge per person, and no concessions. Bearing in mind that people affected are often unwaged or not well off, user-pays pricing needs to be affordable.

	· Closing aquatic centres, some sportsgrounds and playgrounds, and cancelling planned developments (S1); only keeping one pool and stopping any planned developments for sports and aquatics (S2). Where to start with this one? QPRC spent considerable time and money on consultants who heat mapped centres in the LGA and made recommendations about keeping these centres liveable in the face of predicted climate change. Pools are not only a cool refuge in times of heat, they save lives due to their learn-to-swim function, which forms a part of both primary and secondary PE syllabuses. Communities built these pools (Braidwood, Captains Flat and Bungendore) and in some cases this was a direct response to the tragedy of young people drowning in rivers and dams. Keeping one pool: are you kidding? What's the population of QPRC? Let's play sardines! Where's the nearest beach? Totally unacceptable. Is the Y or PCYC capable of taking over the running? Can you charge Department of Education for their use? Chook raffles??? Any option should be considered. Sportsgrounds are another area where Council got their snouts well into the merger funds trough and bit off more than they could chew. Ludicrous overdevelopment in Braidwood without any development approval/ heritage consideration, and expenses running into barrel draining Rec Ground Creek, reclaiming land for a controversial skate park, and building yet another plastic fantastic playground. These playgrounds were popping up all over the place during the rate freeze without any consideration of need or design. The most egregious of these is surely a newish installation in Bowen Park, Carwoola, an area of large rural residential blocks, notably lacking in small children, and right next to an abandoned portaloo (been there for years) and broken fencing failing to protect anyone from the yawning chasms of gully erosion along the creek which runs through the site. Really!!! · Closing libraries, customer service centres and depots at Bungendore and Braidwood (S1); combining libraries and customer service into single facilities in Bungendore and Braidwood. Closing depots in the remote rural east of the LGA makes no economic sense. To get workers and plant out to parts of the LGA from Queanbeyan could involve a two to four hour round trip (in addition to hours travelled by staff), with associated staff paid downtime and outrageous fuel costs at a time when global heating is ramping up. Roadworks required in these areas are considerable as they service interstate travel and a large number of long-distance commuters. There's also the economic consequences of shifting a fairly sizeable proportion of the local workforce, meaning that towns themselves become economically unviable. QPRC should recognise and value the incredible asset they have in its Customer Service Officers. They are the public face of the council, and are across more of its business than many more specialist and better paid employees. They are courteous, helpful, and doubtless save everyone a lot of time and angst. There are still many people who are not comfortable dealing with all aspects of life online, and who need assistance. Ironic then, isn't it, that the next thing on the list of supposedly redundant services are libraries, which are in the business of getting citizens technology literate. Libraries are another council-run resource which are predicted (even in council sustainability documents) to be a cool, potentially life-saving refuge when climate change really begins to bite. Furthermore, given the pretty ordinary / downright poor internet and phone reception locally, people like myself who work from home are at times totally reliant on the local library to do their jobs. As a former teacher, I've seen the value that libraries provide as a safe

	and interesting place for kids to hang out after school while waiting for parents to finish work (particularly for older kids and as OOSH services are in decline), an incredible educational resource, a safe and supervised place for teens to interact online, and a wonderful way to socialise preschool kids into more formal educational settings through activities such as storytime. The town libraries are also a useful resource for teachers – school libraries typically only cater to student readers. Much of the specialised support libraries offer would be compromised by sharing duties with customer service – I don't know whether anyone has bothered to look at the workload of CSOs, but they don't have a great deal of downtime at all. As a library user, I think the constant interruption of the number of phone calls and face-to-face interactions would be intolerable. So again – totally unacceptable. And again, if this is an option which has received careful attention during the preparation for lifting the rate freeze, why go to the bother recently of writing an ambitious library strategy and wasting ratepayers' considered responses? · Increasing fees for childcare and saleyards, to be fully self-funding (S2). Interestingly, there is no mention of any cuts to these services under Scenario 1 (significantly reduce services). Does this mean that childcare and saleyards functions are to be axed under this scenario? This needs to be made clear. Both services support the economic participation of a significant number of ratepayers. In particular, this is likely to hurt women, particularly single mothers utterly reliant on childcare to support their families, and primary producers, who have faced a horror few years of drought, fire and flood. In the far eastern portions of the LGA agriculture is a major economic driver, and the saleyards are crucial to cattle-dominated farming in the district. We get precious little bang for buck out of our rates here in the boondocks, this being a welcome exception. If my presumption is correct and these services disappear, this would be an act of economic vandalism which could only result in worsening hardship for already struggling ratepayers and possibly trigger an exodus from the district. · Significantly (S1) increasing (S2) user charges and fees for all community services. OK so long as there is a safety net for people who need it. Often council-run services are the only option for people on low incomes/ social security beneficiaries. This doesn't seem likely, as under both scenarios the pensioner rebate is to be removed. · Fully funding economic development and tourism through user charges and a rate on businesses (S1) or reducing economic development and tourism (S2). Hard to comment without knowing what QPRC spends on economic development and tourism, what services are funded, and to what extent. Tourism is a major economic driver for Braidwood and district. Local Government plays an important role in tourism through promotion, providing infrastructure and services to support tourism, and managing the impacts of tourism. However, the Australian Regional Tourism and Economic Development Australia benchmarking survey of local governments (2020) shows that each council only spends on average $761,000 on tourism annually. This doesn't sound like a 'make or break' sum. Tourism here is supported by an effective volunteer base, as well as regional initiatives such as Visit Canberra and Destination NSW. We have drawcards (farmstays, local produce, European and Aboriginal cultural heritage) which complement rather than compete with Canberra, a major tourist destination on our doorstep. Surely one of the benefits of CBRJO is to cross-promote and share resources.

	More effective use could be made of online and digital resources. With regard to the Scenario 2 suggestion – reduce economic development and tourism – I trust this is not what is meant. We're coming out of a period of great hardship (drought, fire, flood and pandemic) and businesses are barely coping or have indeed gone under. It seems unnecessarily harsh to consign a major part of the regional economy to for a fairly modest investment (if the NSW average applies). Again, QPRC has spent considerable time and money on a tourism strategy DURING the rate freeze – it smacks of very poor strategic/ financial planning to do this. It's essentially money wasted if either scenario goes ahead. · Removing community grant support (S1); stopping main street and heritage grants. Your community grants officer is one of the hardest working, most effective staff members of QPRC. Grant funding is responsible for a great many worthwhile projects which would simply not happen without. This includes essential community support (Braidwood Life Centre), art and cultural spaces and sports facilities, all of which keep the community happy, healthy and employed. Again, for a modest outlay, we derive benefits far in excess of any costs involved, and it's good to see our taxes driven further! Main street grants have been an embarrassment, quite frankly – lack of any coherent design, appalling and ludicrously expensive horticultural practice, crap signage and bad/ pointless/ cringe-worthily themed wayfaring. Please - stop now before it gets any worse! Heritage grants are a different matter – we have a unique heritage town in Braidwood, but the cost of implementing repairs, alterations and additions to heritage buildings to the standards expected by QPRC and heritage consultants are astronomical. The alternative is to literally let buildings decay. If you decide to abandon tourism and civic amenity as described above, I guess it makes sense. But if you do want to prevent Braidwood and district becoming a ghost town and actually attracting business, I'd suggest heritage grants stay. Can this be means-tested? And yet again, QPRC has spent considerable money on consultants' reports aimed at preserving Braidwood's heritage park and main street, even purchasing the venerable D&S Motors (and promptly removing the heritage sign!) – for what? We've had the same ill-informed, ad hoc, cheap 'improvements' we've come to expect despite expensive and competent advice. · Introducing paid parking for Queanbeyan CBD. QPRC has a big ask of its commercial centre, being so close to the much better resourced major population centre of Canberra. The trouble with paid parking is that it acts as a disincentive, and QPRC has to pay not inconsiderable sums to make it work – especially if it's to be a smart system, as promised by the previous administration in connection with the new council offices. This again seems a bit rich when Bungendore has recently had a brand new carpark installed (which nobody wanted and nobody can find), and a similar scheme is intended for Braidwood. The latter also involves the not inconsiderable expense of relocating the council depot – that is, if Bungendore and Braidwood retain any QPRC functions whatsoever. · Significantly (S1) reducing (S2) urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning). Surely all these functions are essential/ core business, preventing further, bigger problems (health impacts, stormwater problems, repair costs and injuries, fire hazard). What is proposed as an alternative? Jim's Mowing? Hard to see that this is a realistic cost

	saving option. We need to see the detail here. Is pruning the ridiculous shrubs in the median of Old Cooma Road on a regular basis regarded as maintenance, for instance? What cuts do you propose to cleaning services? · Reducing number of councillors. We're already effectively unrepresented outside the former QCC area, so while reducing councillor numbers would have little effect here, it absolutely undermines the concept of representative democracy and checks and balances on executive functions. Councillors could be encouraged to be more effective representatives and more accountable themselves by getting out and about across the length and breadth of the LGA on a more regular basis. It's great to see the Mayor and council staff doing this, but the rest could do with getting acquainted with people and issues outside Queanbeyan. I lived and worked in Fremantle for several years, and when residents got fed up with councillors being almost exclusively focused on the CBD and acting in their own commercial interests, the council introduced a ward committee system, where residents of each ward had one or two councillors attached and regular meetings to focus on issues relevant to that ward (as well as general council business). Worked extremely well, involved residents to a greater extent, and greatly approved accountability and access. It avoids the scenario we have at the moment in Braidwood, where an overworked and Community Association provides feedback and ideas to council – and is criticised locally for being an unrepresentative coterie beholden to special interests. · Removing additional pensioner rebate. According to the last census, 19.3% of QPRC's population is aged 60 or above. If we take say roughly a third of this proportion as being below pension age or self-funded retirees, that's about 12% of the total population of 63,300 at an exaggerated estimate, which is 8,000 people (again, rounded up) and at $100 a pop that's a saving of $80,000 if my maths is correct. Are you REALLY that mean? That's probably equivalent to tea and coffee charges at all the council work centres annually. Forget it. Have a heart. Many of these cuts are quite visceral in terms of community wellbeing and erode the physical and social fabric of the LGA. There are many other ways to achieve substantial savings as indicated in the Morrison Low report. I hope that other ratepayers have identified many more from a consumer's point of view. It's in everyone's interests to have a financially viable and liveable QPRC.
590	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I refer to my emailed letter of 23 January 2023, wherein I provided comments on the proposed Special Rate Variation and revenue options for Council's consideration. I would like to suggest another possible source of revenue that would help Council with its current financial difficulties and might also serve to reinvigorate our town. It is clearly evident in Queanbeyan that some land owners in the CBD are engaging in a form of 'Land Banking'. They have demonstrated no interest in tenanting or maintaining their properties, sometimes for years or decades. They are simply waiting for property values to rise at some future point, whereupon they will sell and make a handy profit. As a result these premises have become an eyesore and a signpost to the slow decay of our town. Perhaps council could solve two problems at one stroke by introducing 'punitive' rates for unoccupied or undeveloped CBD land and premises? Those land owners who refuse to tenant or develop their properties would be penalised by having to pay higher rates. If

	those punitive rates were to increase substantially the longer the premises were vacant, it is likely that the owners would be encouraged to find new business tenants or to implement new developments. In either case it would mean increased revenue for Council and inject renewed vigour into our business district. Please take this as a starting point for consideration, for I am certain that with a little thought Council can manage its future affairs without having to resort to penalising ordinary ratepayers.
591	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have recently found out about your survey responses, and options on The Q performing arts centre. 9 months of my year is spent purely at The Q helping with numerous musical theatre companies, and is now a passionate hobby of mine, and I'd be lost without them. I'm disappointed to hear that all of that will potentially disappear, which is concerning for the local theatre group Queanbeyan Players. I hope that if The Q is sold, that it's to someone who will help to continue improving it for the many local and interstate musicals, theatre and more. Thanks for your time
592	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have read the three scenarios listed on your website and am utterly appalled to think that our council has fallen into such debt. It is embarrassing, and would lead ratepayers to think that there is a severe case of mismanagement involved here. It seems obvious that we inherited a massive loss with the merging of the additional councils' financial obligations. But despite that, the council proceeded with the expense of a new building to house their facilities, and of course gave themselves a wage increase. So let's now screw the ratepayers further by necessitating an outrageous increase. I thought people in council were skilled in future planning for a town or city. But that does not appear to be the case at QPRC. As a scapegoat, someone has suggested selling off "The Q" - our brilliant theatre that was fought for so long ago, and which has proved its worth over the years. Or better still, as suggested in Scenario 2, increase the fees. Now that will really help put "bums on seats". Where is the intelligence in this thinking? The Q is a wonderful intimate theatre suitable for so many different creative and artistic performances. It is loved by the artists who perform there, and by the people who travel across the borders to see the shows. It is a celebration of community success when you consider the benefits it brings for our own theatre group: The Queanbeyan Players. Why hasn't someone suggested selling off some of the office space in the new QPRC Building? That would surely recoup some of your losses better than scratching at a small theatre. Or why not sell Seifert Oval? It is showing signs of wear, and to unload it at a time like this would save the expense of an upgrade.

	I do hope that common sense will prevail!
593	We don't get a lot of services anway
594	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As a former QCC employee **********. In this role, I was responsible for the administration of a multimillion dollar budget. I note in the response submitted by the Queanbeyan Rate Payers Association that their first specific issue for review is that of Leaseback Vehicles for staff (item 65 in the Morrison Law Report). **********. While I acknowledge that providing a leaseback vehicle is one of the few "perks" local government can provide to attract staff in a highly competitive market and the aim was to create a vehicle pool for use by all staff, I always felt that the QCC program was overly generous. The private use allowance was basically unlimited; staff could take the vehicle up to ~1500km from the region, all fuel was paid for, vehicles were replaced on a very generous 3yr/75,000km cycle, and ultimately staff were not forced to make their vehicles available as pool vehicles if they didn't want to; there was certainly lacklustre adherence to that part of the policy, with some staff more receptive than others. ********** ********** ********** **********. Over the course of 2 YEARS I analysed data and costs to prepare a detailed review of the existing QCC leaseback program. Through this, I discovered major discrepancies and inequalities in the contributions being made by staff. ********** **********. Another example was the shopping list of accessories some staff would submit with their vehicle orders so they could optimise the vehicle for their private use; things like wanting a 4WD, bullbars, towbars, side steps etc when their job didn't require the items and their car sat in a carpark most of the day. ********** **********. The major overall recommendations of the review included the following: - Capping vehicle budget based on staff level (employee, manager, director) - Purchasing only automatics to allow for better resale and sharing opportunities among staff - Limiting vehicle accessories to towbars only unless there was a proven and signed business case for other items. - Maintaining a list of vehicle/brands to choose from to achieve some uniformity in the pool and also ensure value for money was being achieved for resale etc. The most important recommendation was: - Calculating the leaseback fee based on the cost of the vehicle to ultimately eliminate FBT costs. This was a short to medium term

	plan that was going to save $200k+ within 5 years of the recommendations being implemented as each staff member entered into a new leaseback agreement. ********** **********. The reason why this review and its recommendations took 2 years to be adopted is because the document had to be reviewed and passed through several management committees and then ultimately adopted by Council. Why something like this had to be passed by the very people it was going to impact most always confounded me; it was a massive conflict of interest and a probity issue. ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** **********. While in my role with Council, I treated my budgets like it was my own money; I own a house in Queanbeyan and my family own several properties among them and pay rates accordingly. ********** ********** ********** ********** Some other observations I'd like to share from my time at council include: ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** ********** -

	********** ********** ********** ********** I guess the whole point of my submission is to highlight and case study a specific example of where council money has not been historically well managed and also to bring to light internal fiscal management issues not limited to the leaseback program. ********** ********** **********. Happy to further expand on anything shared here should anyone have any questions.
595	The council could stop giving themselves pay rises. They could also have not built an overly expensive council chambers. Generally they could use the money they have a great deal better and not waste huge amounts of money raised by locals.
596	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** SUBMISSION FROM THE QUEANBEYAN PLAYERS** Queanbeyan Players would like to express our extreme concern with, and address the prospect of selling the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre Queanbeyan Players Involvement in the Process: During 2002-2004 the consultation process began between the council and the Queanbeyan community, proposing to build a Performing Arts Centre in Queanbeyan. Discussions were held and QP's founding member, Norma Roach was an integral part of the process, and a key driver to the eventual successful outcome. Funds were acquired from the Federal Government of $550,000, the NSW Government committed $1,125,000 via grants and Queanbeyan Players after much fundraising effort injected $50,000 into the project. Hence the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre was finally opened in 2008. Queanbeyan Players (QP) has been established in Queanbeyan since 1965. We first started hired and performed shows at The Bicentennial Hall (originally known as the Queanbeyan Conference Centre) in 1988 until 2007. During this time we performed 53 shows. Since 2008 we have hired and performed 28 shows in The Q and held 2 fundraising events for MND in The B. Between 2008 and 2022 QP hire cost to QPRC have totalled approximately $815,000 in revenue. QP is the only Musical Theatre Company based in Queanbeyan and The Q is our home! There are no other facilities in Queanbeyan suitable to stage Musical Theatre performances. It is also one of the only professional level theatres accessible to community companies in the surrounding region. Losing The Q would mean Queanbeyan Players would have to relocate to the ACT. This would result in QPRC losing revenue from QP show hire of The Q of around $70,000 per year. QP would like to highlight the fact that productions at both The Q and The B bring audiences to Queanbeyan from the ACT, Cooma,

	Goulburn and the South Coast (all outside of the QPRC region). This tourism provides vital economic value for restaurants, pubs and clubs in Queanbeyan with many patrons dining at those venues prior to attending the theatre. These businesses would also lose revenue from outside of the region. The Performing Arts Centre is of significant economic value for the whole of Queanbeyan.
597	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** It has come to my attention that one item that might come up for consideration as a saleable property during this rates crisis is the Q Theatre. I would like to register my disgust at the very suggestion that the only formal theatre in the QPRC area would be sold. As a subscriber, I had a wonderful time attending all the opening nights in 2022 and discussing the offerings with members of the audience afterwards. It was enriching - and socially cohesive after the awful years we have just had. There is nothing like the feeling one gets when watching a story unfold, together with one's community. The buzz in the foyer is always present. Only today, Minister Burke announced a new federal arts policy that is to restore dignity to the arts and enable more artists to work. Further, the Q is to be a hub in the new precinct under construction. You might say that it would be sold "as a theatre" – but who knows what developers/buyers will do with a property once it is obtained? Some unimaginative idiot will say: "Hey, this would make a good mall eh? Make lots of money with franchises..." Selling culture to cover bills always results in this kind of dead letter thinking. During the Second World War, when Britain was spending million of pounds fighting the German bombers, one cabinet minister suggested to Churchill that they might take the arts budget to plug their financial hole. His answer? "Then what re we fighting for?" Precisely. Let's not demean ourselves.
598	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I've actually filled in the survey form BUT accidentally pressed the submit button before I was able to write some extra comments. I wanted to put my full support in towards keeping The Q and The B. I've heard strong rumours that some people have suggested selling those off. People of this community have worked hard and long to get a proper theatre in our town and it would be criminal to see it sold off or closed. Why is it always the arts that gets looked at, why not the sporting areas instead. IF we are in such a

	financial crisis as the Council says, why can't they rent out some of their office space! Why that building was ever built in the first place is beyond me. Everyone you talk to in the community hates it, such an overly large, ugly building, another building wrecking our town. Please please please leave our Q alone, we've lost too many original old places as it is we don't need to lose another one.
599	Close council office in Bungendore and don't spend money opening another when the current one is given away to the school. Don't sell the Bungendore Council land at a loss (too late). Don't give councillors another pay rise. Don't spend money on sports hubs that you can't afford. Stop applying for grants from the State and Federal Governments if you can't match the contributions. Don't waste money on car parks in towns that don't use them. Employ staff who actually know how to process DAs and fire a lot of staff that don't know how to do their jobs. Don't waste money building a high school that can't expand. Don't go to court at tax payer's expense against the NSW Government over the compulsory acquisition of land for the Bungendore High School. Stop offering Queanbeyan, Googong and Jerrabomberra so many new services that fritter away money. Stop approving new housing developments if you can't afford the services to accompany them. Stop wasting money on consultants like Morrison Low.
600	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** There are options available to the QPRC to significantly raise its revenue other than to raise council rates. One of these is to require a capital contribution from developers towards the cost of providing services for the additional people residing in that development. This capital contribution would not apply to developments catering for the same number of residents as were previously resident on that land. It is common practice in Queanbeyan and the region for people and companies to redevelop land to increase the number of dwellings on that land. This can earn the developer a substantial capital gain. Some of the increase in value to that property may be due to the additional space and facilities provided in the building by the developer. However, a large part of the value of the dwellings can be attributable to the access the property provides to other services which the developer has not provided. These include access to schools, shops, roads, water, electricity, sewerage, telephone, internet, shops, employment etc. If the same property had been built in a location that did not have these services, the developer may not have been able to recover the cost of the building, let alone make a profit. The increase in value of the property is largely attributable to services that the developer has not provided. The people who purchase these properties are paying a premium above the cost of the dwelling to obtain these other services. Yet to a large extent, the entities that provide these valuable services do receive any part of the funds which the new residents have paid for access to those services. Rather the developer profits from the services that the Council and other entities have provided.

	The QPRC is now seeking to raise council rates to expand its capacity to provide services to new residents. This means that the new rate payers will be paying twice for the same services. Also, it means that the existing rate payers are being required to pay for services for other people. Neither of these outcomes is reasonable. Before the Council seeks to raise rates, it should first charge developers for the services that they are selling to the future residents. These future residents are paying a premium for those services and that premium should be going to Council to provide them. It is understood that developers would be opposed to paying for these services. It would cut into their profits. But it is unreasonable to expect that the community to pay for them, and for prospective occupants to pay twice for the same services. If developers are to sell access to the services that the community provides, it is not unreasonable for them to pay for them. Therefore, I propose that developers be required to make a capital contribution to the Council for community services. Some of the services, such as education and health, may not be paid for by the Council. Yet these are services that the community pays for in one way or another. Therefore, it is reasonable for the Council to charge developers for all those services. A payment to Council is a payment to the community that is ultimately responsible for paying for those services. The amount of the capital contribution is a matter for the Council to determine. However, it would not be unreasonable for the Council to charge something in the order of $10,000 for each additional bedroom or $50 for each additional per square meter of any residential redevelopment. Such an approach would benefit the community, future residents, the Council and developers: the community would not be forced to pay for services required for new residents; future residents would benefit from the ability of the Council to provide and maintain a high standard of community services; the Council would receive a capital contribution towards the cost of building and providing services to the growing community; and developers would benefit from the increased incentive provided to the Council to more rapidly approve their development proposals. Revenue from capital contributions should be sufficient to expand council services to cater for the growth in residents and council rates should be sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining existing community services.
601	Stop wasting money on beautification activities like replacing plants on the queanbeyan main street and hanging QPRC flags up - basic services like safe, regularly maintained roads in rural areas and elsewhere must be a priority first and then if there is money left over then do such activities. The wastage of ratepayer monies when basic services like safe roads are not being actioned well is infuriating.
602	I have just registered and completed the survey re the SRV proposal as a ratepayer (login ******.******). I additionally wish to provided the additional comments for inclusion in the community consultation review: 1. I strongly object to the SRV proposal on the basis that the arguments made, and information supplied on the SVR portal, are unconvincing and a poor sell.

	While I could agree with a modest rate increase to maintain full services, the position that only a 97% increase will assure full services totally discredits all of the options. If 97% is truly required then there is a lot more wrong with QPRC finances than is being disclosed. Comments I have heard from other ratepayers, (town and rural) includes “codswallop” and “geriatric accounting”. I have not heard one voice in favor of any SRV option. There is a general perception that the SRV is a cynical attempt to cover spiraling costs of major projects and other historical financial failures. Council has dug it’s own credibility hole with the untenable position that severe austerity measures are necessary, while still pitching that major capital projects (that most view as unnecessary or vastly overegged) are priorities. If the intent of the SRV was to severely damage ratepayers’ confidence in Council then it has been achieved. The only way to clear the air is for an independent review of Council’s finances: past, present and future. 2. A comprehensive financial statement is required to advise ratepayers on the full cost of the new Civic and Cultural Centre, from initial concept to occupation, and then a forward schedule that shows operating estimates and how the principal and interest is to be repaid. This statement needs to transparently show cost overruns, variations, remedials and fit outs. There also needs to be a credible explanation of why 3 stories are to now be leased to third parties. This is necessary clear the air on whether ratepayer’s general funds have been diverted into the project including what may have been softcoded and peripheral costs that may not have been fully attributed to the project. The same type of disclosure would be helpful to understand other big ticket projects in order to provide ratepayers assurance that state grants and developer contributions are meeting the full costs. The work on Jerrabomberra Sports Project, Ellerton Drive Extension and the Old Cooma Rd upgrade exceed $100M (as a total) and a transparent reckoning of what ratepayers have spent in the build, or will, contribute to operating costs, would be reasonable. Assuming that the substantial costs are externally funded there are still likely to be material costs from associated works, remediations, and ongoing costs to be met by ratepayers. Its is reasonable for Council to provide these financial statements to make clear how big infrastructure items impact on the general fund past, present and future. A lot could be done to strengthen Council’s communication of the SVR. a. The argument that both Councils were needing to increase rates prior to the amalgamation is probably valid but, even including CPI increases over the 4 years of rates freeze, this does not come close to justifying a 97% increase – a expanded explanation is required. The promise of savings efficiencies realized through council amalgamation appears to have crashed and burned. Someone needs to own this failure or otherwise concede that amalgamation was grossly ill-conceived. Either way, it lacks integrity for Council to write this failure off as “external factors” or “water under the bridge”. b. The odd argument that the population is increasing but that it is not generating proportionately sufficient rates to meet services growth needs further explanation. At face value this suggests that big housing developments and subdivisions are not paying their

	way via development fees and contributions - perhaps also coupled with poor planning and estimates of the impact of new developments. c. What is in the SVR for rural ratepayers? Surely not the promise of footpaths and street sweeping? A large portion of rural ratepayers go into town once a week to shop but aren't big consumers of the amenities and services that Council argues are driving the deficit. They do care that a simple DA for a hayshed is unreasonably delayed by months. They shake their heads at the insane square meterage cap that force serviceable old sheds to be demolished to build new outbuildings. They do care that their children and grandchildren learn to swim and don't accept that a regional swimming pool is a luxury but that a new civic center is essential. The SRV needs to explain how rural ratepayers benefit and are not just taken as cash cows.
603	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have already responded to the online survey and am emailing now because this morning the Prime Minister announced a new National Cultural Policy - Revive, a five-year plan to renew and revive Australia's arts, entertainment and cultural sector. The link is: https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/national-cultural-policy The Policy emphasises the importance of 'Strong Cultural Infrastructure: Providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts, culture and heritage.' One of the principles which will guide decision making over the next five years is that 'Cultural infrastructure, including galleries, libraries, museums, archives and digital collections, is restored, built and maintained.' I note that one option being considered to address the QPRC financial shortfall is the sale of The Q. This would seem to be at odds with the new Federal Government policy. In that context it would be a shame for our Local Government to be risking the future of an existing well designed theatre. Theatres are places where we can gather and tell our stories and in order to allow this they have specialised physical and technical requirements. The Q was designed by a specialist architect and provides our area with a good facility. The B and The Q are not interchangeable. If we lose The Q touring companies will not be able to perform in our area and we will be dependent on ACT facilities. The future of the Queanbeyan Players, which has provided entertainment and social connection, as well as support for civic celebrations such as Citizenship Ceremonies and Carols By Candlelight in Queanbeyan for over 50 years will be uncertain. The Queanbeyan Players bring many people to Queanbeyan in performing and backstage roles. They provide affordable performances to which families can bring their children. Fostering creativity and a sense of connection are essential for healthy individuals and healthy communities. Surely we need our own identity and facilities.
604	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I wish to make the following submission in relation to the proposed Special Rate Variation. I am disappointed with Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)'s community consultation on such an enormous issue. I did

	not receive any written communications from QPRC either by post or email in relation to the proposed issue and was advised by other ratepayers that all communications appear to have been on social media, not something that I personally engage with and would imagine that many people of my age group would also not utilize. I am disappointed that at the very least, our last rates notice did not have some communications pointing ratepayers to the QPRC's website so we could follow this ongoing important issue. Now that I have been made aware of QPRC's possible financial issues and directed to the "Your Voice"tab on QPRC's website to inform myself about the options proposed by QPRC in relation to special rate variations, I am shocked that alternatives have not been considered. I do not agree to QPRC's Option 1. No one in 2023 wants significantly less services! I do not agree to QPRC's Option 2.. No one in 2023 wants reduced services!We live in a "more"society and no one wants less ... I do not agree to QPRC's Option 3 in the format proposed. Whilst I possibly would agree to paying some additional rates, if QPRC are really in the financial trouble they say they are (which I am not sure about and think that, that issue requires further investigation) I don't agree to the rates being increased by the amounts proposed. I believe that an alternative to be considered by QPRC would be a one off special levy, to be levied on all ratepayers for a fixed time (eg one or two years), to help alleviate the issues possibly faced by QPRC. On one hand, QPRC are saying that we need more affordable housing in our area and with the other hand, you are increasing house affordability, not just for home buyers but for renters as well. If the rates are unaffordable, people won't migrate to our area. Since establishing that the QPRC are intending to do a SRV, I have been alerted to various communications that have been forwarded to QPRC questioning financial issues in relation to QPRC, in particular a Facebook post by *****. I have examined **** interpretations and would like the issues raised to be reviewed immediately. **** points out many contentious issues relating to the finances of QPRC and until those issues have been quantified by QPRC, I don't believe that QPRC are in a position to be requesting an increase in rates. Other community associations have also requested qualification in relation to funds/loans borrowed from the NSW Government and interest payable by QPRC in respect of those loans. As the figures don't agree to marry up with the NSW Government figures, QPRC need to come clean very quickly about what is going on. Now that I am aware that QPRC are in possible financial trouble, I am very disappointed that they have committed to building a new multi -story in Queanbeyan. I have been in business for a very long time and I don't commit to something that I can't or my business can't afford and from the outside it would appear that QPRC cannot afford such a building. This apparent financial trouble did not just appear overnight, so I am horrified that QPRC would jeoparodize its financial position over a new shiny building. Whilst the current arrangements may not be ideal in 2023, sometimes we have to go with what we have and what is affordable not what is most desired...(and ultimately could be financially disastrous). The Mayor has advised that there are about 500 QPRC employees. Perhaps the necessity of all these employees needs to be considered and at the outset, employees need to be multi-skilled.It came to light recently that Councilors were given a pay rise. Whilst this might not have been a substantial amount of funds and may not have adjusted the bottom line at all, the principle of this behaviour does not sit well with ratepayers. The last several years have been tough for many sectors and many bosses/employees etc have had to tighten belts to stay in business or stay employed. Whilst QPRC is a unique business (that it gets Government grants etc), it is still a business and perhaps QPRC needto rethink how they do their business. A lot of things are desirable in life,

	however if funds are not available, things just can't and don't happen. QPRC need to think long and hard about how they administer "ratepayers" funds. Please come back to the community about the discrepancies that various individuals and associations have raised and start being more open about what is actually occurring. I look forward to some more alternatives to your hard nosed options that don't appear to be very ratepayer friendly.
605	**VIA HARD COPY SURVEY** As a resident who lives 13km outside Braidwood I receive NO rubbish removal services and not help with water or septic. I do however have access to Braidwood Library and swimming pool, and find obth services essential for mental health and wellbeing. Braidwood has no rep on council and most residents feel we receive less of everything compared with other areas under QPRC. Disatisfaction on those grounds is strong.
606	Stop cultural activities Get back to basics If it costs the council money scrap it
607	An increase to the frequency of Recycling collection would be of huge benefit - particularly around my area, Recycling bins are often full or overflowing at the end of the fortnight. Only a few weeks ago I witnessed council workers (or perhaps contractors) leaf-blowing the Crawford Street cafe area... something that needs to be considered for these kinds of activities is scheduling for the seasons. There were no leaves to be blown - it's Summer... The amount of Councillors for a relatively small council, seems a bit unnecessary. It would be worth understanding the individual roles of each Councillor (a quick scan of the QPRC site didn't clearly indicate who does what - which makes it near-impossible to contact the right person to seek any kind of assistance). There are ten dot points in the 'role of council' page - which could possibly be distilled further, so I'm curious to know how many Councillors are assigned to each of the four 'portfolios' detailed in the council structure. Perhaps I'm missing something here - but to continue to pay the (ever-increasing) salaries of eleven officials with no defined purpose, while simultaneously proposing cut-backs to critical services within the community seems... icky.
608	Cut all services until the funding and financial management problems are fixed.
609	Building such a huge new building when you knew there was no money available. A rate increase should have been voted on prior to spending so much money and then expecting ratepayers to pay double when they don't have the income to do so.
610	Get rid of cultural events and anything that costs money to put on
611	Stop wasting money on cultural events and travel.
612	Stop voluntary pensioner rebates. Why should the rate payer be footing that bill? That should be funded by the state or federally, not by council rate payers. Reduce the number of councillors. Partly, rather than fully, fund tourism.

613	Council shouldn't have built such an ugly and too tall new office block! Less storeys and more sustainable architecture would have been much better. Council could save money by not building the Smart carparks. What a waste of money! But they could plant more SHADE trees in all the carparks and establish more EV charging stations.
614	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Council should concentrate on core services - roads, garbage, sewer, parks - stormwater. Only is surplus money is available should we divert it. Obviously there is not surplus fund.
615	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am utterly dismayed and confused as to the reasons why such drastic rate rises are being proposed. I don't accept the reasons you've outlined for the supposed financial crisis Council is experiencing, especially considering that rates have increased each year, and that we have all watched you throw money into non-essential items such as low priority community projects (skate parks), fireworks etc. We all love fireworks but it's not what a sensible, responsible Council does when it's short on cash!! In my view, this situation is the result of years of mismanagement, and you're just attempting to make your working class constituents pay for it! In addition to this, I understand that you've refused to make the consultant's report available to the public. If true, it indicates to me a lack of transparency and accountability …what do you have to hide?? In fact, if any of this is true, I would suggest that the State government needs to intervene and perhaps sack Council! Seems to me, you're counting on rate payers being a pack of gullible idiots so that you can coerce them into agreeing to unreasonable commitments…bloody disgraceful. I've always felt like I get good and fair value for my rates, which is why I generally have no issue with CPI increases, but this proposal is an absolute sham. And of course I'm referring to the decision makers at Council, not the rank and file employees.
616	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Regarding Pensioner rebates (Without some indication as to which of the 20 rating categories apples to the extended QPRC areas, especially as regards land values, this question (number 3) can't be answered. What type of pensions apply, anyway? a) Consideration should be given to lease by tender for a period of 5 years to apply to both the aquatic centre and the Entertainment Centre (The Q and The B) for appropriate organisations to free QPRC to get back on track financially. b) Patterns of use for both the aquatic centre and entertainment centre (the Q and the B) should be surveyed. Community pools were originally established to prevent drowning deaths in inland waterways. QPRC residents should not have to queue behind private ACT schools in relation to swimming carnivals when all Qbn schools need to stage these events. c) Are The Q and The B fostering local talent?
617	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL** Our democratic form of government is based on governments at all levels being servants of the people. The three scenarios issues like an ultimatum to ratepayers, reads like we (ratepayers/citizens) are serving bureaucracy. * Nowhere does the paper suggest reducing staff - it has double in recent years. Cut back staff * Reduce community funding for arts, halls, youth, senior, First Nations activities, and let's make that user-pays. * Remove community grant support which which the community as a unit sees no benefit. * If The Q is costing us money, and not being self-funded, sell it. We the ratepayers, are having to spend according to what money we have. Surely bureaucracy should cut back rather than see ratepayers as a resource to be taxed beyond our means.

Q5 – Please provide your comments on the three scenarios and service levels.

Submitter Number:	Submission:
1)	The construction site of the new council chambers is a joke, the workers take the entire car park and council do nothing about it. The time to get certificates back for property contracts is also ridiculous. these are a simple print and sign and they are taking over three weeks. our roads are a disgrace. not even the rain, Morrissette street is always in a disgraceful state of repair.
2)	We agree to scenario 3
3)	I don't think it's acceptable to go backwards and reduce any service so I guess option 3. I don't really understand why a 97% (I think) increase is needed though so it would be good to see a proper breakdown of costs.
4)	Council should look at identifying savings before increasing rates, for instance, stop ALL councillors attending workshops, stop giving out unnecessary grants until finances are in better shape, stop all new construction of or alterations to council buildings. Council needs to identify and implement where savings can be made with staff (is it really necessary to have 4 council vehicles and 6 workers filling in 1 pothole ?) asses the usage of council owned vehicles. Sell unused or not required assets such as The Q. It's rude to ask and expect rate payers to pay such big increases when council is not prepared to look for efficiencies. All 3 options will inflict financial hardship on all rate payers and could lead to people leaving the area.
5)	Scrap the services. If the council can't afford these activities under reasonable rate increases then we can't afford them. We already pay a kings ransom to live here. All this development with associated levies and more rate payers and you cry poor. The Councils financial mismanagement over the past decade is the reason you are cooked. Live within your means as the residents do.
6)	The cost is astronomical compared to every other LGA I have lived in (quite a few). Can you leverage services in conjunction with ACT gov?
7)	I would have preferred the 65% one year increase discussed at the 9th November meeting.
8)	Reverse pay rise to council and reassess
9)	There is no confidence in this corrupt council. They should be all thrown out and let the people decide on a totally new council!
10)	Scenario 1 is too aggressive.....we may as well not pay rates and do all services ourselves. A possibility could be privatising The Q, Club, Pool, Plaza and Caravan Park to increase revenue and to charge them rates etc. Scenario 2 would need a review of those services to close. More than one pool is needed and should also include privatising The Q. Again no council pick up services unless a pensioner and disability services. Scenario 3 is Fantasia!!! No one can afford interest rates plus food increases plus gas/elec increases plus continual mortgage interest rates AND another $1k in rate hikes. You won't have 100% compliance on payment. Several community rounds of engagement will be needed for this.

11)	The first scenario essentially doesn't solve the issue while still cutting services to a critical degree. The following two scenarios go further towards solving the issue, with the degree of pain varying, and based on what level of services is seen as being acceptable. My preference would be for the third scenario, on the condition that at the same time all fat and waste is strenuously cut.
12)	They are all a joke. Scenario one is best but you want to close pools? So what **** am I paying for my kids to go in this town. It's appalling. 3 - you have to be kidding me… sell the new building and take a pay cut and hang your head in shame for trying to double rates.
13)	Disagree with all and should not be even considered increasing that much. Increase of rates (for typical houses) resulting in 1-2k increase is unaffordable for most families. Household earnings do not even increase that much to offset it.
14)	The 3 options are ridiculous. Cost of living is up, everything is rising but people's incomes are not. Now you expect families to fork out thousands more a year to pay for mistakes. Funny how they can afford to boost the councillors pays.
15)	Scenario 3 is preferred
16)	All rubbish, rates are high enough as is and if you honestly think option 2 or God forbid 3 are good ideas you're out of your mind
17)	All rates increase are extremely high and this is on top of all other price increases (petrol, utility groceries, and mortgage interest and rent etc) we've already had and will see more of in the near future. I am afraid a lot of people will struggle financially. It's a real concern! However, decreasing services as proposed in the first 2 scenarios will do more damage than good.
18)	All these scenarios are ridiculous you are making a substantial amount of money from the current rates and stamp duty payments and have just green lighted two large developments to give you even more. How about you consider reducing management staff and focus on running to local services like you are meant too
19)	As a low income person I can't afford an increase in rates as Council has blocked access to cattle trucks to my property so therefore I can't sell my cattle. No income equals no money to pay. Council mismanagement has created this problem. Can't get an answer when this problem will be addressed
20)	Option 2 is the preferred option but any of the options will require open, transparent review and progress updates throughout the 3 year program and at the conclusion. Then the council should provide a plan forward to enhance services to meet expectations in line with fiscal responsibility. Nowhere has the council outlines parity with services provided and rates paid in comparison with another other similar LGAs.
21)	With the cost of living in all areas, fuel, electricity and home loans people cannot afford rate rises as well, this could be that little extra which would cause many people to lose there houses. I personally live week to week and would be at risk of losing my house if the rates were increased. I therefore only support the lowest rate increase.
22)	Scenario 3 is ridiculous. If you have really significantly messed up scenarios 2 is the best. But i would prefer it all to be re looked at.

23)	Scenario 1: create more mental health amongst people Scenario 2: people with mental health from scenario 1 will default on payments or have to start selling their homes because they can no longer afford life itself Scenario 3: you will kill the population those people with mental health will resort to suicide. The pensioners won't be able to afford electricity or to eat let alone a massive rate increase. Get a grip QCC you will kill people, covid was enough to increase mental health and now this you seriously are a joke.
24)	Scenario 2. Scenario 3 may put some people below the poverty line. Preventing people from homelessness should be prioritised over access to services, such as pools.
25)	All three scenarios need a rethink. That are all unacceptable as they stand. Cull the waste and bureaucratic first. Start with the planning office. Then reduce the number of councillors from 11 to at most 6. Increase their remuneration if necessary but give them achievable KPIs. A greater level of accountability. Many of their activities are absolutely unnecessary. Look at ways for large service providers to QPRC such as utilities, quarries, waste collection services, financial services, etc ., can sponsor venues such as The Q, sporting facilities, community functions, etc.. Look at your outsourcing costs, are they all really necessary?? Are you paying too much for substandard services …? Highly likely. In many cases there are businesses/ people within QPRC that could do a far better job at much lower costs. Your investment portfolio and management of such is woefully inadequate. A poor portfolio, lack of diversification, higher risk than necessary, current fees excessive …… very poorly managed. Parts of Rural Residential area in QPRC need a total planning rethink. Rather wasting time tweaking an outdated LCP, a complete overhaul is necessary in keeping with the current changing environment. Canberra is developing at a significant pace. As a council surrounding the ACT there are significant opportunities to increase revenues by opening up smaller rural residential areas that are within 20 mins of the ACT to ease a very significant demand for ACT workers seeking a more rural lifestyle. The Council needs to be run as a modern efficient and progressive business, not as a government bureaucracy. QPRC could lead the way Nationally by a radical overhaul, if done properly. A move to modern business practices in keeping with a modern environment an evolving progressive constituency. There are significant opportunities to achieve ongoing revenue streams without resorting to the very negative options currently on offer that are typical of most councils in Australia.

	Current offer represent a lacks of imagination. It represents cost increases for every resident in QRPC with no or limited additional benefits.
26)	Prioritise better and provide the services we pay for. Lines on Macs Reef Rd before filling pot holes is ridiculous. We pay extra for councils terrible decisions. Safety first, includes keeping our most at risk safely housed without price rises that will be passed onto renters.
27)	Option 3 is untenable. Option 1 is my preference
28)	Leave at current pegged rate Cost of living is going through the roof without councils making it worse
29)	Think it's all a disgrace and completely unfair for rate payers. We shouldn't be made to foot the bill of council incompetency. Reduce recreational facilities and sporting grounds and you will see an influx in crime rate with bored youth. Captains Flat already has a lack of facilities, how is abandoning the ones that are in place going to support wellbeing of the kids out there?
30)	I think scenario 3 and maintain as many services as possible.
31)	I do not support an increase in rate rises. This is not sustainable for residents.
32)	Maintaining areas utilised by people daily is essential- river walks, parks, roads, car parks.
33)	This whole argument-which essentially breaks down to ‘pay double or we close everything’ is a joke. This has come about due to what looks to be a case of serious mismanagement by the former council regimes. Why should the onus for a solution fall squarely on the shoulders of residents? I vehemently oppose all options.
34)	Option one is preferred, as mentioned increase fees for use of services that only a few people use. Option two is acceptable, option is far too excessive, council spending needs to be reduced, cut back spending in arts and culture as so few people appreciate them.
35)	Scenario 1 would be the best. You are hitting a lot of people who are financially stretched already. Very different for people living in town areas. Those of us who have to travel long distances are feeling it worst with such high fuel bills. Plus we have been through drought, fires, floods and Covid in quick succession. We also live in a Natural Disaster area. Rising interest rates are also hurting when everything else is going up too. Our roads are atrocious too. Why not let those privileged with the facilities they have pay more than those of us who don't use these things. The other 2 scenarios I don't like.
36)	Scenario 1: preferred option Scenario 2: compromised position Scenario 3: completely ridiculous!!! And simply unaffordable. Choose this option and you won't get voted back in!
37)	It feels like we are being pushed toward Option 3 in order to keep functioning. There doesn't seem to be a genuine in between/middle ground which won't significantly impact smaller towns such as Bungendore and Braidwood in particular. I.e. the commitment to the new sporting complex/pool being axed despite it being committed to as part of the removal of the old pool + construction of the proposed high school. There needs to be an option 4 with a more sustainable way forward (i.e. maintaining all existing services, add paid parking to CBD, sell of The Q/raise prices at The Q, consider fees for community buildings if needed).

	We need to find a community driven middle ground, we struggle to get basic services as it is (for eg. we still don't have basic stormwater/kerb + gutter in our area, let alone footpaths), so reducing these services in anyway for a period of 3 years will only lead to failing infrastructure and greater problems down the track for the services/infrastructure we do have. I'd also like to see more state government support for the local government level/councils to stop this from happening altogether. The current model and financial structure is unsustainable for our community. We need more, but we can't even afford what we have.
38)	RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL I vote for option 3. Property Owner - Isabella St, Queanbeyan
39)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Good evening The mayor recognises the below statement: 'We don't want to reduce staff, we don't want to cut services, we don't want to close pools or reduce our maintenance budgets, but that's the reality unless we do something about the income we receive.' However he had absolutely no problem giving himself an extraordinary wage increase during these challenging times!!! The choices provided for rate payers hint at a veiled threat of reduced services. An increase in rates of 97% over a 3 year period is untenable given the struggling families in the region. It shows an absolute lack of care or concern by the elected council for the hardship this will entail. I stupidly voted for him - that will not happen again
40)	Rate rise : Minimal rate increase, reduce to core services and complete a thorough review of all services, FTE positions and the cost to run them. We need to reset, start from core services and rebuild our council with full transparency and clear communication with the community about what council is doing and how much it costs. No one in the community has a full understanding of what services are offered and how much they cost. A full financial breakdown needs to be provided to the community including a list of all FTE positions, their pay rate and duties. People cannot responsibly comment until they have a deeper understanding. This should be presented in a simplified, easy to understand manner. If people were more aware of all services and associated tasks being undertaken at council maybe they would understand the need to increase rates.
41)	If it is a choice between being able to continue to afford living in my house and feeding my kids or having reduced services, I'm happy with having reduced services.

42)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to vote on the above. I support the option to significantly reduce services. The proposed rate increases are preposterous. QPRC needs to drastically reign in its spending.
43)	I support the 1st scenario
44)	I agree with Option 3 as I wouldn't like to see services drastically cut however I don't necessarily agree with the extra amounts dedicated to things like environmental programs/policies - whilst this is important I don't think it's at the top of the list in terms of services the community would like to see improve. It would be more important to put those $ towards extra funding for road safety improvements and infrastructure etc across the LGA
45)	The community is already dealing with a number of increases to their family budgets, most without pay rises that allow them to easily manage these increases. I know Council are aware of the cost of living pressure faced by the community and they should be looking to assist by ensuring that they apply a minimal increase.
46)	Scenarios 1and2 include the wording the wording "may include" what other funding will be cut that has not been articulated in the scenarios. Scenario 1 - less pain for the rate payers of QPRC who are already struggling to keep on top of the cost of living. Totally agree with reducing the number of councillors Scenario 2 - not the best option but at least it seems like a mix of 1 and 3 - totally agree with reducing the number of councillors, Scenario 3 - This is the worst scenario; households will not be able to survive this rate increase to fund the council's financial shortfall. This scenario apparently funds the current level of services so rate payers of QPRC can still expect to see un-mowed verges, uneven footpaths, potholes, not have our garbage collected on garbage days, unusable public toilets. None of the scenarios had a pay reduction for the councillors - the pay increase they gave themselves just shows how out of touch they are with the community. We do not live on the Northern beaches of Sydney where you would expect to pay a premium in council rates and amenities.
47)	SO YOU HAD $74 MILLION TO SPEND ON FANCY NEW COUNCIL OFFICES AND MASSIVE PAY RISES FOR COUNCILLORS RECENTLY AS WELL - BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO KEEP COUNCIL FINANCIALLY SOLVENT AND YOU EXPECT PEOPLE TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU??? WOW, JUST WOW. HOW ABOUT GIVING UP YOUR SALARIES AND SELLING THAT FANCY BUILDING, MAYBE THAT WOULD PAY FOR SOME OF IT!! **** YOU LOT ARE A BUNCH OF GREEDY THIEVING ***, TAKING MONEY FROM THE POCKET OF THOSE ON THE BREADLINE!! YOU HAVE HAD SIX ENTIRE YEARS TO GET THE COUNCIL FINANCIALLY STABLE, SO WHAT **** **** HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS **** TIME?? OH RIGHT, GIVING YOURSELF PAY RISES AND WASTING MONEY ON THINGS QUEANBEYAN DOESN'T NEED!' BUT IT'S ALL THE TAXPAYERS FAULT RIGHT - MAYORS DON'T ACTUALLY RUN THE COUNCIL AFTER ALL, THEY'RE

	JUST ENTITLED FIGUREHEADS... WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE ACT GOVT TO TAKE OVER RUNNING THINGS FOR YOU, SINCE YOU ARE SO **** INCOMPETENT! *** *****.
48)	**Comment received in person by Customer Service** A customer visited the customer service centre in Queanbeyan this morning and she wanted to share her thoughts regarding the rates rise etc, she didn't want to share her name and she was very pleasant. The lady said she was hoping for the lower percentage rate rise and she said that the higher proposal was too high too quickly. She said also making the Jerrabomberra/Googong hydro pool a priority because she has to travel to Queanbeyan pool. I said to the customer I would pass this on to you.
49)	All three scenarios are disappointing, there has to be other options, who does not pay general rate charges, Council should start charging them, churches should pay they are some of the wealthiest organisations in the world.
50)	I support scenario 3, as I believe council is currently doing a good job across the entire LGA and should keep the good work going
51)	They are all crap but if there is no other choice, then Option 1. Adding paid parking will just kill all retail in all town centres and is another cost to manage. It doesn't fix the core issue of financial mismanagement by past and present Council.
52)	This is disgusting to have a council that obviously can't do the job it has been elected to do!!! I am a pensioner.....is this taken into account with these proposals??? Scenario 1 – Significantly reduce services.....the best of a bad bunch of scenarios.....how did this council let the problem get in this state.....not impressed at all.....how much are we paying you all.....lets sack the lot of you and re-elect a whole new council...this has got to be a bad joke!!! Scenario 2 – Reduce services.....not an option!!! Scenario 3 – Maintain services.....not an option!!!
53)	All of those options are terrible. Reducing services is going to make it hard to live in Queanbeyan without relying on Canberra. Increasing rates so significantly will cause hardship not only for homeowners but for the renters (we all know the homeowners will pass on the expense) in an already expensive and competitive rental market. It will also cause businesses to close and the QPRC to decline as a whole. And we all know that those rates will not go down after the 3 year period. A slower more measured approach with a 10-20 year plan to sort it out would be more practical. This feels like a money grab. Also are there not government grants or assistance or appeals that could be made to access funds elsewhere.

	Surely this is an issue that could have been addressed much earlier. The merger happened 4 years ago. A plan should have been put in place.
54)	Not happy with any of them to be honest. It's rubbish.
55)	I am a pensioner, and this plan will be impossible , unless the government puts my pension up by $150 per fortnight.
56)	Learn how to budget with our money. The ratepayers are not a bottomless pit of money. Just because you are hopeless with the management of our money does not mean we should give you more to waste. I don't agree with any rate increase until you can stop the waste.
57)	Rate Scenario 1 is not sustainable. (Services need to be maintained at a sensible level) Rate Scenario 3 will be a significant impact on household budgets with rising cost of living and mortgages and rents. Rate scenario 2 requires some sacrifices from Rate payers but also from QPRC.
58)	Service levels on any scenario's this council provides is a oxymoron.
59)	I don't like either scenarios, all loose out, meaning the rate payers. We get a shot town and pay a fortune or pay a fortune for a promise that may not happen. I'm not convinced. Very disappointed
60)	If any one of the three scenarios go ahead most people won't be able to pay there rates and will be forced to see or move away. All because of councils mismanagement of our money that we work hard for every day.
61)	Proposed rate rises are extreme and unacceptable. I already pay 3k a year! How are QPRC in so much debt? Why is a massive rate payer funded bailout the only option? Why is no one at QPRC taking any responsibility for gross mismanagement? Why are you trying to shape this as anyone who doesn't agree to feeding your economic incompetence is against community? I didn't think QPRC could get any lower, but you continue to amaze me. Pathetic. Shame on you all.
62)	Preference for service reduction over increase in rates to maintain current services. Selling the Q and halting aquatic centre and sports facilities in the current economy are good ideas.
63)	a 10 % increase over 3 years would be reasonable a 100% increase is unsustainable - especially with increasing cost of living For the crap service offered we already pay more than most council areas. Being rural - I don't access your footpaths outside the CBD, children are beyond child care so why should I care, - the reality is I do - because our elderly deserve the resource to walk to the local shop and you children deserve the best start possible. We have a socio economic range from the incredibly poor to the filthy rich. there needs to be some balance in the middle as to what you are expecting people to pay.
64)	I prefer scenario one with minimum rate rises. It's not possible to undertake business activities or attend work or school if the roads are unusable. Fix them or you will have a dead regional economy.
65)	They focus almost exclusively on increasing rates for ratepayers. That there is no option four that provides details of an efficiency program to optimise the QPRC operations and downsize the grandiose nature of the investments being made in the Queanbeyan / Jerrabomberra is nothing short of disgraceful.
66)	The current services are not being maintained now with the current rate fees. Grass cutting in the more rural areas and on blocks that remain undeveloped are not being effectively managed. The pool in BUNGENDORE is a money pit, close it and for now residents can visit other facilities.
67)	I would go with scenario 1.

68)	Scenario 1 - this is the only scenario that is affordable for ratepayers but maintenance and mowing of council land should not be cut. Scenario 2 - too expensive for ratepayers. maintenance and mowing of council land should not be cut. Scenario 3 - the cost alone is absolutely ridiculous. I cannot afford this and will have to move. QPRC rates are already significantly higher than other council areas. I moved from orange which has higher rates than other councils comparatively but at least it is a well maintained and beautiful town. QPRC rates are already $1000 per year more than orange.
69)	You are asking for rate increases in all three in a very difficult and unstable economic environment for everyone. This is not acceptable, particularly for those of us living in the more remote parts of QPRC, who see little to no benefit from Council services in our region.
70)	Minimize the increase to rates, peoples incomes are not keeping up with inflation. The councillors pay increases should be pegged to the wage price index.
71)	There needs to be an option 4. Where expected services such as roads, waste and sporting facilities are maintained. A focus on developing projects in regional towns are completed and a slowing of further Queanbeyan projects such as: the Q, historical sites, cultural aspects. Upgrading Queanbeyan sporting facilities which are already adequate. Our elected candidates claimed they would manage within the budget, wouldn't waste our money on unnecessary projects and yet they approved their own pay increasing and have contributed to approve projects that already have adequate services in the Queanbeyan city area. Very disappointing and verging on fraudulent to believe rate payers will accept increases to rates without focusing on non-essential services being cut or reduced or cheaper options looked at, if we are in deficit maybe those pay increases need to be paused or withdrawn until it's an actual affordable option. Do the responsible thing that you were elected to do.
72)	Completely unacceptable. Financial mismanagement over many years has returned to roost. Call a special election so we can elect competent managers.
73)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL** These 3 Ideas are not suitable, minimum 46% rate rise, because of mismanagement and over staffing, the ageing community of Braidwood living on their super and the pension can't afford such a ridiculous increase to their annual income/budget, you will have to, Have cuts to council staffing, no more hiring your mates!. Sell off of council owned assets, Close Bungendore and Braidwood depots. Stop the construction of new council owned infrastructure. And spending 40 million a year on equipment is so infuriating, Wanting to double the rate to keep things going as they are is so irresponsible, it sounded like something a child would come up with, oh and I guess in another 5 years you'll want to do it again. Not happy at all to see that my local council in going to have to go into receivership on the afternoon tv news, This is something you usually see when there is corruption involved. It might be time to hand in your resignation.

74)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Absolute joke. Do these rate rises have anything to do with the absurd 80 million dollar council chambers currently being built? I'm sure the funding for the 80million new council chambers could have been better used to renovate and extend the existing chambers, deliver community services, maintain roads and fund the well deserving public schools around qbn…. And keep some spare for the back pocket! A ridiculous notion to even put to the public as you're spending more unnecessary money reading these emails.
75)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Morning, Vote is for scenario 1 - significantly reduced services.
76)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Good afternoon, Thank you for welcoming comment on the 3 Scenarios outlined in order to improve QPRC's financial position. I am a resident of 2620 but find the explanatory statement regarding the at the conclusion of the project unsatisfactory. Why would the SRV not decrease to pre-SRV levels after 3 years of a sustained increase? I interpret this exercise is to pay debt. Is the purpose of the SRV and the reduction of services to correlate and balance income vs expenses or to pay off debt to manageable levels? A reduction in services, is a reduction of services. A reduction of services and an increase in rates outlines to me an increase in income, and reduction of expenses resulting in increased cash (at some stage) and a favourable financial position. Your plan fails to outline when this occurs and what the plan is when this actually happens. The plan outlines a likely reduction in services for three years, but does not provide any clear outline what happens after this, you will have significantly increased income from rates but will you invest more into services/capital works? Seems like that investment strategy which is apparent in the LTFP hasn't worked so well which is why we are in this position. So, any option is fine with me knowing it is for 3 years. However, council should try and be more transparent about what QPRC looks like after 2026 without referring residents to the LTFP. The LTFP seems like a token, perfect-world scenario, and doesn't actually consider the human element. There will be residents who cannot afford this, and will relocate and it seems like an expectation that this is not a risk (I couldn't actually find a risk assessment anywhere with this 'project'). As a resident, it seems unrealistic to think all QPRC residents will sit here and say 'yes' to a rate increase but it seems like that's councils expectation. People will leave, and people will be hesitant to populate QPRC, based on the permanent rate increase that you are proposing. Resulting in possible, additional rate increases, and long- time service disruptions.

	This seems like a band aid but the council is not explaining how you are resolving the root problem so this doesn't and won't happen again.
77)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Hi, My husband and I own 4 properties in the QPRC LGA. While the increase would impact us x 4, we are very passionate about the creation of community, having a range of facilities for people of all ages and interests, and having good roads and services. Therefore we support the increase in rates as outlined in Scenario 3 on the assumption that all planned facilities/ infrastructure will proceed or be sustained as outlined in Scenario 3. It would be ethically and morally wrong to lift rates and then cut infrastructure and services as well. We also trust that the governance of the QPRC internal operational budget is strictly managed and monitored and that all efforts to reduce unnecessary lurks and perks are made.
78)	Option One. Significantly reduce services as above.
79)	First off, I am totally appalled and disgusted when I learned that the council gave themselves pay rises of 22% and 33 %, given that no one in the entire country of Australia except CEO's got pay rises. Everybody else has gone backwards. In addition, there are many more ways you can raise money without causing hardship across our town. Have you considered raising the rents on all council flats, homes, townhouses and other rentals in the area? Probably not, given that the entire country of Australia has had rent increases privately over the last 3 years. Also, I have NEVER EVER SEEN a councillor or the mayor in my suburb since *** **** did a door knock decades ago when trying to get votes for mayor. Why are we paying them so much money for nothing? We have no service at all. So in that respect, I vote for no change at all, that councillors and the mayor do the right thing and hand back their pay rises. But if I have to have a change, then Scenario one is the only option. Yes, stop funding for community activities, user pays. Charge extra and I mean extra for anyone who wants to use our facilities. Stop handing out grants all over the place - if you want to improve yourself work harder - we had to 40 years ago - no handouts then. You could introduce a mobile library for Bungendore/Braidwood given they are really only tiny towns. No community grants at all. user pays. urban amenities should only be for the township - renters in council homes/buildings should have to clean up their own gardens including nature strips etc. Yes, as said previously, never seen a councillor yet, so get rid of half of them - don't appear to do anything anywhere for anyone except for their own objection which usually is motivated for other reasons. and it is about time that paid parking came to Queanbeyan/Palerang areas not just Qbyn CBD. Include all areas of QPRC that have council parking areas. And in future, DON'T let your citizens find about your changes through the Canberra Times, you should have had enough decency to advise your citizens by mail of the proposes. Again, another disgusting piece of lack of humanity and compassion to the citizens of QPRC. In my opinion i would sack the lot of you except for *** **** - she appears to be the only one who actually cares about our community.
80)	Scenario three is utopia, and families are already struggling with cost of living, increased interest rates etc. I think there needs to be a balance between scenario three and two.

	I would have no issues if council sold some assets like swimming pools, as long as the private owner signed up for a long term lease to provide a 'public' pool. I'd also have no issues with the Council seeking private investment for a percentage of 'The Q', with a first option buy-back option at years three, six and ten of the contracts. If this becomes an election commitment that either major party is willing to address, then I believe that balance between scenario one and two for the residents, with the NSW Government matching the dollar value to scenario three in year one, two, and three. Under this scenario, I'd slowly raise the rates, so that in year four, I've hit the scenario three rate rise. It will be more palatable for the community to grandfather the highest rate scenario in then drop a tonne of bricks on them like proposed in scenario three. I think you need to do better education and be a lot more honest and break down the rate increases per township as well. My rates in Googong are well above the 'average rates' of the council as outlined in your 'myth busting' flyer.
81)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESS** Good morning, I have never sent an email to the Council prior to this but as I live alone I am extremely worried about an increase of the rates to such exorbitant amounts. One proposal 97% that is ridiculous how on earth can you justify that amount?. Council members have just received a pay rise whilst the residents have to struggle to find money for not only higher rates but electricity, water, sewage, food and so on..... I know that you are going to receive many more emails from disgruntled homeowners protesting their disapproval of the Council's intentions, so please for once take note and come to a sensible conclusion.
82)	I think if you increase the rates it should be on the component that is for Rubbish collection, sewage etc. As there are many rate payers who do not get these additional services and should get compensated. (Farmland outside of the villages and cities in this district). The rate rise should be on this component of the rates for these additional services.
83)	None of the three scenarios should be adopted or put in place until: - All non-essential services have ceased - and the only services maintained are those essential for public safety and health (e.g. road maintenance; environmental health; sewerage; animal control). - All works on Council buildings have ceased, unless urgently and directly required for the health and safety of Council staff. If buildings are left half-finished or incomplete, then that is the consequence of financial incompetence.

	- Any Council assets and services that can be privatised have been transitioned for sale/tender - including Council buildings; water services; waste services; planning/development processes and approvals; pet registration; and libraries. - An independent audit of all expenditure and financial control/planning processes of the past 5 years has been completed - to identify where financial deficiencies first began and who is responsible. - All Councillors and the Mayor have resigned, and the NSW Government has appointed an Administrator with significant financial management and auditing experience - e.g. KordaMentha (as Council, if it was a company, would be insolvent). - Council has advice from local council authorities in the United Kingdom, who have faced similar financial pressures and have all been able to cut services and outlays, without any increase to rates remotely like the ones proposed. The three scenarios have not been sufficiently developed or independently audited, and are being proposed without Council taking the necessary steps as outlined above due to its financial incompetence.
84)	I think we have to bite the bullet and take option three as a result of the mismanagement by the last two councils.
85)	Option 3 is the only way to go
86)	I think all 3 proposals are excessive in the amount of the rate rise. All the amounts nominated would cause financial difficulties and they do not seem justified in any way. Bit strange how new council 1st port of call was to,give themselves and excessive pay rise and at no time during their campaigning did the councillors mention the possibility of such a large rate rise. If the council is so financially strapped how can they justify their self voted pay rise?
87)	“Mayor Winchester noted that both the former Palerang Council and Queanbeyan City Council were considering options to raise their revenue before the merger.” This is absolute rubbish.Palerang was in sturdy financial shape in 2016. For many of us our greatest fear was being lumped with the indebted behemoth of Queanbeyan. Now we are attached to a city that has always spent beyond its means, and we’re paying for it. I’d very much like for this current council to forego their self appointed pay rises and look very carefully at where they can find savings that do not impact ratepayers.
88)	Scenario 1 is my preference. I don't believe I could afford the additional increases on my single income.
89)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Hi

	As a ratepayer with a farm in Harold's cross I pay on the higher rate as I have land. I do not get sewage, rubbish collection etc. Captains Flat road is getting excellent improvements done from Kings Highway to The village of Captains Flat. The next section of Captains flat road is dirt and is collapsing and is very dangerous especially on the edges of a nearly single lane road with many blind corners. There is minimum repairs happening to keep the road open. This road has become a popular alternative from Braidwood to Queanbeyan. As a rate payer I know roads are expensive and you have a lot of terrible roads to look after, but maintaining the main access roads for safety is the main ticket item for farms that do not get the extra services of waste collection, sewage etc. After looking at the 3 options, none of your sceneries are acceptable. You are telling us you will just cut everything or we have to accept the increase of rates. I believe there are other options. One of the components of your options is to increase the main rates that everyone pays and not the additional component which is about half of the overall payment. I believe you should increase the rates on the additional component so those that get additional services pay more. That way those that get more services pay more than those that don't, as I already pay more because I have a large parcel of land.
90)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Good afternoon, Re: the absurd and quite frankly "rude" proposal to increase my rates by a possible 90 plus percent. Maybe if the councillors and Mayor were not taking such a large "approved" pay rise without any evidence of their performance since being elected and they were not spending so much money on the new "Emperor's Palace" (the new 5 storey council offices and Q Hub), such huge rate hikes would not be necessary. That along with the fact that Queanbeyan residents are now paying for the significant road repairs in Bungendore, Braidwood and beyond is costing us a fortune to upkeep. The roads were/are garbage and most likely so, due to the lack of upkeep historically and in recent times. I would also like to know how much of the increase in rates is going to be spent on diversity and inclusion projects and cultural recognition celebrations. Maybe if some of these were cut we would not be so severely impacted. Additionally, your service is currently so bad I have been waiting three months for an email or phone call in reply to my query about installing a separate water meter at my residence. The is despite my emails and phone calls to the staff at the council offices who promised to raise a case and get someone to call me. Maybe a long hard look at your own spending would be a good idea, before hoisting another large sack of the proverbial on the

	rate payers, who under the current government are all suffering from the cost of living stress. Shame on you. Regards
91)	I am voting for Scenario 1 – Significantly reduce services. I'm not convinced that any of these scenarios of rate increases will achieve anything but more hurt, heartache and pressure on families that are already just surviving. Why now?? Not sure if you have heard but people are doing it very tough. Do you honestly think that people would miss or even use any of the things that the council is proposing for example a new aquatic centre. These are the savings we need: Selling off The Q stopping funding to all community facilities and activities cutting heritage grants closing aquatic centres and stopping developments of new sports and aquatic facilities, increasing fees significantly reducing urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning), introducing paid parking New environmental programs would receive $1.3 million per year Renewed infrastructure – community facilities, footpaths and pools would receive $1.9 million per year Expanded infrastructure for growth and to match 1:1 grant opportunities would receive $400k per year (e.g. footpath extensions) The comment "We will need a strategy to reduce expenses by $5.5 million each year" why are we paying for this? Who wasn't doing their job? Who is accountable for this overspend??
92)	Before imposing additional costs on ratepayers Council should first look at its own wasteful spending like the vehicles provided to staff, the number of staff employed by Council, etc. Given that many households are already facing financial difficulties it is important to not impose an even greater burden than is required therefore Council should look at making savings in areas that are not core Local Council responsibility. There are many self-funded retirees who are unable to access any financial assistance so increasing assistance to pensioners only is not really a fair way of easing the additional burdens proposed by the 3 scenarios.
93)	I am a single father who struggles to keep up with bills as it is by increasing rates by that much I will most likely sell and move somewhere else
94)	I unequivocally object to any rate rise whatsoever. It is apparent there has been a gross mismanagement of rates payers money and you are attempting to address the issue with more of our money? Absolutely not.

95)	scenario 1 until you all can learn to manage a budget better. Tighten your purse strings like everyone else has had to with the cost of everything going up. I don't know where you think residents in googong are going to get the money from to pay even more than the already exorbitant rates we are paying out here.
96)	Do not increase rate. We are now struggling
97)	None are acceptable and the mayor, councillors and staff need to be audited, investigated and wage freezes need to be implemented immediately and the two increases given to the councillors repealed and repaid
98)	How can you increase rates and decrease services. Obviously by your wording it's a threat, to close the library and the Q and the regional pools is absolutely unacceptable. How dare you consider these vital services that we already pay for expendable. It is disgusting that council thinks it's appropriate to increase rates so dramatically while the management are on ridiculously high wages - for what? To get us into this mess? Absolutely unacceptable. The councillors should be ashamed that this is plan, and whoever wrote this proposal need's education in communication. Perhaps the council needs to go into administration because this is gross!
99)	Neither of these scenarios are valid. It was not our fault in the first place. Absolute disgrace.
100)	I believe we should maintain a base level of services, most aligned to Scenario 3, even if this is at additional cost to rate payers. A reduction in services to the extent highlighted in Scenario 1 and 2 could have long term adverse socio-economic costs. However, some cost cutting has been identified in scenario 1 and 2 which should be implemented (as mentioned in my comment above). Services that are under-utilised should be ceased (such as the Customer service centres outside Queanbeyan). Spending should be more closely monitored - a Financial Officer should be responsible for funding allocation and Councillors should need agreement from the Financial Officer that funds are available prior to approving works/services.
101)	any of the rates rises are not okay. getting rid of pools and libraries is not acceptable. the council going into administration is a GREAT idea. council have no idea which sporting facilities or parks are even used. there was just a shade cover installed on the park at the end of Atkinson Street, start of Severne St. over many, many years I have seen this park used only a handful of times so a cover is a waste of money. haven't seen anyone there since the cover has been installed.
102)	Prefer option 2, reasonable middle ground. Costs as indicated in each scenario were reasonable however cost of living pressures are hurting all. Lower income households will feel the rate increase more than others. Suggest extending the rebate not only to seniors but to pensioners in general.
103)	I can't afford any of them. I've been unemployed for nearly a year. I am 64, and I'm not confident about getting a job. I've lived in Qbn for 8yrs and in that time my rates have increased considerably. I don't understand that given you knew the dire financial situation, you still proceeded with development and building projects.
104)	Happy to pay to maintain services as they are, make the region continue to be better than Canberra and we will continue to grow better
105)	Prefer scenario 3 (max rate rise)
106)	Scenario 1 is the preference. Scenario 3 would increase our rates to over $6k pa. I don't know anyone who pays the 'average' rates of $1300 as per the documentation provided.

107)	I support scenario 3. Scenario 1 and 2 would undermine our communities further. The value of our lives in regional towns like Braidwood would be diminished without pools and other services. Only scenario 3 can avoid further disadvantage for living outside a capital city.
108)	As a person on a Government pension and living in a one bedroom studio apartment none of these scenarios are in any way going to help me financially, in fact send me backward. Already your quarterly fees are more than one weeks wage. I am not able to attend any art or live shows. I do not use the library nor the swimming pools.
109)	It's s joke. Will the rates revert to normal after three years? Or will ratepayers continue to bail out an underperforming, inept, greedy council? Will the mayor and councillors reject their ridiculous pay rise to help the situation..... I thought not.
110)	I prefer scenario 2. With two kids in daycare and cost of living expenses everywhere we just can't afford it. Many have currently fixed mortgage rates about to expire with a huge increase in payments coming. Also, our rates in the comparable chart to others was already in the middle, a 97% increase would make them one of the highest and we still have to take our own garbage to the tip and pay for it!
111)	Doubling of rates over 3 years (option 3) is ludicrous - adopt option 1 or 2, reduce some services and reduce overhead costs of staff and admin at QPRC
112)	Scenario 3 is not acceptable Scenario 1 is correct reduce to what can be afforded find the savings and ask NSW Government for money for roads
113)	#2
114)	They are all absolutely horrible. Call in an administrator sell some assets and stop all the woke, unnecessary activities and focus on the priorities. Option 4 - sell off your unsustainable assets, cut costs, find out what is costing more (if it's more people, charge developers more)
115)	You can hardly cut Bungendore's services more as the pool, library and Community centre are all to be demolished for the new school. What do the users of these facilities do while we wait for replacement facilities? and will they ever come? The rates are already very high for retirees, and they will now have to decide whether to eat or pay their rates. Many retirees and pensioners are having to use their savings just to afford food, fuel and medical supplies. With the imposition of extra rates they could be unable to maintain the upkeep of their homes, if they own them, or find themselves homeless as landlords increase rents to pay for the rates. Certainly any extra activities will be curtailed.
116)	Give us scenario one the cheapest offer.
117)	I prefer scenario 1, whilst I personally can afford any of these however, noting Googong is a growing area with young families and commitments scenario 1 would be more agreeable to most residents, the Q centre well, I am pretty sure that it is a well that the council just keeps throwing money into, once the sports centre, town centre and sports club are up and running they will provide everything that the Q provides and more and will be economically sustainable being owned by mostly private companies, therefore the council will not have to keep throwing money at the Q, really what does it provide an aquatic learn to swim pool for children, which there is an abundance of within the area, I would like to see it sold off.
118)	If you increase our rates by 97 percent, a lot of us are just going to pack up and move to Canberra. I already pay over $4000 per year in rates and have to scrape up money every time the rates bill comes in .

119)	Go back and think it out again for yourselves and stop using consultants that suggest outlandish spending plans that they are not going to pay for. It is easy to spend somebody else's money.
120)	Community services should be preserved, so I support the full rate rise.
121)	Reduce operational expenses of Council across the board. New sports facilities should be cut. Provide needs based services to communities.
122)	I think scenario 1 or 2 are the best options, scenario 3 keeps the Status quo in place without taking any measures to fix the current mess council is in.
123)	Do not increase rates beyond CPI increases, people are finding it hard enough to survive and council imposing a significant rate increase will only make it harder. In the regional areas of council, we receive nothing for our rates already, so increasing them is not equitable.
124)	Absolute junk. Financial mismanagement and the community pays for your errors. SCENARIO 4 - DE-MERGER is my choice
125)	Over the next 3/5 years you want to double the rates to continue proving basic services required. Considering, mortgages, electricity/Gas, fuel, food are all going up too and yet wages are not what is your plan when many people will no longer be able to pay their rates?
126)	I think a 18% increase with improved services is entirely possible.
127)	To stop mortgage foreclosures you really only have one option and that is to go with the lowest increase . Not everyone in this area can afford this huge increase on top of everything else. We aren't earning the $400,000 a year, like some. I really don't want to lose access to the pool and things I use, but the rate increase is too much to keep these.
128)	Scenario three is my vote. It's more money so it will hurt, just make sure you have payment plans in place for people who are financially struggling.
129)	I think none of them are good. However, I realise that you are going to choose one of them (more than likely the 3rd option - let's be honest). I would choose option 1 because I have many clients in Queanbeyan that simply cannot afford any of the options and this will be the lesser blow to their budgets.
130)	Marked reduction in services- there are too many. Have a user pays model.
131)	Queanbeyan has the highest population in regards to the region. Why are their rates half of what I pay in Bungendore? Charge them the same as we get stung and see how quickly you are audited for fraud.
132)	Honestly none of them are acceptable in my mind. If there are structural issues with the budget then I'm not convinced doubling my rates will do anything to fix the long term outcomes. Just pushes the problem down the road another ten years and I have to pay more money now. Make the hard decisions so that the budget can balance with minimal impact to services. To just roll over and hand over more money doesn't encourage that sort of optimisation, it encourages laziness and inefficiency. At the end of the day, under option 3 my rates will be over $4.5k a year by 2025 for a humble 3 bedroom house in Karabar for

	no additional services. That does not compare well with the ACT and even suburbs that are closer to the Canberra CBD. To add some more context, I have a baby on the way, rate rises are happening so I'm just copping it from everywhere. I work for the Government and am lucky to have a secure job, however my humble pay rise next year is 3%. 30% of that will be straight into rate rises at this rate and the rest will be eaten up by the jump in utility prices everyone is predicting for next year. If you introduce paid parking, I'll just go somewhere else, and I'm sure a lot of people will do the same. Narrabundah, Fyshwick and the airport all offer a lot of shopping and have free parking. Another thing that has not been part of the discussion is a possible de-merger. Again in the discussions it seems that QPRC is responsible for a larger rural area now, which would no doubt require more roads maintenance with reduced rates income. So why can't we go back? I would be curious to see some analysis on that produced and several merged NSW councils have already split again for this reason. I have asked the NSW Local Government minister as well as the member for Monaro for their position on this given the forced merger back in 2016 was all about reducing rates....haha!
133)	This is a post I read that accurately depicts my feelings. Scenario 3 is 97%, how is that justified?? I live in Braidwood and I don't see justifiable increased services here for us associated with that outrageous rates hike. You want to DOUBLE our rates (97%) over 3 years to MAINTAIN service levels. You are threatening to REDUCE SERVICES, CLOSE THE POOL and introduce PAID PARKING for anything less. This is sickening. No amount of spin will make this more palatable. I DO NOT SUPPORT this proposal.
134)	You barely maintain the roads and mowing as it is. To suggest reducing these services would indicate you would be ceasing them. I vote for a vote of no confidence and an entire new group bought in
135)	Please appoint an administrator severely reduce your bureaucracy
136)	Have to pay for services. Everyone wants more and no one wants to lose any so if a rate rise is required so be it.
137)	I think all scenarios will impact families extremely. If I was to choose it would be scenario 1 to have the least financial impact on families
138)	Disgusting to even propose it like you care for the community. You're just ticking the box to say you will consult, but just like everything you do, the decision has been made already and you will go ahead and take advantage of people. How do you actually justify any of these increases? even with inflation your increases go well above that. PEOPLE ARE ALREADY DOING IT TOUGH! Queanbeyan doesn't need more crime.
139)	Reducing current service levels or removing facilities eg the pool or the Q are unacceptable. The community is growing and services and facilities need to reflect that. In my opinion only option 3 is viable as devices should be maintained if not increased

140)	DO NOT bring in paid parking in Queanbeyan. I believe that councillors have already made their decision and this is a tick box exercise. They must only pick the Significantly reduce services option. If they do not pick the least cost a lot of people will further suffer.
141)	None of these options are acceptable. As a former Palerang resident we already suffered increases and had the highest rates already. I vote no confidence in your establishment. Fogo was a waste of resources... The new council building was not necessary. The Riverside development was not necessary. You don't renovate the house if your gutters are falling off. The roads have been atrocious for years. The money from the merger should have been invested in rate payer infrastructure like long needed repairs and upgrades to community spaces and facilities not a fancy new office space. If it had there would be lower repair and maintenance costs now... Unbelievable.
142)	Money management needs to be addressed with the council. Good to see that parts of Cameron Road were patched last week, but the parts that were patched had no issues, the main dips in the road are still there. Lowe Street has not been touched in years and is undrivable
143)	Not one option is acceptable. Do better.
144)	The mayor and his deputy have deceived ratepayers. They are hiding the truth and playing political games. Stop blaming everyone else. Look at yourself and your cheap political tactics.
145)	Our rates are already sky high. I want to pay the least amount possible and don't care if services have to be reduced.
146)	We get less than basic services for what we already pay. Scenario 1 is situation no change. Council can't even maintain lawn maintenance in the area. Scenario 2 should be where we sit at the moment. There has been no sizeable change in basic services required so this should be the least we expect for what we already pay. Scenario 3 is out of the question. People are already stretched thin and unable to pay their bill. This 97% increase is absurd. Stop putting money into anything that isn't required and maintain what we have instead!!!!! This proposal will invite a vote of no confidence due to the spending habits of the current members.
147)	The services provided are minimal beyond Monaro Street. The three scenarios are pure extortion. If we don't pay additional amounts on our rates, you will take away services. If we agree to #3, you will keep it at the minimal levels. Do you want the council area to be vacated? What will you do when everyone sells because of your extortion and there is no one to pay the highway robbery you want paid?
148)	Scenario one should be adopted., lowest rate rise. Council should focus on core business, tighten its belt and live within its means. No more non core services, we can't afford it, particularly in a high inflation economic environment. Definitely no new

	council building, or pay increases for councillors. Reduce the number of councillors. Stop entering into matched funding infrastructure agreements that don't include ongoing operational funding. No more community grants, applicants should be directed to state and federal grant programs for their grants.
149)	Council should be focused on roads, maintenance of green areas, and collecting waste. We're already paying a large amount for rates as it is along with large increases in other costs, if council can't manage with current finances how do we have confidence they can manage the additional amount?
150)	Reduce services to keep rate increases to a minimum - times are hard enough - rate increases will impact on homelessness hence more council problems. Close Libraries they are under-utilised and not cost effective. Everyone is online now and schools have their own libraries. Keep pools open to accommodate the lower socioeconomic group who don't have pools in their yards and also they keep the kids off the street. Don't become Canberra- you want Canberra people buying in Queanbeyan because the rates are more reasonable. Think smarter!
151)	None of the three scenarios. proposed is acceptable. If the CEO of any commercial entity presented these options to their shareholders he / she would be sacked. All options reek of financial mismanagement and ineptitude. If council's outgoings exceed income as indicated in the options proposals you are flagging the need to call in administrators. Do this now. Ratepayers will not sit quietly and allow Council to continue their business as usual spending on non core activities at ratepayers expense.
152)	All the scenarios are terrible. You building new chamber buildings etc and you now claim to not have the money. Perhaps you could have put up with the old buildings. How can you expect people to pay such increases in the current economic environment? You have stuffed up and you expect locals to pay for it. People can't even afford the first scenario of less services for more money.
153)	Scenario 4 - vote of no confidence.
154)	They all seem inappropriate considering councils actions recently - pay increase, significant council developments,
155)	Increase rates by the bare minimum required to maintain current services. But stop the spending. We don't need additional infrastructure we just need what we have maintained. More is not always better. Make the most of what we have.
156)	Prefer scenario 1 because it is simple. BUT I wouldn't give you lot another red cent if it were up to me. Reduce waste and fix your bureaucracy before asking me for more money. You waste too much as it is.
157)	All scenarios have included 'increased fees'. So you are only providing scenarios that assume a fee increase.
158)	Regardless of what option is agreed upon, the increase is beyond what anyone in the region expected. We understand services still need to be provided but maybe it's time for the essential services to just be provided and provided better. Also, was there a need for a new council building in Queanbeyan if there is such an issue with money/funding for the region?
159)	Option 3 is the only way.
160)	None of them are good. Option one is the best of them. It is really disappointing how council has grossly mismanaged their finances to get to this point in the first place.

161)	Scenario 1. It isn't fair for rate payers to have there already extremely expensive rates increase by so much. It is unaffordable. Who is going to want to live here if they can't afford the rates? For public amenities, it should be a user pays system rather than penalising homeowners, and making then cover services they may not even use.
162)	As above (Question 4)
163)	Scenario 1 is my preference
164)	Fix the goddamn roads, people who live outside of Queanbeyan get nothing for the money we pay
165)	There are two scenarios for reduced services, which are obviously unpalatable, and one for significantly increased services which you are trying to bully people into accepting through threatening language and scare mongering. Where is the status quo option?
166)	Running a Council is a business with a multimillion dollar portfolio and should be treated as such. It is not a one solution to fit all. Diversity is one of the QPRC values now it is time to live by that. 'Respect. We promote diversity, inclusion, consultation and fairness.' Get your own house in order before you start penalising residents and ratepayers for the under skilled and under qualified labour agenda council. All people make decisions on financial matter for the community should require to have at least a background or qualification in Business and should listen more the employees putting up the council reports. They have their qualifications and skills reviewed at recruitment and are in the best place to be making these decisions. Listen to the community including social media as a formal forum for discussion you (council) have chosen to engage with the community this way now you need to allow the community to engage with you in the same method, not making them submit a formal report on your in-house platform.
167)	Support significant reduction in services. The other scenarios make me want to move suburbs. They're a huge increase.
168)	Overall, it is not visible what our current rates are paying for other than a new inside compost bucket, lawn mowing, a one off clean out of the creek and rubbish pick up. The current rates are ridiculous as is. I don't think we round not a reduction in services. Why would I want to pay more for something I don't see the value in.
169)	I don't support any scenario with above inflation increases
170)	All 3 scenarios are ridiculous, we wouldn't be in this situation if some thought went into the spending of money on things not needed by everyone outside of Queanbeyan city.
171)	Disgraceful mismanagement previously should not require ratepayers to pay the cost. Reduce the fat cat wages of council management and stop voting yourselves pay rises which are far in excess of the average.
172)	Privatise the Q and de-merge from Palerang and our financial problems are solved. We had no financial troubles before the merger. I shouldn't be subsidising people who live out at Braidwood.

173)	Neither scenario supported as presented, due to the significant levels of rate increase proposed under each. Surely council services cannot be that financially under pressure in such a short period of time to warrant a near doubling of rates over a three year period just to maintain the current level of services. If this is the case then there must be a degree of financial mismanagement as an underlying cause?
174)	NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO Sell the new council building, The Q, reduce the library hours, reduce staff,
175)	You have presented it like it is a fait accompli and we will all roll over and accept 97%. I'm more inclined to go for no change or the minimum. Let's see how it pans out. I'd bet we won't notice any change outside Queanbeyan.
176)	I support Scenario 1. Scenario 3 relies on rate payers to do the heaving lifting to avert the immediate crisis and does little to incentivise QPRC in finding efficiencies and make tough decisions for the future wellbeing of QPR. Scenario 1 will not be popular but it will force QPRC to think carefully about every dollar it spends and look closer at needs vs wants. Scenario 2 is largely unquantified and difficult to assess. e.g. what is the net effect of "reducing" and will it be effective? It feels like it was put there to avoid an "all or nothing" scenario.
177)	Scenario 2 would be the choice if a must choose option. As has only slight impact on the average joe way of life. As the average person is usually not on a hundred thousand dollar wage and has petty cash to throw around. While I do understand that there where restrictions placed on QPRC that stopped the adjustment on the rates in past years and this is a major factor. Of such increases instead of more minor increases over a longer time frame. It needs to be noted that the management knew this so should of acted accordingly. As the rate payer can't be the complete bale out. As we would not be able to do the same. If we didn't manage our finances accordingly.
178)	Services should go before rate increases. The smallest rate increase with far less services is the preferred option. This council needs to cut back on costs (including taking away the pay increase for counsellors) before it reaches into rate payers pockets again. Most of the services provided by council only benefit a minority of rate payers and can be done away with. Council also needs to stop wasting money on environmental surveys for their own agendas which they make rate payers pay for. Whichever of the three scenarios you choose it is an insult that rate payers have to ante up to pay for council mismanagement of funds.
179)	Increasing rates would impact homeowners who are already struggling with Interest Rate Hikes. Reduce all non-compulsory services instead and sell some off assets
180)	If the second or third options are applied then many people including myself will have to think of selling. Other councils that were amalgamated have applied to separate again and had this granted. Would this be a better option?
181)	All the scenarios are woeful and will make it difficult for us to remain in the region.
182)	None of these scenarios are attractive, 41% to 97% cumulative increase over a 3-year period is disgusting. Do you not understand the financial pressures that people are already under as we head into another recession. Queanbeyan is not a high socio-economic area and landlords will pass these increases directly onto the most vulnerable residents who already struggle to make ends meet, and homeowners will claw back their discretionary spending at local small businesses which further reduces economic activity in the area.

	If I had to pick one scenario, I would go with option 1 because I have so little faith now in council's ability to properly manage money that I want to minimize how much I hand over.
183)	I think as a rate payer and worker I would struggle to pay the largest increase. Although I would not want things reduced in my own life if I cannot afford something I would wait until I could. There needs to be community activities to build a great town. There are many small towns that have bypasses put in the one thing that keeps them going is the community togetherness. If we HAD to go ahead with such huge increases then the middle option is always the best.
184)	All ****. Where ate people supposed to get the money from? You mismanage the rates paid, misappropriation of monies received and now expect ratepayers to foot the bill. We will all refuse to pay any rates and what will you do then?
185)	Change how roads are repaired do a proper job the first time Reduce rate increases Stop charging for waste collection in areas where waste is not collected
186)	I support maintaining and improving all current assets and services and am willing to pay for that through any necessary rate increases.
187)	There are many "nice to have" services that Council provides. if these are also provided in the ACT then QPRC shouldn't feel the need to compete. QPRC can certainly provide niche or under-represented sports and activity facilities such as gymnastics and trampolining.
188)	It's theft, which is a crime, so you'd all be criminals
189)	I like the current level of service we receive and if increasing my rates means this is maintained, I am happy to pay the rate increase.
190)	I am currently only interested in Scenario 1 – Significantly reduce services By Selling off The Q, stopping funding to all community facilities and activities, I'm happy to have cutting of heritage grants, closing aquatic centres as I have never used any of these facilities and to stop all developments of new sports and aquatic facilities, increasing fees, significantly reducing urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning) and to introduce paid parking.
191)	The first scenario would suit me as a pensioner as the cost of livening has gone up and would have difficulty paying for rate hikes with the other two scenarios I couldn't afford. Perhaps a 10% rise a year in rates until we reach our goal even if for a while we would have to economiser
192)	None of the scenarios mentioned productivity or governance strategies to improve efficiency of PGRC business processes.
193)	There are much better scenarios to consider and ratepayers would prefer more practical and economical options. After talking with lots of locals, a more modest increase in rates is preferable (especially given the huge increases in everything else we need to survive and function) with better management of funds. My proposal: privatise the Q - we can go to Canberra for theatre productions, etc. and if the Q is doing well, it should be paying for itself; reduce the number of councillors and work towards employing quality staff with experience, initiative and positive outlooks (I don't know the team, so I'm not saying this isn't the case now, but I've had enough of seeing mates/family get jobs over better people); reduce the amount of heritage and community grants for a few years until the council is in a better fiscal position; maintenance and growth of basic facilities is crucial, especially roads and paths and local community facilities - especially the smaller communities who rely heavily on

	shared community areas; maintaining library, sport and other recreational facilities are important for wellbeing; and continue to ask locals of all ages what their biggest needs are.
194)	I acknowledge that the price of everything has risen quicker than the increases in our rates. I know there are a lot of financial constraints on Council and that our current rates will not cover the costs. I agree that the 3rd option is the best one as no one wants our services cut. But I also realise I am able to pay the increase. Many are not. I would also like to say the GM and Mayor have been extremely accommodating with the amount of time they have taken to explain the issues and options with the community. **** has remained calm and logical, not been defensive, and has explained the details of the plan and reasoning behind it so well there has been little community dissent at the meetings. Well done!
195)	Council should look for more savings before pushing for higher rates. There is money being spent on projects which are wasteful and focussed on the Queanbeyan area only.
196)	I would go for scenario 3. It is important to live in a community that is well supported by the local council
197)	All services should be maintained if it supports residents. Budgets in general should be reviewed and maintained as a need to double income does not just happen. Paid parking will punish people and reduce traffic to local businesses An increasing of cost with less service is inexcusable.
198)	Prefer scenario 1 The only service we receive at Eaglehawke is roading and recycling. Not even rubbish collection. Why should we pay for all these other services that others might benefit from? The world is heading for the greatest depression in history. Time to knuckle down and be frugal.
199)	We don't want a rate rise Cut services
200)	In Bungendore the maintenance of the parks and footpaths is very sporadic. I cannot see that this will improve under any of the scenarios. Queanbeyan will obviously be the winner in all scenarios as this is where the majority of our rates end up. I can't see too many advantages from any of the scenarios to us in Bungendore, therefore scenario 1 would be my selection.
201)	Your management of rural roads is appalling. Your construction standard of these roads is appalling
202)	Council should de-merge so that our respective regions can focus on what each actually values most. Clearly I'm paying for services in Queanbeyan that I'll never see.
203)	Please maintain services, option 3
204)	I fully support scenario 3. It's not an option I much like, but I can see the necessity to implement it.
205)	A doubling in rates in quite substantial over a period of three years to achieve good service provision. Based on the results of this survey, I think a middle ground needs to be found whereby there is a reduction in council staff, consideration into leasing the council building occurs and other cost saving measures such as the extra pension for QPRC members needs to occur. This

	could potentially allow for the rates to increase by less (or double over a longer period of time) and maintain a high level of service provision.
206)	The three scenarios, my sense is that residents and ratepayers here are to be penalised by paying higher rates if we want services that a small city should provide. The size of our city is lucky in that most of our workers work in Canberra, yet pay rates and live locally. It looks like if we wish to keep public facilities like sports fields, the one pool facility we have (we need at least two olympic sized pools), cultural centres, the Q (which many different groups - eg schools - are able to book and use, as well as concerts and plays), Queanbeyan Art Society - these things the whole cross section of ages of our community use If many are privatised, then this means added expense for users will affect those who can or can't pay extra for these community things, will miss out and create a bigger social divide. If we have to pay higher rates, then planning for expanding these public amenities should be on the agenda, not just maintaining them.
207)	I prefer the full maintain services scenario.
208)	In all the information provided you threaten us to pay more or reduce the services without saying how the Council itself will contribute to the changes. I think threatening us with a reduction in services is a sign of a weak Council and a weak Mayor. You need to convince us rate payers just how much you are cleaning up your back yard! After all you gave yourselves a big pay rise this year!!! Give us better options!
209)	Happy to pay lots more to maintain services - definite preference for scenario 3. My only concern is for those members of the community who can't afford this rate rise. What support systems and funds will be available to them to provide fee help and debt relief?
210)	There should be a scenario with even lower rate increases that keep pace with inflation. To the extent the services that are provided by council are increased due to population growth, that needs to be funded by charging the developers or placing obligations on the developers to include additional infrastructure in their master plans for the development.
211)	There should be a 4th scenario, 'no rate increase above standard state increase limit'. I strongly disagree with the 3 scenarios offered, but support scenario 1. Council has been dishonest by not adding scenario 4 'live within our means = no rate rise above state limits
212)	You're going to double our rates? No you're not *** ****.
213)	If population is increasing rate revenue increase as well? If council was run as a private business and not like government departments you would have plenty of revenue. You need less management and more workers your business is very top heavy!
214)	I understand there needs to be rate rises but the third scenario (which is what WILL be happen) is a huge jump in the amount that is paid.
215)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I'm in favour of Scenario 3. Our property is in the typical range value, and as I see it, if there is going to be a price rise anyway, we shouldn't lose any services or other benefits.
216)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I refer to recent media reports suggesting that you propose to increase rates over the next three years by 28%, 25% and 23% respectively. This represents a cumulative (or compounded) increase of 96.8%, or virtually double in three years.

	How the hell do you expect low income earners, pensioners etc to pay? These proposals are totally unaffordable, even for the well-off. EVERYTHING is increasing dramatically, including Body Corporate charges. I have spoken to many Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra and Bungendore residents who have stated flatly that they cannot possibly afford these outrageous increases and will flatly refuse to pay. I defy you to take thousands of people to court if they refuse to pay. If the Council does not come up with a much more reasonable proposal, people will be contacting state and federal MPs and Ministers, urging them to do something about it. Council needs to urgently address its expenditure, particularly on its own building, facilities, staffing and salaries. I (and many, many others) urge an urgent rethink of this ridiculous rates proposal.
217)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I DO NOT endorse option 2 or 3 for rates increases. While I do not necessarily endorse option 1 (41% cumulative), it is the least distasteful option. I actually prefer option 4 - whereby QORC learns to live within its means!
218)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Are you out of your mind people are struggling pensioners how do you think they will afford. Scenario 1 is the most acceptable. I guarantee if it us more there will be major uproar and protests. Fir the rise. The community will start major protests. Scenario 3 people will be on the streets. You have no compassion or feelings. Shame shame shame.
219)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I believe there is a forth scenario which I would call “The Central Coast Scenario” which I believe is the most practical solution to YOUR problem. NSW government sacks entire Central Coast council after inquiry into financial management | New South Wales When Council was elected it concerned me that the new Council was so inexperienced. Maybe the chooks have come home to roost on this one. I don’t know who you can blame for this fiasco, but it should be interesting to hear this coming out. Obviously accounting is not your forte. By the way you should be ashamed of voting yourselves a 20% pay increase.

220)	**RECEIVED VIA EMAIL TO YOUR VOICE** RATES NO I don't agree with the rate rise because council has put them self into this problems didn't need to build the New council building the old library had the footings to go two story's higher, the spending by the council has been out of control for a long time now you want the rate payers to pull the council out of the s— NO RATE RISE.
221)	RECEIVED VIA HARD COPY FROM CUSTOMER SERVICE Although scenario three would best serve the community and shared facilities, council must consider the impact the rate rise will have for those on pensions or a low income. As a person living on a pension, the additional $100 rebate is not enough to offset the fact that my rates will be doubled—a fact that is likely causing great stress across the LGA. At the very least, council should consider doubling the pensioner rebate to keep in line with the amount rates will be increasing.
222)	I support scenario 3. The other two scenarios will lead to rapid degradation of our community's services and infrastructure, making this a less enjoyable place to live. Although I'm angry that a steep increase in rates is needed, I am willing to pay what is necessary to keep my community healthy, viable and liveable. I also note the proposed rates increase only applies to the general charges, which are only about half of my overall rates bill. This means the total increase is actually less than 50% over three years. Still a lot, but much less than the 'doubling' that has been reported.
223)	I do NOT believe that the list of items to be foregone is exhaustive
224)	To be honest I don't see many of these things actually being done around the Sutton area. Grass along the roads is always long (often locals mowing these areas is the only way to keep the grass low and safe). Trees are over hanging on the roads even growing along the roads. Potholes are terrible damaging vehicles often. There is NO garbage pickup in the area around Sutton where my property is, to get your rubbish picked up you need to pay another company to come and take your rubbish. My property is fully off the grid so there is no power or water to my house, so council doesn't maintain this so not costs here for the majority of homes in the area that are off grid. There is NO town swimming pool in Sutton or library or any of the facilities really that are mentioned in this and that we pay our rates for. I don't see any real value or benefit from the rates I pay now.
225)	Scenario 1 must be adopted. Council has not shown a genuine desire to cut financial wastage over the past 20 or so years. For example the construction of, and the ongoing financial responsibility for the Q. The construction of the new Council headquarters building is irresponsible given that Council knew that it was in financial difficulty. When comparing rates Council should be comparing rates paid in similar sized localities eg Goulburn as opposed to the ACT.
226)	Increasing rates 12% is my preferred scenario. I don't use any of the services you have mentioned would be cut and don't think it is fair for me to subsidise things I can't benefit from. We also pay very high rates compared to neighbouring shires in NSW.
227)	Neither of the scenarios are suitable. I select Option 4 which is 'none of the above' and I have lodged a complaint with iPart regarding you mishandling of council funds.

	As a council, stop spending money you do not have! Stop applying for federal funding when you don't have the local government funding to match it.
228)	Given rates only apply to property owners and property prices have risen so much in recent years, all rate payers should be comfortable with scenario 3.
229)	I think the proposal is a disgrace with a proposed increase well above inflation. With south and east Googong due to start construction, and other new development suburbs there is an increase in thousands of new rate payers and development applications yet somehow we are led to believe there is a mismanagement of funds and a 90% increase of rates is needed over 3 years? This council is a disgrace. I would support the first low rate increase proposal and the removal of services over the other proposals but this council is a disgrace and I look forward to the next election.
230)	If you cut out some of the non-essential items you might have the funds to meet your core business.
231)	I would like to know why the council is so in debt that it needs to raise rates so much. Where is the history of how we got to this point? This survey takes you through all the things a council is supposed to do, and then says which type of rate increase you think is appropriate and/or which services should be cut. This is a strange survey - the issue surely is to explain to people why the council is in trouble with its finances, when other councils who provide exactly the same set of services, are not, and then explain how the things that have caused the financial troubles are being dealt with so they won't continue to impact negatively going forward.
232)	The Tarago Road at Turallo Creed needs to be made flood proof and the low level ford needs to be heightened. Council has allowed a significant number of house to develop north of Bungendore without provided flood proof roads. This is irresponsible and the Elm Grove Estate should never have been built.
233)	My preference is for the first scenario.
234)	Scenario 3 will provide council with the most income , but I believe services will still need to be reduced
235)	For starters leave Bungendore rate payers out of the mix completely, we already overpay on rates for terrible roads and no curb and guttering amongst other things. Bungendore has not being correctly represented in your "Average rates" comparison at all. Average rates here would be $3000 per year already! and while general consensus is that people are wealthy who live in Bungendore this is not the case for everyone and we shouldn't penalized for living her. If you want to put rates up, put them up in the Queanbeyan city areas who benefit from the majority of the funding. No to all scenarios for this area!
236)	Adopt Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services Increase rates by 12% every year for 3 years. This scenario does not fully fund current Council operations and will require a strategy to find immediate savings of $12 million each year. Need to reduce Admin staffing levels drastically. $12 million in savings each year will mean stopping all non-core services: • Privatising or selling The Q • Stop funding community activities, (arts, community development, youth, seniors, heritage grants and First Nations activities) • Stop funding community halls and meeting spaces • Closing aquatic centres, some sportsgrounds and playgrounds, and cancelling planned developments • Closing libraries, customer service centres and depots at Bungendore and Braidwood • Significantly increasing user charges and fees for all community services

	• Fully funding economic development and tourism through user charges and a rate on businesses • Removing community grant support • Significantly reducing urban amenities, (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning) • Introducing paid parking for Queanbeyan CBD • Reducing number of Councillors • Removing additional pensioner rebate
237)	Minimise the increases to average wage rises rather than CPI, find saving and reduce non-essential services
238)	These are written to try and force a preferred decision. Any competent Council could provide other options.
239)	3rd scenario is preferred - please save our aquatic centre!
240)	What three scenarios?
241)	Go with the middle option.
242)	Scenario one ie significant reduction in services appears to be all we can afford until Council identifies and stems the waste and abuse of residents' money. Disgraceful that it has been allowed to reach this stage.
243)	Ridiculous. All of them.
244)	Go with increased service we will pay Make QPRC the envy of rest of region
245)	Scn 1 is the closest to what I think ought to be done. But it could be improved on. I'll send a letter.
246)	There needs to be a blend between Option 2 and Option 3 as a minimum, including more cost consolidation of council itself. Some of the rate hike should wait until the next round of land valuation occurs, given the recent boom and this being the main driver. Googong already pays higher rates than other areas, and has many new facilities that are being built by the developers not the council. Land value that rates are calculated off are already significantly higher.
247)	Please only implement #2. You need to pay off council debt before expanding services at the cost of DOUBLING rates. That's a big ask of ratepayers
248)	Services should be significantly reduced with excessive and outrageous increases to fund services that other councils are able to manage for less than current average income in similar councils such as Goulburn, Yass and Bathurst. An option should have been assessed to keep rates in line with the IPART rate peg, or more modest increases in-line with general inflation and CPI, as the operating result for general funds shows a significant surplus by 2026 even under the lowest increase option. Comparisons to regions within the ACT should be discounted as they come under a separate regulatory system. User charges should be raised to a minimum percentage of the operational cost where they are disproportionately funded by general rates or closed as being not economically viable. New developments should be cancelled with significant economic deficit, or a reduction in council involvement. Future expenditure assumptions within the general fund 10 year capital works plan should be reviewed and projects deferred or cancelled with $68.8m in FY2024/25 well above other future years.

249)	The cost increases are ludicrous... so severe. The council needs to be more creative in generating income such as privatising assets, selling council land and investing funds into assets or initiatives that generate income. Happy for the council to cut back on certain elements but not essentials such as maintenance and cleaning of the area.
250)	Maintaining services, especially those in service of the future generation are critical to the longevity of this community.
251)	My preference is for scenario 1 or 2. Reduce services over increasing rates. Growth in interest rates coupled with inflation plus this vast increase all at once is too much. But please keep pools, libraries and youth services open - very important local community services.
252)	All are unacceptable
253)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL** I have to say I am appalled by the three scenarios you propose. To propose increasing base rates by 41%, 64% or 97% is simply impossible for me. I am retired with limited income and my wife works part time. We are able to pay the rates at present. At present our rates are $3516 a year. Under the scenarios you outline there would be significant increase to the base rate. We would find these additional charge hard to absorb at the present time in a climate where salaries are not rising significantly. I suggest there should be a fourth scenario where is no increase in the rates unless there is significant movement on people's wages. One area of considerable saving would be selling off the new Council building in Queanbeyan and relocating Council to the Bungendore Council Chambers which were purpose built as a Council Headquarters. Of course you would need to remove permission for the Department of Education to proceed with the ridiculous suggestion of placing a high school in the Bungendore town centre. This is a second rate option and the Department of Education should be pursuing a purpose built high school on another site. Bungendore needs a high school but not on this site. I am incredulous that these significant rate rises on the cards. We all have to make decisions about what we can and cannot do on the basis of our income. I suggest that Council does the same. There will need to be significant reductions in services until finances recover but that is what we all do in our lives. At present I suspect that many people would be unable to meet these rate rises. We would certainly need to consider if we can continue to live where we do under any of the three scenarios you suggest. I suggest therefore that scenario 4 (no rate rise) be introduced and that serious reduction of services be put in place to save money.
254)	None of these options are palatable. Our rates are already higher than most Sydney rates yet we receive less services and have access to less amenities. Rather than raise rates, why not explore and invest in commercial options that would attract people to the region and generate income to supplement the council's budget. Collectivism is good but so much of our rate monies do not benefit the resident but go to fund initiatives or infrastructure that only benefit a small segment of the community - adopt a 'user pays more' approach to these initiatives or seek commercial sponsorship for recreational and cultural amenities. Stop bemoaning that Queanbeyan is Canberra's poor cousin and turn it in to the 'go to' destination - make it somewhere people want to visit and live in and the income will follow. Raise the rates and make it too expensive for us to live here and we will take our money elsewhere.

255)	I think Scenario 3 is the way to go because we don't want to see a reduction in services
256)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am extremely disappointed by your recent submission that doesn't take into account the rate of inflation however seeks to put those already struggling in an impossible financial position. We are both full time government employees who have received nothing extra during the Covid handouts and are trying to help our children while they study at university. Time and time again we are stuck paying extra to cover the growing costs of others. We will not be able to pay the rates next year should they go up. We arrived from Newcastle NSW 3 years ago where the rates were nearly half what we pay here. The roads around where we live in Jerrabomberra are dreadful and transport services lacking however the council has managed to build themselves a new building. This is not what our rates are meant for and I do not back any of the models. The first two are deliberately worded to blackmail residents to choose what you would like. Shame on you!
257)	The proposed rate increases of almost 100% just is far too high, the financial impact on families and homeowners in the current economic environment would be crippling. I as a self-funded retiree would struggle to be able to meet these types of increases and to be able to continue to live in this area. I would suggest that the council needs to do a lot more work to work smarter and cut internal waste within the council to reduce cost and maintain services and restrict rate and fee increases to the CPI index.
258)	On the first two scare tactics of closure of pools and libraries is below you and a disgrace
259)	Scenario 3
260)	I am unsure where you have gotten your calculations for an average rate from as the average Jerrabomberra rate is $3,500.00 - With the implementing of your scenario 3 there would be an increase of almost $1,000.00 in the first year $600.00 in the second and third years These rises are unsustainable for the normal rate payer You also have no mention whether these increases will be sustained - maintained or reduced in the following years of this scenario was implemented As a long-term resident and rate payer in Jerrabomberra all we seem to be able to obtain is water that comes from our tapes and sewage that goes from our dwellings Most years we can only just manage the grass in the common areas to be mowed once with very little else Jerrabomberra has been providing the council with millions of dollars of income since it was first built - Yet there are still footpaths that are unfinished - Tress not trimmed back from paths and roads barely maintained If things have been getting worse for 4 years as you have stated in your flyer sent out why was the $74 Million-dollar new council chambers and precinct pursued - This makes no sense at all and gives no benefit to the normal rate payer at all - At best, it's a monument to the council's stupidity
261)	I would prefer the first option - fewer services, less rate rise.
262)	in favour of scenario 3, maintain services
263)	I support scenario 3 because I think all the services the council currently provides are important.
264)	The proposed increases to rates significantly outweigh inflation and are inappropriate. No rate rise is acceptable

265)	Can you reduce the maintain services not give extra cuts to pensioners and stop community grants
266)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** HELP As pensioner I cannot afford the requested increases and may not benefit on any increase. Suggestion is that increases should not be above the increase as approved by The Federal Government as paid in the pension. We also need the find out what income people are really receiving. If not, you will find out the proposed increase will result in rates not being paid on time. To help the rate payers find the funds and I know this works and it did when I lived at West Wyalong. A show day when all businesses shut down and everyone takes some part in the show. This will stimulate business and increase tourism. But we are not ready for the increase interest in the three towns plus one. To start with it will require someone with drive to get the show going. Yes, when I left Queanbeyan Council the outstanding rates were 1%. Advance Queanbeyan
267)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Good Afternoon I formally object to the 3 scenarios put forward by QPRC for rate rises/and/or reduced services. I would like to propose a 4th option: All members of the Council stand aside, the General Management, Chief Finance Officer and other paid senior executives be removed from their positions. The QPRC be placed under receivership until a demerger of councils occurs. The independent financial report that is suggesting the 3 scenarios is not independent and has bias through the connections to the Council executive and the specialisation of “increasing rates”. The $10M deficit could be reduced significantly by decreasing elected representative “salaries” and reducing the paid Council Officials such as the General Manager and Chief Finance Officer wages to be akin of those of an APS SES band 1 or EL2 position. If this was to occur the deficit would be balanced within a 3 year window.

268)	Support scenario 3 subject to: Reduce Councillor numbers to 9 and reinstate a ward system to ensure equitable local representation; Put a cap (3 terms whether consecutive or not) of the number of terms a Councillor may serve, including as mayor; Immediately review all long term employees (over 10 years) against KPIs and replace if not performing; Apply 5 year contracts to the CE and all Director level staff after which they must re-apply against an open competition; Engage in a annual budget review and include at least 2 suitably qualified non conflicted non elected residents with suitable expertise. Provide a written Service Level Agreement to the community for key services identified via this survey. Recognize that spring requires more parks maintenance than the rest of the year and plan for it (instead of the usual annual problems of long grass)
269)	Increases of this magnitude are unconscionable, this cannot be allowed to progress. This is clearly financial mismanagement on the part of the council. If this is allowed to pass, it would double our already expensive rates, that put my rates to more than $6000 per year. You will be voted out if this is considered. DO NOT increase rates to this magnitude.
270)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL** Thanks for providing three financial options for rates moving forward, and the opportunity to comment on them. It appears though us ratepayers have little choice if wanting to receive anything like the level of services we are accustomed to or aspire to receiving. That would be option 3 only, as option 1 and 2 sees services decline. I cannot understand Council would consider the public would accept a cut to services? I appreciate all that Council strives to provide for our community, and I am generally satisfied with the level of service. One area of improvement I see is to the frequency and extent of mowing and trimming footpath verges, parks, riverside reserves, cut through paths between private properties etc. Though some residents offer little assistance in this regard, I believe Council should do more to set a good example in making the areas in which we live neater and somewhere to be proud of. The Fogo initiative is excellent, and the waste management team needs to be congratulated in its implementation.
271)	You should charge Queanbeyan residents more rates as Googong and Jerra is already paying way more. Increase rates proportionally. Whoever pays super little gets more increase. It's beyond ridiculous that Jerra and Googong has been carrying the council and are suggesting to increase everyone equally.
272)	Would prefer scenario 1 Everything is too expensive atm, thanks to a terrible government. We cannot afford more costs Significantly reduce services
273)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have supported scenario 3 in your options for rate reviews subject to the following: 1. Reduction of Councillors to 9 and reintroduction of ward representation to ensure equitable representation 2. Limited terms for Councillors and the Mayor (3 terms whether consecutive or not) 3. Review of all long term senior staff against published KPIs

	4. 5 year performance contracts for senior staff and community representation on future appointments (selected suitable experienced persons only). 5. Value for money reviews of all council services (in house versus contracts) 6. Non-elected community representation on annual budget reviews. I have lived in QPRC (formerly QCC) since ****. I have worked extensively with Council as the **** over much of that time and have played a major role in the design development and delivery of ******, *****, *********, **********, and numerous other projects throughout the region including **********. I am a qualified Town Planner and have been an executive director of one of the few publicly listed corporations in the region *** ********** ******* *** and thus have considerable experience across development, finance, cash flows etc. ***. In short I know and care for this place.
274)	I support scenario 1 only
275)	Scenario 1 is my preference. It was only a short while ago that *** was talking up the additional investment in Queanbeyan which now we can see it couldn't afford.
276)	A nearly 100% increase in rates over three years is unsustainable and ridiculous. Services must be looked at and rationalised. Critical services and roads/infrastructure works must continue. Scenario 1 is the most logical but would need critical services to be assessed and properly provided for. I also struggle to understand how such a populated council area can be in such dire straights financially. The pictograph in the Plan doesn't cut it. Scenario 3 is obscene. I do not support it in any way.
277)	Scenario 3 - not acceptable Scenario 2 - potentially acceptable Scenario 1 - acceptable
278)	Choose Scenario 1, we are struggling enough as is without rate rises
279)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to place on record my total disagreement and dissatisfaction with the proposal, by Council to increase rates by some 97% over the next three years. We are pensioners and are struggling to meet day to day expenses as is, in an environment that seems quite uncertain with inflation and food prices ever increasing and saving bank balances quickly eroding. Some increases in rates may be genuine and justified, but not now at a time of uncertainty, in the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic and where little or no increases have occurred in living standards. And to announce wage increases for elected councillors on the other hand, makes a mockery of the proposal. Please consider, maybe smaller increases over a longer period of time, 33% increase over three years will hurt Queanbeyan people like us! More thought is needed on this proposal!

280)	I support option three - maintaining current services (with some course correction on bizarre projects). The cost should have been absorbed in smaller increases in previous years, but given the position council is at, I acknowledge the need for rate increases.
281)	Scenario 3 - preference but exclude additional $100 pensioner rebate. Pensioners are not paying taxes. Families with low incomes and paying taxes shouldn't be paying additional money towards this. Agree with everything else in scenario 3. Scenarios 1 and 2 - closing pools is unacceptable. It is a safety requirement for people to learn swimming. It would be better to cancel funding towards Arts programs as there is less safety aspects if funding was stopped. Whatever decision is made, please keep safety in mind. Safety with our services, environment and people.
282)	Of the three scenarios, Scenario 2 seems the most appropriate. This scenario seems to review and reduce the subsidies to certain services related to the conduct of business, and reduce overspending that seems to have crept into the areas of arts, culture, heritage and recreation. QPRC needs to get back to the basics!
283)	Maintaining services would be optimum approach, with provisions for hardship for those who really can't pay the increased rates
284)	Rates are high enough already. We can't afford to prop up poor planning.
285)	I support service level three with 98% increase in rates. I would rather pay more than see public assets go to profit-driven companies.
286)	Does this take into account, new residential buildings and thus more residents paying rates?
287)	All three scenarios are unacceptable. Why aren't developers being made to fund the establishment of more of the community services in new subdivisions including footpaths?
288)	When weighing up the significant increases in interest rates, inflation and the hardship of the previous 2 years due to COVID, I would prefer rates remained unchanged but given that is not an option I prefer scenario 1 - the most significant closure /reduction of council services. Additionally, I believe the new council office project should be under consideration for moth balling as I would find it hard to pay for extra services whilst council staff move into a brand new office.
289)	Closing libraries, playgrounds and ovals is unacceptable. Libraries should be combined with customer service in all areas. Council should not provide any pensioner rebates. Street sweeping should not be done. Parking should be paid in all town CBDs. Councillors should be reduced. The Q should be privatised. Pools should be privatised.
290)	Don't cut services, QPRC as a merged entity does so much better job than the old Palerang Council. The change in professionalism is stark.
291)	I think the levels of the rate increases suggested are ridiculous. I initially thought these were typos. I also think it's really telling the first thing mentioned under Scenario 1 was in relation to performing arts. This council has always had its priorities wrong and pandered to the arts community. There's nothing wrong with user pays so let's stop subsidising. Council has mentioned all the cost saving measures it has done but all of these should have been done regardless as part of good management. Scenario 1: It's disappointing the way this has been worded. "$12 million in savings each year will mean stopping all non-core services". I don't believe this and I think a 12 per cent increase per year is more than enough.

	Scenario 2: An 18 per cent increase. Eighteen. Per cent. (This is where I started thinking there were typos in the proposal). Yes please go ahead and increase user fees at The Q. Scenario 3: Crazy talk. There is no way a 28/25/23 per cent rate rise is warranted, nor should it even be proposed. With inflation and interest rates climbing how can Council seriously propose this? Please start again.
292)	I believe it is obscene to ask ratepayers to pay 97% rate rise over 4 years. Council needs to cut its own costs Stop wage rises Cease providing council car fleet Review staff structure No borrowing by council until debt is reined in Achieve maximum gains from council land in CBD - Westpac Former Whites Bob Smith Rooms. Consult with BDN and Leagues Club Review packages of senior staff Defer Council expenditure Investigate water / sewerage options for Queanbeyan Make sure ratepayers requests Re hoarding control etc are acted on and taken seriously and ensure any letters of complaint are promptly attended to and acted upon!! Provide service to ratepayers who pay Council wages!!! I personally have submitted many letters of complaint Re hoarding and these complaints are not addressed by council staff or answered in writing as requested! Council needs to lift its game!!
293)	Scenario 1 is the most viable.
294)	I am happy to pay more in rates to ensure that we can deliver vital services for all of the community. I would hate to see key services like libraries, pools and The Q close. We especially need to maintain a First Nations focus. These are what make our community great. I think Council has been put in a difficult situation and I am appreciative that we have the opportunity to provide our feedback.
295)	Scenario 1.
296)	There needs to be a mix of the items in your scenarios. Cut services that only benefit a few such as arts and grants but keep things that benefit everyone like urban maintenance, libraries and pools open. Paid parking is silly and will hurt the region as customer numbers reduce.
297)	I support the minimal increase in rates.
298)	Too many choices just spend less, work more
299)	We don't want rate increases! If no choice then the lowest amount, no more!
300)	I would strongly prefer scenario 1: 12% rate increase
301)	I understand the need for an increase in rates. I do not think significantly reducing services (option 1) is in the best long term interest of the community. Option 3 is simply too expensive, an increase in rates of the magnitude is in my opinion obscene.
302)	Scenario 3 with services maintained and Council's ability to manage unforeseen future costs improved is supported. Options to reduce services while still not building adequate future financial resilience are not supported.
303)	Obviously scenario 3 is the only viable option

304)	Prefer to pay higher rates to meet cost of services
305)	Operation of pools in the region is very important. The ones outside Queanbeyan provide important facilities for people in those areas, particularly those who do not own a car or don't have funds or time to travel to Queanbeyan. They are important for teaching children to swim. which could save lives. I believe that option 2, modified to look at the suggestions and issues raised in question 4 above, may be the best option.
306)	Costs are increasing in all levels of society across all sectors. Matching rate increases to revenue requirements to meet community expectations is a sensible and necessary progression
307)	None of the rate increases are appealing given the focus is on council debt reduction rather than quality of life improvement. Scenario 1 is the only rate increase viable but significant cuts to community services makes even this undesirable.
308)	Council needs to continue to invest in services to support economic growth and this can only be done through Option 3
309)	Favour lowest cost rates option
310)	Scenario 1 is obviously what we have to have because of overspend and mismanagement of funds with unnecessary new buildings streetscaping and landscaping etc
311)	I think that there are other options than the three suggested. The close proximity of Canberra really negates the need for a big investment in Arts programs.
312)	They are well-considered and explained. Good work.
313)	Option 3 with the increased spending is the best option by far, despite the rate rises. The closure of services such as the public library is not a realistic option in my opinion - we should not be forced to travel into the act to access services.
314)	Should be kept as is as they are currently very high with no infrastructure in place. Shops etc. have to go to ACT as Riverside only shopping centre with minimal shops. Gardens/verges not maintained
315)	I am very disappointed that such large annual rate increases are now being sought by council given some of the costly infrastructure projects (civic & cultural precinct, regional sports complex, ...) recently approved and /or being progressed. Given councils description of the three scenarios offered. As a self funded retiree who is not on the pension I cannot easily afford to fund services, grants or other nice to have community initiatives. I would therefore prefer if a scenario between 1 and 2 could be adopted. The rate increases of scenario 1 are manageable and understandable given the restrictions imposed by IPART on council over the past four years. That said, I would hate to see urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning) overly reduced as described in scenario 1.
316)	None are acceptable. We live in the country and receive zero services other than recycling collection. No mowing, no garbage collection, no water. Zero! The proposed increases are as I see it is a softener as you intend to go ahead with scenario 2 anyway. A political ploy. In watching council services around the district I see it as extremely inefficient and wasteful. Far better done by private enterprise. Council should administer only. I think your management team should resign.
317)	Option 3 - Maintain, is the only viable option. While some may be concerned at an upfront increase, in the context of the world being more expensive post pandemic, and the pandemic itself having cost significant amounts, it is the only real choice.
318)	Scenario 3 is necessary to maintain the look and feel of the region. Green spaces are so important to Googong and their upkeep is what makes it so nice to live here. Stopping planned developments for public facilities and reducing economic

	development and tourism will hinder growth in the region. Paying additional money in rates will ultimately pay dividends in the growth that our community will see, which will drive more people to live and work in the region.
319)	Not keen on any of the proposed options. Charleys Forest receives very little and it is obscene that you think it reasonable to increase rates at such high rates. I think you need to review your projects and find savings elsewhere. I believe the ratepayers should get a vote on the options and the results determine the way forward.
320)	I support Scenario 3 if it means we maintain good community services. But to have better decision making and policies around local native planting.
321)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you for the opportunity to have my day on this issue. If you are going to do this you as go hard and do option 3. Your current strategy of stopping the pulling of weeds and mowing is a strong motivation of what the town will look like with "reduced services". Good luck.
322)	With the cost of living increasing and mortgage rates high all the scenarios are in affordable (specifically 2 and 3) which I assume was designed to shock people in to selecting scenario 1. I drive down Ellerton Drive in QBN and I and extremely disappointed that $40m was enough to complete and you have to go back in and fix the drainage and foot paths….. I understand that the cost for every one including government services but this additional cost could push home owner/ taxpayer into difficult situations as a public servant myself I know that our wages are not increasing to keep up with the cost of living and now is not the time to increase… what can be turned off ?
323)	Try focussing on the providing essentials services only to avoid wasting time and money. You need adequately control your expenditure and I cannot comprehend how you have achieved $10 million deficit in its general fund. "Queanbeyan residents soon to see an increase in their rates". Cool so then what about the forgotten Braidwood and surrounding areas? Cut back on all services because you cannot reduce anything when you already provide nothing.
324)	Prefer Option 1. Whatever is selected, reduce number of councillors.
325)	Scenario 3 preferred. The other two require cuts to services so many of us desire. All options require rate increases.
326)	It's been a total mismanagement of public funds over time. To expect the public to foot the exorbitant rate rises is a disgrace. The majority of people I have spoken to through my business believe there needs to be an internal investigation, and rightly so. No one supports any of the scenarios. We expect rate rises but this is beyond a financially viable options for the Queanbeyan and surrounding communities to afford. There doesn't seem to be any monetary problem giving all the councillors a massive pay increase plus superannuation . Perhaps we start by reducing their pay checks. The decisions have already been made by council. Our survey response and vote counts for nothing. It's shameful and dishonest on so many levels that we even have to make a choice..

	Queanbeyan's not a place that's desirable or enjoyable to live in anymore. What happened to our beautiful town.
327)	Maintaining the current services, asset renewal and improvement to facilities is the preferred option. Information in the December 2022 the QPRC News is useful with the comparisons and there should be other key indicators that could lead to more efficiencies.
328)	Scenarios 1 and 2 are draconian and have an element of 'scare' factor ie agree to a significant rate increase or lose community services and activities. I don't use the pool, libraries or receive grants etc but there are many in the community who access and rely on these services. I have always considered The Q a great asset to the area. The services and activities proposed for cutting are core deliverables of local councils. If Council can't deliver these basics what is its role. Scenario 3 - the rate increases proposed are significant and will cost me. Setting aside rubbish collection, water and sewerage I already have reservations about what I get for my rates. I certainly don't get a better a better environment in Jerrabomberra. Jerrabomberra has become shabby and the vision that was promoted when I bought here in 1999 has long disappeared. Eg. - trucks drive and park on residential roads limiting access, footpaths are in poor condition, grass is let grow. If I'm going to pay significantly more rates than I will expect greater attention to detail in the way Council manages Jerrabomberra (and the rest of Queanbeyan).
329)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am very surprised that this has come to a rate rise particularly when so many of us are battling costs of living and increases in mortgages. I note that none of the scenarios have mentioned reducing the cost of contractors. I also wonder about all the councils new buildings when community functions are to be decreased. Surely the council could and should have a look at what buildings and plans could be reduced or cancelled before adding additional cost burdens to the community? I think we would be happy if there was a scenario where the same amenities were maintained, but no building works or revamps would occur. I also think that a reduction in councillors and top brass in council should be looked at, given the finances went so awry. Thank you for allowing me to provide feedback.
330)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Feedback regarding the Options provided including the massive increase to rates for Scenario 3 - 76% over 3years. Introduce paid parking - For what services in Queanbeyan CBD exactly? Because by doing this, people will just travel to Canberra. At least there's no paid parking at Majura, Jerrabomberra, DFO. And if you have to pay for parking in Queanbeyan CBD you may as well go somewhere where there are more shops e.g. Canberra. This is sad for Queanbeyan retailers. * scenario 2: Increasing fees for Childcare service - could you confirm this is for the only Day Care in Queanbeyan that appears to be funded by Queanbeyan Council:

	Which childcare facilities? All of them, please specify. The Federal Budget is working to improve affordability and access. Just this week our childcare advised due to staff shortages across the entire sector that kids will be randomly sent home. It's already challenging times and to place this within the proposed scenarios with little information can be interpreted as a misrepresentation of information. *The new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct. Why is there such a massive building in a country town that as proposed in Scenarios 1 and 2 may not be opened because Scenario 1 advises the closure and scenario 2 advises combining the services unless again residents have to foot the bill at a 76% rates increase over 3 years in Scenario 3. *scenario 3 - maintaining roads and returning to service levels. This is a concern and hazard and causes accidents which increases the Council's liability so how can it be justified that roads cannot be maintained and improved? *reducing number of councillors - as awful as this it's the same as when a Company expenses and exceeds its income it must downsize and reduce its staff as needed. Then in the future can possibly increase staff as required.
331)	I am in favour of scenario 1 - significantly reduce services. When times are tight, you have to trim and cut back.
332)	I get that the council needs more funding but to increase our rates by such a huge amount when we don't get that increase in our pay is ridiculous. Especially when there is such a huge increase in the cost of living atm. Maybe don't build a flash new council headquarters and then expect the towns people to pay for it. You could have upgraded what you had in a much more cost effective way. We need to entice more people to visit Queanbeyan and bring more money. The plaza could do with a shop in the target space that is decent and would entice outsiders to shop here.
333)	Maybe you shouldn't have built such a fancy new council headquarters and then ask the ratepayers to pay for it. With rising costs of living people can't afford it.
334)	Rates should not rise there is plenty of people who can't afford it and the new council building is a waste of tax payers money the old building could of been updated as above
335)	All increases are exorbitantly high. Are you trying to make homeowners bankrupt!!!
336)	Not impressed that it falls on the residents to save the council but if that is the only option, then I choose scenario 3. We CANNOT have reduced services. That is simply not an option. AND it is imperative that we invest in environmental and sustainability programs. Is there any way the state or federal governments can help?
337)	I generally support scenario 3 Maintain Services, with the exception of the Q.
338)	Maybe time to chop the deed wood out of the council and start over as we wouldn't need any scenarios if it was run properly!!!
339)	Scenario 3 should not include money for environmental and sustainability programs, and also the pensioner rebate. This would reduce the amount rates need to increase over three years for scenario 3.
340)	We would like services maintained in googong, and therefore would prefer to increase rates per scenario 3.
341)	Scenario best represents my desires and hopes for the area

342)	Support scenario 3 - community assets are vital for health and wellbeing and social connection.
343)	Please adopt Option 3, to maintain council services. The cost impact isn't that great and we need services maintained.
344)	With the economic growth in the condition it is in increasing rates seems like just another kick in the guts for people already struggling. Wage increases are at an all-time low (1-2% per year), except for workers at the QPRC seems, and interest rate hikes, the QPRC have the audacity to want to increase by 28%. Scenarios set out to make community feel they need to opt for option 3. While you say it is only an additional $6.85, $7.85 & $9.00 per week respectively people are struggling to live now. This will only add to the mental health of families trying to survive. There is no mention of how the Council would handle the homelessness issue should people not be able to survive, regardless of the financial support offered. This is only a band aid fix as payments still have to be made eventually.
345)	Scenario 2 and 3 are way too expensive for the citizens. Scenario 1 could be implemented with sale of unprofitable assets. Wastage reduction and savings by duplicate reduction of amalgamated councils of Queanbeyan and Palerang need to be seriously considered and swiftly implemented.
346)	they all seem a bit outrages no matter what one is chosen
347)	The rent and mortgages are already at an all-time high, people are struggling! And council wants to up rates to steal more money from people that already don't have it. You have to be rich to survive in this world, middle class families, the young and the aged have no chance. We returned here (my partners hometown) after selling our home in the country and we are yet to be able to enter back into the homeowners market in QBN due to the high costs!!
348)	Focus only on rates, rubbish and roads as first priority. Creating ridiculous jobs and increasing pay for overpaid positions is not acceptable. Queanbeyan inherited a great group of rate payers from Palerang and with plenty of funds in the kitty, the merger has only sent Palerang backwards.
349)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Do not agree with any of the three options that have been put forward, Queanbeyan have wasted enough of Palerangs rate payer money and we have gone backwards as a result. I didn't vote for Palerang to be merged for good reason. QPRC it's not too difficult and very simple focus on the following three first: Roads, Rates and Rubbish. When you do these things well you can move on from there.
350)	I see the need for an increase but there should be a better approach. Surely scenario number 3 can include some of the cost saving measures from scenario one and two like reducing the number of councillors, increasing the fees at the q, day care involvement, cutting staff etc. I'm sure council can save money while increasing rates and services. The whole approach seems unorganised and messy. I feel the whole council and its operations should be rebuild from the ground up starting with the core facilities and then things can be added on an affordability basis.

351)	Scenario 3 is the most important scenario in my opinion. We need to ensure Queanbeyan remains an attractive place to live and support further development of the area as it continues to grow, whilst also attracting new people to live in regional Australia. I believe this cannot be achieved without increasing rates. The Q, showground, and parks/oval need to be maintained and remain an attractive prospect to draw in visitors to events and activities, and therefore contribute to the economic success of Queanbeyan. A special shout out to the Royal Hotel which has been a great example of investment securing increased visitation.
352)	It is very disappointing to see the newly merged council, which was supposed to be more efficient, failing to be able to provide financial stability for the community. However, due to rising costs, building materials for example, it is understandable that rates must increase. I would support scenario 3 to cover these costs, providing the council is audited by independent consultancy to determine inefficiencies that could stretch the rates further, and ensure the rates are being spent correctly.
353)	It is very disingenuous to publish a document showing only average rates in "How our rates compare", particularly when we, in an urban area, are already paying general rates of almost $3,500pa, plus water rates. This appears to mean that we might expect a minimum increase, in the first year only, to our rates of over $400pa, and up to possibly nearly $1,000. Showing averages only does not help if actual is something quite different!
354)	I wouldn't like to see pools close or reduce their services too much., or for no more sports facilities/playgrounds. I prefer Scenario 3 - Maintain Services
355)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** So I vote for Option 4 = increase rates by 18 per cent for each of the three years (as per your Option 2), retain all current services, and cut the infrastructure cloth to the funds available from operational and capital grants. And if Council has previously committed itself to foolish projects, to extricate itself as much as possible therefrom. The real budgetary situation (noting you may have hidden commitments already made into the future and not stated here) is that we have total real income of about $100 million a year, normal expenses of $64.4 million, loan repayments of $16.2 million this year and $20 million available for infrastructure. Loans need to be paid off pronto, and infrastructure reduced to what can be afforded and rates increased by a reasonable amount, 64 per cent over three years which hopefully will allow debt to be reduced and infrastructure projects resumed.
356)	Scenario 3 is essential to avoid the region slipping backward. Consolidation or improvement of service delivery should be assessed on a program by program basis.
357)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you for the great work in explaining the three different scenarios We would prefer scenario 3. We need to maintain the great services we have. The footpath along the river needs to be completed and this is the only way our footpaths and roads will be maintained and improved.

	We also need to continue with our environmental and sustainability programs as well as creating new ones.
358)	Agree on scenario 3:maintain services
359)	All three scenarios are beyond my comprehension as someone on a fixed income I will not be able to pay the 12%. never mind the 28% increase I can find plenty of options for you to save money some listed above. Today in the mail I got a glossy pamphlet, I presume one went to every house in the district why????? if you are crying poor or worse broke
360)	I think the solution will be somewhere between Scenario 2 and 3. Council definitely needs to introduce paid parking as my observation suggests lots of ACT residents work in Queanbeyan and should pay for long stay parking. User fees for various facilities and community services need to be increased. ACT residents using Queanbeyan facilities eg pools, should be charged at a higher price than local ratepayers.
361)	Happy with the first scenario.
362)	People will go bankrupt
363)	Scenario 1 should be followed for the next 2 to 3 years, until the cost of inflation to families is realised and stabilises. We are already hurting enough thankyou
364)	Scenario 1 - Best of the bunch, despite still being an inflated increase Scenario 2 - Provides no real benefits over Scenario 1 for the extra increase, strategies are not going to realistically achieve the savings suggested. Will end up with the same outputs as scenario 1 for an extra 6%/yr Scenario 3 - What a joke, but you'll probably push for it to take care of yourselves first
365)	Would love to keep current service levels. I think everyone will complain once they are reduced. Would rather pay for the increase
366)	Simply is this is the best you have then, comments will fall on deaf ears. You have simply threatened your communities, that the only way is reduce, stop or charge more, for something you still will be unable to deliver. The response is simple, a very high number of your communities members cannot afford this suggested rate rise and for your leadership to embark upon this, speaks volumes. Option 1: If people cannot afford to pay significant increases in rates then maybe significantly reducing services is the only option. Maybe divesting in some council initiatives is the option and only option. Option 2: As above Option 3: A poor leadership decision, this will not only not maintain services, you will send many of the community bankrupt and you will drive debt to greater levels. So your promise to maintain services is simply irresponsible and leaderless.
367)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you for being inclusive of all residents regarding rates increase proposals.

	I opt for supporting Scenario 3 as I regard it as important to maintain and expand services as circumstances allow. Into the future environmental services alone are going to be an increasing demand on local human and physical resources. Residents have to make a contribution to this cost Living in a well looked after community is important to one's wellbeing and gives a sense of pride that we are a caring community. Building on the work of recent years is an opportunity not to missed particularly in the villages. The proposed rate increases over three years allows planning and budget certainty and seems a relatively small price to pay for a professional council team to get on with the job of improving my community.
368)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I filled in the survey on Your Voice previously, but have had a second look at all the facts about the Council's predicament. I have decided that we have no choice but to go with plan no.3. I am a pensioner, and have struggled in the past, to keep up with all the household bills. But I would hate to see Braidwood go backwards. We don't want to lose any of our services. It's not going to be easy for anyone on a fixed income, with every other commodity getting more expensive as well, but , hopefully, the current councillors will be better at budgeting, than their predecessors, and Queanbeyan Palerang will reap the benefits of this extra rate revenue.
369)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I believe it is important that Council maintain its services despite the increased cost to the individual. Therefore, I, reluctantly, consider that Scenario 3 is the only sensible way ahead.
370)	My preference is for scenario 1: Significantly reduce services.
371)	Reduce most services. I don't see it making much of a difference
372)	Preference for scenario 1
373)	Council seems to be resorting to extreme scare tactics in a bid to pressure Queanbeyanites to acquiesce to higher rates. In none of these scenarios is council suggesting pay cuts to their own salaries or those of high-level staff. Adjust their salaries, and halt the development of any new buildings for the time being. If it helps, semi-privatise The Q. Or better yet, organise fundraisers for any of our cultural institutions. If the Q or any of our public libraries need some funds, I'm sure our residents would be keen to provide donations. I know I'd rather give what little money I do have directly to these places, than to fatten the wallets of our councillors.
374)	Please, please, please choose scenario THREE. I am happy to pay the small increase to ensure the existing services are maintained.
375)	I support Scenario 2.
376)	Increase the rates to maintain services under scenario 3. Because I'd much rather pay the rate increase and help improve things, rather than get hit with paid parking fees in the CBD only to get worse services.

377)	You have provided comparable rates for otherer NSW communities. One is Bathurst. This town is well maintained with good services and manages major community events. I have family living there and they are not planning the dramatic rate rises posed here. Your comparison to ACT is irrelevant as it is a vastly different jurisdiction. A consideration when purchasing in an area is definitely ongoing costs. People do not expect they will be required to pay up to 97% more at the end of 3 years. Council has a responsibility to manage community funds appropriately and not over commit. If we can't afford. New developments don't do them. And manage those that are done well and efficiently.
378)	Prefer option 3: maintain services.
379)	Support scenario 2. Money should not be spent on non productive activities.
380)	Our rates are already quite high, I would prefer the cheaper scenario 1. Unsure why we needed to be supplied with green compost bins that many won't use, I understand this could be a differ t budget but if you are short of funds why not use some of that funding.
381)	How about not spending 70 million on your local building this is why you are in this situation.
382)	Prefer scenario 1.
383)	Significantly reduce services. Most people live in Queanbeyan and can access facilities in Canberra just as easily. Roads should be prioritised to ensure all areas of QPRC can access Queanbeyan and Canberra for these. The Q does not need to be QPRC owned/operated. Revenue raising through other means (grants, development approval fees etc) should be prioritised with the intention of bringing more services online in the future as needed/wanted.
384)	I am happy with the third scenario AS LONG AS Council also undertakes an internal waste reduction and efficiency program - those scenarios all assume the only way to break even is for Council to reduce services or charge us more. I don't believe that for a minute.
385)	The Scenario 3 option is a huge increase which will have a detrimental impact on ratepayers. This increase would see my rates at approximately $6,000 per year (by year 3). This is simply not affordable for a single income family on a small residential block. Council needs to re-evaluate how savings could be made internally and pass on a smaller increase to rate payers without drastically impacting the service levels offered in scenarios 1 and 2.
386)	Scenario 2 seems a good compromise between cutting services (which is rather not happen) and rate increases which might be hard on some people.
387)	3 options, all are an increase but the first 2 reduce services. we shouldn't be in this situation
388)	Scenario 3: Should be adopted
389)	Scenario 3
390)	Scenario 3 but with reduction in pensioners grant (50 instead of 100), reduction in environmental programs (650k instead of 1.3m). Cost differences spent on local traineeships apprenticeships for street and road maintenance.
391)	Only scenario one would be acceptable. The other scenarios are out of reach for ordinary people. Council should take another look at cost cutting options.
392)	I think we should pay more to maintain the service levels I support the 97% increase.

393)	I am fundamentally opposed to a 97% increase in rates. I am not convinced all options have been properly explored, nor am I convinced that hybrid options have been considered.
394)	Happy to pay more for better services and a better functioning local council that is more responsive to the needs of the community.
395)	There should be a 4th option. For a vote of no confidence.
396)	Preferred option is 1 - minimal rate rise, and reduced service
397)	I am an advocate of option 1 - severely reduce services. For people in my area we are more able to access Canberra and rarely travel to Queanbeyan. Any of my rates spent on Queanbeyan is inappropriate.
398)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** To put my comments in context I note the following: 1. Queanbeyan/Palerang is located next to Canberra which is a major cultural city. QPRC should not be competing with these venues. Distance from Canberra could be taken into account for places like Braidwood. 2. Projects which require ongoing maintenance are the enemy of tight budgeting. 3. Councils generally should stick to the essential basic urban services – water, sewerage, waste collection, roads, urban infrastructure maintenance. 4. Optional community activities should be limited to coordination. 5. Climate change will increase future maintenance costs – this should be included in costing future projects and deciding whether to maintain current assets. I agree with the grey option Scenario 1 but want the swimming pools kept open as these are essential for educating children and for adults to exercise. Libraries should be limited to an online presence with a Help Desk – online and phone. I would also like a review into all maintenance expenditures to ascertain whether individual expenditures should be maintained or discontinued. Projected high maintenance costs should usually disqualify future projects. User-pay charging is not popular but will establish whether there is real demand for the service(s) council provides. I am sure that Council could waive charges in deserving cases. It is not okay for essential services like Council to increase charges without financial constraint while individuals suffer real reductions in income due to inflation and low wage growth.
399)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** We strongly support Rate Scenario 3. As non-pensioners entering our 70s, the quality of our life is strongly influenced by council services and by general amenities available to the community. Roads, curbs and guttering, pedestrian and bike paths, the Q, library services and a vibrant town

	centre and shopping centre are important to us. In addition, as our children grew up in Queanbeyan we appreciated netball courts, playing fields and sports ovals. We suspect that Palerang had a low rates base before the merger, and that in the absence of adequate NSW Government compensation, a rate rise is necessary to deliver the standard of services expected in the 21st century.
400)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** If your summation of QPRC's current financial position is accurate, adopting scenario 1 (significant reduction in services) is your only viable option. Given significant existing increases to the cost of living more generally, even a 12% rate increase will cause widespread financial hardship. Any increase in excess of this will be devastating and the proposed increases within scenarios 2 and 3 are nothing short of ludicrous. I've examined each of the proposals relating to the cessation of non-core services required to achieve the requisite $12 million savings within Scenario 1 and remain in support of its adoption. I find "non-core" to be a polite euphemism for many of these expenses which should've been discontinued years ago or not publicly funded in the first instance. Those who disagree and wish to watch a play at The Q, utilise a playground (or skate park…….), receive an arts grant, expect free parking in a CBD or participate in a First Nations activity can continue to do so (or make alternate arrangements) via the utilisation of their own funds rather than placing the burden on all other rate payers. Unfortunately, funding these activities for the enjoyment of others is most definitely not a priority when compared with paying for fuel, groceries, electricity and a mortgage. Even a 12% rate increase will be borderline achievable for many people however the alternate proposals are utterly untenable
401)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I reluctantly think that increasing the rates to the required (maximum) level is the only real option. I think free parking (I seriously don't want to pay to park in my city), the pool, the Q, libraries and other services are important. However, in the past I think a lot of money has been wasted "beautifying" pathways, which don't really need to be beautified. I think that ensuring that pensioners especially are not overburdened is more important than making some things look prettier when they are perfectly serviceable. I think that savings should be made whenever their impact is fairly minimal, bearing in mind that the impact of higher rates may be a lot more than minimal for people on the full pension. I am not a pensioner and I can afford it.
402)	Very extreme rate increases forecasted, just as Qbn is experiencing positive community growth, this will see hard working people not come live here and see others leave. Bringing us back to square one. I am more inclined to vote for option one. Even if this means having to pay for extra services or not experience a full set of services. I am happy to pay for things I need and use, as I do not use all facilities and activities Qbn has to offer. Scenario 3 to me means I am paying for everything, but may not be using everything.

403)	I do NOT agree with any scenario Council should only be allowed to increase the IPART recommendation and if they are granted a special variation it should be nowhere near the least scenario that Council are asking.
404)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Zero-Increase or Modest-Increase Options Needed Page 2 of the QPRC News of December 2022, which addresses a proposed special rate variation, opens with the heading "Why do we need a rate rise ?" and subsequently states that: "After a four-year rate freeze following the merger in 2016, the uncertainty of the pandemic and natural disasters in 2020 and 2021, and significant changes to the economic environment in the last six months (sic) Council must adopt a rate rise to become financially sustainable" [Comment: The link between the pandemic, natural disasters, unspecified changes to the economic environment and the need for rate rise is not made clear.]; and "Without a rate rise (sic) Council will continue to go backwards financially or be forced to significantly cut services to make annual savings of more than $20 million each year (sic)."1 (underlining added by author). The underlined statements above, plus the three Scenarios that each involve large cumulative rate rises of between 41% and 97% over 3 years, all start from the misleading and false premise that a rate rise must occur and that the rise must be very large to the point of being excessive. Consequently, the discussion and consideration of QPRC's financial future, and that of ratepayers, lacks balance and is skewed from the outset towards large rate rises. Importantly, the absence of discussion concerning either a zero rate increase option or a modest increase option of a few percentage points, or both, makes the imbalance even worse and represent major omissions. Additionally, there is no discussion of a scenario in which the Council is "...forced...to make...savings of more than $20 million each year"2 as foreshadowed in its opening statement above. Such options should have been included and must be considered by Council when determining its future rates. Indeed, either a zero or a low increase in rates should be the only acceptable solution. The reasons for the advent of current and future deficits of "more than $20 million" and large rate increases have not been explained or justified sufficiently. For example: • Inflation over the six year period since QPRC was established in 2016 has been 18.2% 3 - less than half of the Scenario 1 increase and less than one-fifth of the Scenario 3 increase; • Wages and salaries, which represent about 21% ($38.2 million) of Council expenses totalling $183.1 million in 2022-23, have seen stagnant or negative real growth since 20164 when the QPRC was created; and 1 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC), QPRC News, Official Newsletter of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, December 2022, page 2. 2 QPRC, ibid, page 2. 3 Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), Inflation Calculator, June quarter 2016 to September quarter 2022 (latest available data), https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/quarterDecimal.html. 4 Commonwealth of Australia, Budget Statement 2 Economic Outlook, October 2022, page 62, https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/bp1/download/bp1_bs-2.pdf. • Land valuations by the NSW Valuer General – upon which ad valorum council rates are based – went up by 27% between 2016 and 20215. Scenarios 1 to 3 Inclusive The stated deficit of $21.8 million in 2022-23 represents 51% of current Council

	rate income of $42.5 million6. While not recommended because it only addresses Council income and not expenditure and would be excessive, a rate rise of 51% would balance the budget without making any cuts to existing services or other attempts to achieve cost-savings or raising income. In that context, Scenarios 1 and 2 do not make sense because they collectively propose a similar average increase of 52.5% (41% plus 64% divided by 2) but involve up to 'significant' reductions in services. Scenario 3 makes even less sense because, similar to a 51% increase in rates, would maintain services at current levels but would involve a rate increase of almost double at 97%. Scenarios 1 and 2 state that respective savings of $12 million and $5.5 million involve "stopping (or reducing) all non-core services:", followed by various statements including "(Significantly) Increasing user charges and fees for all community services"7. In combination, these two quoted statements: imply that "all community services" are non-core; and suggest that either the existing fees and charges are not set on a true cost recovery basis as they are currently purported to be, or that the determination of future fees and charges will be changed to some other, yet-to-be-defined, basis. The practical effect of Scenarios 1 and 2 is that the Council is not making any attempt at savings or efficiencies in "community services" but, in addition to raising rates and reducing services, is cost-shifting and passing those costs onto the local community through higher, but unspecified, fees. This represents a double-whammy in terms of both higher rates and higher fees for the community. Consequently, the stated percentage increases in rates do not fully depict the full costs which would borne by the community under either of these two Scenarios. Scenario 3 is a fundamentally flawed proposition. There is no justification to expand services and costs by $3.7 million per annum (plus a new $100 pensioner rebate8) when the primary problem is dealing with a $20+ million annual deficit and avoiding going "backwards financially". [Additional comment: The $100 rebate to pensioners provides little effective value if they are also paying an extra $1231 in rates each year. They would be worse off in nett terms compared to all other scenarios.] 5 NSW Valuer General, Total Land Values for South East Regional NSW, Valuer General's Report on NSW Land Values, 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2021, https://www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/218063/ Valuer_Generals_Report_on_NSW_Land_Values_at_1_July_2016.pdf, and https://www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/230274/ Valuer_Generals_Report_on_NSW_Land_Values_at_1_July_2021.pdf. 6 QPRC, ibid, page 2. 7 QPRC, ibid, page 3. 8 QPRC, ibid, page 3. The practical effect of Scenario 3 is that Council is not making any attempt at any savings or efficiencies whatsoever – a 'business as usual' approach which only looks at the income side of the budget and not the expenditure side – yet is asking ratepayers to pay nearly double for the same services they currently receive and a vaguely defined $3.7+ million expansion. Rate Rises Increase Financial Stress in the Community Wage and salary-earners, most businesses, pensioners, retirees and the unemployed cannot unilaterally increase their incomes in the manner or the scale proposed by the Council. In an environment of long term stagnant real wage growth and a fall in real wages of 3.5% during 2021-229, they continue to be

	forced to live with rises in the cost of living and have to manage their budget accordingly. With annual inflation predicted to reach around 8% by the end of 202210, and with interest repayments increasing on a monthly basis since May 2022, Council is proposing to cause greater financial stress to residents by lifting rates by up to $1,231 – equivalent to around 2% of median annual personal income of about $60,400 in the region, and 2.9% of median annual personal income of about $42,400 in NSW11. Furthermore, the 50% of people on incomes lower than the median are affected proportionately harder by rate increases than these comparisons indicate. By Council's own comparative analysis of rates with other local government areas12, both Scenarios 2 ($818 increase) and 3 ($1,231 increase) would mean QPRC goes from being around the middle of the pack to being the highest of the NSW jurisdictions cited. Annual rates would be higher by margins of $259 (15%) and $667 (39%) respectively than the current highest cited NSW jurisdiction of Wingecarribee. Even Scenario 1 ($434 annual increase) would mean QPRC was the second-highest NSW jurisdiction. Many residents prefer to live in the QPRC region because it is more affordable (eg compared to property prices in the ACT or Sydney) and/or because of the lifestyle opportunities that the region offers. Substantial increases in rates have the potential to drive people away from the region because they can no longer afford to live, or do business, there. That applies equally to renters who, ultimately, also bear the cost of rate rises for properties they rent. A Skewed Public Relations Exercise? The vast majority of ratepayers are not going to embrace the massive rate increases proposed in Scenarios 1 to 3 inclusive. Yet, there is potential that the 'Have-Your-Say' results will be presented unfairly as ratepayers are in favour of increasing rates – solely because there were provided with no alternative (eg a zero-increase option). 9 Commonwealth of Australia, Budget Statement 2 Economic Outlook, October 2022, page 62, https://budget.gov.au/2022-23-october/content/bp1/download/bp1_bs-2.pdf. 10 RBA, Statement on Economic Policy – November 2022, Economic Outlook, https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/smp/2022/nov/economic-outlook.html#:~:text=Headline%20inflation%20is%20expected%20to,expected%20previously%20(Graph%205.1). 11 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2021 Census All persons Quickstats, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional, https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA16490. 12 QPRC, ibid, page 2. An alternative view might be that the three Scenarios represent a public relations exercise deliberately aimed at raising alarm in the community through excessive ambit claims, with the intention to proceed ultimately with a lower, as-yet unspecified, increase and thereby appearing to be responsive and providing relief to the community.Council Loans and Repayments The General Fund Budget for 2022-2313 indicates that new loans account for 28% ($44.9 million) of total income of $161.3 million. Loan repayments account for around 9% ($16.2 million) of total expenses of $183.1 million and 74% of the $21.8 million deficit. The Council's income appears excessively dependent on loans which, in turn, flows through to higher repayments now and in future – particularly as interest rates continue to rise. This should be an area to review in terms of containing an otherwise growing debt servicing problem into the future. Sell the 'Q' Sell the 'Q' in all circumstances. There is little justification for such a facility to remain publicly owned and funded, particularly in the context of large current and future budget deficits. The 'Q' services a relatively small sector of the community who can

	afford, are interested and able to attend live musical and theatrical performances; is located in Queanbeyan, at the eastern edge of the Council region, and potentially too far away in practical travel terms for up to around 40% of the region's population14 who live outside the Queanbeyan metropolitan area; and provides a service subsidised by all QPRC ratepayers to patrons who attend the 'Q', including people from outside the QPRC region who do not pay rates to QPRC. Selling the 'Q' would provide an immediate and substantial cash injection to the Council budget and/or enable loans to be paid down and thereby reduce loan servicing costs into the future. The Council also should review other assets which could be sold or hired out in order to raise additional revenue. Council Has to Make Tough Cost-Cutting Decisions Merging two or more councils deemed to be financially unsustainable, as occurred across NSW in 2016, did not inherently result in a merged council that was financially sustainable. Post-merger constraints that limited the budgetary and operational flexibility of merged councils only exacerbated the problem. QPRC's budget deficit problem has been looming for several years – at least since 2016 when the merged Council was created. It is not a sudden or unexpected 13 QPRC, ibid, page 2. 14 ABS, ibid. development which has arisen over the last 2 years or so as the Council appears to assert in its opening statement – "After a four-year rate freeze [ending in 2020?]...the pandemic...natural disasters and...changes to the economic environment in the last six months...the Council must adopt a rate rise..."15. The Council has an effective monopoly in the provision of services to the region. That monopoly position needs to be exercised with care and restraint. The Council is no longer constrained by post-merger restrictions that existed after 2016. However, large increases in rates should not be the default response and they are not the only possible solutions to the budgetary problem. Instead of merely shifting the financial burden to ratepayers and imposing additional financial stress upon the community, the Council needs to have the strength of character to make real cost savings and efficiencies so that it can operate within its means. After all, by increasing rates, that is what Council would be asking ratepayers to do.The Council should focus on achieving a zero-increase in rates or a modest increase of no more than a few percentage points. To achieve that, the Council should conduct a genuine ground-up review of what are essential and non-essential Council roles and functions, including opportunities to improve efficiencies and rationalise services(such as removing or reducing disparities in services that continue to exist across the community and which, at least partly, are legacies from the former pre-merged councils). Benchmarking against other similar NSW councils to compare the range of services and costs, sources of income, rates and overall budgetary situations may assist in that context.
405)	I don't agree with any of these three scenarios. NO SPECIAL RATE RISE. IPART risers only. If council can't meet a budget with their current income increasing income won't resolve the issues, the problem here is inability to meet a budget. I am a pensioner I don't get or expect to get huge increases in my pension each year, how can council expect ratepayers to fund this, very unfair.
406)	I will struggle with any increase in the cost of rates.

407)	I believe our rates are already excessively high and should be reduced by cutting non-essential services. As that is not a scenario you have envisaged, then I recommend Option 1 - Significantly reduce services.
408)	Any scenario with an increase to the rates is bad. I am already paying $2100 per year for a 50m² apartment in Crestwood. Any increase to that would be forcing myself and thousands of others into poverty.
409)	I strongly support scenario 3
410)	Happy to accept scenario 3. We need all the services to continue.
411)	I am in favour of scenario 3. I believe it is important to maintain and extend services throughout the Queanbeyan-Palerang region to maintain assets and keep it a vital and enjoyable place to live. But I am keen to see more support or rebates for ratepayers who are less able than myself to afford the cumulative increase.
412)	The Council cannot reduce services, they are inadequate as they stand. I know costs are increasing and am prepared to pay increased rates to cover services provided. But I am disappointed Council is building a multi storey office when finances are strained.
413)	My only comment is on third scenario, which would make my total rates bill in Greenleigh around $6k a year. Pretty ridiculous given comparative rates in other LGAs. Why there isn't a full cost recovery on new developments? What work is being done to get more money from NSW Government, given the legislation from the forced merger has caused problems?
414)	In all three of the options paid parking should not be an option for the city of Queanbeyan. This would have a likely have a negative effect on businesses and also take away the charm of the small town that we are. We are not Canberra and should not be charging people to park in the CBD. Free parking is an advantage to Queanbeyan as Canberra City parking is becoming inaccessible and expensive where available. We do not want to be like Canberra. Paid parking is a lazy option to raise further funds for council and effects the exact same population you are asking for a rate rise from. I would suggest also the initial outlay of cost to install parking meters and hire further rangers to enforce parking would outlay the funds received from parking. Starting paid parking will be detrimental to Queanbeyan and I would suggest the majority of Queanbeyan residents would be against this option. Why not look at other short-term measures to increase council funding? Slogging residents to pay for parking should not be seen as a viable option. If paid parking was to come into Queanbeyan and I had the choice to access Canberra businesses and facilities and pay for parking or go into Queanbeyan and pay for parking, I think you would find people would head to Canberra spending their money in the ACT rather than our town. Please do not take this option to raise funds. Think bigger and keep Queanbeyan as a good place to live. Also, I would ask as to why option three wasn't only an increase to keep the current level of services without any optional extras. Option 3 should be bare bones and only include what is currently spent by the Council. Extra rebates and millions of dollars towards sustainability should not have been included. We should not be expanding spending if we cannot meet our obligations already.
415)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Good afternoon, I live in Carwoola and do not receive many extra benefits from the council. We have a recycling service only and pay to dispose of our garbage. Obviously the council provides services to our roads and necessary infrastructure.

	There are many people like us who do not expect to live like we are in a major city and prefer a rural setting. The proposed rate increases are ALL extremely high. I question the direction of the council. Are we trying to become another major city? If we are in such a dire financial situation, why is the council building large chambers? Obviously it makes sense to have less councillors, and if the Q is a drain on Councils budget by all means privatise it. If people want to see a show it will still be cheaper for them than travelling to Sydney. Some of the Community activities that are funded cater to such a minority that you have to question the effectiveness of the money spent. It could be better utilised. In the rural part of the council we don't have street sweepers, we look after our own properties. Sadly this week I heard a story about a man who blows all his lawn clippings into the gutter and says "The street sweeper will pick it up". I don't think the exorbitant increases will be accepted or are warranted.
416)	At a time when the price of everything is going up any increase to rates year on year is something that should be avoided at all costs. I don't understand how the councils finances can be in such a bad situation that they need to be increased by 12 percent a year let alone 18 or 28 percent. 12 percent increase would be my most preferred option but I would sooner see a workplace reforms be undertaken within QPRC prior to this being implemented. 18 percent increase should not be entertained this will see an increase of 64% over three years. As I have mentioned below, structural reforms should make up the difference. 28, 25, and 23 percent increases is a joke, how is possible that QPRC could come to the rate payer with this? Whomever okayed that to be released to the public should be the first person to go in the eventual restructure.
417)	Increases seem unreasonable for the value received by rate payers
418)	I'm opting for plan scenarios 2. Some sacrifices in the short term will make things better. A 23% rate rise is too much with the living crises people are facing already.
419)	I do NOT agree with any scenario Council should only be allowed to increase the IPART recommendation and if they are granted a special variation it should be nowhere near the least scenario that Council are asking.
420)	If the scenarios are realistic, then offloading non-core business costs is the only option.

421)	need to reduce some services and look at income generating opportunities eg developer fees/charges, can we attract public service facilities as a 'regional' area? Are we charging on par with Canberra for many things?
422)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to place on record my total disagreement and dissatisfaction with the proposal, by Council to increase rates by some 97% over the next three years. We are pensioners and are struggling to meet day to day expenses as is, in an environment that seems quite uncertain with inflation and food prices ever increasing and saving bank balances quickly eroding. Some increases in rates may be genuine and justified, but not now at a time of uncertainty, in the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic and where little or no increases have occurred in living standards. And to announce wage increases for elected councillors on the other hand, makes a mockery of the proposal. Please consider, maybe smaller increases over a longer period of time, 33% increase over three years will hurt Queanbeyan people like us! More thought is needed on this proposal!
423)	Who in heck is your "average rate payer"? I currently pay around $3,440 per annum for a residential house in Crestwood which looks just like all the other homes around me – so I'd consider myself "average". This is already much higher rates than my previous council, and combined with the current increases in electricity, has and mortgage rates borderline already unaffordable. The 3 scenarios Council is outlining would mean increases as follows for me: Scenario 1 – an increase of 12% every 3 years – my payments would increase to: • $3,852 year 1 • $4,314 year 2 • $4,832 year 3 Scenario 2 – an increase of 18% every year for 3 years – my payments would increase to: • $4,059 year 1 • $4,790 year 2 • $5,652 year 3 Scenario 3 – increases at 27%, 25%, 23% – my payments would increase to: • $4,639 year 1 • $5,731 year 2 • $7,049 year 3 All of these rate increases are unaffordable for me, given the increases being experienced across the board on all other expenses at the moment. But 2 and 3 are totally out of the question. I suggest that Council go back to the drawing board and consider other options. While I am sympathetic to the expanded costs the Council has had to account for due to the merger, it seems to me that this is a scare tactic that Council is employing so that you can justify "increasing fees at The Q, reducing community funding by 50%,

	cutting heritage grants, only keeping one pool and stopping development of new sports and aquatic facilities, increasing fees, reducing urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning), and introducing paid parking. More information about cuts can be found in the 3-page explainer".
424)	Option one and two are completely unrealistic and unreasonable options as due to the weather events of the last few years leaving damaged roads and pavements and overgrown grass and plants, and the need for community services to maintain mental health and rehabilitation opportunities in the area. Option three is where the real risk needs to be considered, why? The cost of living is at present borderline unmanageable, the events of the last year have put a lot of members of the community and their families under unimaginable strain, many now struggling to live, others homeless, but now, due to the complete financial mismanagement by this Council over the last decade, these community members and many more are likely to see much tougher times. It is a fair assumption to suggest homelessness rates will go up, crime will go up due to inability to provide for themselves, even sadder suicide rates are likely to go up due to the stress and struggle
425)	None of the scenarios are actually beneficial. Where is the option that after the 3yrs rates will decrease? Why give three scenarios that only give the rate payer one option where we don't feel like we will end up living in a tip? Perhaps an administrator would be better, as it seems the people we elected can't do their job. The mayor gave himself and others a pay rise at their first meeting. How will people survive with the cost of living gone up, no pay rising in their workplaces, fuel, and now rates…. Overall spent 100s of thousands of "beautifying" the CBD, but then increased the rent so high that the little owners couldn't keep going. There are already one too many vacant shop spaces. The build a massive building, which we didn't need, when the community can't and won't benefit from it. Then there will be the old council building empty, the RG function rooms empty, the old building along Rutledge st, information centre,
426)	I think you have clearly put the thumb on the scale for S3. I do not like the sustainability aspects to it - I think this is overbudgeted.
427)	I think we should take the 'pain' now and make the highest increased rates.
428)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am disgusted with the options for the proposed rate rise. There are only options that mean a massive increase (well over the advised maximum 3% rate increase from IPART). The lowest option (which will be an additional 50% over the three years)

	seeks to diminish everything we already have in place. The council has severely mismanaged our money. With a new $74million precinct in place for the council and recent councillor and mayor pay rises all exceeding 20% how can you even propose such obscene rate rises? Our recent pay rises were 2%! I do not support any of the proposals. My partner and I are both employed full time and will be unable to pay any of these. We have good government paying jobs however your proposals would see us unable to even afford basic household amenities. The council should be ashamed of their proposal and embarrassed by their mismanagement and greed. It is your duty to rate payers and residents to at least maintain the standards already in place for an affordable cost - none of which are an option. I have forwarded your proposals to a number of news outlets. I am sure they will be interested to hear how you are taking advantage of rate payers and how you have managed to ensure you are all well taken care of.
429)	Scenario 1 is the only viable option, the other 2 are unaffordable
430)	You've said "give us all your money or we'll kill your community". What do you expect us to do? I suspect you'd like us to say "oh sure! Here's all this money that we had lying around. None of us are feeling the pinch of this economical climate at all. A nearly 100% rate rise over the next few years won't cripple our finances at all." Well, you're dreaming. And instead, you're threatening to take pools, libraries, parks and ovals away? Monsters.
431)	There should be no increase to rate payers for financial mismanagement. How can councillors get a pay rise and then inflict a significant rate rise on rate payers, some of which don't get any benefit from services provided. Why build a new council building worth $70 million, knowing full well this was on the horizon.
432)	Prefer scenario 1 or 2. Reduce some services to provide rate relief. Focus on services with niche/limited uptake for reduction and ensure core services (roads, water, waste) are provided for.
433)	Scenario 1 and 2. I can't imagine how a young family will be able to afford the increase in fees associated with childcare services being fully self-funded. I hope there is federal funding for that. It will push kids into primary school before they are ready and that will negatively affect their education. Primary schools are not daycare centres, they are not equipped to deal with children who are simply not cognitively ready to learn at a primary level. This leads to a lot of problems for the child and our community. Paid parking could work, but you will have to charge for it everywhere or you'll have people who work in Queanbeyan parking in the only free spots and they'll be there all day. I don't like the idea of having to pay for parking at the supermarket - if I have to pay, I will likely go to Woden or the Canberra Centre and do one big shop each week instead of going to Aldi and Coles a few times each week. We have had a significant hike in the cost of groceries lately, so adding parking onto that is enough to make me rethink what I currently do. Maybe your could just charge for 9-5 parking? We need to keep up with the heritage grants as without them our town won't look as presentable and people won't want to live here. If it's too expensive to live in Queanbeyan people will move away. We need the development and tourism as that will add to our coffers. I will say sell the Q and the pool if we have to.

	The problem with selling the Q and the pool is that once they are gone, they are gone. The Q and the pool are major draw cards for our town. I believe the council manages the Q well. It would be a shame not to have the Q in council control. There have been some great acts on there. You've done a good job. There are a lot of behavioural problems at the pool with the locals every holidays. I have previously taken my children to other pools because of the language and behaviour. Maybe if it is privatised they will have better luck discouraging that? The swimming programs are amazing as is the water park up the top. It's been very good value for a long time.
434)	I know many will not like paying a lot more in rates but I feel we have to keep up a high standard of the facilities and services that are very important to our lives. I am happy to go with the highest increase.
435)	I vote for no increase I rates but if there must be then my preference is scenario 1.
436)	Option 1 preferred. The UIV of rural landholdings will skyrocket when the NSW Valuer General next does their assessment, based on recent land sales in the Bywong area. This will, by may calculations, and as a rural resident, literally triple my rates should the 100% rates rise be adopted. Has council really thought this through and the impact on all rate payers. I for one cannot afford a tripling in my rates and will need to leave the shire. However, with any rates rise, we as rural residents, will continue to receive absolutely nothing from QPRC.
437)	I think a combination of Scenario 2 and 3 would be better. I am concerned that the proposed rate rises in Scenario 3 would be to much for many families, particularly those already struggling, but Scenario 2 requires too many cuts. I would be happy to pay more for services and see a reduction in some services to ease the pressure on rates. I also think this provides families with more options in that they can choose not to go to the pool or the Q and pay the higher fees. They can't choose not to pay their rates.
438)	None of them address increased efficiency and reducing wasteful practices
439)	Hard decisions need to be made just like a household budget under pressure, discretionary spending needs to be reduced. So to with council hard times call for hard measures, reduce spending in all departments and look at whether the council should really be involved in certain services. I believe that the council has embarked on a scare campaign and that services will not be as severely impacted as suggest in scenario one. Council has just listed service that people care about to scare them. I am sure there are many programs that can be cut and keep the essential services such as sports grounds and roads going. Just stop all the grants and funding stuff that is not BAU. Why is the council providing childcare this is a service that can be private sector. If somebody else provides the service council should not be involved it's just a feel good gesture. The council should have addressed this earlier and perhaps not committed to some of the projects it did as it would have been obvious they are not affordable. Some asset sales are require to get rid of debt. 19miliion in debt repayments is crazy who the hell approved this? Scenario one is the only option, no one can afford an increase of 100% especially in the current climate of increased costs for household budgets. Even 12% per year is over the top I am not getting a pay rise, mine was 2.6%.

	By increasing rates by 100% it means that I will not be able to afford them, but also that I will not be able to afford to pay kids enrolments for sports. So we will not be able to access the services that we are paying for because we won't have any money. I will probably have to sell my house as I won't be able to afford interest rates and council rates.
440)	The management of the rate payers funds are in question, the QPRC is asking for the same people to manage these funds, Have any of the financial people including the CFO and other directors been replaced in the last few years. Why has the QPRC not included the placing the council in the hands of administrators as an option especially since it is implied there is insufficient funds available for the 2022-2023 year? A company would need to place itself in receivership if trading insolvent i.e. insufficient funds.
441)	I think it's a disgrace that current councillors voted for a pay rise in the current circumstances. Perhaps more cost cutting needs to be undertaken before slugging rate payers. Shutting of pools etc is unacceptable.
442)	Option 2 preferred
443)	It's clear, according to your information that only scenario 3 will provide the money required
444)	All of them unacceptable. Invest the money you are reducing. Scenario one rate increases is manageable but without cutting things like the swimming pool where kids learn to swim. Scenario 3 will break families like mine especially with the interest rate rises!
445)	Option 2 as puts more onus of those who use services to pay for them while also being aware of a level of social safety net .
446)	I'd stay somewhere between the budget and middle scenarios. Do not increase expenses whenever possible. In these times of increasing interest rates, any increasing cost would be too much.
447)	Scenario 3 is my preferred option. I do believe the NSW Govt should step in and supply funds in order to assist both council and ratepayers to step payments up slowly given the current cost of living crisis.
448)	I am supportive of scenarios 1, the council placed themselves into this situation by freezing rates for such a long period. Reducing the first nations activities and utilising federal funding for these activities would be smarter. Also reducing the numbers of councillors will also save money , there is no need to be top heavy and not having the community see the benefits.
449)	Adopt Scenario 1; to benefit all rate payers and provide basic amenities within its budget limitations
450)	Can see that rates may need to increase but not to the degree of the scenarios. Council should look at ways to save elsewhere.
451)	I think all three scenarios are unrealistic for average homeowners struggling with the already rising costs of living. Many people will have to sell their homes that they have worked so hard for, because the price of living does not match their wage. The low income earners will loose yet again
452)	If a rate rise is need then scenario one. I already pay way above the so called average in rates and I certainly do not live in an affluent part of Queanbeyan. So I do not understand where you are getting you average figures from.
453)	While it would be nice to maintain the highest levels of service, our household is already struggling with increasing costs to mortgages, fuel, groceries etc. We've tightened the spending belt but given our wages aren't going up we're not sure we can afford the scenario 3 rate rise.

454)	Council should not proceed with any of the 3 scenarios as it has shown in it first months that it only cares about its council members. I would prefer to see council go into administration rather than let you punish the council areas who are not responsible for the debt Giving your selfs pay raise as one of the first things after you where elected and the treating to cut services whilst spending money like drunken sailors on things councils shouldn't. Your job is to provide services to keep the town going if you can't afford to do that you need to cut none essential services like the Arts new building work heating the indoor pool in summer a freeze on grants to anyone and travel overseas for council employees for study /conferences . The duplicates of mail to households. Also the sewage plant is due to be upgraded at a cost of around $25m which will be paid for by the rate payers so as a average household on a average income these rate rises are not sustainable for most households with the current inflation and you expect us to pay more for less service
455)	Nobody wants a rate rise naturally. But I suppose the medium position may be the option if strong safety nets for those in low incomes are put in place.
456)	Support Scenario 3
457)	This announcement along with a review in reduction of services is a reflection in current and past management. I do not agree with any of them. Why is the option to leave necessary services at current levels and remove unnecessary service and only increasing rates at or lower than inflation rate not included in the options. QPRSC has I believe outsourced too many basic service imo and outsourcing NEVER reduces the real cost to the end user. Slipping the suggestion of paid parking in is a very poor diversion from the fundamentals of management within a budget. Such a step if outsourced as usually is the case just provides a profit centre to a third party (eg Wilsons) without returning anything but inconvenience and increased cost to the ratepayers. It is well recognised by entities (with which I have experience) such outsourcing costs (and services) always increase the cost/fee structure at a rate far higher than inflation whilst narrowing the service band to the end user/ratepayer. As a majority of Australians are tighting budgets with increased rates. I believe that council should be doing the same, therefore scenario 2 is my preference. With the merger of QCC and Palerang in 2016 we were told the benefits,which is totally the opposite to the three scenarios. Someone should read the council reports from the merger and tell us why we now have a 97% increase? None of the proposed options bring in the administrators So the cost of living is going through the roof and the council has mismanaged funds and now you want a 64% rate increase to continue services which most people cannot afford. You need to reassess the current spending and figure out a better way My preference would be to have better services all round, so the more expensive option is most appealing. Noting that council appears to have a structural deficit, I would welcome clear guidance on the projection past the third year (i.e. once rates have effectively doubled). Will the increased rates be enough to sustain the council without further large rates rises?
458)	I would advocate for scenario 1. I live in a rural area and receive very few benefits for the rates I pay. Scenario 1 - Significantly Reduce Services
459)	RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL Good Morning,

	I don't like any of the scenarios as the community needs the services that the council provides and many families are struggling to pay bills etc. However, I will go with scenario 2 – Reduce Services.
460)	RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL Scenario 1 - Significantly Reduce Services
461)	RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL Hi, I vote for scenario 1 a significantly reduce services. Can't afford increased rates during these economic times Thanks,
462)	None of the scenarios are warranted. I live in a ex-government house (Deemed bungalow when renting there, so small) and my rates are well and truly above the "Average Rates" put forward in your arguments for these scenarios. The comparisons offered were cherry picked and not typical of country areas across the country. See below for clarification.
463)	I am happy for rates to increase if it means services can continue to be delivered. So I would prefer scenario 3. I would be very strongly against scenario 1, although scenario 2 (or a compromise between 2 and 3) could be reasonable. Reduce services. Would rather pay parking and higher tickets at the Q than to pay much more in rates
464)	If the 3 scenarios I only accept scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services Can you also confirm how this increase is fair when certain areas in the council are already paying a lot more for their rates than other areas? i.e Bungendore residents already pay a lot more for their council rates than Queanbeyan. Under this scenario we need to still ensure REGULAR maintenance and continued service of the following: - Urban mowing is regularly maintained in Bungendore, we get alot of brown snakes, the last thing you need is to risk lives over cost cutting. - Roads i.e potholes are repaired in a timely manner. - Bridges are maintained - Water services and regular monitoring of the drinking water to ensure protection of public health and ongoing compliance with Australian Drinking Water Standards. - Sewerage services - Domestic waste management services continue, i.e kerbside collection of residual waste, recyclables and organics
465)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** The people hardest hit with any of these options would be pensioners. These increases along with the increasing cost of food, rent and particularly electricity will push more people over the poverty line. I do note that Scenario 3 includes an additional $100 for pensioners across QPRC. One suggestion I have is withdrawing from the sister city

	arrangement with Minami Alps, no doubt significant savings could be made there for a start - and do not enter into any others. Obviously Scenario 3: Maintain Services, would be the ideal choice provided that money shelled out to perform the work goes to contractors who are ethical and have a proven track record. Too many times we see a road resurfaced and barely a few months later it is damaged or potholed again. Thank you for reading this.
466)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I do not support any of these scenarios, and certainly will not countenance any rate rise, as we are already paying too much. We do not deserve ANY services to be cut. Our services are stretched as it is, only just adequate. You need to try harder for a better solution. We cannot afford to cut services. You need to make them more efficient. Better training, better staff. The NSW Government must be held more accountable, responsible, you need to lobby them for more money. They had forced the merger, we should have refused. It is especially important to preserve our heritage. More fight and backbone.
467)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I opt for Scenario 2.
468)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** My VOTE goes to Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services Reason: Recession, Increased Mortgage Interest Rates, Increase in Cost of Living
469)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am a long time proud Queanbeyan resident and this is my 1st time writing to you I am appalled and horrified by the rate rises as this could just tip pensioners like myself over the edge!! Such a massive increase surely must mean a mismanagement of our monies Honestly SCENARIO 1 is the ONLY option !! Yes sell the Q and reduce number of councillors etc Yes, hold back on further developments until the budget has improved What with cost of living increases, increases to gas and electricity etc and NOW RATES I believe many pensioners may have to sell their homes I have a very basic small old home which I love but I may need to downsize even further to survive Is it not possible to increase rates at different levels eg: increase for investors, those owners who are not on pensions but keep pensioners on the same level as we are now…..maybe even means testing which I would be happy to comply with.
470)	Option 3 seems excessive. Option 2 seems palatable. Option 1 is unacceptable for a developed nation.
471)	The council should manage funds better rather than charging ratepayers more. Council should support residents, instead of focusing on profits. It was not my decision to conduct an unprofitable merger, so I should not be paying for council's poor decisions.
472)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL - ADDRESSED TO COUNCILLORS** I am appalled you are even thinking about closing services such as the pool and library which I use often. Because of your incompetence, you are in this situation. As you said in the plan, “The income we receive is less than the expenses we have. This has been the case for a number of years.” You then spend millions on the council building and then have the audacity to give yourselves raises! How dare you. You want community consultation, but you will do what you want no matter what the community says. I request a reply from all of you with an explanation and an apology for your mismanagement of my rates.
473)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Dear sir / Madam My "choice" of the three scenarios presented would be for No 3: Maintain Services. Yours respectfully
474)	I am writing in response to your proposal to submit to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to raise rates according to one of three scenarios that would see a cumulative increase over three years of anywhere between 41 and 97 percent. The statements made in your 28 Nov 22 message indicate that the current, base level of services cannot be maintained unless there is a near doubling of rates (upper end scenario of 97 percent). This appears very

	excessive, and little discussion or logical argument has been made as to how QPRC Council has found themselves in this position and why QPRC ratepayers should accept such terms. The 'Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council Merger Status Report 2016-17' stated the following in regard to the benefits associated with the merger of the Queanbeyan City Council and the Palerang Council: ' … [better] strategic capacity … ' (p25). ' … strong[er] performance … ' (p25). ' … [better] organisational health …' (p25). ' … net financial savings of $13 million are predicted …' (p25). ' … benefits of $51 million are expected over 20 years … ' (p7). ' … the 10yr forecasts are within benchmarks and proposed rate increases around 1 % PA accomplish the aim to keep rates and charges affordable …' (p29). Based on QPRC's proposed SRV increase ratepayers seem to have been misled about all the above statements, especially regarding the ' … keep rates and charges affordable …' comment. Furthermore, the rate-affordability words were mentioned yet again by QPRC under the 'Financial Strategy and Policy' section on page 18 of the most recent QPRC Operational Plan 2022-23. I understand that COVID, natural disasters and inflationary pressures associated with the war in the Ukraine were not predicted in 2016-17 at the time of the report, but I would not expect such world events to affect the touted savings from the merger status report to the point that in the space of five years QPRC Council are now asking for a 97 percent increase in rates just to maintain existing services. Nor would I expect the 'strategic capacity', 'strong performance' or 'organisational health' to be severely weakened. Where have things gone adrift? In reviewing the Key Performance Indicators set for councils around NSW to assess efficiency and effectiveness, QPRC fails badly in the area of 'Capital Grants and Contributions'. For 2019/20 the average for NSW councils is 33 percent, but for QPRC it is 49 percent. Likewise, the average for 'Materials/Contracts Expenditure' for councils is trending at 27 percent, but for QPRC it is 41 percent. Why so high? Looking at the budget statements in the QPRC Operational Plan 2022-23 the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct Project is costing $74.8 million, funded by 'merger savings'. From the 'new loans' section $39.7 million is also mentioned as being sourced from 'merger savings'. This is further described as costing $2.9 million in the form of loan repayments over 20 years. Included in this project are the new council offices. The experiences of COVID have seen a pivotal change in how organisations do business and a trend towards a hybrid business model. The scaling back in office space and ownership, and the ability to work remotely using virtual technology and online meetings etc means that the requirement for QPRC Council to have new, larger and improved offices is not a strong argument. The whole project should be questioned and expensive plans shelved, thereby saving money. Options are available as used by other business organisations and federal/state public services such as renting conference rooms and other suitable premises. Likewise, pushing ahead with the Precinct Project regarding cultural upgrades and developments is extravagant at this time and requires at least a review, if not a scaling back. In regard to QPRC income streams, no mention is made of the expected growth in population in the area and how this will affect council funding in a positive manner. According to the QPRC Operational Plan 2022-23 (p6), the projected population in the QPRC area is expected to increase by 30 percent over the period 2021 to 2036 ('one of the fastest for any inland country NSW region' as quoted in the Plan). With the advent of new land releases in Googong and Jumping Creek, the increase in the number of ratepayers is sure to have a positive effect that should ameliorate the requirements for such a steep 97 percent SRV rise. I fully understand that NSW councils have been restricted in proposing increases beyond the rate pegging limit and that independent submissions are now being drafted for IPART consideration by a large number of local councils, however QPRC Council's proposed increases are exorbitant when compared with many other areas. Examples are as follows (my underline emphasis added): • Snowy Monaro Regional Council - 55 percent increase spread over five years to stabilise the backlog of work and undertake additional renewal and maintenance of roads/community assets. • Penrith City Council - 27

	percent cumulative increase over four years to maintain and improve services. • Lithgow City Council - 24 percent increase to maintain existing services. • Great Lakes Council - 21 percent cumulative over four years to maintain existing services. • Gwydir Shire - 30 percent single year increase. • Lachlan Shire - 32 percent cumulative increase over four years to improve services. • Singleton Council - 45 percent cumulative increase to maintain and improve services. • Yass Valley - 39 percent cumulative increase over four years to maintain existing services. All the above regions have proposed increases of no more than a maximum of 55 percent (many substantially less); while half of them also commit to improving services, unlike QPRC Council. Five out of the eight seek to introduce the rate increases over four years or more - not the three years put forward by QPRC Council. I recommend an immediate cessation of the proposed level of SRV increases to be put to IPART by QPRC Council, and a review to be conducted into what is more realistic and affordable for ratepayers. The reasoning behind this approach is based on the following: 1. Putting aside the 97 percent option, the other options that recommend an SRV cumulative increase of between 41 and 64 percent to deliver a reduction in services is illogical (pay more to get less is not a good premise for a proposal); 2. The requirement for new, costly QPRC council offices and cultural precinct is an extravagance not a necessity and is questionable in this current economic environment; 3. The SRV increase scenarios have given no modelling consideration to the additional income generated by the 30 percent increase in population, and to what level this can offset costs; 4. The magnitude of the increases within all three scenarios of the proposed SRV is unrealistic for ratepayers who are also facing rising interest rates on their mortgages and increased costs of living due to inflation; and 5. The QPRC SRV proposal is out of step and far above that of the majority of other NSW councils in terms of the magnitude of the increase and what services will (or will not) be provided. In addition to submitting this letter of concern to QPRC Council I will be making application before February 2023 to the Office of Local Government NSW regarding QPRC's proposed SRV increases. I will also be submitting this letter to the local member for Eden-Monaro. In summary, at a time when interest rates and inflation are impacting severely on everyone, the suggestion to impose a 97 percent increase in rates over three years just to maintain basic services is out of step with other NSW councils' proposed SRV rises, out of touch in regard to current economic hardships of people in the QPRC region, and not in the best interests of a council.
475)	I would chose a hybrid between scenario 2 and 3 but scenario 3 i understand the need and the horrifically poor management of the previous council but these increases are going to hit people hard with already increasing mortgage rates and income not matching inflation.
476)	I don't want to lose any of the community facilities that are provided by council - they are integral to why this is a good place to live and why the area appeals to people from all demographics and walks of life. I can accept the 3rd scenario as long as there are adequate fee relief and adjustment provisions for pensioners, low income earners, and others who find themselves in financial difficulties.
477)	Option 1 only if we have to choose a rate rise. Very unhappy about any rate rise and will seriously affect my ability to stay in the region.
478)	My preferred is scenario 3, although more expensive I want to maintain services.
479)	Instead of cutting services look for other savings eg not funding community events. Please provide more detail on proposed cuts to services. Make sure any cuts to services are spread equally across the LGA. It appears as though the majority of cuts will effect rate payers outside Queanbeayn more than those who reside in the Queanbeayn area
480)	Council should maintain current services and renewal programs and minimise asset growth to developer contributions only

481)	I believe that the council needs to find a way to live within it's means. I do not endorse any of the three scenarios.
482)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** With this I provide my input for consideration regarding the Proposed Special Rate Variation proposed by QPRC. It is my belief that scenario 1 be considered as the most practicable, acceptable and appropriate solution for the predicament the Council finds itself in. I believe scenario 1, and the cuts required within it, represent the most sensible course of action. Whilst access to and funding of many community initiatives is important, it must be accepted that there is an economic realty which clashes with the current financial aspirations of Council. It is crucial that the severity of the change in circumstances which many families in our community are experiencing must not be underestimated or ignored when considering what should be prioritised going forward, and I call on Council to be pragmatic in ensuring that essential services are exactly that, essential. For example, the $1.3 million per annum outlined in Scenario 3 for “environmental and sustainability programs”, whilst admirable in intent, does nothing towards helping the community put food on their tables or keep a roof over their head. The $400k per year infrastructure grants are also an example of a well intentioned yet fiscally viable initiative. Whilst we as a community have enjoyed a relatively comfortable existence for some time, the headwinds we face as a nation and as a community means that it is time we accept that a degree of austerity will be required to see us through the period. Furthermore, there would be community acceptance of Council returning to a more essential service provider for the foreseeable future to see us through this period without imposing significant extra cost on the community. I am of course happy to discuss any of the above points further should you wish, and appreciate the community forums held recently as an excellent example of engagement with the community.
483)	I support scenario 3.
484)	* I am very angry that the council has reached this point. * The rate peg after the amalgamation must have been put in place for a reason. * The Council has known about the rate peg for a long time. It should have been planning for this and doing something before now - eg cutting back services over time (rather than now cutting out services). * The council - mostly inexperienced councillors - voted themselves a pay rise but now asks residents to be financially worse off. * As a relatively high value ratepayer (Greenleigh) I feel that I will be disproportionately affected - your calculator indicates that under Scenario 3 my rates would be near $7500 per year in 2025 - this is excessive (especially for an area that has no kerb and guttering or street lighting). * I definitely don't agree with Scenarios 2 and 3. The council should look at all ways to reduce costs before disadvantaging rate payers. > Dial back the Councillor's pay rise. > Reduce the number of Councillors. > Reduce the number of Council staff - eg public services could be part time. > Reduce services rather than cutting out altogether - eg reduce library hours but don't close libraries. > Cut out grants that don't directly benefit residents. > Adopt a more "user pays" policy - eg increase fees, introduce new fees.
485)	Before commenting on the individual scenarios I want to express my anger and disappointment at the sudden and, to my mind, surprising announcement of this situation. The amalgamation, along with the pegging of rates, was over six years ago. Did not the council at the time seek a financial risk assessment of possible outcomes? Or was it kept 'confidential' in the hope it would not occur! I do not recall this financial scenario being raised in the many community meetings I have attended and do not remember it being raised at the 2021 council election. So, to suddenly be asked to comment on three options for the next three years is both a shock and disconcerting. As well, to discover the councillors have voted themselves a "pay rise" during this financial crisis is both outrageous and deeply offensive. Maybe staffing cuts could be started on council. After all you are asking us to pay more in rates, which includes your increased remuneration (when is the next council election?). All scenarios are

	unwelcome. There is no Golidilocks solution here, each is a too hot. And, for each, the outcomes unpalatable. So, as scenarios 2 and 3 would mean a considerable monitory increase for me as a resident of Greenleigh, the least worse choice is scenario 1.
486)	A major selling point for living (and buying a house) in Queanbeyan, is the level of service provided by the council. I do not want to see any reduction in Community events, or support of the arts. These events create a community which is missing from other areas, including Canberra. Neither would I like to see paid parking introduced. The nature of the Queanbeyan CBD is that it is sometimes necessary to drive to a couple of places within a short distance of each other. This should not require separate parking tickets. That said, I think it worth noting that we already had a significant rate rise last year. I think it best to include this in discussions about further rate rises, as it allows for a more honest and transparent conversation. Long term, there must be a way to maintain current services and the community lifestyle which is such a draw card for Queanbeyan, without almost doubling of rates over three years. This is of particular concern for me as I am in a house and so the Average Residential Rates published in the QPRC Newsletter are less than half what I already pay. It's all well and good to talk about an average, but the difference between unit rates and house rates is significant enough to warrant publishing different figures. Again, this is about being honest and transparent in the conversation.
487)	Regardless of the Scenario are the rate rises going to be pro-ratered for those people in more rural parts of the Queanbeyan Palerang Council Area where services such as sewerage and garbage collection are not provided. Why should we pay the same rates as those who receive these services from the council! I live in Mount Fairy, we no not have town water, we need to maintain our septic system, and we do not have a garbage collection service and need to take our rubbish to the transfer station in bungendore and Pay for the privlidge.
488)	As the most drastic option Scenario 1 will cut non-core services but will also cut services to some particularly vulnerable groups in our community. Scenario 2 decreases some services and maintains others, but still has non-essential services like The Q, which could be cut. This scenario also increases fees for essential things like childcare which I disagree with. It also cuts urban amenities which benefit everyone and which every single rate payer pays for- this should be amended. Scenario 3 just shifts the burden of fixing this financial problem to ratepayers which is not fair - why do ratepayers have to fix the problems that should’ve been avoided in the first place? In summary, while not ideal, Scenario 2 is the most suitable option. It could still do with amendments to remove non-essential services (saleyards, arts, The Q) but is the most balanced option.
489)	Scenario 1 still results in a large increase in operating budget, whilst maintaining core services. I am willing to accept the proposed significant reduction in discretionary services.
490)	Don't raise rates and privatise the Q
491)	The three scenarios provided are given with the intent to be emotionally manipulative and lead people to vote for the option that provides the most council services yet cost ratepayers the most money. Council Staff did not appear to seek feedback when giving themselves pay rises or building large new office buildings. However are happy to insinuate that the local pools can be shut and unfunded should ratepayers choose to pay less.
492)	I select option one with the lowest rate increase which is still to rich! The shire have already put considerable increase in infatuation to an accommodate new rate payers with the goofing and f jerrabomberra development which will increase revenue. All the proposed welfare community infrastructure has no bearing on me as it’s not accessible so why should I pay more! If you want community events and assets charge an entrance fee to accommodate cost of service- to those that use it; probities these to reduce cost on residents and shire…

493)	I note that selling the Q is on the agenda for two of the options The Q is the only facility for cultural events in Queanbeyan. It is a service to the community not a money raising facility. Can you confirm that all sports facilities pay their own way and make money for the council. Should the Q or the Bicentennial Hall be sold to private entities the fees will go beyond local organisations such as the schools, The Queanbeyan Players, the dance recitals and will have to sort other locations to perform. It also brings significant revenue to all local restaurants and eateries. Queanbeyan Players raised and donated a significant amount of money for the Council and the State Government to show how essential a cultural building was to Queanbeyan. I would say the council needs to go back to the drawing board and find other ways to find money, maybe sell one of the many sporting venues!!!
494)	Absolutely unaffordable rate increases will have detrimental effects on living situations due to mismanaged funds. Scenario 1 is the best of the bad options. A 12% increase through this special variation is ridiculous. I assume council will then add on the max percentage allowable under the independent pricing and regulatory tribunals limit of 0.7% rate increase as well.
495)	Where is a better break down of savings that could be made by Council before offering only three bad, worse and garbage choices??
496)	I wish it hadn't taken so long for the council to ackn that there isn't enough money to pay for services. Some investments and decisions in the previous council were poor, and has left the council in a bad financial situation. Surely there should be som accountability for these poor decisions? Because I want to maintain services, and have a option for improving services later on, I think we should have the rate rise to meet expectations.
497)	Maintain the same and stop wasting money.
498)	Ridiculous the cost of living has gone up and QPRC want to cripple hard working families even more through mismanagement of your previous administration
499)	I dont believe there should be large increase. If council cut Fford things then don't hVe them. Just like our family has to do without luxuries to make ends meet. So option 1
500)	Where is the fourth option for council to be more financially accountable? Council needs to focus on core services and reduce costs on unnecessary expenditure, including the number of council members.
501)	None of these options are acceptable. You need to come up with a solution that doesn’t make the Queanbeyan area so unaffordable. I can live by the beaches in Sydney for less than what I pay to live here.
502)	Reduce Services
503)	Strongly support Scenario 3. Those of us with the means should be funding these services. If anything, higher levels of service should be considered, particularly environment and conservation.
504)	I think it is disgraceful that the options are reduced services for more money or send property owners broke. Where am I (and many others) meant to get that kind of money from to pay your proposed rates increased. House values will go down as no one will want to commit to this.
505)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Attention Mr. Winchester/Councillors As a relatively new resident of Jerrabomberra, I would like to respond to Council's proposals regarding intended rate rises and raise my deep concerns about the nature and outcomes of this process.

	Firstly, I must take exception to what appears at the very least to be a misleading rates comparison. This table suggests my rates measure up favourably to other similar localities. Currently, my rates are $3,791.15, already $200 up from last financial year (as to be expected). Even without any extra rate increases, I would be expecting my rates to nudge $4,000 in the next financial year. This already makes Jerrabomberra significantly more expensive than similar areas in Hobart and Melbourne that I have lived in, without any corresponding improvement in services. Whilst I understand the many pressures on councils, the consequences of pandemics and natural disasters were felt across many jurisdictions (some also dealing with the results of bushfires). Most councils, however, have capped their rate increases to between 3 and 5%. Also, Council appears to have had four years to develop creative solutions and make prudent decisions about limiting ambitious and expensive building projects in the Queanbeyan area. One of the reasons I chose to relocate to Jerrabomberra was, aside from the agreeable rural feel and sense of community here, was its comparative affordability to much of thr ACT. The trade-off was having fewer public transport options (particularly into the Canberra CBD and hospital) and less access to shopping , medical and cultural/entertainment options. In the nearly two years of living here, I have been very happy with my choice. If, however, the rate rises proceed as outlined, at the very least I will be paying around $5,345 in three years' time for 'significantly reduced' services. This includes what seems to be barely providing any 'sweeping, mowing, maintence and cleaning ' (surely a health and safety issue). I don't believe this to be an acceptable or even reasonable proposition for the ratepayers of Jerrabomberra To just maintain current services will amount to a rates bill of around $7,470, similar to Yarralumla, Ainsley or Deakin which have the advantages of being much closer to the city with better access to amenities. I am extremely distressed at the (very sudden and unexpected) prospect of possibility having to find nearly $7,500 per year for rates (without even factoring in CPI rises). I'm not even sure this is possible, particularly given other soaring cost of living rises. None of the three scenarios on which we're supposed to vote provide for satisfactory solutions. Neither do they provide adequate detail. Terms like 'environmental and sustainability programs' or' significantly increasing user charges and fees for all community services ', are too vague to confidently vote on. What exactly do these entail? I would certainly endorse the privatising/selling of the 'Q' as a sensible, if not essential course of action as well as reducing the number of councillors. Beyond that, however, none of the current options presented by Council satisfactorily or properly provide solutions or outcomes.

	I would like to see Council provide further updates and opportunities for community consultation and input to these proposals.
506)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would prefer that existing services be maintained (Scenario 3).
507)	**RECEIVED VIA YOUR VOICE** Hello, I am a Jerrabomberra home owner. I am a single man, 39 with a full time APS job. Your proposed rate rise scenarios are absolutely horrible. The entire community is up in arms about the councils plan to increase the rate costs when services are already quite abysmal. Shut the pool and a library – what number of residents in the region even use these services compared to the number of people you are going to put against the wall just to keep this old and ancient infrastructure operational? Something needs to be done that doesn't make the cost of living for residents who never agreed to massive rates rises AND get no benefit from them. No one is fooled and the community if fuming about this. *** ***** **********. I cast my vote for scenario 1. If any other scenario arises I will be boycotting the rate rises and encouraging the community to begin rallies and demonstrations against the ineptitude of this council. It is disgusting you would impose financial pain on people during a time of interest rate rises, cost of living rises, fuel rises, food rises, and all in the name of some lousy pool and an ancient library. Get with the times and act for the people. That is your job. You work for us.
508)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** After reading the information supplied regarding the rate increases, my preference would be for Scenario 2.
509)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** 1. Why has the amalgamation of Queanbeyan/Palerang, which was supposed to save ratepayers money, been unsuccessful? 2. How, over an extended period of time, did the former Queanbeyan City Council purchase several Queanbeyan CBD buildings yet the council finances were not then in deficit? 3. During the pre-amalgamation, architectural plans for a new Queanbeyan building were proposed and OKed by the administrator, without any ratepayer input – why not? 4. Why was the fact that the old Queanbeyan council building was capable of being extended to include more levels not seriously considered? Why was the supposedly faulty heating with possible asbestos in the building considered insurmountable? 5. Why was the siting of the future building changed, a few times, and what additional architectural fees were incurred? 6. At what cost was solar power installed in the library building? What was the cost of refurbishment, of the library? Although the library will in future be re-located into one of the new council buildings, and the present library building sold, what is the status of any library grants that the council received? Will these grants be forgotten, or will council have to re-imburse the NSW taxpayer for these monies? 7. What is the justification for the former administrator and CEO approving a proposal that a newly formed company help sell Queanbeyan owned CBD properties, without properties going to competitive tender, and without ratepayers being told much about the company involved, as this information seemed to be deemed "commercial in confidence", that should only be known by the council? Will there be an investigation into these actions? 8. As the QPRC has concentrated its financial spending on the Queanbeyan CBD, what is the justification for the entire QPRC to

	now have to find more income in order to help pay for the massive expenditure bills associated with the redevelopment of the Queanbeyan CBD? 9. Why did the council confirm the actions of ****** ****** to increase the remuneration and tenure for the main QPRC administrators, for the next 5 years? On what basis does the QPRC justify its failure to adequately consult, or be financially accountable to its ratepayers? 10. Why can the frequently used term “commercial in confidence”, by council, succeed, in often preventing, ratepayer financial information disclosure, from the council? 11. Can council demonstrate that its financial decisions relating to the sale of land in Rutledge Street are compliant with statutory regulations? 12. Why are ratepayers and residents denied a reasonably accurate account of council’s financial position, especially its overall debt vs income account? 13. Will a full forensic assessment of the amalgamated council’s dire financial situation be undertaken by properly qualified Australian experts in local government finances?
510)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Having read the information provided we still have a number of concerns before we can decide on which option (1 or 2) we would support. We do not support scenario 3. We are assuming our rate rises will come under the Typical Value Properties chart as we don’t know how that is determined. Our concerns are as follows: 1. Can Council make application to the appropriate authority to have a percentage of its restricted cash funds converted to unrestricted cash funds? 2. 5 year decreasing option – as reported in the Regional Independent newspaper 30/11/2022). Please explain why this option was not listed in Council’s plan proposals? Why not consider a more realistic scenario of an even percentage over the 5 years ? 3 Core Council services – proposal to reduce some urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing , maintenance and cleaning). We do not support the reduction of any current urban amenities on public health and safety grounds. 4 QPRC has an obligation to provide and maintain adequate aquatics facilities for QBN, a City of approximately 66, 000 people plus for the regional communities that come under the QRC Regional Council’s administration. Apart from its recreational use, which is important, life saving and learn to swim training are an essential service for the wellbeing of all members of our local communities. The QBN river is not safe for swimming. We do not support any reduction of these facilities/services. 5 Additional Pensioner rebates should be maintained. 6. Table showing Average Residential Rates (2019-2020) why wasn’t the 2020-2021 average residential rates listed? 7. Properties owned by the Council - where are they listed and which will be considered for sale when the Council staff move into their new Administration building? Have they been factored into the 3 scenarios ? What Council owned buildings will be retained and why? Has an estimated sale benefit for Council been factored into the 3 scenarios? 8. The Q- To privatize or sell The Q. - Has an estimated financial benefit and cost analysis been done on both options? - What is the current level of income and expenditure for The Q? The decision has to be based on the financial analysis available. - To significantly increase user fees may not prove to be a beneficial option as the risk being that in the current economic climate potential clients, especially community groups would find the increased fee charges prohibitive.

	- The option to privatize or sell The Q should also be listed in Scenario 2 9. Public library Branches at Bungendore and Braidwood We do not support any reduction in the current level of library service administered by the QPRC. At the moment our preference is that Scenario 2 would be the only realistic solution to Council's current financial crisis. This should be seen as a temporary measure until QPRC is in a better financial position to upgrade its Library Branches. 10 Childcare fees- We do not support any significant increases in childcare fees 11. More detail required before a decision can be made about – - Increasing (what percentage) user charger and fees for all community services. (which services) - Stopping heritage and main street improvement grants from QPRC - Removing community grants support from QPRC - Stop funding community halls and meeting spaces We would like acknowledgement that Council has received our submission and a response to our concerns. Also we would like to know that the Council meeting on Feb 1st, 2023 will be open to rate payers to hear discussions of the submissions .
511)	I think there is no alternative but to raise rates.
512)	I agree with Scenario 1 however the council should maintain the current level of services with mowing, parks, footpaths,etc. it is very important that these services continue so we have a happy and active community.
513)	Scenario 1 makes the most sense. While all rate payers understand increase in costs more can be done to reduce council red tape and administration overheads.
514)	Scenario 1 - keep it cheap
515)	Scenario one is the only option to keep QPRC growing and on the right track. Scenario Two and Three raise rates beyond what families can afford and will create a greater divide between Canberra and QPRC.
516)	The three scenarios are fine but doubling the rates is the only viable option. We all know the cost of everything is increasing. I suggest Morrison Low's projections are underestimates, especially when future power costs start to kick in. Please ensure the sewage and water supplies have dedicated diesel generator backup power.
517)	I prefer maintaining services. Happy to pay more to support that.
518)	The three scenarios provided are similar to the scenarios provided prior to the qprc council merger. The merger was supposed to prevent these exorbitant rates rises and improve financial accountability. Obviously they have not. I do not support any of the options and none of these are in the best interests of the palerang community. More options need to be examined. This is unacceptable
519)	None all to much with the cost of mortgages, food and fuel
520)	Scenario 1 is the only realistic approach
521)	Onky scenario one should be considered you will bankrupt everyone else
522)	Scenario 2 - reduce services is the best approach to manage the situation.

523)	I am vacillating between option 2 and option 3. I think that there are some places that the council spends money, on certain artistic grants etc, that could be reduced or eliminated, but I feel that public services and locations like pools and sporting fields are very important and should not be reduced. Having said that, given the relative property values, in any given scenario it is those who can afford the more expensive properties who will see the greatest overall increase in rates, so those who can afford them.
524)	The first takes away too many facilities which are important to a community from a health, safety and education point of view i.e. swimming pools and libraries are essential. The second is 'mid stream' but does not help the council to operate as best as it wants/needs to. The third is the best option, to try and reduce the deficit and move forward. Whilst many people will moan about the increase, they need to realise that there have been significant huge costs increase in many aspects. The papers developed by Council outline this very well, but people are people and this new centenary seems to have developed 'I want everything for nothing'. If each person took their rate payment and tried to work out what they could contribute toward roads, education, facilities they would realise it does not go too far.
525)	I'll note your first two scenarios are aimed at cutting services and still increasing rates, and your third is trying to be positive yet is the largest rate hike. You should consider a fourth option that maintains the status quo and gives us an accurate estimation of the required rate increase.
526)	Scenario 3 would be preferred, followed by Scenario 2. However, I have three comments on how I think these scenarios can be improved: 1. The rate rises should be reviewed at the end of each year to determine whether the full increase is still required. Council should seek to make as many reasonable savings as possible over the next few years as outlined in the Organisational Service Review (which identified potentially significant savings which don't appear to have been included in the SRV calculations). Council may also be able to secure additional funding from the NSW Government, particularly as there is a state-wide issue with the finances of the merged Council and some form of funding may eventuate (bailout or increased grant funding). 2. Scenario 3 comes with additional service and infrastructure improvements totalling $3.6 million per annum. This additional spending should only be included if it is an absolute necessity for Council to meet mandatory obligations. Otherwise it should be minimised or preferably removed. 3. The community may be more accepting of the originally proposed "one-off" rate rise presented at the 9 November 2022 Council Meeting of 69.1%.
527)	If we are going to take on a rate increase then Scenario 3 is the scenario I believe we should look to, if this ensures that services are maintained and the various town centres are kept to an acceptable standard with maintain etc. (not just QBN, but Bungendore and others as well). If rate payers in the more regional areas are going to pay more given the size and value of their land then this should be reflected in the spending in these areas well. Some areas which have high traffic yet still have dirt roads that don't hold up with the volume of traffic and some wet weather should be sealed.

528)	You should think about this geographically. Where are the population centres and appropriate funding to areas on a per capita basis. Not every small town can have a pool. I am torn between these scenarios. I do know if you give money to govt, they will find ways to waste it.
529)	I choose low services to be provided.
530)	They could actually fix the roads and actually make the town look neat and tidy by doing the mowing/weeding etc. You state that for services to remain the same we have to choose the highest rates increase - the services you provide as it is (particularly regarding the towns appearance) is not worth the current money we pay so we should not have to pay more.
531)	Scenario 1 if any must be implemented. See above. It is all well and good comparing our current rates to other jurisdictions, but the increases will put QPRC well and truly above any other jurisdiction by year 3 under any scenario!!
532)	I would be happy maintain current services under scenario 3. I would hate to see some of the services provided by QPRC cancelled or reduced. I would strongly vote against scenario 1 as I think it would create sever negative impacts and loss for the community.
533)	We use nothing that would disappear with level one. Services like development applications are user pay and expensive anyway. While I appreciate that some people use cultural outlets like library or BRAG, we don't. We only use the waste transfer station which we pay for each time and roads. Most stuff is in Queanbeyan. We don't even know what the Q is. We would like the council to go back to the size it used to be.
534)	I thing the expensive one BUT with objective accountability. How can we know you're not wasting the money?
535)	I found it helpful to understand that the rate rise only applies to the general rate charge. With that knowledge, I am willing to support Scenario 3 and maintain all current services. (I am especially keen to maintain the current provisions at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre.)
536)	Surely people don't want less services. I certainly don't; and prioritisation is key. So, if it came to a vote I would say Scenario 3. However, I believe that it is disingenuous: how about a serious review of staffing and efficiency.
537)	Scenario 2 supported; I do not support scenario 3 at all.
538)	I would not like to see a reduction in essential services as indicated in the scenarios. I would also not like to see a reduction in services such as maintenance of parks, street sweeping, grass cutting, tree planting etc. Where developments include retail, retail should contribute to the cost of establishing and maintaining appropriate car parking and toilet amenities.
539)	The community has already been shafted by interest rises and costs of living, you are putting much unneeded stress on the consumer as a bail-out for yourselves. You are using option 3 to make 1 and 2 sound good, but all options are a stab in the back to the community. Our land value in Googong has now doubled in the recent revalue, that alone is a large enough rate hike. The value for money is inferior to where we used to live in Banks, ACT. We were paying $800 less than Googong at the time, now it seems it will be much worse, the Googong block is also smaller and services between the two are no different. We do not live in inner Canberra or Sydney, we are in Googong which is worlds away from any major hubs, rates are already high enough as is.
540)	The proposals are profoundly ignominious. Most will be able to see through the cynical agenda to hide financial mismanagement.

	For the last 27years that I have lived in Queanbeyan the council has successfuly provided the services that it proposes to drop in "proposal 1". This in the simplest of terms is embarrassing to all senior counsellors. I'd suggest they start looking for new jobs.
541)	These scenarios all provide for an astronomical rise in rates over the next 3 years, and who knows what after that. This is way, way above inflation by a huge margin. Even with an increase in the pensioner discount of $100, my bill would almost double over the 3 year period. This would be a significantly greater increase, by quite a margin, than all the accumulated rate rises over the 37 years I have lived here. It is outrageous. What on earth has made this necessary? This is crazy. Are you trying to force pensioners to sell their homes and move out of the area, because it sure looks that way! I also wonder what is going on with these land valuations. How can the value of my land have increased from $338,000 to $593,000 in just 3 years? That is an enormous amount. What on earth is going on? I had the house and land valued by the bank in June 2021 and it came in at $600,000 for the lot - and, if I recall correctly the land component of that was about $380,000. Now you are saying the land alone is worth $593,000. To put this into perspective, the land was valued at just $15,000 in 1985, when I moved here. By 2009 it had risen to $272,000. By 2016 it was $289,000 and in 2019 it had risen to $335,000. And now you are saying it is worth $593,000 in 2022. This seems to be a totally disproportionate increase in these past 3 years, compared to these previous increases. There is something fishy going on here!
542)	Absolutely this without a doubt this goes beyond revolting. Services should stay the same. stay away from our facilities and look into how your supposed to be managing our funds on our behalf as we are the ones paying for this and the councils wages. These 3 options are not in anyway shape or form worth the money that was paid to come up with them. I recommend our council is suspended and put into administrators hands and the local government minister step in and support the QPRC communities. Our community is struggling as it is and this is a kick in the guts of a community that's already suffering. Many people will simply not be able to pay any of the 3 options and this will result people having little option but to sell and potentially leave the area or going into hardship arrangements. You want to force us to pay more but QPRC cannot manage the money they already get why on gods earth would I be happy to fork over more of my hard earned wages only for the same people to continue on a path that is frivolous and fraught with mismanagement and integrity issues. Shame on QPRC mayor and councillors shame job not well done!
543)	The three options proposed are indistinguishable as individual courses of action; in other words, they collectively represent a single course of action - one that simply deals with collecting revenue and potential service cuts if ratepayers don't agree. One course of action to consider is unacceptable. As a community we MUST be offered the opportunity of considering multiple courses of action, each of which must be distinguishable from the other in terms of the mechanism by which change can be implemented. Has it been considered for example that the consolidation of councils under State Government direction might have failed? Is the current council area too large and diverse for the various services that different communities around the

	region require (and prioritise differently)? Has a return to smaller councils been TRULY considered as a potential course of action? Separately, the literature above does not quantify HOW savings have been made; ie what has been cut or changed to enable $2.2m in savings? How has Council agreed to these changes, and how does Council intend to prioritise further cuts? Why is it that Swimming Pools and Sporting facilities (that can be used by ALL ratepayers) are example services that might be cut, when Minority Group Day Care and Medical facilities (that can only be accessed by a small percentage of the population) aren't mentioned. As a ratepayer, I don't mind paying my share of legitimate costs as they increase reasonably over time - but I do not agree with the current approach and I definitely do not agree to continue subsidising services that I am not allowed to access. Please don't present the three scenarios and service levels as the only options available - they are not the only options, we just need to be more creative in how we go about ensuring the sustainability of council expenditure.
544)	I do not agree with such extraordinary increases. Families are struggling so much at the moment, particularly house owners/ratepayers. It is just another kick in the guts. How about looking at the capital expenditure on the new town plan and the wages of our so-called representatives?
545)	Not happy with any of the scenarios
546)	They are all nonsense. Sell the Q. And any rate increase should be minimal. I love rural and get no garbage, water, no sewerage, no Mail Delivery no sealed roads and pathetic grading. What do I pay rates for.
547)	It would appear that gross mismanagement of our money has resulted in the extraordinary decision to double ratepayers fees or halve the services that council is responsible for providing. So many in this community are struggling already and QPRC plan to gouge hard working ratepayers even further. Why am I funding the Q? What quality controls are in place for road repairs that occur again a few weeks later? How are the community being provided value for money? Will QPRC be transparent and share the results of surveys/ feedback? Looking forward to the next election.
548)	Not enough info provided. Info provided is biased to council preference. Rate calculator does not work for Burra addresses. Is it true councillors voted a wage rise for themselves prior to proposing the rate rise?
549)	I believe we must take scenario no 3 as we will be losing so much if we do not it will have to be paid later and cost more. I remain very angry at the amalgmation of our areas being told it would reduce costs, if anything it has increased costs.
550)	4th scenario fire your contractors. Get staff who know the job. CEO takes pay cut. Queanbeyan only gets potholes fixed for awhile and grass mowed instead of everything else they get. Cut your costs not screw us
551)	None of them appeal but if you had to choose, scenario 1.
552)	As above. In Braidwood there does not appear to be any improvements. The riad outside the IGA was dangerous for years
553)	The economic situation is unpredictable at the moment. Peoples wages are static. Mortgage rates are going up . This is not the time to increase rates. Qbn ratepayers are already overburdened. Services will be affected anyway if we go into a recession. Council has got itself into this mess and should bear the burden not ratepayers. I would go with scenario 1 but reluctantly.
554)	I would be very disappointed if the Library, the Q and the pools closed. For me, option 3 is the only option that maintains the things that are important to me and my family

555)	Concentrate on mowing the grass and collecting the bins
556)	I would like to see scenario 3 (Maintain Services) implemented. Anything less risk Queanbeyan going 'backwards' in terms of its growth, development and beautification, may reduce its overall attraction as a very viable alternative to Canberra, and reduce property prices. The QPRC has done a fantastic job of beautifying and maintaining Queanbeyan.....I could always see where my rates money was being invested. It would be a shame for that forward progress to be lost.
557)	I'd be happy with scenario 3, though only if Captains Flat gets more $$ to upgrade the pool and roads as I'd hate to pay more and only see the benefit go to Qbyn, Bungendore and Braidwood.
558)	**RECEIVED COUNCIL EMAIL** To the Queanbeyan Councilors It was reported that council is considering increasing rates by 28%. I would like to voice my concern over this proposal. I recently moved my family to Queanbeyan to escaped the rate increases of the Canberra Barr government. My suggestion is for council to take the hard option and look for savings and dispensing with non core activities. The council could not announce a rate increase at a worse time when residents are suffering from inflation and interest rates increases. While residents are tightening their belts to pay for the essentials, council should do the same. The good times are over and everyone needs to live within their means, I do not support a rate increase of this size.
559)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to vote on the above. I support the option to significantly reduce services. The proposed rate increases are preposterous. QPRC needs to drastically reign in its spending.
560)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As a ratepayer at **** Krawarree I would like to express my concern at the options being considered by Council to ensure future financial sustainability. While I appreciate the difficulties and increasing demand faced by Council particularly relating to road maintenance and service delivery, I am of the view that not all possible options have been explored and communicated to ratepayers. While I recognize that IPART places limits on Council rate increases it is also needs to be recognized that ratepayers are also hurting due to cost of living pressures, but unfortunately ratepayers do not have the luxury of passing the cost onto others. The proposed increases are another cost burden on ratepayers. In my view Council needs to make the hard decisions and live within its means ie its revenue base and manage its costs. 1) Council should consider the option of divesting itself of non-core activities and services such as land, buildings and child care center’s given that there are many other service providers who are adequately able to provide child care on a commercial basis and have economies of scale. 2) The biggest issue in my view affecting future Council financial viability is the significant $110m plus loan. The interest

	component of this loan will only increase over time resulting in a drain on revenue of $4m plus per annum. Unless there is a commercial reason for the forecast borrowing of $40 m I believe that the loan should be reduced to a manageable level through the sale of surplus assets, land and other non-core services and facilities. 3) I find the statement that unless there is a significant rate increase that road maintenance will be compromised goes against the core responsibility of Council particularly as the NSW Govt has made available $500m for Councils for this particularly purpose. 4) It is not clear from the Council website and the report what portion of road maintenance or other services are performed by Council staff. In my view it is important to ensure that such services are provided efficiently and effectively and that major projects on completion are audited against the original budget estimate (time and cost) and against comparable external rates. 5) Council seriously needs to consider the movement of wages v available revenue increases and ensure that the two are aligned otherwise any rate increase will effectively be eaten by wage increases. In conclusion while I think that a small increase above the IPART approved increase can be supported I do not support the magnitude of the increase proposed in the three options. Council in my view needs to focus on what and how it delivers its core services and facilities with discretionary activities ceased unless there is a commercial return and a commercial reason for Council delivering those services.
561)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Having read all the resources and considering the impact, I come to the painful conclusion that Scenario 3 is ultimately the best solution.
562)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Dear Council Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the impending rate rises. I appreciate that rates must rise and am thankful for the Council proposing a number of solutions. I would like to propose an alternate option to scenario 3. I believe current standard must be retained, however, noting the significant rises, the following parts of scenario 3 could be removed to reduce the increase: -There would be an additional $100 pensioner rebate for the whole LGA. -New environmental programs would receive $1.3 million per year. These are additional aspects that are not included in the other scenarios, which I suspect may receive the majority vote. These additional matters could be addressed in the future, but by not including them this time we can still achieve the standard of services expected, and not go backwards.

563)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I, ****** vote for scenario 2 in the QPRC financial plan.
564)	All of these proposed options are outrageous to say the least with 41%, 64% and 97% increases in a time of financial stresses coming from interest rate increases, combined with power cost increases. What needs to happen is the Council needs to have an audit undertaken to assess the status of current expenditure to assess whether current Council expenditure is appropriate. I trust that IPART will puts a stop to this nonsense.
565)	I and many others cannot afford a rate increase at all. I am a self funded retiree, I am not entitled to any rebates etc, and I don't understand where I am to get this extra money from! I currently pay in excess of $4500 per year (not including the garbage service) any increase would mean financial hardship for me. I live out of town, I don't get water or sewer…. I pay a lot for garbage services! I fail to see what I get for my very expensive rates!
566)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** We do no accept and object to the proposed council rate rises. The three options presented aren't all the options available and have been selectively chosen - so aren't really viable options at all. Worse, the options presented lack imagination or sufficient self analysis. Council needs to seriously re-examine its cost structure and priorities before calling on rate payers to keep paying more. The cost rate rises is also being progressed in a time of significant financial pressures for many after two years of COVID impacts, rising costs (all around), slow wage growth, rising interest rates, etc. Everyone is adjusting their budget to manage. We can't just reach into other people's pockets and take more for ourselves, so neither should Council. Commonwealth and State governments have retained deficit budgets for many years as part of their fiscal strategy in light of the current environment. If they can do this, so should Council. Council must never forget that its funds are rate payers monies and not an endless bucket. Council shouldn't be rewarded with increased rates for its poor financial management; indeed, this is the case for actually giving less. If you can't manage the funds you've been given to date well, why should anyone give you more? The QPRC Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 indicates that: Sources of income (B2-1) increased by approx $3 million in 2022 User charges and fees (B2-2) increased by approx $6 million in 2022 Other revenues (B2-3) increased by approx $1 million in 2022 Borrowing costs (B3-3) decreased by approx $3 million in 2022 Part B5 of this report shows budget variations including areas that were favourable and unfavourable. This indicates that Council's performance could improve in aspects rather than poor revenue streams being available.

	We believe Council needs to provide a greater analysis of options and scenarios, not just the three selected towards a pre-determined outcome. The options should start with what are the clear investment priorities, the costs of these services against existing rate/revenue bases. Then we, the rate payers, might be able to make a more informed choice about the use of our hard earned dollars. If this means a modest increase to offset rising costs following improved efficiencies and the reduction of non-priority areas of focus, then so be it. But the present options and scenarios are insufficient and lacklustre, and should be rejected.
567)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to express my views on the upcoming special rate variation for those of us living in the Queanbeyan region. Myself and husband do not agree to any of your suggestions, our preference is for no scenario to pass. We believe that this matter should be referred to an administrator to manage, opposed to expecting the general public to resolved. We believe that it would be better use of public resources and funding to privately sell the Q and pool, and allow for this to be private business. Considering to use either facility still costs the public money, to us there is no reason to keep them within the council portfolio. The increase in rate rise, will send many home-owners over the edge, with already high cost of living, ongoing mortgage rate rises and general expenses, it is outrageous to expect the general public to find further cash in an already tight budget. Despite that it will only be xyz amount per week extra is not the point. Living in Queanbeyan, we already have high rate fees, I find it embarrassing and ridiculous that the averages you have highlighted are out of date for majority of home owners in the area. We are disappointed that there has been no formal and informal public meetings with the local residents to further discuss this with the mayor and other council members. If there has been, it has certainly not been clearly advertised. As expressed we do not agree with any of the proposed scenarios in the SRV and encourage that this matter goes before an administrator for further management. Please consider this email our formal submission into the SRV. We would appreciate an acknowledgement that this email has been received and noted.
568)	**RECEIVED COUNCIL EMAIL** I note the following in relation to your 3 scenarios for rate rises across the Palerang area. 1) Your rate calculator is not accessible for users of platforms such as Apple Mackintosh software making this an unfair process

	2) Having gained access to the rates calculator via a friend with Microsoft software, I am surprised that simply by putting in my street address, he could access my land value and the relevant rates scenarios (is that not private information?) This means I can potentially map the land value and rates for all my neighbours…… 3) I note the lack of income cited by QPRC and the reason offered - since amalgamation higher costs have arisen. Surely this was considered as part of the economic/business planning undertaken prior to amalgamation? If not, then the lack of funds reflects very poor business practice on part of QPRC. 4) If I received the services you mention in the website (ie water connection, sewage, storm water management, kerbside rubbish collections, etc) then I might not be concerned about proposed increases in rates. However, as you would be very well aware, Wamboin (my location) receives none of these services. In addition no roadside weed maintenance or mowing is done and road repairs are at best a quick patch flung over pot holes - to be swept away with the next rain. This is expensive bandaid repair. Why should I subsidise improved services in the city of Queanbeyan and in other parts of Palerang that do receive such services? The bottom line is, basing rate increases on land value only is a poor and very inequitable model - advantaging those in city/town areas of Queanbeyan/Palerang and disadvantaging those in rural or semi rural settings. Lastly, it is an insult to say that if scenario 3 is approved, pensioners will get an extra $100 per year. Do the maths and see how that 'helps'.
569)	We currently receive zero services from the QPRC on Doust road in Bywong, and we are happy with that but not happy that we are paying towards things we do not receive. we pay for our own garbage removal, weed control, water storage, electricity.... EVERYTHING. I am in no way supportive of any increase in rates for our area what so ever.
570)	No one likes a rate increase particularly above the IPART recommendations each year. I think scenario two best balances your needs/wants against the interests of those who have to pay for it (that's us the ratepayer). Sell some non core stuff, reduce your Councillor count, reduce your management count (aim for 7 to 1 direct reports) and force your business cases to include real efficiencies for ratepayers.
571)	Do a combination of the three scenarios. In regards to the Q, either review the business plan or get rid of it if it not financially viable. I believe that the same can be applied across all council run services - if it is not financially viable for the council to run, out source or sell it.
572)	Scenario One - won't enhance/improve the situation. Scenario Three - is rude to ratepayers. Scenario Two - with a mix of focus on the required Services for the 'whole' community. If the QPRC is in surplus then sure there is room for grants/one off expenses but providing grants to groups who may be too narrow/targeted or offer a service for a minority is unfair on those who pay rates.

573)	**RECEIVED VIA EMAIL** Many thanks for your action on the calculator. It's now working for our property at Mount Fairy. I can see that there is a substantial variation in the amount of the general rate for our property between Scenario 1 and Scenario 3 by the time we get to 25-26 Rates. Obviously, we would prefer a lower level of rates if there are no important implications. Is there any information available on the implications for services or council's situation between the various scenarios?
574)	Option 2 - reduce some services
575)	MAintain services with full rate increase
576)	Even a 47% increase over three years is ridiculous. You compare rates to other council areas and say we are equivalent but are they proposing equivalent increases in such a short time period? If not we will quickly become the most expensive place in the broader region.
577)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am writing in response to the request for feedback on the QPRC proposed Special Rates Variation (SRV). There are a number of fundamental issues about the basis on which this SRV has been proposed, which have not been adequately addressed by any of the explanatory material that QPRC has provided ratepayers. This makes it difficult – if not impossible – for them to make an informed choice about the need for the SRV, let alone the different proposed options for the SRV (which critically does not include a status quo option). The explanatory calculations for the proposed SRV critically also do not account for the 2022 revaluation by the NSW Valuer-General. While I understand that QPRC is desperate to get the proposed SRV before the IPART this year, having consultation open from November 2022 to mid-January 2023 and accepting that feedback on the basis of old land valuations instead of the new land valuations is disingenuous – the new land valuations significantly affect the ad valorem element of the rates calculations, despite the assertions by QPRC that they do not. The proposed options (pre the 2022 land valuations) gave me rates increases of: Scenario 1: 41% increase in rates; Scenario 2: 64% increase in rates; Scenario 3: 97% increase in rates. However, redoing these calculations using the QPRC rates calculator with the 2022 land valuations I have the following increases in rates: Scenario 1: 57% increase in rates; Scenario 2: 83% increase in rates; Scenario 3: 118% increase in rates. This undermines the QPRC's assertion that it has adequately and accurately consulted with, and engaged with, the community prior to lodging an application for SRV from IPART. I understand that QPRC noted the potential impact of the January 2023 NSW Valuer-General's updated land valuations, but the discrepancies between the two different methodologies is significant, as shown above from just the example of my residential property in Braidwood. I feel that this puts the feedback received on the basis of the earlier calculations based on incorrect assumptions and advice form QPRC as to the impact and effect of the SRV in jeopardy. Further, as the proceeding issues note, I have a number of unresolved questions about the SRV that have not been adequately addressed by QPRC in the explanatory material provided here: https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/srv [accessed 17 January 2023]. - Why has QPRC so significantly reduced its anticipated income from rates, fees and user charges by $53.1m for 2022-23 (from $115.8m last year to $62.7m next year)? - Why has QPRC so significantly reduced its anticipated total income by $96.7m for 2022-23 (from almost $258m last year to $161.3m next year)?

- Why has QPRC so significantly reduced its anticipated income from capital grants by $71.7m for 2022-23 (from $103.1m last year to $31.4m next year)?
- Why has QPRC so significantly changed its overall financial position/outlook from being in surplus $98.3m in 2022 to being in deficit $21.8m in 2023?

These questions are not addressed at all in the material provided by QPRC in justification of the SRV, making it almost impossible for ratepayers to give a reasoned and informed position on the three proposed scenarios for the SRV. There are number of issues with the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's (QPRC) proposal to apply to IPART for a Special Rates Variation (SRV) this year.

1. The overall inconsistent financial situation of QPRC. In its last three published financial reports (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) from QPRC, it reported the following audited figures:

reports (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) from QPRC, it reported the following audited figures: 2018-19	2019-20	2020-21		2021-22	2022-23*
Rates and annual charges	$70,158,000	$72,292,000	$75,455,000	$78,122,000	$42,500,000
Fees and user charges	$33,652,000	$36,246,000	$31,542,000	$37,629,000	$20,200,000
Capital grants	$81,930,000	$82,784,000	$82,827,000	$103,137,000	$31,400,000
Operational grants	$17,494,000	$27,869,000	$35,979,000	$33,676,000	$18,100,000
Total income	*$212,520,000*	*$224,793,000*	*$234,390,000*	*$257,997,000*	*$161,300,000*
Total expenses	*$127,037,000*	*$146,775,000*	*$155,832,000*	*$159,744,000*	*$183,100,000*
Net operating result	$85,483,000	$78,018,000	$78,558,000	$98,253,000	($21,800,000)
Total comprehensive income attributable to Council	**$89,590,000**	**$80,484,000**	**$308,922,000**	**$187,793,000**	**-**

*Figures are from QPRC projections in the 3-page explanatory document published justifying the SRV. Given these figures, I am left wondering at where these annual net operating surpluses have gone. The 2020-21 figure for total comprehensive income includes $234,001,000 from the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment. Without this unusual addition, the net operating result is still significant. However, these reported figures appear to be at odds with the figures expressed in the 3-page explanatory document, which notes that there is a projected income of $161,300,000 against a projected expenditure of $183,100,000 – leading to a deficit of $21,800,000. This is a difference of almost $100,000,000 from the operating result of 2020-21, and it is unclear from the material provided by QPRC so far as to what has caused this significant change.

It is also unclear why the income from rates has been almost halved from $72,455,000 in 2020-21 to only $42,500,000 projected in 2022-23. In terms of other income, capital grants were consistently >$80,000,000 for the period 2018-21 but in the projection for 2022-23 they have been more than halved to only $31,400,000. There are four significant, major unexplained inconsistencies between the past, published, audited financial performance of QPRC and the projections included as part of their justification for the SRV:

a. Discrepancy of being in surplus $98.3m in 2021-22 to being in deficit $21.8m in 2022-23;

	b. Discrepancy of total income of $258mm in 2021-22 to $161.3m in 2022-23 and a total expenditure of $159.7m in 2021-22 to $183.1m in 2022-23; c. Discrepancy of the income from capital grants of $103.1m in 2021-22 to only $31.4m in 2022-23; and d. Discrepancy of the income from rates, fees and charges of $115.8m in 2021-22 to only $62.7m in 2022-23. These changes in the twelve months from 2021-22 to 2022-23, inter alia a decrease in overall income of almost $100m (including an unexplained decrease in rates, fees and charges of over $53m) and an increase in overall expenses of over $22m – have not been explained at all by QPRC. These significant changes in the financial position of QPRC are dramatic, sudden and out-of-the-blue. It is unclear how ratepayers – let alone IPART – are supposed to have an adequate understanding of the proposed SRV when the projections justifying the SRV are so far removed from the recent reality of QPRC's published financial statements. I can only conclude from the projections provided in the QPRC explanatory document, compared with the past published financial statements from QPRC, that ratepayers are being forced to bear the burden for QPRC financial mismanagement. Taking more of our money in rates because QPRC has squandered the money they have previously taken from us in rates is not justifiable. This significant ($100m+) loss of public monies should be investigated by the NSW Government rather than being covered up by a SRV. 2.The NSW Valuer-General's 2022 Land Valuation and QPRC misleading advice to rate payers. QPRC's proposal was put out to consultation in November 2022, two months before they knew the new land values would be released. Any feedback or comments made before mid-January (when the new land valuations were made public) would therefore be based on incorrect assumptions or projections about the effect the SRV would have to individuals' rates charges. The Valuer-General's valuations have significantly increased across QPRC – in many cases more than doubling. And while QPRC has claimed that "rates would not rise in proportion with changes in land valuations" that is patently false. The WPRC website https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Business/Rates-and-water-payments#section-5 [accessed 17 January 2023] notes that contrary to the above claim "the value of your property (excluding dwelling value) is used to calculate the amount of rates you pay". The changes that the new valuations makes to the proposed SRV estimates are noted above, but are significant and need to be addressed. 3. The misleading comparisons used by QPRC with neighbouring LGAs QPRC, in their 3-page explanatory document https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/82187/widgets/390620/documents/247783 [accessed 17 January 2023] for why they need the SRV, included a table listing comparison general rates with neighbouring LGAs, including rates payable in the ACT. However, the listed average residential rates for the ACT (noted in the table on page 1) under 'Tuggeranong' and 'Gungahlin' are misleading as the ACT only has a single rate levy for residents which includes water, sewerage, rubbish collection etc – all items that are billed separately in QPRC (and the other NSW LGAs that are included for the purposes of comparison). These comparisons are also made from 2019-20 figures. With the projected proposed changes to QPRC rates, I personally would go from paying around the average from that table of $1057 in 2022-23 to paying $1657-$2301 under the three different scenarios – very much at the top of that comparison table. And on top of that I would then still have to pay for water, sewerage, rubbish collection (which are all already included in the ACT rates included for comparison. At $1657-$2301 this average ratepayer would now find himself paying 2-3 times more than the rates in neighbouring LGAs.

578)	Closing libraries should not be an option in any scenario. This represents public education oppurtunites, particulary for those who may not be able to afford other options - a realistic scenario given inflation and price hikes on everything. Simiarly, closing pools, playgrounds, sports grounds and cancelling planned developments removes free or low cost activities that struggling families can afford. It also reduces healthy oppurtunites for children and young adults to exercise, socialise and spend time. This should not be an option. Taxing struggling families to provide a voluntary payment to pensiors above that NSW governement is not acceptable. This needs to be scraped. Pensiors are not paying tax where as families in the local area are, in addition to childcare, school fees, etc. In option 2, what planned sports and aquotics developments will be impacted? Will this impact Tralee? Scenario 1 is disgusting, it represents a 12% increase for nothing. Scarp this. If you are going to increase rates then at least scenario 2 offers some level of value. Scenario 3 with an average of 25% increase for each of the 3 years is a lot of money but its not well explained and it is difficult to see where the value is in this. I think a modified option 2 is where the value is. This sits somewhere between options 2 and 3. Look at a 20% increase each year for the 3 years. • Use the additional 2% to continue to develop sports and aquatics facilities and to keep whats open still open. Learning to swim is extremely important and inadvertantly cutting these oppurtunites is not smart. • Still cut some community funding and increase fees at the Q / user charges for community services. These areas will hurt but it is better then just getting rid of the assets - once its gone QPRC wont get it back. • Combinging libraries and sutomer service centers in Bungendore / Braidwood is not ideal but keeps them open. • The other reductions on option 2 work. Im interested in how the removal the pensior rebate would lessen the rate rise for option 3. I also have other questions on how this money is being used and where savings can be made: - What else from this option would need to be scaled back to get to closer to a 20% increase? • What environmental and sustainability programes are/are planned to be supported? Is this value for money? • Can the 1.9mil for asset renewal be scaled back and what does that look like? • the 400k to upgraded community infrastructure may represent good value if its matched 1:1 or better, cutting away any that are not matched will be one way to scaled back option 3. Overall, having spent a lot of time coming up with courses of action (COA) as part of my work, I can see that option two is probably where your aiming. Option 2 enhanced with the changes mentioned above is where the value for money is for working families such as mine. This would see no reduction in sportsgrounds, playgrounds and aquatic centres, including palnned developments, but potentially at a slightly higher rate rise (~20%).
579)	scenario one is the option i would choose as life is tuff atm with everything rising and to see scenarios 3 come into place will hit alot of people hard as the increase in fees in crazy, people are struggling in life atm so this will be hard to pay, i dont see why working people have to keep paying and pensiors get levies taken off i dont argree with this keep 100 dollars off all people
580)	People already financially hard up no increases. Shouldn't have borrowed so much
581)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Re: submission into rates increase, again!!!! We just had an increase!: https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/srv?tool=news_feed#tool_tab How about Council does not raise the rates at all!!! And how

	about Council look internally at a few things – the recent pay rise councilors gave themselves. The current salary of executives as council employees. And how about the council discontinue from bullying rates payers to pay whatever you want.
582)	Scenario 2 is my preferred option
583)	Even the basic scenario is a very significant rise - at the LGA where I reside, there was an SRV that was about 45% over three years. A 41% rise is significant and that should be the starting point. It is the role of the Councillors to "sell" the SRV to ratepayers and to make decisions to ensure financial sustainability. A rise of 64% is punishing and 97% will add incredible pressure and create an inflationary spiral. I would rather services were reduced, with community consultation, that rates double over three years.
584)	Maintenance of the services more important than the alternatives. Please go with option 3 (doubling the rates)
585)	Lawns need to be mowed – poor Pot holes need to be fixed - poor Upkeep of nature strips - poor
586)	We should maintain services at current levels or, if possible increase spending on our youth facilities
587)	1. The explanatory information provided in the glossy brochure and the Your Voice website fails to meet basic readability standards. According to the Flesch Readability Score, the readability level of these publications are post-graduate level which makes the the information inaccessible. For something that will affect 100% of residents and ratepayers, this is unacceptable. Because the readability is so poor, it's very likely that many people have not fully understood the implications of the proposed changes, which makes this entire consultation process invalid. 2. The design of the survey is not meeting best practice guidelines for survey design. QPRC asks people to rate the importance of several core and non-core council services as the only quantitative measures in the survey. These services are not described anywhere on the survey. While there is a link to the lengthy (74 pages) and inaccessible document (not provided in non-PDF format or HTML) describing service levels, the categories in this document are not aligned to the question format. This is a failure of basic survey design best practice. You should not ask a question that assumes knowledge you have not provided to the user. There is also no qualitative measure for how people feel about each scenario, and no measure for people to vote for an alternative scenario. Council is therefore avoiding measurable data on which scenario is preferred. This is a missed opportunity to get community sentiment in a measurable way. Free text responses are good and needed; but the design is insufficient to get the stated outcomes of the survey. 3. The three scenarios are all unacceptable. First, there is no explanation for how council got to this position. The generic statements of "income is more than expenditure, this has been the case for a long time" don't actually provide any information on how this happened, and what the root cause is. I read the external report which interestingly DOES NOT reference previous audited financial statements. If it did, then it would be immediately obvious that there are some strange assumptions in the projections which are not in line with previous years. For example, rates and charges are estimated to plummet, and spending on infrastructure and assets to massively increase. There's literally no explanation provided for these assumptions. Without an explanation for why the projections have very different trends than the last 4 years of financial statements, I can only assume that the projections have been tweaked to justify the wildly unreasonable increase in rates. I have no faith in the accuracy of the projections, and therefore reject all scenarios because they are not justified.

	4. As a person who lives in Braidwood, I get no benefit from the majority of non-core expenditure undertaken by the council, for example servicing expensive loans for a space-age new building for council, the EDE, a Regional Sports Hub, and the over-the-top beautification of Queanbeyan's main street. Is is not reasonable to ask us to lose our pools, our libraries and our services to subsidise these ventures. Scenarios 1 and 2 unacceptably impact people outside of Queanbeyan by taking away what little we get. People in Queanbeyan can travel to Canberra for services. We are isolated and rely on our services. 5. The idea of taking away pools from people outside of Queanbeyan, where there are no alternatives within an hour distance is not just cruel; it will kill people. Children (and adults) NEED access to pools to learn to swim. Children and adults drown in dams, rivers and the ocean in alarming numbers. Learning to swim directly reduces the chance of drowning. 6. The timing of this process has also led to blatant misinformation from council on the real-world impact of the SRV. The adjustments to land values which is still pending means that the actual increase in rates is different from the percentages for each scenario. For example, my rates will increase by 57%, 83% and 118%. This far exceeds the stated increases of 41%, 64% and 97%. When I queried this with QPRC, they responded that "the rating increases for each scenario refer to the whole pool of rates that the council collects... you may pay more or less of this amount". NOWHERE in the explanatory information what this stated. This is SO misleading. Also, the Calculator which provides an estimate of the rates increases was released 80% into the consultation period. How can council possibly claim that consultation was thorough and valid, when ratepayers were only provided the real-world impacts of the SRV at the very end of the process? The schedule for the Valuer General process is fixed. This SRV should have started AFTER the new valuations were released and confirmed, not before. 7. I believe that a basic analysis of the underlying dataset will produce evidence that people outside of Queanbeyan will suffer the largest increases in rates due to the change in land values. I have requested this dataset but not heard a response from council. People outside of Queanbeyan receive a fraction of the benefit of QPRC's non-core expenditure and should not be subsidising the excesses and mismanagement of council. 8. The comparison of QPRC rates to others in the glossy brochure is also misleading. The comparisons to ACT rates fails to disclose that water, waste and sewage charges are included in 'rates' in the ACT, whereas QPRC has these as separate charges not called rates. Also, under any of the scenarios, QPRC rates will increase to the top of the table for nearby local government areas. QPRC will be a less desirable place to live and invest in. Rents will increase. Housing affordability is already at a crisis point. This will only worsen. 9. There is lack of detail in WHAT will be cut under each scenario. How can QPRC expect people to provide an informed response when the details of which services to be cut in scenario 1 and 2 are so vague? It is not an informed decision. For example my initial preference was for scenario 2, but since I don't know what will remain and what will be cut, how can I have faith that the 84% increase in rates is worth it? Because the information is so vague, it's reasonable to assume that a lot of people will, out of fear, prefer scenario 3 because it's not clear what will be cut. What exactly does 'significantly reduce' versus 'reduce' versus 'maintain' actually mean for people? How can Council understand community preferences without disclosing what this means? And, if as I suspect, the quantitative responses on questions 1 and 2 of this survey are to be the basis of the reduction, why wasn't this disclosed? Decision making on what should be cut should be a multi-stage process and NOT rushed in this way.

588)	Our household is only 20 minutes in the car from urban areas of Googong, Jerra, Karabar and Queanbeyan. None of those scenarios are attractive. Why has council not considered a different pricing model based on the different needs of different communities in such a large and diverse council area - old urban doesn't need the same as new urban, rural doesn't need the same as urban etc. Decisions to provide services or not, and what to charge, should be based on needs not wants, and using data evidence that evaluates the usage of services under modified and current scenarios (e.g. satisfaction of bin collection weekly vs fortnightly and are dissatisfied fortnightly users willing to pay more for weekly).
589)	They are only options at this stage not the answer
590)	My preference is Scenario 3, but some of the savings suggested in Scenarios 1 and 2 should be considered. Keep pools and libraries, keep roads safe, and extend the Council Pensioner rebate to all of the LGA. An extra subsidy for Queanbeyan only is unfair to the rest of the LGA.
591)	scenario 1 is best for me
592)	I believe scenario 3 is our only real option as we need to maintain services.
593)	I would like to go with the highest price increase to avoid losing out on services
594)	I guess we should go with scenario 2. I don’t agree with paid parking, but I feel The Q could raise the cost of shows. As well as entry to pools could be raised.
595)	Secnario 3 for retaining serv ices. More funding for Environmental Management.
596)	I'd support scenario 2, and reduce some services
597)	I am disappointed that the costs have increased so much but I cannot see that a reduction in services in any way is an option. I therefore support scenario 3 but worry about this cost on people
598)	As a ratepayer from Jerrabomberra I think the way this has been communicated has been appalling. The reasoning for a 97% increase in rates to MAINTAIN services is unsatisfactory. You recently paid $1 million for a brand new park in Bungendore while the suburb of Jerrabomberra - where the largest percentage of your rate revenue comes from and where far more people live compared to Bungendore- does not have one decent park for children to play in. To me ALL three of these options are an example of your financial mismanagement and I will be complaining to the Local Govt Minister and the Ombudsman. Inflation is running at 7% and you are threatening to sell everything or most things for anything less than near-doubling of rates. It’s extortion.
599)	As stated in item 4, the only rural support we receive is road maintenance. Amalgamation has not changed the support we receive from Council. It does not matter which scenario you follow, nothing will change...I will only have to pay more for the financial incompetence of the Council members. People who use the services you provide should pay for them; Increase user fees on the Q, have payed parking, charge higher fees. Stop playing politics: Council payed several hundred dollars for surveys in the Bywong/Wamboin area after Amalgamation to change the land zoning Palerang had just approved, just to satisfy one councilor's friend in the affected area.
600)	Option 2
601)	Although I approve of taxes I do not agree to scenarios 2 and 3. I do not know where I will get the extra money required to pay more. Council should look to other solutions to acquire the money it requires. For instance, I am sure there are companies/individuals within the shire who pay minimal, if any, taxes currently.

602)	The three scenarios 'offered' are like being asked whether we would like to be hit by a 5t truck, a 10t truck or a 20t truck - they are all going to hurt and be disastrous for the average ratepayer such as myself. Just like my own household budget, expenditure must be reduced to match income. Ratepayers should not be expected to fund Council's poor financial decisions of the past without every effort being made to reduce future expenditure. With the cost of living already a major issue for many, the financial impact to ratepayers must be minimised, even if this means significantly reduced services. Of the three scenarios offered, Scenario 1 is the least objectionable.
603)	I prefer scenario 1 due to the financial hardship the other options create. People choose to live on the outskirts of Canberra for the less premium prices in costs of housing. C Obviously the council will need to create ways to keep tourism dollars injected and the areas within council boundaries attractive for the community.
604)	Id prefer to not pay any incease in rates. I am a self funded retiree. i live in Royalla. The services we receive out here are less than those offered in towns/cities. We dont have sewerage or water needs. We dont use community services much. we pay for what we need and use.
605)	I have 4 points here: 1. The real question is how Council got into this position in regard to debt. Did previous Councils apply for a rate increase. If not why not? 2. If the State Government introduced legislation which prevented rate increases over the last four years, then there is an argument that they are accountable for at least some of the servicing of the debt over those four years. Has anyone made an approach to the State Government with regard to this? Four years ago, the State Government did not foresee a pandemic and its social and economic consequences. Placing a significant increase on local rate payers to sustain services in the current economic environment is a difficult ask. State Government has a responsibility to at least consider this issue and at best help to financially alleviate the situation. 3. I understand the role of Council is to provide an environment in line with our Community Strategic Plan Vision and Mission. The vision is that “The Queanbeyan-Palerang region is a safe and relaxed place to live, offering a wonderful lifestyle for all members of our community, where we can enjoy excellent services and facilities while experiencing the benefits of a healthy natural environment”. To remain true to this vision we do not have 3 scenarios - we only have one - and that to maintain services as they are. I commented on the current Community Strategic Plan back in March 22. At that time, I pointed out that there is a lack of engagement in the community around the plan. Of 1727 people surveyed - 50 percent of people were happy or very happy with the vision. However only 50 percent of the 1727 people had read the plan! My concern that the strategic plan needs to become more meaningful document for all ratepayers The rates issue is a good example of community engagement. Many people have provided comments. Council could start to use this interest to reshape the strategic plan into something more relevant to ratepayers, whilst still meeting the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework set out in the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government General Regulation 2021. I note that the issue of rate increases is not mentioned in the community strategic plan. There is some reference under strategic objective 5.1 to financial systems and value for money for ratepayers. I appreciate that the Strategic Plan needs to be aspirational, however, practical concerns such as realistic funding for these aspirations need to also be evident.

606)	I think it's unfair to lump the increase of fees on everyone. It would be extremely interesting to see the amount of people per town pro rata and work out the fees on a pro rata increase. If you need XYZ extra to fund "the q" then the town close by can fund that. That's an hour and a half away from my area, we aren't going to use it.
607)	There are clearly a multitude of scenarios possible so I don't accept that there are only three. Bottom line is that council should continue to look for savings and not raise rates. If necessary services should be cut Rate increases in the current economic environment in particular simply should not be contemplated. Cost of living is already impacting people and your proposed high rate increases would do great harm to many people! I also think that it needs to be recognised that rural residents don't have access to the same services as town folk and as such any rate increases should reflect this
608)	Scenario 2 was s my preferred option with a focus on maintaining core essential services and reducing those services that are nice to have but not compulsory. Continued focus on waste and environmental management is of particular importance.
609)	I support Senario 1. Service provision needs a shake up.
610)	I think a combination of Scenarios 1 and 2 would be the preference. If Council were to close and/or lease the Q it might provide additional funding for some other amenities that could be retained.
611)	We need to maintain services and I support scenario 3
612)	Reluctantly I support Scenario 3. However, I want to see much more scrutiny of major capital projects and we should proceed with what we can afford.
613)	Basic services - water, sewer, roads, community recreational spaces - such as sporting fields, swimming pools, spaces for the youth, library, arts all need to be maintained and provided. Maintenance such as lawn mowing & gardening to outdoor spaces also needs to be maintained - eg along the bike paths, river, parks. These outdoor spaces are extremely important to the community (as evidenced by their usage)
614)	Its incomprehensible how this Council so "suddenly" got itself into such dire financial circumstances when everything appeared to be going along fine, including the establishment of the new sewage treatment plant. Perhaps its the construction of the enormous new administration building in Crawford street that bought the books undone! None of the scenarios are acceptable if it includes closing swimming pools in the towns of Bungendore Braidwood and Captains Flat as that is simply unfair on those ratepayers. In addition paid parking is unacceptable when Queanbeyan has such limited car parking space to begin with and the public car parking areas are in a poor and sorry state!
615)	Scenario 3 is my preferred position.
616)	The scenarios are all based on an insufficiently stringent approach to cutting costs. Work on the new Council building should be stopped. There should be no road upgrades along the lines of the Ellerton Road extension or the Googong Hwy (aka Old Cooma Road). I would like see published the names of the Councillors who vioed for the grandiose stupidities that have put the Council in its current financial position, starting with the Ellerton Road extensioi and the new Council building.
617)	Cut services to allow for minimum rate rise as all living costs are rising and lots of people are already struggling financially
618)	A rate increase of 28% will cost me approximately $970 more annually, a lot more than the stated average of $356 Per annum. An overall increase of 97% over the next 3 years means I will be paying approximately $3,200 per annum more than the

	current amount. This scenario will likely not be sustainable and I will not be able to stay in the property that I have worked so hard to obtain. Very concerning.
619)	It doesn't make sense to blackmail the community with a decrease of services if we don't agree to the highest rate increase. I don't use the word 'blackmail' lightly because we all know that these services will have to continue because they are essential services to the health and wellbeing of a community. Take away all these services and we end up in chaos. The Scenarios are inappropriate if we as a community don't agree to 1, 2, or 3. Any which way you look at it the rates will be increased & Council are asking the community to choose what they want most. We the community deserve and expect these services. We are a city and you are asking us to decide for example to have street cleaning & grass mowed. Well if we don't continue these 2 services we may as well all pack up and leave town and takes our community spirit with us. Your approach is pay up or else. I won't choose, I expect a rate increase but I don't have to like it. Very disappointed Council in this approach you have taken. Is Council really scraping the bottom of the barrel to come up with any other approach?
620)	Unacceptable. You should be capable to manage the budget with the extra income from all the new developments (additional rates), along with federal government assistance. Review your administration.
621)	I vote for scenario 1, the least increase option
622)	Not happy with any of them. Is there not a fourth option which introduces increases at a lower level and still provides services, albeit curtailed.
623)	The choice of the three scenarios I guess the middle is the least worst for a person with multiple properties in the council area. Four times the cost but nothing like four times the benefit.
624)	I do not support Scenario 1 or 3. I do support Scenario 2.
625)	Scenario three is best otherwise we'll return to being a ghetto that we've spent 30 years trying to develop out of. Keep the place neat and tidy and people respect the place better. Let it go and we'll end up like America, everyone will move back to Canberra to be safer.
626)	I'm quite comfortable paying more if it means I'll get better help and services from council
627)	I do NOT accept that the council should be allowed to increase rates above the State Government increment. I do not see that ratepayers should cover stock market speculation pre Global Financial Crisis, or construction of unnecessary edifices built to the glory of the General Manager, or money wasted on "independant financial experts". When Yarrowlumla Councl was forceably amalgamated with Queanbeyan Council my next rate bill was an increase of 47%. And our services were reduced. I do NOT support any more gouging.
628)	**SUBMISSION BY QUEANBEYAN RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION** The QRRA accepts that an SRV is inevitable and has been for a number of years. We are, however, deeply concerned about the three scenarios identified by the QPRC for consideration by the community. We are of the opinion that an alternative approach which would be less burdensome on the community is possible and this submission sets out some suggestions for the way forward. Analysing past actions in most cases is not helpful; however, in the circumstances currently facing the Council and the community we believe it is important to do so to ensure that the community is not confronted with a similar situation again in the future.

	The QPRC consistently identifies the merger of QCC and Palerang Councils and the conditions attached to that merger as the genesis of the current difficulties, particularly the four year rate freeze. We accept that the situation has been exacerbated by the pandemic since 2020, natural disasters and growing inflation over the last year. We would also argue that previous Councils were well aware of the rate freeze and the limits that placed on rates revenue. Despite this, the Administrator and the previous Council embarked on major projects which required significant borrowings. At the time of the merger the combined debt of the former Councils was $40m. Since then the borrowings of the QPRC have risen to about $270m, including the expected borrowing for the overdue upgrade of the STP . To commit to this level of debt, knowing Council's revenue was fixed for four years, was, to say the least, injudicious. Not only did these projects lead to the extraordinary level of debt but the increase in assets also led to an increased cost in asset maintenance. The previous Council was proposing a SRV of 9% a year for three years but chose to defer consideration of this until after the 2021 Council elections supposedly to avoid committing the new council to increasing rates. However the cumulative 27% increase proposed by the previous Council is dwarfed by what is now proposed. The Council has confirmed it is structural deficit which means its costs exceed its income. The way to address this is to reduce spending, increase income or both. Scenarios 1 and 2 of the Council's SRV proposal is to reduce services (and supposedly costs) and increase rates, with most of the pain being borne by ratepayers. The pain will be felt most by lower income ratepayers who are the cohort most likely to use Council services and for whom the increase in rates will represent a larger percentage of their disposable income. Those renting their homes will not be immune to the pain; landlords will not be able to absorb these rate increases and remain viable. The cost will inevitably be passed onto their tenants. Scenario 3 simply increases revenue by an unreasonable amount and even suggests an increase in spending. There is an alternative. We acknowledge that some level of increase in rates is unavoidable, but not of the magnitude proposed. An increase in rates should not be the first consideration in addressing the situation. It is unreasonable for Council to expect the community to be the only ones doing the belt tightening to repair the profligacy of previous administrations. The Council identifies cuts in services as a means of reducing spending; but it also needs to undertake a serious and in depth review of its administrative procedures to eliminate duplication and reduce waste. It should be maximising its revenue generating activities by examining its user fees and charges. Discretionary expenditure should be reviewed and discontinued. There are many suggestions/options for review and savings in Appendix A of the MorrisonLow report. Some of these measures are simple and straightforward, others will need some work to implement. But council employees and executives are being paid a significantly large salary to manage ratepayers' funds responsibly and to avoid wastage. Following are some specific issues we believe should be addressed as a matter of priority. Review of leased vehicles arrangements. Item 65 indicates that 70 staff have leased vehicles. Is this number of vehicles reasonable? What are these vehicles used for? Are the vehicles available for personal use outside of working hours? Could not a reduced number of pool vehicles be available for official use? What is the FBT cost involved in the use of these vehicles? Review of routine overtime. There were suggestions that some areas of council operations work regular overtime. There was a suggestion that some staff rely on the overtime payments but this is not a justification for it. A review of work practices should be undertaken and overtime should be tightly managed.

	Re-use of existing furniture for the new headquarters building. This seems to be a no-brainer, particularly when there will be excess furniture from the Bungendore Office. With the compulsory acquisition of the Bungendore Office by the NSW Government, consider the establishment of a shopfront operation in an existing building, such as the post office, instead of a stand-alone building. Undertake a thorough review of job structures and staffing requirements. While the merger conditions prevented this from happening immediately, the time is long overdue for this to occur. It is disturbing to see that the Council continues to advertise vacancies while at the same time telling the community of their lack of adequate finances. It is common practice in the public sector to impose a staffing freeze to make savings. As alluded to above there are a number of administrative matters identified in the appendices to the MorrisonLow report that indicate many opportunities for savings and a reduction in duplication exist. These individually are small measures but collectively represent a significant saving. Appendix B identifies some issues with which we disagree. Closing the Queanbeyan pool when and if a new pool is built in South Jerrabomberra is unacceptable. This would impose unreasonable difficulties on access to a swimming pool by Queanbeyan residents. Rather than closing the Captains Flat pool, reduce its operating time to School holidays only. The introduction of paid parking would seem to be counterproductive. One of the attractions of Queanbeyan was the availability of free parking. With free parking available up the road at the Canberra Outlet Centre and at Majura Park, Woden and Tuggeranong, there would be less incentive for people to shop in Queanbeyan. The suggestion to reduce the number of Councillors is disingenuous and seems designed to garner popular support. Based on the information provided by Council itself, there is a cost to doing this and any savings would not be realised until 2028, well beyond the timeframe of this proposed SRV. Furthermore it would lead to a reduced diversity of opinion on Council which is not a good thing. The Council should not accept or apply for any further grant funding which requires matching funding. We were amazed that on 18 January Council resolved to accept a grant of over $1m for the Regional Sports Facility which required matching funding. From where is this money coming? Will this mean even more debt. The Council should stop current and future unaffordable capital projects. Not doing so would only lead to more debt and increased annual costs in asset maintenance. In other words, there should no new spending. The only exception of course is the long overdue STP which should have been a priority over other major projects. Council support of cultural activities through grants and subsidies is popular with the community. However, this is not 'core' business and given the dire financial circumstances the Council is in these activities should be stopped and/or deferred. This includes serious consideration of the financial sustainability of the Q and Rusten House. In summary: The Council should look to its own operations before expecting the ratepayers and the community to bear the burden of unreasonable rate increases. Council should review its user charges to ensure the best return possible is being received There should be a full and thorough forensic audit of all Councils operations, not just its financial.

	The Council should not accept any further grant funding which required matching funding. No new major capital projects should be undertaken. Council should concentrate on core business and cease all discretionary spending. It should 'get back to basics'. Only then should a rate increase be imposed, albeit of a magnitude less than what is being proposed.
629)	I think any scenario offering less than "maintain" current service levels is not acceptable. However, I object to a 97% increase in my rates to simply "maintain services". It would seem you have a windfall of additional rates being generated by the significant increases in land values, it seems unconscionable to seek a further revenue via a drastic increase in rates. The Council must be in a position to offer a solution that maintains services and offers a more reasonable rate hike by way of reducing operating costs, through improved operating efficiencies, better rates from contractors, etc. basically, working within a budget rather than seeking to make the budget bigger and bigger. In summary, I find all 3 scenarios proposed to be offensive and I object - council needs to work harder to find a better way of maintaining services within a reasonable budget. We are all feeling the crunch of rising interest rates and massive inflation - we can all understand council is similarly facing additional costs to deliver services, but your increase is disproportionate to the increases we are all seeing to "maintain" our living situation. We don't want another exorbitant increase in our cost of living, you are asking too much. Keep it reasonable and you may garner support.
630)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL I am not happy with any of the three options as I am an aged pensioner and all scenarios will be financially stressful for me. It would be a better look for you to cut down on your internal expenditure, as the two storms of a councillor pay rise and a proposed SRV are being very negatively viewed by the public. You can at least try to look like you are trying to save money
631)	Option 1 is the only option in this scenario that suits me or the general public of Queanbeyan as the cost of living has increased so much, people won't be able to afford the other options.
632)	**RECEIVED VIA HARD COPY SURVEY** Please stay focussed and work on important core services, rather than spending unnecessary money on project.
633)	Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council's proposal of a Special Rate Variation and their Long Term Financial Plan. I have read most of the information provided. If I accept that the Morrison Low independent financial assessment of Council was truly independent then, for me, there is only one acceptable option of the three scenarios put forward. Scenario 1 ("Significantly Reduce Services") proposes three very high annual rate increases and yet still entails an extreme reduction in services. Scenario 2 ("Reduce Services") proposes an exorbitant 18% rate increase every year for three years and yet still includes a significant reduction in services and increases in fees and charges for numerous things.

	Scenario 3 (“Maintain Services”) proposes three unbelievable, almost criminal, annual rate increases (28%, then 25%, then 23%). However, the claim that services will be maintained makes this the only viable option. The maintenance of services is what is important. Pools don’t interest me, councillors should not have given themselves an enormous pay increase while considering these extreme rate increases, but the bottom line is that services must be maintained! Scenarios 1 and 2 represent the Greens/Labor ACT government approach, that is huge rate increases and reductions in services. The massive and crucial difference between Scenario 3 and the ACT government approach is the maintenance of services. In the ACT, the whole cynical exercise is to pay for the ridiculous and unnecessary tram. We moved to Queanbeyan from the ruins of the ACT in 2021. The Q has been a great bonus that we have discovered. Don’t mess with The Q. Community activities and funding must be maintained. They make Queanbeyan Queanbeyan. Pools don’t interest me (but they do interest many people) but other sports venues and facilities are important and must be maintained. I’d feel like an idiot supporting a proposal to not only significantly increase rates but also many other fees and charges and getting significant reductions in services for my troubles. On the face of it, a reduction in the number of councillors sounds like a good thing, but maybe we’d just be left with the bad guys (the party politicians who see it as a stepping stone rather than an opportunity to do the right things for Queanbeyan, and the **** ****). For me it’s a no-brainer … Scenario 3, outrageous rate increases and maintenance of services, please.
634)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** We have reviewed the documentation provided on the QPRC website regarding the proposed Special Rate Variation. Given the very macro view of the financial state of the Council provided there, this gives limited information about how QPRC got into the situation of having expenditure exceed income. To have a better appreciation of the true state of finances, Council needs to provide a more detailed financial statement. For example, how is the significant expense of $102.5M in infrastructure and assets (as an expense) broken down? The table illustrating "How our Rates Compare" is misleading. A far more equitable analysis would be to illustrate the Ad Valorem (AdV) value of QPRC rates (residential, business or farmland) with Councils with similar demographics, given that the QPRC area covers highly concentrated suburbia, as well has rural farmland. We presume that the intent of providing this table is to illustrate that QPRC is currently 'middle of the pack' in relation to other LGAs. However if you apply the proposed and recommended 97% increase, this puts the new QPRC average at $2,275, i.e. $758 higher than any NSW LGA illustrated. The same table also identifies $44.9M in 'new' loans. It does not say what this is for or why they are described as 'new' loans. Are there 'old' loans? Given this limited information the only realistic option would be to vote for Option 1, but given that this increase is well above (41% over three years) any anticipated CPI increase, we would be even reluctant to even support this Option. The four year rate freeze is one obvious impediment to sustaining income in line with inflation, but Council is asking Queanbeyan-Palerang rate payers to bear the burden of what is obviously Council fiscal mismanagement. Rate payers cannot be required to make up for this freeze (and then some). Just based on CPI alone, given CPI for 2018-2021 was only 5.23%, QPRC is seeking to make this up with between 41% to 97% increases. The latter (Option 3) meaning an almost doubling of rates in three years. Until first quarter 2022, interest rates were at all time lows. This would have been an ideal time to pay down debt. Not that we can tell from the figures provided, but QPRC must have incurred greater debt to build the new Council Chambers. At a time when revenue has not equaled expenditure, surely that was not the time to add to the debt burden. At this

	time the conditions associated with the Council amalgamations will have lapsed. This is the time to investigate and restructure to harvest the purported savings that an amalgamation was supposed to have delivered. We can only support Option 1, with measures such as lease out of the Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre; sale and then lease back of the new Council Chambers, introduction of user pays parking in the CBD (with much greater emphasis by Council and CDC Canberra on the use of public transport) and consolidation of regional assets and services.
635)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have completed your survey, but I have a couple of other points I should have included: Mowing, in our rural community we mow the set-back at our cost, to protect our property and the neighbours. You have never done this for us; It is a bit disingenuous to reference rates in the ACT. The ACT is a city focused form of government, that provides a more complex set of services to its population. You have a vast rural population with a fixed set of needs…roads and bridges; Swimming pools, I understand the pool in Bungendore will be removed at the end of this season to begin the building of the high school. As a personal observation, as a retired professional educator, a new school is needed, but should be located in a place with enough space to expand and support the full range of student needs. I feel the survey questions are slanted to people living in Queanbeyan and major urban areas, which will skew the results at the expense of your rural population. None of the scenarios will change the service we receive, so Scenario 1 would have the least financial impact to me. As a suggestion, work with our State and Federal members to get some of the petrol tax monies we pay for roads. Thank you for providing clear transparency of the issue and the options to go forward. The amalgamation should never have occurred.
636)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** With regards to the three options that you have proposed for ensuring the continued financial viability of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Council, I would suggest that none are appropriate as they stand and none manages to address several other major issues that concern your ratepayers. In scenario 1 you offer a slash and burn option of reduced services, based on an increase of 41% in rates over three years. This is clearly not acceptable and sounds like you are trying to offer up an unpalatable “non option”. In scenario 2 you propose to reduce services and increase fees in order to find savings amounting to an additional $5.5 million per annum. All this while increasing rates by ‘only’ 64%. Again this sounds very much like a “scare option” that punishes ratepayers. Please don’t try to use ‘pay parking’ and ‘removing pensioner rebates’ to frighten us. These threats have been overused in the past and won’t work now. In scenario 3 (your preferred choice) you offer up an increase in rates amounting to 97% over three years. This staggeringly large grab for cash will not see any vast improvements in your services you say, but will simply maintain the status quo. In the current climate of financial hardship being experienced by your community of ratepayers, this simply beggars belief. In all of these options, only one small dot point offers any real hope. In scenario 2 you include the option to reduce the number of Councillors. This might make some savings, but it is at least a step in the right direction. In keeping with this line of thought, I would like to propose some additional savings that you may not have considered. Perhaps the Council could continue performing its functions in the office space that it currently has and could sell off the multimillion dollar edifice that is nearing completion on Crawford Street? That would be a sign that Council is in touch with the needs of the

	ratepayers and would align with the aim of achieving smaller, more efficient local government. Consideration should also be given to identifying duplicated assets and the rationalisation of some other 'nice to have' but non essential assets such as 'The Q'. Another course of action that might pay dividends in the present climate of a State election in the near future, would be to approach the State Government for additional funding. In summary, none of your proposals are acceptable and you should start over with your planning. You should base your considerations on the principles of smaller, more efficient service provision. It is never acceptable for a Council to propose an increase in rates under the threat of reduced services. We accept that a modest increase may be necessary, but only if that extra money maintains our current services and produces more efficiencies.
637)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I appreciate the work Council does for our community, and generally defend the job Council does, and the rates we pay, when I hear it criticised. However, there are a couple of issues I think Council should publicly address. The first is a general criticism I hear and see regularly, the second effects me personally. These two issues feed into my willingness to pay more rates, and you may be able to address them to my satisfaction easily with some information. 1. Spending money on the new development in the centre of town. The cost and why it was/is a good idea. 2. Why I am paying rates of $3710 pa on a 926 sqm block on Karabar St Qbn when my neighbours on similar sized blocks, and people on larger blocks in more prestigious locations, are paying significantly less. The following examples are drawn from Allhomes: *** Collett St Qbn, 1201 sqm, $2895 *** Elizabeth Cresent, Queanbeyan, 1068sqm, $3100 I note that my block, which is close to some of the cheapest units in Qbn, is charged rates like these prestigious properties: ** Lakeview Gardens, Jerrabomberra ($1.95M), 1037 sqm, $3959 ** Waterfall Drive, Jerrabomberra (vacant land) 1299 sqm, $3000 Can you (a) please explain these things, and (b) what is Council doing to address the extreme inequity in the rates currently being paid by some rate payers. I feel I am already paying the rates Council is proposing to maintain services, yet Council is proposing to compound the discrimination by loading me further. I am certainly a long way from the average rates stated in the myths document. A review of the equity of the current rates would be a good place to start for addressing the income needs of Council.
638)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I would like to make a submission relating to this matter. Attached is a table containing some figures which provides an overview of the potential impact upon us personally resulting from the proposed SRV General Rate increase. The table contains a list of our properties showing the Valuer General 2019 and 2022 figures plus the resulting proposed rate increase based upon the 3 options Council is proposing. I know for a fact that Councils preferred scenario is Option 3 which to me is absolutely blatant gouging of rate payers pockets. The greatest impact appears to be upon Farm Rates given the extraordinary increases made by the Valuer General (VG). Farm General Rates are generally rated much higher than residential rates yet those that live rurally receive the least value for money. As you will see in the table provided the average General Rate increase for 2025-26 financial year based on Option 3 is 137%

	with the highest being 285%!!! How can this percentage increase be justified in any sense of imagination is beyond me. Blatant highway robbery to say the least!! The options Council has laid out shows cuts to this that and the other if Option 3 is not adopted. Well, we personally really don't see much value for money as it is. The only thing that we see directly that we might benefit from at our home address is to have a decent road to travel to town on. Well, that's not even the case with the section of the Nerriga Road past where we live as an example is a total disgrace and has been for a number of years with significant potholes, broken edges and irregular surfaces. No water, no sewer, no rubbish collection etc and yet will be paying higher overall rates than on the residential properties receiving all services!!! Is this fair?? The VG valuations seem to be based upon the Covid triggered prices being paid for property since 2020 in particular. One would ask what the VG would value properties at if the property market collapses?? I would ask if you think this is fair given that people are already struggling to pay for bare essentials due to rising costs yet alone try to find the extra money you are expecting to extract from the average home owner?? To say that the VG valuations will not affect the General Rate is complete and utter rubbish. It's all well and good to increase property values but its little comfort to people that may have very little cash reserve if any to cover the increased costs. It will only get worse. The new property valuations are likely to be compounded by Insurance Companies seeing this as an opportunity to further increase premiums for property insurance policies to add on top of the rate increases. There is the likely chance too that other Council Service fees attached will also rise over the next few years placing even more pressure upon rate payers to meet the cost. Instead of gouging the Rate Payer perhaps Council needs to take a good hard look at the internal inefficiencies, resource management and levels of competence first?? Cut the warm and fuzzy stuff and stick to focussing on the basics first. We witness complete waste of money on a regular basis relating to resource management on road projects and maintenance just to begin with. Contractors' machinery sitting idle for days and highly likely charging a stand-by fee as an example. Tar patch here... a tar patch there with no rhyme nor reason as another....all of which is costing the Rate Payer. Another question is what happens when you get Option 3 approved and still can't manage?? What's next?? Increase Rates even further?? In 2004 when the Palerang Council was created the former Tallaganda Shire Council was in the black and the former Yarrowlumla Council was in the red. Palerang was doomed to fail right from the outset and of course history shows it did. It seems the bigger this council gets the bigger the debt becomes. Perhaps a return to pre 2004 might be in order?? Bigger may NOT always be better. Perhaps ICAC needs to undertake an investigation into Council operations?? NOT HAPPY JAN!!!
639)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am writing in response to information about the Queanbeyan Palarang Regional Council (QPRC) proposed rate rise that was provided in the QPRC Newsletter, December 2022. Firstly, I would like to point out that the information provided in the newsletter is not the most up to date information available. Through a simple internet search I was able to find data for the 2020/2021 years (Table 1.), not the 2019/2020 data that you used in your newsletter. The more up to date data shows that there has been an increase from $1155 (quoted in your newsletter) to $1200. One can only surmise that the current amount is actually higher, and in fact the calculations on page four of the newsletter use a higher figure, however for the purpose of this submission, I will use the amount of $1200 as the average

	ordinary rate. Table 1. https://www.yourcouncil.nsw.gov.au/council-data/queanbeyan-palerang-regional/2020/finances/ Secondly, the calculations on the last page of your newsletter do not show the average residential rate that the council is using to make the calculations. Additionally, the way the information has been set out is misleading and somewhat confusing. The increases year on year do not show the cumulative increase. This would be hard for the average person to understand and even harder to work out. I have re-done the calculations based on the percentages in Scenario 3 on the last page of the QPRC December 2022 newsletter. As an aside, the Scenario Three calculations show that you are using the base rate of $1272. It is not clear where this figure could have come from as it is not mentioned anywhere in the newsletter. I could surmise that this is the actual current average rate paid by QPRC taxpayers? The only mention of an average residential rate for QPRC is mentioned in the table on page two, showing $1155. As I could only use the information available to the general public, I have based the following discussion on the base rate of $1200 (Table 1.) Using the figure of $1200 (Table 1.) as the current average rate in the QPRC, I calculated the increases that would occur under Scenario Three; $1200 current base rate - $23.08/per week $1536 in the first year $1920 in the second year $2361.60 in the third year. - $45.42/week An increase of $1161 or $22.35/week. When you take into consideration the average residential waste, water and sewer charges for QPRC (Table 1.), of $2246 - $43.20/week and add the proposed residential rate, under Scenario 3, of $45.42/ week. The people of the Queanbeyan and Palarang shire will be paying an average of $88.60/week, just to live in their own home. I find it objectionable that the council offers an additional $100 dollar for pensioners (mentioned on page 4 of the newsletter). This will cover less than 5 weeks of the proposed rate increase of $22/week after the three years. A pensioner will then have to find approximately $1000 more each year. That is an extraordinary amount of money for a pensioner. When I asked an elderly pensioner friend, who lives alone in a small house near Cooma Road in Queanbeyan, what she thought about the proposed rate rises, she told me that she hoped that she would be able to afford to stay in her home, and not have to sell up. I am dismayed that the QPRC is causing undue stress and worry to the elderly residents of our community. I strongly object to any rate increase more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted increase, which will be substantial in any case, due to increasing interest rates. I personally purchased my home in Queanbeyan more than 25 years ago. I have seen my rates, including waste, water and sewer, increase to more than $3500 per year or almost $70/week. If the proposed rate increase by council is implemented I will be paying more than $100/week to live in a house that I own and am still paying a mortgage on. It is the responsibility of the local government to manage the money of their ratepayers in a fair and responsible manner. I object to being asked to pay increased rates due to financial mismanagement. It seems that the predictions made by some, that the forced council amalgamations may lead to rate rises, may have come true and contributed to some of the current

	financial difficulties of the QPRC. Maybe the state government (and our GST revenue) could be an avenue to be pursued to help QPRC out of their dire financial situation.
640)	RECEIVED VIA EMAIL - SENT TO QUEANBEYAN RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION and to COUNCIL It is my view that Council should be encouraged to firstly, grow its revenue as efficiently as it can, secondly, to review all discretionary expenditure to ensure that appropriate economical/commercial returns are being achieved and then finally, increase rates to ensure we continue to be a vibrant attractive regional City. I do not support cutting the development activities of Council nor very important community assets like the Q, the Pool etc. Revenue Council should be encouraged to adequately resource the revenue generating activities of their business. We have all suffered in terms of retaining and attracting appropriately qualified and experienced personnel but I think it is very important that the Planning and Economic Development activities of Council be maintained and adequately resourced. The success of many businesses, including our own, rely heavily on the attractiveness of the city with reference to Canberra and it is important that we maintain this strategic advantage. Activities that draw the highly remunerated work force across the border need to be recognised, supported and preferably enhanced. The density of the city needs to be increased. Expenditure I am uncertain as to percentage of the councils expenditure budget that would be considered as non- discretionary. I would expect it to be substantial. For the expenditure that is considered discretionary I would advocate that a commercial lens be placed over all material commitments to ensure that the community is receiving an adequate return. Given the significant uncertainty surrounding Councils financials an adequate return should be heavily weighted to financial return as a opposed to social and other aspirational measures. Rate Rise Once the Revenue and Expenditure reviews have been undertaken I believe rates should be increased to a level that delivers on the strategic importance of maintaining the vibrancy and growth of the City. Key differentiators need to be maintained which in my view include housing affordability, community assets such as The Q, The B, the pool and the library. This is not an exhaustive list. Reducing services that add to the City's reputation is a poor response. We need to stabilise the cashflows through the rate rises then be brave enough to invest in those income generating activities that will further enhance the town.
641)	As a resident of QPRC I am strongly opposed to the proposed rate increase and advocate for option 1 - severely reduce services. I do not access services now as it is easier to travel to ACT. I would not access them in the future.
642)	I understand that prices everywhere need o rise and for that reason I believe scenario 2 is reasonable.

643)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I note the three special rate variation options outlined in QPRC news - December 2022 edition. Having considered those options, would support Scenario 3: Maintain Services
644)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am not voting for any of the three scenarios, as they all mean the residents pay, not the council. You need to rethink this and you need to manage your revenue better. There are two new suburbs with more rate paying people now. You have more money coming in. Stop being greedy! Stop the ridiculous projects that Queanbeyan doesn't need. Stop building a new council chambers, that didn't need to be built and then charging the people more so you can enjoy your glass offices. Why was the bungendore council office deemed inappropriate? Rate payers should not have to pay for your ridiculous choices! Start selling some of your property's, start cutting salaries that were put up when the new elected council got in, start actually working out something that won't put pressure on your residents. You are meant to be there for your people, instead you are just putting unnecessary pressure on your residents. Work out a real plan!
645)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Of the three scenarios offered I support Scenario 1. My position might be different if I had been sent a discussion paper that was not so biased and alarmist. You would appear to be attempting to recover your $21.8m deficit almost exclusively from the $26.2m materials/services expenditure. I do not believe that your financial planners are incompetent but please do not treat me, a rate payer, as an idiot. Please provide me with a plain English description of the situation that we face. Start with the constraints that you operate under such as the percentage of income that is allowed to come from user pays and what percentage is required by law to come from taxation based on property values. If you want to include references to the specific legislation then do so in foot notes rather than in the body of the text where it doesn't add value and makes the document less readable. I do not want or need pages of detail but up to a page, possibly dot pointed, would be good. Please then break your expenditure into discretionary and non-discretionary with a dollar value against each discretionary item. Behind the individual items you might choose to include the major benefits of that line item. I would like to know what percentage of the deficit goes away if we sell the Q, reduce the number of councillors, convert all services to user pays and stop the so call beautification of Queanbeyan. I would be interested to to see some demographic and expenditure data based on location. What percentage of your rates comes from each locality and what percentage of your expenditure is spent in each locality? Finally, please provide some information on your borrowing strategy and on how you intend to pay off debt. Already our deficit is largely caused by loan repayments and yet you are looking to borrow a further $44.9m at a time when interest rates are increasing. This is short sighted madness unless that borrowing is to cover redundancy costs or asset sales so that from next year there are major savings.

646)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I do not agree with your rate rise above inflation – it shows how inefficient the council is. However – I vote for scenario 1.
647)	To the Council, As a rates payer who lives just outside Queanbeyan and receives no demonstrable QPRC services (i.e. as a community of about twenty houses, we pay for and repair our own road, have no mowing done adjacent to the QPRC road, have no town water, no town sewerage connection, pay for our rubbish collection, no NBN, etc), the idea of paying roughly 100 percent more for rates over the next few years is untenable and quite unrealistic. I would urge the QPRC to consider a two tier system for rates. That is, a level of fees for town residents who use services and another level for residents outside the usual service area. This would not only be fair but reasonable. The fact that the finances of the QPRC have deteriorated to such an appalling state is attributable to none of our faults, collectively. I would be interested in hearing your responses to my thoughts.
648)	I live at Sutton park We receive very little service from the council for the absorbent ammount of money We are charged and feel past and current council have failed to deliver services for money charged. I this current economic climate does council feel it is the right time to increase rates when families are struggling with money just to educate their children put food on the table and pay rising utilities costs. It is obvious to my self that if I ran my business as you run your council spending I would have gone bankrupt and liquidators would have been call in to Handel my financial affairs a long time ago. A am apposed to any rate rise by council as I feel what we are charged is well over and above what I receive for the rates I am charged no town water, no sewage , no road marking, no mowing, no house hold garbage collection. As stated above it is obvious you give me nothing for the money you take from me yearly , and to increase this would be criminal on you behalf , not short of extortion on your behalf. I feel you should all stand down from the positions you hold , and appoint a financial institution to bring your spending into line with out large rate increases. Once again I am opposed to any new rate increase.
649)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am not even sure where to start with this email and the unethical, unnecessary and extremely astronomical proposed rate rise. I am extremely opposed to all three proposed options. We already pay a large increase with the combination of the Queanbeyan / palerang councils. The recent swear in of council members and their excessive pay rates that are extremely higher than CPI, where people in your area are lucky to receive a pay increase if at all. Why did QPRC require a $71 million dollar building to move staff into, that stands out like the proverbial. Not even mentioning not having the correct DA approvals on a council building, that halts work and probably cost rate payers more in the long run. What a joke! This funding could have been used in a more effective way like fixing the extremely poor conditioned roads after the rains and

	flooding. Let's not even talk about the money spent on FOGO buckets. Your proposal to introduce paid parking & murals at the entrance to the Qbn Showgrounds, unnecessary and a waste of funds. No! Let's just charge our rate payers more, not just a reasonable amount but an excessive amount. Families are already facing hardship, so why don't you put them in more financial debt/ stress. No, it's a hard no from us! Take a hard look at yourselves and your community.
650)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I must say this would have to be the biggest load of bull I have ever come across. I cannot understand how, with the amount of money that QPRC gets from all its constituents that this is where it has ended up. You obviously have no idea how this is going to affect people and businesses. As it is people are already stressed with mortgage repayment hikes, food, electricity, gas, and fuel and now you want to add to that stress. How do you think that the elderly on a pension are going to be able to cope with a rate hike like what you are proposing, when they are on such little to start with. Do you think that a tenant is going to cop their rent being jacked up to compensate. What you are proposing is criminal, as I see we already pay excessive amounts for rates and still get nothing for it. I have been in Bungendore for 20 years and nothing has changed bar the increasing rate rises. It has not been lost on anyone that we can all go and jump, but you thought it was a good idea to give yourselves a pay rise (did you ask us first seeing how it's our money that you used). I do not see how we all shood be punished for your mismanagement of yet again public monies (your constituants) we trusted you to do the right thing by us and you have failed dismally. This proposal needs to be put where it belongs in the garbage collection. This should not go ahead, you are going to ruin people's and families lives. Stop and think, you are going to do this to your own loved ones. Or don't you give a dam. NO RATE RISE
651)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** My name is ********** and I reside in Queanbeyan and have for the past 20 years. This is the first time that I have had to communicate with my council as I feel I need answers to why this council has given all its members a 22% payrise and then raised Queanbeyan ratepayers rates by 33% - 66%. I am a retiree after spending 23 years in the Royal Australian Navy and then 20 years in the Public Service. Yesterday was the first I have heard about the Queanbeyan Councils proposal about the rise in our rates over the next 3 years as listed below: The three scenarios are: · Significantly Reduce Services: Rates increase by 12% a year for 3 years. This is a cumulative increase of 41%. This scenario does not fully fund current Council operations and will require a strategy to find immediate savings of $12 million each year. This kind of saving may include privatising or selling The Q, stopping funding to all community halls, facilities and activities, cutting heritage grants, closing pools and stopping development of new sports and aquatic facilities, increasing fees, closing libraries, customer service centres and depots at Bungendore and Braidwood, significantly reducing urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance and cleaning), reducing the number of Councillors, removing the

	additional pensioner rebate, and introducing paid parking. · Reduce Services: Rates increase by 18% a year for 3 years. This is a cumulative increase of 64%. This scenario involves a reduction of non-core services and.5.5 million worth of savings must be found each year. Savings could include significantly increasing fees at The Q, reducing community funding by 50%, cutting heritage grants, only keeping one pool and stopping development of new sports and aquatics facilities, increasing fees, reducing urban amenities (street sweeping, mowing, maintenance, and cleaning), reducing number of Councillors, removing additional pensioner rebate, and introducing paid parking. · Maintain Services: Rates increase by 28% in year one, 25% in year two and 23% in year 3. This is a cumulative increase of 97%. This scenario fully funds the current levels of service. It provides $400,000 per year towards expanded infrastructure and taking advantage of grants that require 1:1 funding, along with $1.9m per year to renew infrastructure like community facilities, footpaths and pools. This scenario provides for an additional pensioner rebate of $100 for eligible pensioners across the local government area. It also allows for $1.3 million towards new environmental programs. I have to say that the Prime Minister is trying to get a reduction in Australians electricity prices of $295 so they can survive but your council is trying to get Queanbeyan ratepayers to pay over that in the scenarios that they have presented: These are figures based on our last rate payment in Jun this year: $3,005.10 Scenario 1: Yr 2023 360.61/Yr 2024 403.88/Yr 2025 452.35 so the final rates bill will be $4,221.95 – A total rise over 3 years is $1,216.85 (approx 33% increase) ---------- Scenario 2: Yr 2023 540.92/Yr 2024 638.28/Yr 2025 753.18 so the final rates bill will be $4,937.47 – A total rise over 3 years is $1,932.37 (approx 66% increase) ---------- Scenario 3: Yr 2023 841.43/Yr 2024 961.63/Yr 2025 1,105.88 so the final rates bill will be 4,952.41 – A total rise over 3 years is $1,947.31 (approx 66% increase) ---------- I have to ask you: 1. What is your response to your constituents for this magnitude of a rise when all Australians are doing it tough? 2. Retirees don't factor in rises like this when they work out their future expenses. 3. I also noticed that your Council members have recently voted themselves a 22% pay increase.....Good for some, I just wish I had the money to pay the increase in my rates!!!! 4. Maybe this should be brought up in Parliament on behalf of all the working class people of Queanbeyan……..NO NEW TAXES, LETS JUST INCREASE THE ONES WE HAVE!!!! I have to say that my family and I feel let down by the Queanbeyan Council for this situation to be taking place…… I have sent this message to **********. I would like some answers and who thought this was a good idea because I don't.
652)	I would vote for the option that results in increased rates and no reduction in services, I think this was option 3?

653)	I support Scenario 3, the risks of reducing services are setting a lower bar and still not achieving it, a reduction in services will have a negative impact on growth, both residenrtial and economic
654)	None of the scenarios are acceptable. I left ACT to come back to live in Queanbeyan 4 years ago because the ACT government were hiking rates to the point to where I was unable to afford living in my own house! To now be faced with the same treatment where our rates SHOULD be only rising by CPI is totally unacceptable. For Council now to coming cap in hand to the residents for more money is nothing but extortion. Council paints the picture with emotional blackmail that if we want to keep all the facilities and services we have to pay dearly for them. To use inflation as a factor in your justification is ridiculous. It is only running in single figures at the moment and in 18 months time when the economy recovers from its covid catchup greed and returns to pre covid levels, Council will still be hiking rates unabated to its 93% planned increase. I am angry that public funds have been mismanaged to this extent. I am angry that council has allowed this situation to get to this point where, as you claim the only course of action is to hike rates in an unacceptably short period of time. You will create many hardship cases in the community because of this mismanagement. The only acceptable and honourable course of action is for the Mayor, all the Councilors and the General Manager to resign and administrators appointed until fresh elections can be held. I do not trust the present incumbents to manage QPRC affairs properly if this proposal is their only solution out of their financial mismanagement.
655)	Get rid of the mayor's 30% pay rise. Funding problem solved.
656)	Our current rates are already excessive and poor value for money. • Any increase will hamper growth and reduce the desirability of residing in QPRC. • How are you going to compensate rate payers for the resulting lower capital growth on their homes? • Our wages are not increasing in a way that remotely keeps up with inflation, interest rates, and cost of living. How do you think we are able to afford a 97% increase in rates over three years? Shame on anyone taking advantage of rate payers at a time where they can least afford it. • Some increase might be justified, IF you can demonstrate a substantial increase to the quality of services. • I expect that anyone wanting to run for Council will only have to promise to make rates reasonable to be elected… do better.
657)	Maintaining the Q and the swimming pools are very important to me.
658)	They are skewed to town based areas and do not reflect the limited services provided to rural residents.
659)	I am very unhappy with all 3 options. Demonstrates poor management of the QPRC both previously and this one - shame! And why isn't Option 4 go into administration offered?
660)	Scenario 2 is manageable Re rates increase
661)	My preference is Scenario 2. Scenario 1 just doesn't seem enough and will still be a struggle, a reduction in services, and not getting on top of a not so good state. Scenario 3 is way too much. Based on the average, I feel it is inappropriate and way too much for rates to basically double in 3 years and would be a waste of money. Make better choices and use of funds. Don't keep building excessive public facilities to make a suburb look better unless it is needed, eg do we really need pools everywhere, esp if struggling to maintain what you have? Have users pay more for the facilities they use.
662)	Scenario 3 seems to be the only way to maintain reasonable services etc across the region. The others will result in a slow but very noticeable decline in facility, service provision etc

663)	I support Scenario 3 - if we stand still, we just go backwards.
664)	Support Scenarion 3 whwn combined with more active promotion of, and implementation of, effective hardship support. See our written submission.
665)	Would like scenario one please, that pretty much means the only change that will take place is that you will introduce pay parking - not much at all
666)	They are unacceptable. Council has yet to demonstrate a compelling rationale as to why they can't maintain existing services with existing rates (or using an increase in line with the rate peg). Successive former councils have been able to make it work so why can't you? Further, poor fiscal discipline, a lack of cost containment strategies and excessive expenditure on non-essential services must be addressed before good ratepayers money is thrown after bad. Unnecessary grants, councillors giving themselves a payrise and pet projects (i.e. your new multi-million dollar HQ) are examples of profligate spending that must be addressed before any rate rise beyond the peg is entertained. Finally, I am disappointed that only one option has been presented to ratepayers (i.e. a large rates raise, with three scenarios that range from excessive to extortionate, hence the need to apply for a special variation from IPART). I believe three distinct options should be presented to ratepayers for consideration: Option 1 - Raise rates, Option 2 - Council lives within their means, or Option 3 - We call in the administrators. This would give the community a genuine choice in how we proceed.
667)	Reduce services and staff
668)	They're appalling. Threatening to remove vital services in a low socio-economic area unless exorbitant rate increases are paid is tantamount to blackmail. Come up with a better solution, it's what you're paid to do.
669)	To be absolutely blunt, I don't think I can afford the cumulative increases for any of the three scenarios being promoted by Council. Any salary increases that teachers have received have fallen below CPI, while it's costing more to put food on the table, fuel in the petrol tank and keep up with the fortnightly mortgage repayments. I don't support any increase above the IPART rates peg for 2023/23 of 3.7 - 6.8%. The three scenarios each impact terribly on families and pensioners, people renting and people paying mortgages.
670)	Scenario 3 is the only acceptable option
671)	Raise the rates as necessary to maintain and expand services.
672)	Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your proposed options regarding rates. We think only the smallest increase is suitable given that we ourselves have not had an increase in our income. Our initial assessment is that the options are written is such a way as to persuade rate payers to accept Option 3. The other options are written in a very negative way while what appears as the Council's preferred option is offered in a more positive way. I am unsure why Council has not an option for a special rate charge where each rate payer pays the same fixed sum across the whole QPRC? This is highlighted in our initial research that shows that, for example, new houses in Googong valued around $1,500,000 only paying approximately $1,700/pa while we are paying about $3200/pa in rates. It looks like Council has not considered that rate payers in the older parts of their Council Area are already paying high rates and are more likely to be older

	residents on fixed pensioner incomes. So it would appear that those who are the least able to cover these increases are the ones who will have to carry other areas of the region. We also note the continued increase of shops either remaining empty or being vacated in downtown Queanbeyan. We are unsure why Council thought the building of the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct will help our city while allowing our main streets, which is what travellers see, to become run down and vacant. Reviewing the Council projects page it is estimated the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct will cost QPRC rate payers approximately $74 million dollars however it is unlikely this will be the completion cost. We hope that Council will be open and transparent at completion to declare the actual cost, as they should be. In the documentation for this project it has estimated that rental return will cover the interest repayments on this development. We find that highly unlikely. As an aside the issues of the financial situation of the QPRC appear to have been for some time so why did Council decide to commit to such a large financial project. Increased rates may mean more empty shops as landlords increase rent to cover their costs while tenants can't cover rental costs. How does this fit in with the potential $74 million white elephant under construction. What happens when more people are not able to pay their rates? Many property owners in the QPRC area are on fixed incomes such as pensions. How will these people raise the extra income required to cover these large costs on top of increasing food, energy and fuel costs. Queanbeyan has always been an area for people to buy a house when Canberra house prices are too high. The gap between Canberra and Queanbeyan house prices is closing - so large rates may become a deciding factor. Why as soon as elected, our representative counsellors first action was to give themselves a pay rise. Even before finding the financial status of the QPRC area. Unfortunately elections appear to be popularity contest, or affiliations with main stream political parties as Appleseed to actually possessing real financial abilities. The threatened sale of services like The Q , pool and library is a fire sale of assets. As a note your including the library in the new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct. Maybe all projects being costed and approved need to ensure that they do not conflict with each other. All too often we see assets being sold off and once an asset is lost it cannot be regained. Removing any services means many citizens could be further disadvantaged. For example, many people access the internet through the library to apply for jobs. Our library offers many more services than just the loan of library books. We don't think Council have explored all possibilities to solve the financial situation and have opted to agree to the limited easy options supplied by the consultants. Having worked in the areas where proposals such as this one it is a common strategy to make all other options, except the one you want, to be written in the format of very negative versus very positive. It is unfortunate that we as voters have not been more discerning in voting for more capable representatives to manage our regions financial affairs. At the next Council election we will be asking hard questions about each candidates credentialed as competent financial managers.
673)	All of the 3 scenarios are untannable, and the only viable option is the 4th option not listed - which is to only increase rates by the normal increment, or better still No Increase. When I start getting pay increases in the same scale as proposed here will I consider any of these options as acceptable. I have a family to feed, and you are proposing to take food from my table. I would prefer the council to go bankrupt and force the NSW state government to take responsibility for the outcome they have caused.

	It is clear to me that the State Governments self-funded style funding model for councils is a cop-out for the State Government (so they can pretend that it is not their problem). They can then freely look the other way, and then waste money elsewhere. The same way they sell-out Toll Roads to foreign corporations, and then make motorists pay extra for the roads that we have already paid tax for. Given that there is no 4th option available, I would indicate Option 1 over the other 2 options - for no other reasons that it is the lesser of 3 evils. Remembering that incrementing rate increases compound over time the cost to ratepayers from these rises will be considerable into the future. I seek the absolute minimum $ increase possible.
674)	Given the current cost of living I vote for option 1. If we went for option 3 my rate would be more than double as a single parent first home buyer this is not affordable for us and I think a lot of people will be in similar circumstances or most in general would struggle if rates more than double
675)	Scenario 2 is our compromise preference. We should never have found ourselves in this situation.
676)	I hope people vote for the lowest increase. Keen to call your bluff on this, or at least challenge you to be more efficient.
677)	As above we are rural ratepayers and at this time we would suggest scenario one.
678)	Living east of Braidwood, I do not utilise any of the services in Queanbeayan and should not be paying for their upgrade, improvement or debt. I support a de-merge of the two councils as out here we require a rural council that understands rural problems. The Council should look to its own operations before expecting the ratepayers and the community to bear the burden of unreasonable rate increases. Council should review its user charges to ensure the best return possible is being received There should be a full and thorough forensic audit of all Councils operations, not just its financial. Only then should a rate increase be imposed, albeit of a magnitude less than what is being proposed.
679)	I would support a version of option 3, noting it is a very significant increase and all efforts should be made to reduce where possible. More msging from Council is needed that rates haven't been significantly raised for a long time. PLEASE DO NOT INTRODUCE PAID PARKING. One of the best things about living in QBN is being able to quickly park at shops and go in without needing to worry about that.
680)	Council cannot limit the ratepayers to just 3 options that it thought up. There are other options, like living within Councils budget. I realise that the position Council finds itself in, is the result of “no forced amalgamations” and decisions made by the previous ****. Council has been sneaky in having the period for public comment over the holiday period. Council needs to be more upfront and sincere with the ratepayers.

	Under Rate Harmonisation, my rates increased dramatically. I don't want, and can't afford another rate hike. There are 2 sides to Councils budget, income and expenditure. The 3 options seem to be concentrating on income and THREATENING ratepayers with drastic cuts in services if the most outrageous option is not adopted. Council should look at severe measures to cut expenditure. I'm talking about halting staff recruitment, including not filling Jim Thompson job. Any govt funding that requires a copayment from Council should be politely declined. JUST DO THE BARE MINIMUM of capital works and maintenance over the next few years to get the budget back under control. This is what ratepayers do when expenditure is exceeding income in their personal lives. If Council and the GM can't reign in expenditure, they should resign and get an Administrator in to sort the mess out. All I want from Council is the potholes fixed and the roadside weeds sprayed and a swimming pool. One seems to operate successfully, Council struggles with another and has given up on the third. A modest increase in rates is acceptable, say 7% which is in line with inflation. Challenging times for Council . They need to form a "razor gang" to scrutinise all expenditure.
681)	we need the services with their associated cost increases, but need more visibiity into the costs and assets Council is accruing each year...
682)	Scenario 3 is fine
683)	The excessive rate increases suggested are disgraceful and should not be passed on to ratepayers. The reasons for the funding shortfall have not been adequately explained. There is significant population growth in the region, which should be increasing revenue to QPRC, along with the revenue received from developers through the subdivisions approved. This should be reducing pressure on ratepayers, not excessively increasing it. Mismanagement of funds by QPRC should be investigated. All scenarios are far greater than CPI and interest rates, and all scenarios will place undue and excessive financial pressure on families who are already struggling with increased cost of living. These recommendations also contradict advice from the RBA, and will further increase inflation pressures.
684)	It already looks as though Council has cut back services as my husband and our neighbour across the road have been mowing the reserve at the end of Dixon Place in Jerrabomberra on a regular basis for quite a while now, do we get a rebate back on the wear and tear of personal equipment? Sorry for the sarcasm, however, regardless of whichever scenario goes ahead we as ratepayers are going to be out of pocket with less services. How did it come to this?
685)	As a rural rate payer, in reviewing the documents there is no additional services provided for rural areas. We have to travel a 100km round trip (50km each way) to take waste for 2 people to the tip at Bungendore. Until 2021 we could go 7kms to the Collector tip before council withdraw the agreement with upper Lachlan council. We have no councils services in our area and nil planned to be put in place, with the exception of grading if the road once a year. Paying an additional $600 in in the 25/26

	FY between scenarios 1 and 3 for no services in our area is ridiculous especially as we will be on one income then. If something was being provided for our community things might be different but we only get grading roads once a year for our rates. Pretty poor effort from council.
686)	None of the scenarios is acceptable without the winding back of profligate expenditure on vanity projects for the *** ***** *** ****. QPRC should not be the plaything of the NSW Government and its local representative.
687)	Neither are suitable as none address the current mismanagement of already available funds over the previous years of council.
688)	Scenario one is the best option. As I currently don't get any services the prospect of a reduction is meaningless to me.
689)	Nobody wants less, our society always wants more ..., therefore option 1 & 2 are a no but option 3 they way it is being sold to us is too expensive. Given the increase in rates due to the new 2022 rating valuations will provide a windfall, so we can probably have option 3 but the increased should be less ...
690)	A community is its culture. By proposing to sell The Q in one of the you are killing part of our culture, therefore part of our community. The Q and The B facilities provide our community with a huge range of creative and performing arts events. The Q is largely booked out all year with shows, professional and amateur. Sell a sporting facility instead? Cut down on the for budget for the new council chambers? The Q is a niche theatre, no other theatre in our area offers what The Q can offer. So many people come to QBN to see shows, bringing vibrancy and money to our city. Would a new owner knock it down, price shows out of most peoples' reach, run the facility down to a point where it's not viable? Once sold, I doubt QPRC would buy it back. It is also the home of Queanbeyan Players, who fought long and hard against much opposition, to get the theatre built. QPRC have very difficult decisions ahead. The Q is a huge asset to our community. Do not include its sale in a rate rise scenario.
691)	DO NOT SELL THE Q/THE B This is one of the most important cultural buildings for the Canberra/Queanbeyan community. It has provided so many opportunities for local artists. It is one of the only theatres that is still providing accessibility to the arts for low-middle income earners. Selling it is a short-sighted money grab, which would lose the council a much needed asset
692)	Rate rises are a fair and reasonable way to address this issue, and if residents and visitors to Queanbeyan and the surrounding region want to maintain it's attraction as a place to live, work and visit, it's a completely reasonable way to maintain services. The selling of an incredible asset, and Queanbeyan landmark, like the Q or bicentennial hall would be a short-sighted decision, given that these venues continuously earn the council an income, attract visitors from Canberra and the surrounding region, and give local and national performers a fantastic performance space.
693)	Would rather maintain services at an increased rates charge, than reduce services and decrease quality of life and reasons to stay within the QPRC area. In addition, the Q and the B are vital pieces of the QPRC community, and should not be sold.
694)	Selling the Q will greatly impact the cultural scene of both Queanbeyan and Canberra in general. This was limit or stop the potential for community theatre companies to produce shows, which being the community together and also provide a nightlife for Queanbeyan bars and restaurants. Being part of a show is fantastic for social, mental and physical health and I can't think of any worse outcome than selling the Q.

695)	Queanbeyan is a growing and vibrant place. It would be a great disappointment to lose any of the facilities currently funded by the Council. The Q and the B are vital to this. They bring people to town and therefore other businesses. If either or both are sold, the community organisations the benefit from them run by the Council will lose out on many many levels. These buildings / businesses were development for the community and by the community. I know that many residents take pride in having these. They lose ownership if they are sold off. Those of us from over the border spend $ at these centres knowing that a percentage will go back to the wider community through Council ownership. Please avoid scenario 1 at all costs. Selling off any assets will be detrimental to the city and area as a whole. It will affect so much more negatively.
696)	As a performer in community theatre musical shows keeping The Q in public ownership is vitally important. If The Q gets sold there is a very real risk that facility hire fees will increase significantly. This may well mean that community theatre groups just won't be able to perform shows at The Q any more. This would be a tragedy for performing artists and for Queanbeyan itself. Each time a show is on, local hospitality venues benefit from patrons who wine and dine locally before and after shows. Please do NOT sell off The Q. Thanks
697)	Do not sell off the Q! It is not only a vital community asset, it brings in visitors from across the region, which is underserved with good performing venues.
698)	I think selling off the Q and the B would be a big financial error. They both bring revenue to the council as well as restaurants, Clubs and Pubs in the Queanbeyan area. Without these entertainment facilities other business in Queanbeyan would suffer. Outside revenue (from ACT and surrounding areas such as Goulburn, Batemans Bay, Cooma) you would be missing out on. Also, local artists, entertainers and theatre companies would have nowhere in Queanbeyan to perform. You would lose a whole culture of entertainment. The Q and the B bring the Arts to Queanbeyan.
699)	Scenario 1 is the worst and should not be done. Scenario 2 should only be considered a last resort. Scenario 3 is the best option. Services should be maintained.
700)	Please do NOT sell the Q
701)	Somewhere between scenarios 2 and 3 would be nice. Making significant cuts may drastically decrease the appeal of the Queanbeyan area but if some increased rates mean services can be maintained, I am sure people will understand as long as it is made clear.
702)	We disagree with all 3 scenarios. Community should have been surveyed prior to scenarios being developed.
703)	I understand that option 1 is not sustainable. Option 2 seems reasonable given the huge land value increases. We had ours go up by 54% in 3 years. We can expect another big increase in 3 years. This in turn will mean a much larger increase in revenue for you.

	You continue to double dip into parts of town with Community Associations by making them pay for all work and rates but also setting the rules. Your original documentation comparing Queanbeyan rates to ACT was untrue. You deliberately used all dwellings in Queanbeyan-Palerang vs houses in ACT which skewed the values. I know that ACT have extraordinary increases in rates in recent years due to the phasing out of stamp duty. We are not there yet in NSW. We should not end up with comparable rates when this financial pressure continues. It is a very tricky situation to find yourself in. The look of a brand new building in the main town is a horrible look too. I am sure that was not the current councils doing, but you must live with that look. Giving yourself over a 20% increase in pay with no explanation was also in poor taste. I am not sure what your actual pay is now but the optics here aren't good. It feels like things have come to a head by poor planning and management and you are now beating the ratepayers to fix a problem of your creation. Option 3 is not at all viable and I suspect will mean that house prices will fall. I'm yet to meet a person who supports option 3. Most are onboard with option 1 or 2 for now. Then just revisit in 3 years. That would be the calm and rational option for now.
704)	Please don't close the q!!!
705)	Reducing services and significantly reducing services will also significantly impact the cultural and tourism scene of both Queanbeyan, Canberra, and the greater region. The Q in particular brings in a vast audience to Queanbeyan frequently, meaning a greater economy boost for local businesses. As the biggest theatre venue in the area, aside from the Canberra Theatre, the Q is instrumental to the Canberra and surrounds arts community and culture - which, in turn, is vital to maintaining connection, communication and resilience estpecially in times of difficulty. The arts are how we connect to one another and explore what it means to be human - something that is incredibly important in this day and age. Selling off the Q and limiting the funding within arts projects would significantly damage this fast-growing arts sector. Sporting facilities are already in high supply in Queanbeyan and the area, but selling off the Q and reducing funding would take away the only arts scene in the area. Maintaining services is the only way to support all of the Queanbeyan residents, both in their workplaces, but within their homes, families, and individual lives.
706)	Of course I don't want the rates to increase BUT I don't want to lose services either. I also strongly support The Q, why is that every time we need to save money people look at the theatre, our one amazing place that the community can come together besides sports fields. Not everyone is a sport person there are other people who love the theatre!
707)	PLEASE DO NOT SELL THE Q. It is the life blood of the theatre community in Queanbeyan!
708)	I do NOT support any of the scenarios proposed by council. I think the scenarios represent a poor effort by council to dig yourselves out of this financial crisis by simply passing the burden to the ratepayers. Further, I think the questions in the survey asking respondents to rank the importance of services delivered by council is skewed to Option 3, councils preferred option. People interested enough to take the survey will either consider most services as important or may decide they are time poor when they see so many responses are required and simply opt out.

	I think council is also counting on a level of public apathy, to simply do what you want. The short time-frame for community engagement and the timing over the christmas/new year period is evidence of this. Collectively, we have all lived through the worst three years of our lives. In 2019 we were still in drought, then came the COVID pandemic, the bush-fires and then the El Nino weather event that lead to devastating flooding. Now we are faced with skyrocketing inflation and rising interest rates. People in this community have lost jobs or livelihoods, lost loved ones or been impacted by the fires and floods. It is too much to now ask us to bear this burden that is largely the result of the council taking on significant projects and borrowing at a time when councils revenue remained fixed. Council of course was not immune to the impacts of the pandemic and the weather events and I do applaud council for acknowledging the problem and wanting to address it, but there is a lot of truth in the saying about saving for a rainy day - that council did not do this is exactly why you are now unable to continue to provide chartered service levels to the community, service your borrowings and meet the increased maintenance demands imposed by the 'unprecedented' weather events of recent times. In my opinion council was not doing a good job of maintaining rural roads prior to the recent weather events, which leaves me with little confidence that service will improve in the future if I was to pay the exorbitant rate increase proposed under Scenario 3. Development Applications is another service that many people feel is sub standard. Rural people report having to wait many months or even more than a year for approvals for sheds or other additional infrastructure on their properties, but new residences in Googong do not wait this long. Recently a new business operator reported a similar issue being unable to open his business on time and thus incur significant financial costs due to a DA delay - as more businesses close in Queanbeyan it is sad to see that council cannot support new businesses to open in a timely manner. I dont see the point in 'beautifying' the main street - its more a drive though business precinct made up of banks, real estate agents, pubs and hairdressers. Its not really a retail precinct and it would be too costly to make it one. DO NOT introduce paid parking in Queanbeyan - this would just be a waste of time and money and give up trying to compete with Canberra with shops and tourism - just take advantage of not having to provide additional services that are available just over the border. Work with the Golf Course to build onsite accommodation and promote the golf course as a 'sporting holiday' destination and

	the other accommodation venues in town as a viable alternative to Canberra. In other words, promote the accommodation and perhaps pub/restaurants on offer that are in close proximity to the big tourism events and venues in Canberra.
709)	All three scenarios mean an increase in charges (rates). That said, even the highest increase means that rates still appear lower than those currently levied in nearby ACT. Council needs to be able to show that it is accountable for all monies spent and that it looks closely at administrative and management fees on all outsourced services. Increased rates mean increased hardship for many, so perhaps council needs to find an administratively simple method of supporting monthly payments without any penalty for this extra payment option. so much billing is done this way by many other services. Care of course with people's personal details is a must. Whenever public assets are sold, such as in the scenarios to sell the Q, services drop, maintenance slackens off and then people stop coming. The Q is an asset to the Council and to the community. Many people come from across the border and further afield to attend various functions at the Q and the bi-centennial centre. They support local businesses by having a meal, some drinks and undertaking shopping while in Queanbeyan to attend performances of any kind at these 2 venues. Poor management, which usually results from asset sales, will result in a detrimental outcome for local business. It also takes away a key community cultural drawcard. It would be preferable to slightly increase ticket prices than to sell this amazing asset. Note, don't increase prices by too much, too rapidly as a sell-out crowd is better than a half full venue.
710)	One of the only reasons I visit Queanbeyan is to go to the Q or Bicentennial hall. It's a beautiful theatre that adds such a gorgeous and important cultural life to the town. While I'm there I always eat at a local spot.
711)	What's difficult to understand from the 3 scenarios is the dollar value of the user charges, which are being listed as a negative. For example, what are the cost implications of fully funding economic development with user charges? Who would pay? How much would they pay? Likewise with car parking charges, what would that cost, what areas would be affected, etc? This long list of additional charges look like negatives - almost geared to make us relent and accept the highest rate increases - but rates are only paid by a subset of the population whereas user charges can be spread across a wider base. Increasing user charges may actually be a fairer way of funding services and facilities than levying all ratepayers. For example, the $100 rebate isn't going to make much of a difference to a pensioner whose rates are tripling to fund services they'll never use. Likewise, as a rural resident I'm much more interested in QPRC focusing on core business like maintaining local roads than I am in subsidising usage of the Q for example. But I would like to understand what is being proposed in the way of user charges, and how it compares to the proposed rate increases in each scenario, to be able to comment on each scenario. I am dubious of the wisdom in charging for parking in Queanbeyan. It's a dull CBD with comparatively few attractions so charging for parking will reduce the incentive to do business there. The organisation I work uses free parking as an attractor to coax staff out of Canberra. If that option was no longer available, I expect it would be harder to recruit and therefore harder to justify maintaining an office in Queanbeyan.
712)	Selling off or reducing the funding for the only theatre, The Q, would be of major detriment to local businesses (dinner before shows, pub visits after, hotel stays etc). The Q is also a valuable spot for entertainment that services both Queanbeyan and the ACT, providing both amateur and professional opportunities for the growing industry in the region.

	Please do not reduce your support of the Q, which will have devastating ripple effects to the community, both socially and economically.
713)	The maximum service one, because i am a rate payer. I dont want to live in a city with no services. who knows what landlords will vote on renters behalf. Not like they live here and they are impacted. I envy renters who can just leave for another city if council decides to reduce service. I feel sorry for those who have their landlords pass on rate hike onto their rent
714)	The Q is a vital community asset and should NOT be considered for selling
715)	Who can afford Scenario 3 in this economic climate with interest rates continually rising and the cost of living impacting everyone. It is not clear on how you will determine which scenario is chosen. Will there be a vote? Scenario 3 is unaffordable for most, and Scenario 1 will reduce services to an unacceptable level.
716)	Scenario 1 is not good as it takes away from much of the culture of the community and places in which people can get their living from. It also elimates tourism options as there may not be many reasons to come to Queanbeyan. Scenario 2 is good and the best option in my opinion. It allows for all the amenties that people like but also can raise money for QPRC, albeit at a lesser level. Scenario 3 is also good as it keeps the amenties at the same level and same price, albeit with a higher rate. However, this does not affect people goverened under QPRC (for example, people living in ACT) and will still give them plenty of reasons to come to Queanbeyan.
717)	I have detailed my opinion on Scenario 1 in my answer to Q6. I strongly discourage the drastic lengths to which Scenario 1 is proposed to go, particularly in relation to The Q potentially being sold off. I advocate for the less severe measured taken in Scenarios 2 and 3; if Scenario 1 is deemed necessary, I ask that you alter the plans to protect The Q.
718)	Please do not underestimate the value of local performing arts and the importance of TheQ. I enjoy seeing several shows a year from our very talented local artists. They bring me and my friends to Queanbeyan where we buy coffee, dinner even petrol then drinks afterwards. Please don't sell TheQ. It would make the facilities out of reach for local community groups to use.
719)	I vote for scenario 3, don't think we should look at reducing services, costs have increased significantly, likely the people mostly affected are those with multiple properties, maybe if they can't afford the rate rise then they can sell some of their properties, make some houses available to the younger generations.
720)	Given I'm an out of town home owner in a wildlife refuge area, I don't have the use of sealed roads, sewerage, water, bin collection and don't actually utilise the kind of town facilities that your survey largely relates to - IE Queanbeyan centric facilities. I already have to travel long distances for services. Therefore, the scenarios offered are absolute not options. Number one threatens the loss of any services actually available to Braidwood, which are scarce. 2. Same again but higher rates. 3. An absolute bank robbery - as because of the increased land value of an out of town property that has no services, my rates will BE MORE THAN DOUBLED by 25-26. I find the way the scenarios are presented are to make town dwellers panic (who will be less impacted by rises) so they vote for the 2nd or 3rd scenario which numbers wise will out vote those out of town on larger land parcels, with much higher costs who will no doubt have to vote number 1 due to the massive increase. We will have to sell. That's the out come for us because it's a low income household, with massive maintenance costs and fuel costs already due to

	lack of facilities and the need to travel long distances. The amalgamation was touted as a cost saver yet now the more than doubling of rates imminently is the outcome. It's certainly an eye opener on QPRC.
721)	The scenarios are presented without quantification and such detail cannot be found via annual statements. The decision to provide options that cut cultural services and preserve sporting services is so unattractive that if it goes ahead we'll move our family (and Canberra income) to Canberra. Can't live in a soulless satellite dormatory.
722)	Council has done a good job of explaining the reasons for the proposals and clearly changes are required. We cannot sustain current service levels with the current funding, and our rates are currently below those in Tuggeranong and many other comparable places. In line with comments above, I believe that implementing Option 1 is unsustainable. It would significantly impoverish the QPRC area in terms of essential infrastructure and community life. In particular I would not support selling The Q. It is a significant community asset, just as the new Council building will be. It is the product of a lot of community engagement over many years and provides Queanbeyan with a quality venue for arts events. It draws patrons from the ACT who may otherwise not come here and who then support local businesses. The B does not have the same facilities - it has been improved over the years with raked seating etc, but is still essentially 'The Bicentennial Barn' with a lack of effective backstage facilities. I enjoy and value the current level of services provided by QPRC and so would prefer them to be retained under Option 3, even those which I don't use, like skateparks and sporting facilities. I understand that that would mean an in rates - starting at about $1 a day and increasing over three years which would bring us closer to the rates of other local areas, including Tuggeranong. If we want good services we need to pay for them. Providing pensioner rebates and arrangements for those in financial hardship would be essential in this scenario. I think that this option would likely provide an increase in services for some of the former Palerang Council areas, as QPRC has reported improving facilities in those areas since the merger. Option 2 can seem attractive, but depleting our asset base is a short term solution. Increasing fees for users of particular facilities has some merit but it would be important not to increase the price so much that users cannot afford them and so total revenue falls. As a community we need a critical mass of diverse facilities and services to foster a diverse and engaged community. People need essential infrastructure but we also have minds and hearts. We come from many socially and culturally diverse backgrounds and have a multitude of different ways of being in the world. Families and especially young people need to find their 'mob'. There is an ongoing cost to individuals and community when these are not developed and supported. Lack of connection and loneliness impact significantly of mental health and domestic violence rates and these are also costs to our community
723)	I support Scenario 2.
724)	I believe QPRC needs to provide far more detailed information, about its operations ,and how QPRC finds itself in financial difficulties.

	Saying QPRC spends more than it generates is not a acceptable answer, Give rate payers a complete breakdown of QPRC operations and expenses. Till QPRC fully divulges its operational expenses, for robust scrutiny, I find non of the 3 proposals acceptable. To even think the majority of rate payers can even afford any of these extreme proposed rate increases, shows a council out of touch with community.
725)	Ideally services would continue, particularly vitals arts centres such as the Q
726)	If the council is broke, appoint the administrators and sack yourselves. Spending money you don't have on a building you don't need is beyond a joke. I can't live beyond my means, why should the council?!
727)	Residents should not have thr pay for the mismanagement of funds by Council and the misappropriation of funding. Council has had to provide limited services to residents throughout the COVID pandemic but continued to be paid their salaries while residents lost their job and struggled to support their families. Council needed to take responsibility for this issue and fine other more sustainable ways to manage the deficits they created.
728)	All three scenarios are appalling - in these challenging economic times a lot of households are doing it tough and the council should take this into consideration. Any increase in rates above the CPI should not be considered. The Council should get back to basics - consideration should be given to discontinuing any non-essential service if a user pays system does not make that service financially viable. The Council should concentrate on the essential services of maintaining roads, water and sewage services as well waste management.
729)	I have used the rates calculator to see what the different rate rises would be. What concerns me most is the NSW valuer general has increased our property land value significantly, personally I feel this is completely false mathematics and is an inflation marker taking advantage. It is unrealistic that these lands and houses can keep going up and up in value. It can not be a continued accumulative add on every year for land values. It is unsustainable to do this when wages are not going up same amount, how will people pay for everyday living and have a roof over their heads with this continued rise in rates, land values and fees, food etc… In how many years time will we be paying 10k in rates per annum? How can a usual land value which appears to go up by approx $10k or $20+30k a year suddenly jump by $255,000 in 12 months! This is completely outrageous it is unsustainable. Prior to that it took over a 9 year period to go up by $219,000. This is what needs to be addressed. People are already struggling to put food on the table. Recently a friend told me their weekly grocery bill has gone up by $200 a week! Then we have the utilities going up too and stagnant wage growth for how many years (or a decade or more). What I really want to know is how did we get into this disastrous financial state for the council? Who is responsible for this and why is it now a major emergency when it should have been flagged and dealt with years ago? If our taxes and rates are being used then there is a responsibility that it is being used well. As for the merger and the cap they gave for rates rise, did the government give money to compensate for this lack of minor increase?

	Scenario 1 I feel is not an option as council can't significantly reduce services really we don't have a massive amount of services do we? Neither is scenario 3 as over time there will be further rises and really the increase will be nuts for us due to the completely unreasonable land rate increase. After the 3 years we would be paying an extra $1110 a year for our rates it is getting closer to double what we are paying now. I'm not happy with scenario 2 either but if we need to increase it to keep services then we can just afford this. What I want is better use of the funds so we do not have this happen again.
730)	As a general principle I would be happy to cop rate rises if it means the maintenance of services as I regularly use public spaces and services. Some might say that is easy for me to say as a renter but not really as that will be reflected in rent increases to cover off on any rates increases. I am alarmed at the proposal to sell the Q theatre or to increase usage fees. The Q is a valuable cultural asset that once flogged off for a short term financial sugar hit will be lost as a community asset. The likely fee increases that will flow on from this will make things such as local community theatre productions unviable. These organisations already run off volunteer labour and any profits are put back into the society or used to cover off the occasions where there is a loss on a show. Unfortunately in this kind of situation the Arts are seen as an easy target that won't be missed. I would say to Council that the staging of shows at the Q adds to the vibrancy of the Queanbeyan community. I have been involved in a number of sell out shows at the Q that draw people across the border from Canberra. In addition to supporting the ongoing operation of the Q through ticket sales, these same people will often go to dinner prior to the show adding to businesses bottom line in the Queanbeyan CBD. So for me option 3 is preferred option. I would prefer to leave services intact. Who am I to propose cuts to areas I don't have an interest but which other people do. Option 2 is a grudging second choice and option 1 - significant services cut, sale of the Q is out.
731)	Support option 1
732)	Please don't sell The Q
733)	None are workable given the increase in land values - all will likely see rates more than doubling in the next 3 years, which will be unfeasible for many residents. Need to focus on reducing costs, not just raising revenue. Council shouldn't be seeking rate payers to fund their new building overspend.
734)	Please do not sell off The Q! It is a draw card for the town. It brings in a lot of business for the local community through the patrons who come to see the shows but also through the performers themselves who spend time rehearsing in Queanbeyan. All these people come and eat in Queanbeyan while they are here. Without the shows, they won't come to Queanbeyan at all.

	If this theatre is sold off and local groups cannot afford its fees, then the Q's bookings will suffer but so will all the local restaurants and pubs, just some of the businesses that benefit from these performers, and their patrons.
735)	We don't necessarily need to maintain all existing services however libraries are extremely important and every civilised society should have them.
736)	As I don't live in Queanbeyan I don't have a strong view on this.
737)	Neither three scenarios are appropriate or acceptable for the current wages that everyone is experiencing. Our wages have not been increased in several years and the request to increase the payments will put a huge burden on citizens households' expenses. It is unacceptable and I disagree with all three scenarios because number 1 and number 2 have an increase in the rates but with the threat of limited or loss of services. Also stating the increase in councils' wages but at the same time with the threat of not performing the services.
738)	Basically we don't have a choice! It's Scenario 3. Really we are held to ransom to pay higher rates and save our services. OR don't we lose everything! Good on ******** bad management management. You could see how he over capitalising QPRC. There wouldn't be enough funding to support Qbn, Bungendore, Braidwood and the list goes on! **********. This is what disappoints me the most I trust and depend on QPRC to be my Council and ********** let us all down.
739)	It would appear that the financial mess that the council now faces is due to the many irresponsible spends by the previous council. Building a huge new office for the council, spending money on "beautification" of some streets that only resulted in some business foreclosing and loss of a number of parking spaces. In meantime urgent street resurfacing like the section of Street between Blooms Chemist and the park are riddled with bumps and potholes, and now the expectation that ratepayers should fork out for this mismanagement. In the current financial situation the idea that households could cope with scenario 3 is unacceptable. I am not sure how you worked out the low sum that was used for that example, but certainly in our case the rates would double within three years due to compounding interest and raising rate valuations. At our age, with limited financial fallback that situation that would be impossible to handle. Our preference therefore is that the council take up option 1 and look at significantly reducing services until such time as they are back on track and the economy picks up.
740)	I am just writing to make comment on the proposed rate increases. My husband and I are retired and living on a fixed income which I'm sure is nothing unusual. We are dismayed at the proposed increase to our rates. With inflation high and power prices surging we now have to add council rates. I don't understand why council is not audited on a regular basis. Ratepayers of Queanbeyan have to manage their budgets and we expect the same from our council. However it seems that we now have to pay for your bad decisions and poor budget management. Why would council undertake such a massive new development in the town when it can't afford it. I have read all the options open to us regarding how council move forward. None of these options are any good for ratepayers. I feel there is no option for us but to have to pay the almost 100% increase over the next three years. An unhappy ratepayer.

741)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am responding to Council's invitation for submissions on this matter. There are far too many issues to cover in one simple submission so I will restrict this email to just a few items as follows: 1) I object in the strongest possible terms to the so called "Community Consultation Process" currently in process. The process has been unsatisfactory. The information provided to ratepayers has not been clear and I suspect that a significant percentage of ratepayers are unaware of the seriousness and long term impacts of this matter. By way of just one example I was given the following information by Council recently (email of 12 January 2023 from QPRC Communications and Engagement Team). That email stated that "The calculator is a great way to see how property value can affect your rate - and how a large increase in property value does not necessarily equal a large increase in your rates bill." The single largest component of my rates is calculated based on the property value ('Adv'). I expect that this would also be the case for most ratepayers. The above statement by QPRC is simply misleading and can only be seen as an attempt to deceive or downplay the magnitude and seriousness of the proposed rate increases. 2) Not only is some information misleading but a good deal of the information is not clear. And so I believe that ratepayers have not been well informed during the current so-called "Consultation" process. 3) Why wasn't this matter flagged under previous QPRC management ? Recent information on QPRC's website states that expenses have exceeded income "for a number of years". Why weren't ratepayers made aware of this situation under previous Council management ? 4) Further to the above I refer to the QPRC's latest Financial Statements (FYE 30 June 2022) including comments in the Auditor's Report. Whilst I note that they are 'General Purpose Financial Statements', given the significance of the situation, surely some note on income from rates would have been appropriate. Likewise the Auditor has not raised the issue. Under the main heading of the Auditor's Report (SIGNIFICANT AUDIT ISSUES AND OBSERVATIONS) a minor accounting matter is highlighted (the lack of recognition of fire-fighting equipment as assets) yet there is no mention of Council's Financial Position as recently portrayed to ratepayers. What is the point of preparing and auditing financial information if it fails to mention such a significant issue ? The process has simply failed ratepayers' interests. 5) Significant parts of Council's revenue comes through grants and other capital contributions. QPRC's Income statement for FYE 30 June 2022 shows that rates are only one-third of Council's income. Have these components of revenue been put under the same scrutiny as the income form rates ? 6) Some information provided by QPRC makes comparisons with other areas including some ACT suburbs. If we are to make comparisons let's look at the total picture including water charges. Council's water charges are significantly higher than the ACT; despite coming from the same source with a common treatment and distribution system. QPRC's annual water access fixed charge is $290 (compared with only $200 in the ACT). And for water usage up to 0.548 kL per day (200kL per year) the cost in the ACT is $2.28 per kL whereas Council is charging $4.18 per kL. This is a significant additional cost to Queanbeyan

	ratepayers which needs to be examined. It is time to expose the elephant in the room. Before the merger and creation of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council in 2016 I am not aware of any issues with Queanbeyan Council's financial position. And now ratepayers are facing substantial increases in rates. The financial impacts of the merger need to be exposed. The ratepayers deserve to be told the truth. In 2019 QPRC issued a report on the QPRC Merger 2016-2019. In that report Council was explicitly clear on the matter of rates income stating in the Executive Summary that: "Council's overall rate income will remain in line with the rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal." And so I close this submission by asking the following question on behalf of all QPRC ratepayers. Why were ratepayers advised by QPRC in 2019 that rates would remain in line with the IPART 'Rate Peg' but, only 3 years later in 2022, ratepayers were told that rates will need to double (97% increase under Scenario 3 to maintain existing services) ?
742)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** The financial difficulties Council finds itself in are the product of long standing state government polices, as well as the actions and decisions made by majority Councillors in the past. Looking forward, the choices are rather grim. As an ex-Councillor, I understand the dilemmas that budget time bring., Weighing up all the needs of the community against the limited funds available is never an easy task. However one abiding principle stands out. Community members have always spoken about the need to maintain all that we have. Services like libraries, playing fields, pools, cultural activities as well as the bread and butter issues of sewage treatment, roads, etc make this LGA an outstanding place for us to live, recreate, and grow in. Having 'shovel ready' projects in place, allow Council to multiply the available funds when various grants programs are on offer. The increased rates portion of the total bill is not unsubstantial, but unfortunately is necessary for maintaining our progress responsive community going forward. With policies and assistance in place (and possibly expanded) for those in need, I support Scenario 3. Future residents deserve quality services and a well run Council to contribute to community well being. If we stand still, we just go backwards.
743)	Support no change higher rate hikes. If there is another rate freeze after that three year transition.
744)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the proposed rate rise. It is so sad that Council and our community are in this position. ********** stated "There will be no forced Council amalgamation" and then, of course, he forced the amalgamation of Palerang and Queanbeyan City councils. The New South Wales Government must have known, at the time, that they were telling lies by saying amalgamating two councils, both of which were in financial strife, along with a rate freeze for the amalgamated Council, would produce a good financial outcome. ********* and co. have a lot to answer for.

	We are impressed by the information that Council has made available to the community about the reasons for the proposals to raise the rates, and the options available. We are also grateful for Councillors and the General Manager travelling around the LGA to discuss the situation with the community face-to-face. Our household is in the fortunate position that the general rates in each of the three rate rise scenarios constitute a quite small proportion of our household expenditure, and we would find no financial difficulty were Scenario 3 "maintain services" be implemented. This is definitely our preferred option, but we are concerned about the potential impact of Scenario 3 on the many members of our community who are relatively disadvantaged. We note that the publicity that Council has put out regarding the proposal emphasises the availability of financial support for those who may need it. Worryingly, when questioned at a community meeting, staff advised that very few ratepayers submit Hardship Applications. It would seem important that the availability of financial support, including the additional $100 for pensioners, be more fully promoted in both the lead up to the rate rise, and subsequently. The annual Rates and Charges Notice is an exceedingly poor method of communicating the availability of financial support. The design of the back page reflects the atrocious bureaucratic communication style of previous generations. It is nothing like the way effective, modern public sector organisations communicate. It would seem important that the matters covered there be presented in a way that makes it likely that people will read it, and understand it, and that the availability of hardship support be more clearly and directly emphasised. Thank you again for providing an opportunity to contribute to this consultation.
745)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Please consider my submission to the proposed special rate variation (SRV). The supporting documentation (service review, service statements, scenarios) were informative, but didn't appear to clarify what made QPRC different to other councils in NSW. I understand (from material published with IPART Rate Peg Methodology Review) that over two-thirds of councils have applied for SRV's in the last decade, and some of the recent applications exceed a 100% increase. I also understand the IPART population rate peg did not benefit a growth council like QPRC. The reasons for an SRV for QPRC should perhaps have been expanded in the published material, so the community could see much of the demand for increased revenues is not so much poor management, but an unfortunate influence of global economic and environmental conditions. And to that extent, perhaps there is an argument to pull back from non-core activities and focus on the rebuild of assets and finances post natural disasters and pandemic in the next few years. By my reading, QPRC is in a forecast deficit position, as: a. property growth has exceeded forecasts during the pandemic (around 2-3 times?) council may have received higher property rates, but o IPART deduct that value from the population peg – so no real gain, and o the transfer of new high-standard assets from new subdivisions like Googong, Tralee and Bungendore to QPRC, exceeded

	budgeted expectations (value and timing), therefore o council endures accelerated costs of servicing, maintenance and depreciation for those assets, and o (probably) the new rates received does not adequately cover those costs b. population growth for QPRC is amongst the fastest for inland LGA o bringing demand for extended services, most of which are 'public benefit' ordinarily funded by rates and grants, however o private benefit or regulatory services costs are not suitably recovered by grants and fees by QPRC, and o much of the growth has come from ACT escapees, in turn expecting the standard of facilities and services enjoyed in Canberra (albeit with higher rates than QPRC anyway) c. there has been significant grant stimulus from governments (merger, disaster, pandemic) o naturally welcomed by any council, but often brings short term funding for programs which councils are reluctant to discontinue once full grant funding ceases, as well as o new or upgraded assets sought by community and granted for community groups that become an asset of council, and o new or upgraded council assets funded with grants, often bring higher order servicing and depreciation costs, which may not have been included in council plans d. borrowing was encouraged by government while interest rates were historically low o the RBA announced rates would remain low (<1% cash rate) till 2024, so o council phased its borrowings for roads and QCCP assets, expecting the drawdown to conclude by 2024 (in 2-3% interest range), however o RBA has hiked interest rates at record levels, so o while council should not be blamed for those higher costs, community will likely direct their angst at council as a target for other consumer cost hikes e. QCCP project was expanded to include public domain, basement parking and library o project now exposed to escalation of construction costs and potential rescoping o published funding models noted project was originally to be funded by borrowings, some grants and land sales, and not subject to rate increases, with o servicing of debt (principal and interest) covered by lease to commercial and government tenants, merger savings (reduction of staff and vacated building costs), however o council has now needed to utilise those merger savings to fund the higher-order services and facilities expanded into the broader LGA following the merger f. like many councils, QPRC has dealt with major natural disasters and Covid o losing revenues, while services continued to be available, but fees and hires waived o debt recovery was paused, resulting in less cash available to spend on services and assets, and o more pressure now on affordability of many households to pay rates during cost-of-living crisis g. the former councils had signalled their intention to increase rate revenues o if that had progressed before the merger, its unlikely QPRC would seek as high an increase now, and o the rate path freeze imposed by government impeded QPRC implementation of the annual 1% increase above rate peg recommended by the 2016 Allen Review, and adopted by council with the 2017 financial strategy, meaning

	o council has progressively forgone around $2.5m rates income each year o even so, the average residential rates (dominated by Queanbeyan values) is well below the averages for similar size councils, grouped by Office of Local Government h. future financial and asset plans now incorporate larger contingencies o costs escalation due to skills and supply chain shortages o likely reduction in grant funding from government, as they in turn seek to repair their budgets consequent to natural disasters and pandemic o higher asset revaluations (and depreciation) due to costs escalations to replace or renew assets i. finally, like all NSW councils, QPRC bears the impact of 'cost shifting', caused by the devolution of responsibilities from government to councils, notably through legislation or their party policy platforms o library, emergency services and pension rebates in particular, are under-subsidised o government regulations inhibit a council's ability to fully charge for arguably private or shared benefit services (eg development, weeds) What was not apparent by material provided by QPRC and others, but deduced from financial statements and media releases, are the following issues with regard to the General Fund: a. continues to produce operating deficits (like two-thirds of NSW councils) b. major contributor to deficit is growth in depreciation (higher than budget, and not matched by growth in rate revenues), in part following the gifting of infrastructure assets from new developments, and revaluation of existing assets c. receives more grants and contributions for capital works; while significant investments are made by council in infrastructure, partly supported by borrowings d. liquidity, or working capital remains thin, even though recent land sales were successful e. confirmation by government of removal of emergency services levy; transfer of regional roads; migration to development contributions levy; and recognition of impacts of population and depreciation growth on rate peg methodologies - have not been announced, though previously relied upon f. even though asset condition and renewal ratios are in a healthy state, consequent to unseasonal and persistent rain events, road infrastructure condition in particular needs accelerated investment (noting earlier comments on skills and supply shortages, and cost escalations) g. development contributions historically have not kept pace with infrastructure expansion demands and costs While supporting a shared approach to the financial sustainability of council (SRV plus savings Scenario 2), I suggest QPRC also consider the following: 1. introduce a ringfenced special infrastructure levy to match grants and contributions to remedy the parlous state of roads assets 2. revise and update development contribution plans to reflect the values proposed by government (eg 3% of construction value) for simplicity and transparency, using contemporary construction schedules, rather than indices 3. expand the scope of those plans to contribute to building resilience into renewed or upgraded assets that are subject to climate change risk (bushfire, flood, storm) 4. expand those contributions plans and rating structures to also appropriately levy for energy installations in a similar manner

	to mining rate categories (through mixed use valuations and rates) 5. consider a future SRV to build resilience into renewed or upgraded assets that are subject to climate change risk (and repeated repair and restoration) 6. identify some classes of assets and locations, capable of deferring renewal, being mindful of downstream impacts on ratios 7. articulate and publish council's view on community service obligation (CSO) and subsequent services/activities to be funded by taxes (rates, grants) 8. revise pricing policy, to increase fees and recoveries for private benefit and shared benefit services and activities, migrating to endorsed settings over say, 4 years 9. differentiate pricing for activities and hires with lower SEIFA ranking (eg Braidwood v Jerrabomberra), and judiciously apply the rental/hire rebate policy matrix 10. test new charging options for regulatory services, beyond the government prescribed levels 11. consider retreating from services and activities imposed by government policy and regulation, nurturing the private sector, NGO or volunteer groups to fill the void (eg environment, community, culture) 12. explore options to utilise volunteer groups to support activities or management of community assets (halls, gardens, reserves, theatre, pools) 13. introduce dividends from Queanbeyan/Googong utilities to supplement or defer proposed SRVs, with proceeds to be expended in Queanbeyan/Googong 14. recalibrate SRV so that an appropriate portion of the rate increase a. is matched to planned expenditure on assets (ie ad valorem) b. is matched to planned expenditure on services (ie base charge) c. in that way, lower land values attract a lower ad valorem charge, with an expectation of lesser availability of infrastructure (eg sealed roads, indoor aquatic centres) 15. recognise QPRC has a relatively high SEIFA ranking (affordability test), but lowers to the east a. rate structures and pricing could be differentiated accordingly b. modify the value and ranking of council grants and rebates accordingly c. for example, Googong, Jerra and Tralee with higher order and higher standard assets (with associated servicing costs) may bear a higher portion of the rate burden/SRV) 16. revise rating structure to illustrate a. portions of rates received and expended on assets and services b. categories and subcategories with differing levels of service (base charge) c. extent the base charge (by subcategory/location) recovers the nett cost of asset servicing in those locations d. remix portions paid by subcategories to reflect shift in asset and service expenditures e. set a higher rate for those new subdivision areas to at least recover the 10 year forecast cost of the new infrastructure servicing and maintenance in those areas 17. if new or upgraded carparks (and EV charging stations) are proposed, modify the contribution plans and introduce pay parking (2hrs) to service debt 18. continue advocacy to remove the emergency services levy; remove discounting of the population peg; the transfer of

	regional roads (with council retaining contracts to maintain those roads); and expanding the rate peg and financial ratio methodology to include changes in asset depreciation, scaled council/location category Governments can no longer afford to subsidise local councils with expansive grants; so local councils should plan to stand on their own feet with residents and business bearing a suitable share from rates for public benefit assets and services; and the private benefits and regulatory services funded by private fees and contributions. Councils are not responsible for other increases in costs (interest, construction materials, energy etc), and has no obligation to subsidise its operations for public benefit to offset other consumer increases. The condition and functionality of our infrastructure is the cornerstone of local government, and the basis that residents judge the performance of a council. It should be expected a growing council with large environmental and development areas will struggle to make ends meet with rate pegging; the government and IPART expects a rate increase to cover those gaps guided by suitable and clear planning and purpose of a council. I look forward to a balanced approach by Councillors.
746)	In relation to the proposed rate increase scenarios, I would favor scenario one to significantly reduce services. The main reasons for this are as follows. This list is not exhaustive. • I have lived in the Queanbeyan-Palerang (formally Palerang) council region my whole life. • Rates in the Queanbeyan-Palerang council area have been steadily increasing over time and there has been, in my opinion, no tangible outcome or reason for these increases. • In my previous residence we have (and still are) being charged 2 types of rates for some time (rural/residential). Despite this, the property does not receive any kind of maintenance or services from the council (i.e. waste collection, sewerage, water). • The roads in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region are atrocious, bordering on being classified a deathtrap in certain places. While I am aware the recent weather has not aided the maintenance of the roads, this is not a new issue. In the time I have lived in this council region (28 years) the roads have always been extremely poorly maintained, particularly once outside any townships in the area. • There have been no specific details around the reasons for the rate increase. The reasons provided to the electorate by the council are vague and open-ended. • Why is the council so far in the red and where has the enormous amount of monies already paid to the council by the electorate gone? As above there seems to be no justification, even after a brief review of the council's 2022 financial statement. • The proposed reduction of services such as libraries, pensioner rebates and childcare is a travesty of a solution, especially at this time when so many people are struggling to provide for themselves and their families. Perhaps reducing and limiting new developments and projects, and focusing on improving current services would be a step in the right direction.
747)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Based on an Organisational Service Review by Morrison Low QPRC is inviting input into three scenarios to address Council's financial sustainability. Stated clearly in the introduction to the Morrison Low Report is the statement –

	"the objective of undertaking an improvement journey is threefold: 1. To improve value for council's customers 2. Minimise or avoid any future special rate variation (SRV) 3. Maximise any efficiency opportunities". Despite the stated objective each scenario proffered by Council involves significant rate increases with a cumulative increase of between 41% and 97% over the 3 options with varying threats of reduced or disbanded services and facilities. I am unsure how the Report relates to the proposed rate increases as the MorrisonLow Report does not purport to be a financial analysis but a Service Review. So many other options are available. No cognisance has been given to a range of other steps that can be taken to ease the rate increases but there are a number. There are significant opportunities listed in Appendix A of the Morrison Low Report that were suggested by council staff as part of the Service Review process, but these seem to have been dismissed by Council as confirmed by the scenarios offered. Blaming rate increases "set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal through rate pegging as not coming close to meeting the costs of doing everything the community expects from Council" is an excuse for financial dilemmas which has been used by local authorities for decades. Rate pegging was introduced by the State Government to stop exactly what QPRC is proposing. Going straight to an increase in the rates is a lazy and unprofessional attempt to have an easy fix. Based on the scenarios promoted by Council for community input it appears that as a whole the Council has abdicated its financial responsibility (LGA 1993 Chapter 3 8B). Admittedly, this Council is suffering the aftermath of the excessive spending of the previous Council which left an enormous debt legacy. That era had no regard for the frugal and forward planning of earlier Councils. That is no excuse though to not manage a way forward that is reasonable, responsible, and acceptable to the community. Functions of elected members and staff have not changed over the years, despite changes to the legislature for local government, which in simple terms equates to: • Councillors are responsible for Policy and Budget decisions (elected), • Staff are responsible for management and administration of Policy and Budget (paid). In other words, Councillors are elected on a platform of addressing the communities wants and needs which they translate into

	Policy and Budget decisions and the paid staff ensure that the Council's direction is implemented in the most efficient manner possible. This works well as underperforming Councillors are not re-elected and underperforming staff are moved on – accountability. This Morrison Low Review is not a financial analysis but should be the catalyst for a major management restructure to address the many issues raised by staff, despite the fact they have a vested interest in the outcome. Senior staff of Council are paid extraordinary amounts and should be expected to produce extraordinary results. Councillors should be demanding that senior staff provide them with sound advice on how to dramatically improve the management and efficiency of the Council's operations that will obviate the draconian rate increases before the community. Well structured and assessed Performance Agreements will ensure staff are accountable. Let there be no dispute – a rate increase is necessary (pain borne by the community) but this needs to be matched by increased performance by the Council, by Councillors and by the staff. It is time to "cut the cloth to fit" and a range of initiatives, many listed in the Morrison Low Report, must be seriously considered before the Council launches into an unacceptable rating scenario that will force financial hardship on the Queanbeyan/Palerang population at large. It seems that nothing has been learnt from the debacle of 2013/2014 when senior staff involved Council in sending out backdated rates that nearly brought the Council down. That was a case of staff "running" the council. The comment that 'Council makes a real difference in the lives of people in Queanbeyan-Palerang' will certainly ring true if these ill-advised and draconian measures are introduced. This issue needs strong, unwavering and committed leadership from the Mayor, and Councillors need to support the Mayor and take control. This includes demanding from senior staff a better plan to solve the revenue problem rather than the proposed rate increase and service reduction scenarios currently circulating in the community. I would be pleased to meet with the you and Councillors to discuss options that may assist.
748)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have recently found out that QPRC is proposing to increase council rates for its residents. The proposed scenarios do not offer any additional value or services from the council but imply significant cost increases between 40 and 97 per cent increase over a 3-year period. Indeed, the value proposition for a 97 per cent increase is that no additional benefits or services will be offered. It is disappointing that I had not heard about this previously. I do not recall seeing this proposal in the newsletters we receive from Council. I did search your website for copies of the newsletter to see if I had missed this news but the newsletters do not

	appear to be available through the website. Given the importance and potential impact of the issue on households, I would have expected better communications from Council on this. To put this into context, petrol prices rose in 2022 from levels of approx. $1.60/L to over $2.10/L, or an increase of around 30 per cent. The media was heavily engaged in reporting this, which is effectively an increase in cost for no additional benefits. Since then, petrol prices have declined and will continue on a downward trend, so this was a temporary increase. On the other hand, QPRC is proposing a greater permanent increase of rates with potential reduction of services but this has not been reported or communicated effectively. I note that the Communications service has 7.8 employees. I find it difficult to see the justification in the proposed changes to rates and I don't think the wellbeing of QPRC homeowners has been considered. QPRC residents already facing cost of living pressures Australians are already facing many cost pressures from global events in 2022 and before. This has resulted in CPI growth for 2022 of 7.8%1 but wage growth of only 3.1%2 in the year to September 2022. Naturally this creates a gap between earnings of households and their expenditure. A major contribution of this is interest rate rises that have increased 3.0 % in 20223 adding significant 1 https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release#:~:text=Media%20releases-,Key%20statistics,%2C%20the%20CPI%20rose%207.8%25. 2 https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/latest-release 3 https://www.finspo.com.au/learn/interest-rate-tracker/#:~:text=So%20how%20much%20did%20interest,from%20to%20purchase%20your%20property. pressure to homeowner with mortgages, who are also rate payers. For an average new home loan of $643,6034, this is an increase of $19,308 pa. Households facing these financial pressures are making adjustments to reduce their living expenses, which will most likely include reducing discretionary spending such as eating out or visiting the hairdresser or attending events. It is unclear why QPRC should not take a similar approach – as its residents - to live within its means. The proposed average increases over three years of between $434 and $818 per annum is illustrated as between $2.50 and $6.15 per week, but those results are weekly increases each year and do not reflect the total increase. In an economy where wages are going backward relative to expenses, even such small increases may have an adverse impact on the broader economy. For example, increasing rates to address the long term annual short fall of $24 million would result in that amount of money being taken out of the community elsewhere. This would most likely affect services and hospitality sectors which are still recovering from COVID. It appears that no consideration of this has been given in any of the analysis provided by QPRC through this consultation round. Council's budget guidance is unclear The three scenarios indicate rate rises between 40 and 97 over cent over the next three years. It is unclear how this will be calculated. The Residential Urban Adv is based on the rateable land value. These values have been updated in late 2022 and are significantly higher than the 2019 estimate. In my case, this increase is 65 per cent. Currently, this value is multiplied by a base charge of 0.34571c/ $ and then added to a base rate to determine the total rates under consideration. It is unclear whether council is proposing to increase the base charge, or use the increase rateable land value, or both? The Council

	Financial Sustainability Options tables note that: New land valuations will not have any affect on the total rate income that Council collects - however may impact individual properties where land values rise disproportionately with other properties across the local government area. This would imply that Council will propose a new base charge to be approved by IPART. Those details do not seem to have been provided. The concern I have is – that unless it is clearly specified - that both an increase in the base charge and the increase in the rateable land value may be applied, effectively resulting in even higher rate increases than proposed in the three scenarios. This needs to be clearly articulated. The justification for rate rises is unclear The long-term financial plan (pg 5 notes): the average operating deficit for the 10 year forecast period is estimated at $24M per annum It is unclear how this deficit has been estimated, or why it is occurring. QPRC's financial report for 2012/22 indicated a deficit of $4.9m (after excluding the grants and contributions for capital works), but the indication for 2022-23 is that this deficit will increase to $21.8 million. 4 Using the ACT value for 2022. This figure is not representative of all mortgages including those of home owners who financed there home 10 or 15 years ago but is used as an indication of new mortgages in the QPRC area. https://www.canstar.com.au/home-loans/average-home-loan-australia/ GRAPHS FROM INCOME STATE AND SRV BROCHURE Figure 1: Comparing financial report outcomes for 2021/22 with budget guidance for 2022-23 (Source: Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council | Income Statement | for the year ended 30 June 2022; QPRC - Why do we need a rate rise?) It is unclear why the rates and user charges would decrease significantly from 2021/22 to 2022/23. There also appears to be a large increase in the cost associated with loan repayments. Home owners with mortgages are also facing increased home loan repayments and need to make compromises to repay these loans. Furthermore, the guidance for 2022/23 notes that rates contribute $42.5m and that the long term deficit will be $24m per annum. This $24 million represents 15 per cent of the total income from 2021/22 so it is unclear why the scenarios require between 40 and 97 per cent increase. It is also unclear whether additional operational grants and/or increased user charges will be implemented to address Council's deficit, or whether the whole burden will be passed on to rate payers to effectively subsidise a broader range of users. The impact of services is unclear. QPRC Service Statement provides an overview of the range of services provided by QPRC. It is unclear from the statement how these services are valued by the community. The different scenarios refer to a reduction in Services but it is unclear which services will be reduced and what the impact on QPRC residents will be. The proposal Special Rate Variation by QPRC does not appear justified. QPRC residents are already facing large cost of living increases and are making adjustments to live within their means. The proposal lacks the evidence needed to justify any of the proposed changes or to demonstrate what the impact would be of reduced services. Overall, I do not support the proposed variations.

749)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** We are very concerned about how QPRC got to this position, ie in such debt and only thought that it was reasonable to start discussing the consequences with the rates payers now. It would seem that this decline in control of the finances is not a new event and QPRC have recently allowed the debt level to increase to such a position, it would seem hard to recover. Why keep spending when you don't have it, that would seem like the 101 of business …Why is a new council building being built in Queanbeyan when it is obvious it is not affordable? In life we would all like a few extras or something shiny and new, but when we can't afford it, we make do … Likewise we would probably like a bit of home help, but again if we can't afford it, we work a bit harder and do the jobs ourselves, that doesn't seem to happen at QPRC, you just seem to employ more staff when clearly the business model doesn't allow for around 500 staff. Staff need to be more multi skilled, Council needs to move into the way of most other businesses in 2023. Businesses employ multi skilled employees these days … Whilst we don't want to see staff lose their jobs, however as people leave, they should not be replace – again 101 of business – you make do with what you can afford…, business that don't use that model – fail … Likewise, we would love a new shiny car. But our businesses don't offer that "luxury" as most can't afford or justify the FBT …, perhaps Council need to have a trip to "business school" and go back to basics, Council probably can't afford FBT. Most businesses have moved away from allowing staff the privledge of cars, because they can't justify the expenses associated. A set of pool cars should be used for Council business only. Some of the services that council are offering are not core Council business, again you need to return to your grass roots. Whilst some of those services are lovely they are not for all, so they should probably be scapped. Why are you subsidising painting of some business. When the business owner purchased their building, they should have factored in the painting of heritage etc, if not they shouldn't have purchased it not the rates payers problem to prop up businesses. Why were you considering re-vamping the Queanbeyan main street, it looks lovely and would be a complete waste of rate payers funds, it is already beautiful. Council need to actually find out what the rates payers priorities are, and I think you will be surprised to learn they are basic things, roads, rubbish and some amenities etc Whilst we don't mind contributing a "bit extra" if there is an issue with the finances (when it has been properly established that QPRC are not in good position), it should be in the form of a special levy for a finite amount of time not increase the rates over 3 years and create a new rate base from which to go forward busily increasing the rates each year from that new position. As it is, with the Valuer General having just re-valued all the properties around the Council area in late 2022 (so soon we haven't even received our new Valuer General notices), the Council is obtaining a win fall as the rates will be levied on much greater valuations. The valuation at our place, for instances, has gone up 248% (whilst I believe that village of Braidwood is mostly around 100% increased), that is quite a hit and to have our new rate base in 3 years from that level it out of control and unsustainable. People wanting to move into our area, won't when they find out what the rates are, they will simply find other locations to go. With rates substantially increasing in the end some of the increase will have to be passed onto renters and they are the least likely to be able to afford increasing rents … Whilst I understand that Council don't have control of the Valuer General's valuations and the increase in values, Council have ultimately contributed to this in the Braidwood district and are very responsible for the lack of affordable housing for both lease and purchase. When the mine established a few years ago near Majors Creek, the operators did not wish to be responsible for

	increasing housing costs for both lease and purchases, so purchased a sizable block of land out on Bombay Road, with the idea of establishing appropriate housing for their needs (which would have been for a a finite time – ie length of operation of the mine). The Council in their wisdom declined their Development Application and this started the housing issues at Braidwood … Council have a lot to answer for their short sighted views in relation to the issues. As you would be aware, there has been much discussion about why QPRC require such a steep SRV and whether it is really necessary or whether it covers up possible incompetences of the management of QPRC. I have read with a lot of interest the face book post put together by ******** ******* (and I am aware that the Mayor is having the queries reviewed). I also request that these items be thoroughly investigated because at the moment it looks like QPRC are totally incompetent and at this stage my vote would be for a demerger or an administrator ASAP, so we can establish what is really going on and whether the finances are what we are being "fed" by QPRC and what QPRC is actually managing …, it would seem that there is a lot of cover up and QPRC cannot easily explain the differences. How should we as ratepayers consider giving QPRC more money to mismanage. We don't agree with your 3 options proposed for SRV, you appear not to have investigated other alternatives. Our course we want all the services that we currently have and have been receiving/utilising (that is human nature – we live in a society of more not less), however it appears that QPRC have not investigated how they can tighten their belt and only want the burden to be borne by ratepayers. Why are QPRC not investigating increases in productivity etc? Again in business you cannot just increase your sale price (in this case your sale price – revenue is rates) a business must look at all ways to work out its issues. Perhaps some of your staff wages are not justifiable or positions are not necessary. I think that QPRC need to do a bit more "naval gazing". Typically Australia is not a riot country, however when rate payers actually receive their new proposed rate notices (very large increases) we think that Council might have another fight on their plate. With the inflatation rate so high, many home owners will already be paying very increased mortgage payments and this will be another bill that they cannot afford. Whilst QPRC think they have engaged in community consultation, it has basically only been via social media and there has not been anything sent to rates payers . via the post. Why didn't a flyer go out with the last rate notices? There is a huge demographic that do not have and do not engage in social media. You have not done proper consultation on these issues. Eg at Braidwood & Bungendore you should have had personnel outside each of the IGA's for several days with information tables advising people what is going on, there are so many uninformed rate payers in our region, nearly everyone we have spoken to this week, did not really know the whole story about what was going on and were shocked when we described the entire affair – together with new valuer general valuations etc and we have spoken to a lot of people this week. Social media is not for everyone. In the ACT when the Government are engaging with there rate payers, they set up stalls at each Group Shopping Centre to directly engage with people – this has not been done. We will not go on and on anymore, but we think we have made our point very clear, that we don't like your options, and that you have not engaged properly with the community and we are very suspicious about the management and handling of moneys at QPRC and don't believe in putting out more money when we can't see that the first lot has been adequately handled… Until we have seen a proper review and answers to all the queries put together in relation to all the discrepancies we don't think that rate payers should be paying any additional funds. QPRC are going to have a win fall with the new 2022 valuations, and nothing should be increased until proper explanations have been provided about why there are so many

	discrepancies in all the “audited” financials and questions about match funding and loan payments that don’t match the records of other government bodies. We look forward to some proper explanations from QPRC.
750)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** ARALUEN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION SUBMISSION • We all recognise that there have been no rate rises for 6 years, and so understand the need for council to increase the rate base; • Araluen has minimal services provided by Council actually in Araluen- we have rubbish collection, and some town mowing and for areas on unsealed roads, annual grading. QPRC has just closed consultation on the newest proposals about future waste management for the village, in which we have argued for a new facility in the valley to deal with domestic and organic waste. • There have been improvements to the facilities available to Araluen and the surrounding areas over the past few years- a new Annexe to the Hall, Cemetery fences, toilet facilities and access to water at the campground, and improved facilities at the Recreation Ground, which is our place of safety in fires. With the exception of funding towards the costs of new toilets at the Recreation Ground some years ago, ALL the improvements have been made by funding from State and Federal government following the bushfires, and NONE has relied on general rates; Araluen relies heavily on the work of volunteers in all its community organisations, who raise funds and manage facilities and improvements. Similarly, our major road works have been funded through targeted state funding. • Araluen residents rely heavily on services being available in Braidwood to manage the council matters which are relevant to us- dealing with council bureaucracy, documentation, approvals, library and information services. Araluen, along with the other outlying villages will be seriously disadvantaged by council proposals to bring council services back into Queanbeyan. • Household income patterns, according to the 2021 Census, are very different between the north and the south of the Council area with average weekly household incomes in Araluen at $1042 and Braidwood at $1412; compared with Queanbeyan at $2295, and Bungendore $2922. Rate rises will have a significantly greater impact on low income areas, and none of the three scenarios looks at rate relief for people on low incomes, who may not be Centrelink recipients. • The amalgamation has left us with a clumsy demography, where the bulk of the population lives in the urban areas close to Queanbeyan which already has access not just to QPRC services, but to the National services available in Canberra for arts, sports, recreation, specialist healthcare and commercial activity. Further centralising services into that geographic patch, while expecting outlying communities to increase their funding of those services, with no realistic benefit to them is not fair. We derive no realistic benefit from new sports centres close to Queanbeyan, and while we don't begrudge them to people who will use them it's a bit rich to ask us to pay for them. We appreciate the consultation and the open discussion you have set up about this, and are glad to have the opportunity to provide our comments and suggestions. We look forward to continuing to work with you all on a safe and happy future for our region,
751)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Rates are going to rise regardless Reduce councillor numbers .how canyou justify a 22% pay rise for each councillor .what do they do in the public never see or hear them in the community Our roads have bee a mess for many years .Queanbeyan and

	surrounding regions have become “shabby”and dirty .For example “mattresses“ sitting on the nature strip on Cooma st for months.roads are littered with rubbish it seems that council workers turn a blind eye when driving by the Main Street is a joke, appearance is appalling you can’t entice people to come to Queanbeyan now what’s going to happen when you’re talking about putting in paid parking New council building,what a complete waste of money .why couldn’t the council utilise multiple vacant premises around Queanbeyan and region.Who got us in this mess .Not us ratepayers.Someone has to be accountable-council (past and present) why should we have to bail them out .Our rates are very high now. A rate rise? Are you fair dinkum ? Concerned rate payer.
752)	Being a young ratepayer with limited financial support I understand the need for a rates increase however it is extremely overwhelming to think that we may have to pay 97% on top of what we are already paying. I believe that this will cause an enormous amount of stress to not only myself, my partner and our families in the region but the community as a whole. I think it is only reasonable that we begin with scenario 1, the smallest of rates increase and significantly reduce services and see where that takes us as a Council. Not all services are necessary and these are the services that should be looked at reducing or stopping altogether. With the major increase of living expenses, interest rates and now rates rises I am honestly scared of the future and the scenarios that we have been given as ratepayers. The incompetence of previous Council management should not fall on us to bear the brunt of. If the rates are increased too high too quickly it is only going to cause immense stress, anger and rage from the community, families will break apart, lose their homes or very least move away which will only cause even more issues for this Council as a whole. I hope that Council will hear the communities begs and pleas to be kind and fair as this is our home.
753)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Why is council looking at only 3 options that suit council by getting the residents to pay ridiculous rate rises. I want to see evidence that the council are also looking at themselves eg fleet vehicles work related and private usage. How many cars should you be getting rid off and how many can the council share rather than just sitting there? Where can council cut back on unnecessary assets? What projects are council still wanting to do regardless of the debt council has placed qbn in and should now stop any funding and purchases?? If the residents have to have a rate rise that's fine but the options given is ridiculous. Show evidence of everything you are planning on doing and how much it's costing us and show evidence on what they council will do to reduce costs that can help lower the ridiculous rate rise of those ridiculous 3 options. Council has not taken any accountability for their own actions. I don't care which councils fault it was but the current council is now the one with the problem and need to take accountability for previous councils. Any funding etc should now be put on hold unfortunately until the debt is getting sorted or in a better situation than it currently is. Any plans in the works should also be stopped unless NSW can pay for it all and not come back to us to pay off like the extension between jerra to the otherside of qbn and the new council office.

	Main street queanbeyan needed an upgrade long before a new council building but I guess priorities are different to council. We want to attract people to queanbeyan and to do this we needed a great shopping area with variety etc and instead all qbn residents get is a very over the tip expensive council building. The works should never have started on that building and the plans should have been put to one side and not actioned.
754)	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rate rises. We find none of the proposed options acceptable. Where is the option to approach state government for more funding from the stamp duty and GST that is already collected in addition to our monthly rates? We see you are putting in place initiatives such as charging the NSW education department for use of shared publicly funded sports fields. This is a great idea and we would like to see more of these initiatives put in place. If rates collected from the new developments are not covering the extra costs required to service and provide infrastructure to these new developments, then why should the wider community cover the short fall? Surely this should be the responsibility of the developer, or the state government who are collecting the stamp duty from these sales? Since this proposed rate rise was released, the state government announced funding for road repair and upkeep. How will this reduce the amount you will be increasing rates to the local rate payers? As residents of Jerra we have seen little to no new play equipment since we have lived here (over 10 years). From memory one park has been upgraded and a shade sail installed. Other improvements have been made through community sought grants. Our street is already only swept a couple of times a year at best and mowing is far from sufficient. Since the beginning of spring the reserve across from our house has been mown once. And access for walking to the bus stop is maintained by local residents sharing the mowing. There is already no room for reducing the services, they are already below acceptable in some areas of the region. We understand that costs around the world are increasing. However, your proposed rate increases far outweigh any opportunity for CPI pay increases. We are not the only shire/council facing these problems. Bega valley is in the same position. Have the 2 councils considered approaching the state government together for additional operational costs - rather than increasing rates in such a dramatic manner and pushing the full burden of the cost increases onto the rate payers? Regardless of where this lands with rate increases, we really hope the services will be returned because they are falling behind. Thank you for your consideration and we encourage you to explore alternatives to offset/minimise and complement any potential rate rises.
755)	Scenario 2 is probably the most equitable for all rate payers

756)	Any reductions to QPRC's cultural services - particularly maintaining The Q and Library Services will have a detrimental to Queanbeyan's creative community. We have one of the best theatre spaces in the region, and if anything, more resources should be allocated to the management and programming of this space to bring more local and national theatre and live music tours to Queanbeyan! I am also looking forward to the new library spaces that are currently under development with the new precinct, and it would be a horrible step backward to invest so much in our library services, and then take it all away again!
757)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have lived in my home since 1986 under the aegis of the Tallaganda, Eastern Capital Regional, Palerang, and now, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Councils. My reasons for resisting the implementation of Scenarios 2 and 3 include, but are not limited to, the following: I have not experienced any increase in services or conditions despite the continuing increase in rates and charges. * For example, while understanding the need to reduce all types of waste, I no longer receive a green card allowing access to waste disposal facility previously issued to ratepayers. Now in addition to the “Waste Program Charges” of $307, I am required to pay $5.50 per standard green wheelie bin (which I bought myself). Each month an extra cost of $11 plus fuel, as a pensioner this is not insignificant. I do not have a garbage or recycling collection, nor have I received a composting bin. *I travel on horrifically bad roads, made worse by a constant stream of B-Doubles taking garbage from Queanbeyan and Bungendore to the “bioreactor”. Even acknowledging that the recent weather has inhibited maintenance, the dangerous state of the roads is the result of little or no maintenance for many years beyond township limits within the area. *My location has no footpaths or stormwater control, no street sweeping, mowing, maintenance or cleaning take place beyond Bungendore town surrounds. I paid to install a power pole for electricity supply, provide my own water supply and sewage system. *I chose to live here, and until recently, have not regretted that choice. However, a council which does not appear to understand that its ratepayer base is not an homogenous group, that rural and suburban needs are not necessarily the same and that fiscal responsibility is owed to all ratepayers, will ultimately fail. * In addition to residential rates and charges I must pay Local Land Services rates to cover costs relevant to farmland despite QPRC now deeming my property residential. These rates have also increased. *The suggested reduction of services in areas such as libraries, childcare, pensioner discounts are particularly callous given the effects of covid-19, high inflation and interest rate rises on many of the most vulnerable in our community.

	*Reasons given for the proposed rate rises are vague and lacking in detail. If Council is not able to fund the basic necessities for all residents one wonders where funds have gone. *Perhaps a reassessment of proposed “Works Program” and a few less “events” with a view to consolidating funds to provide basic services for all residents is called for before any enormous rate increases. If forced to favour one of the 3 proposed scenarios, I would have to favour Scenario 1 to “Significantly Reduce Services”.
758)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL FEEDBACK** While you have allowed this period for feedback, the current council was elected without this SRV being part of the election decision. In other words you do not have, I believe, a mandate from the community to make such a significant rate variation and before it can proceed it should be tested by means of a referendum - or even new council elections - to allow the community to decide for ourselves. That would seem only fair as we should be able to decide how much of our money should be spent on what - and it should be the decision of the majority in the community that decides what happens, as that is the very basis and purpose of our local government system.
759)	Rates should stay the same. Farmers dont get any value for money. We pay for our own sewage infrastructure, we pay for our own water infrastructure and when it breaks down no one comes along and pays to our cost to fix it. It is incomprehensible spending over 125 million on sewage in Queanbveyan (10 year plan) Reduce all services and just look after roads for a start. And why is it the information you sent out to people and that was available on the website didnt even mention the High property values. You stopped at $7090000. Its as if you haver no idea of the farming community and what our properties are worth and the burden you will place on us. And what happens if FMD hits us (thats Foot and Mouth Disease) or Lumpy Skin disease our stock will be shot no more livestock, no more income from farming. You just dont get it. Drought is one day closer and market values will again slump where to pay your rate bill in scenario three will will have to sell so many livestock we wnot be able to run the place viably.
760)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to this most unfortunate circumstance. In short, I 'vote' for Option 2. It is truly mind boggling how the QPRC finds itself in this situation. I believe that council should only spend money on projects that will benefit the majority of rate payers. That is, roads, waste collection, and maintenance of common areas (parks etc) and grass and bushland around rate payer's properties. These are the fundamental responsibilities of a council. I don't pretend to be an expert in this space, but I find it unfathomable how a council (any council) can allow this circumstance to occur, and suggest that the only way out of it is to punish the rate payers. I ask that in reviewing the various response submissions, that you review every project that is in the planning phase, and if it is not going to potentially benefit the majority of rate payers, that is be postponed or cancelled. The end result of significant increases will be that more and more rate payers won't be able to afford to pay their rates and the burden will continue to fall onto the rest. That is very poor business practice.

	I ask that you cancel all funding for fringe projects and grants. These expenses would only benefit a select group and are therefore not required by the majority of rate payers. I ask that you make the Morrison Low report available to us rate payers. I would appreciate the opportunity to closely review the contents of the document to ensure the options that have been put to us are in fact accurate. I can only assume that the rate payers of the QPRC paid for the report. Does Council have too many administrative staff? There is significant talk from staff who work for Council who suggest there are too many layers of management. Is this true? Would the staffing levels within Council and in upper management stand up to very close scrutiny? I think it is little more than spin to compare QPRC rates to Bathurst etc. From my perspective, the council only have a handful of critical roles. Please concentrate on them, get them right and don't punish the rate payers. Please remember, this is a critically important decision for you to make that will impact tens of thousands of people throughout our region. People are suffering enough with increased cost of living and interest rates.
761)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As is the case with most ratepayers I have spoken to, I have considerable concern with the extent of the SRVs proposed under each of the three options outlined, the reasons so far provided by Council which supposedly have given rise to the financial predicament it now faces and the suggested consequences of not pursuing Option 3, ie; Councils obviously preferred option of, pretty much, 'lets continue business as usual.' First, transparency: the reasons proffered by Council as underpinning its financial disaster essentially boil down to: • " rate increases set [under the State Government's rate pegging process] don't come close to meeting the costs of doing everything the community expects of us." Frankly, this statement is a nonsense. The purpose of rate pegging is deliberately to constrain Council spending profligacy in the face of essentially unlimited community expectations/demands for more services. In essence, to force Councils to prioritise their spending within their revenue constraints. This very valid objective has obviously not been achieved in respect of the QPRC and its predecessors!! Indeed, particularly in regard to capital spending/asset creation, I have long been concerned that Council seemingly has had an attitude that if the money is currently available (eg from grants, current revenues, etc) lets just do it and if the money is not their to cover the ensuing maintenance costs, we can use that as a justification for a future SRV. A glaring example of this was the decision to construct The Q. At the time, it was public knowledge that The Q's ongoing operations would require an annual ratepayer subsidy of around a $1 million. Surprise, surprise, within a very short time of its opening, the then Council sought a SRV to cover an estimated shortfall in revenues needed to "maintain its current assets" of about $1 million per year. Funny that!! Similarly, the Council's financial plan notes the relatively recent decision the increase Council's debt by $175 million. Reasons are not provided, but this no doubt relates in very large part, at least, to its decision to construct its new office building, again something that was clearly unaffordable given current financial constraints. All of this of course, makes a mockery of the intended purpose of the rate pegging process. • the costs of amalgamation: as noted in council's statement, the QPRC at that time was given very significant grants from the state Government to meet the costs involved, with the money then being spent on "infrastructure improvements and .., new

	infrastructure." One can only question why this was the case , when it must have been obvious (again) that the money needed to maintain these additional assets simply wasn't there. In short, it seems to me that the current financial position of Council is due principally to its own/successive fiscal mismanagement and incompetence rather than factors beyond its control. At the very least, ratepayers need far more disclosure from Council as to how this financial debacle came about: what were the key decisions leading to it and who made them. Of perhaps greater importance is also the obvious need for Council to advise the community of what new processes and procedures it will implement to ensure, as far as practical, the situation won't re occur in the future. It seems untenable to me that Council can expect the community to cop tax increases of the amounts being suggested without some strong assurances in this regard. I also believe that the consequences of not implementing the rate increases envisaged under option 3 are grossly overstated. In particular, there is no information given about prospects for asset sales to pay down Council's current debt and/ or finance an orderly transition to a sustainable financial position, apart from maybe selling The Q. A casual drive around Queanbeyan, for example, suggests there are quite a number of residential size "mini parks" or public spaces that really don't offer much, if any public amenity (they might have a swing or a seesaw on them) and from my observation are very rarely used, which could be readily sold, and no doubt there a lots of other asset sales options. While, as in the past, such proposed sales would meet with the usual NIMBY opposition, remedying the Council's current financial position should be the priority. Definitely also, sell The Q,. Its been a financial millstone around ratepayers necks since its inception. It is only after all alternative revenue options are identified that we should be talking about the size of of any SRV. If current Council cannot bring itself to make the hard decisions needed, then lets definitely bring in an Administrator who will. Certainly in my view the "business as usual" option 3 is untenable.
762)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL*8 We live in a remote rural community located 15km south east of Araluen village, 150km from Queanbeyan, with no real connection to the shire or its services. The basic service that we currently receive from QPRC consists of gravel road graded once a year and 2 bins in the compound at Araluen. That is it! We don't get town water, sewerage, paved roads, street sweeping, kerb and guttering, road side rubbish pick up or mowing of public spaces and road verges but are expected to subsidize the rates of those who do. We don't use any other Council services as they are all located at a great distance, cost and inconvenience. The Araluen community pretty much relies on its dedicated volunteers to make things happen and not Council. We do our own mowing, manage most of our own facilities, apply for grants and work very hard towards our villages' resilience and infrastructure improvements. I am a volunteer, a trustee and executive member of local organisations, and have seen it all. QPRC does very little for us and are disconnected and post amalgamation the input has deteriorated even further in this location. There is a gross inequality occurring within this Shire with the blatantly obvious favouring to Bungendore, Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra, Googong etc. Council have actively pursued expensive development, borrowed to build a new headquarters

	and acquired further debit through risky lending when they should have been acting otherwise. Not to mention adding another level of highly paid management and then giving yourselves a 22% pay rise! Meanwhile, the infrastructure in the eastern district of this shire falls into a state of disrepair, dangerous, unmaintained roads, weeds out of control on public lands, the pulling of services and a general lack of interest on Councils behalf. The centralization of services to the Western side of the Divide is disadvantaging the East. The results of the 2021 Census is a true indication of the socio economic inequality that is occurring. Average Weekly Income Census 2021 data Queanbeyan $2,295 Bungendore $2,922 Braidwood $1,412 Araluen $1,042 These figures clearly show that ratepayers in this part of the Shire do not have the capacity to pay and should not be burdened with substantial rate hikes for less service. The special rate variation will push families in our community into financial hardship. Not everyone on a low income receives Centrelink or receive subsidies, so those like ourselves, are going to struggle to make ends meet, with broader implications for our capacity to survive and thrive. A blanket increase over the Shire is outright robbery. Stealing from the poor to subsidize those well off who can afford to pay and want all services. What a terrible situation we are in. On a more personal note, our property was burnt severely in the Black Summer fires – homes, sheds and infrastructure destroyed in our community. We are still recovering from that event, rebuilding our property, fences and replacing burnt assets. This has caused us immense financial strain and our lives (and that of many others) have been extremely difficult in the past 3 years, we were not supported at all post fire and have had a terrible time, we did not receive any assistance from the government and were told we didn't burn enough. The burden of a potentially substantial rate rise is causing us great distress. It's morally wrong for burnt communities like ours to be dealt such a blow from Council, we can't suffer anymore. QPRC is imploding! We believe that amalgamation has created the majority of the problems we are now experiencing and has proven to be of no benefit to the outlying rural villages and remote communities of QPRC. To summarise, we do not believe that a Special Rate Variation is justified and we ask for consideration of the facts and realities that we have provided to you in this submission. None of your Options are plausible or fair. We want Option 4 – de-amalgamate. Bring back ridings so we all get a fair go and fair representation.
763)	The 3 options are all unreasonable and invalid. All these percentage increases will cripple families, and giving them more time to pay will not help. They will still have to pay. Waiving payment is not a solution either. That just puts more financial burden on the payers. You need a brand new option that includes a more modest rate rise and specific and substantial cuts and efficiency savings across all areas. Reducing senior management numbers also. Restructure
764)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCILI EMAIL** QPRC Council members, I do not support any of the proposals for the Special Rate Variation as provided in the QPRC December newsletter.

	I do not consider the information provided justifies the proposed increase in rates for a number of reasons. 1. There does not appear to be any attempt to review current spending patterns. From my personal experience working in Government Departments there are massive opportunities to create savings on expenditure without cutting services. 2. The newsletter does not divulge "administration costs" and therefore is inaccurate. 3. The financial costs to the council of loans and loan repayments needs to be reviewed in the context of rising interest rates. From the data provided for 2022-23, $16.2m of $183.1m expenses is loan repayments or 8.85% of expenses. The proposal is that you expend $44.9m in new loans. The debt burden is going to weigh heavily on future ratepayers and the sustainability of this approach needs to be reviewed in the context of rising interest rates. 4. While the ACT rates are useful for comparison with other councils and QPRC, they are not a useful benchmark as they incorporate a number of state government services including hospitals, education and the large overheads of being a territory Government. It is astounding that the level of rate increases you are proposing under these scenarios would bring QPRC rates to the similar level of ACT ratepayers who are paying for their State Government Services. 5. The proposed Special rate variations over three years amount to $434 increase for Scenario 1, $818 for scenario 2 and $1231 for scenario 3. Do Council members seriously think ratepayers will accept those levels of increase? 6. Before bring a special rate variation to ratepayers, QPRC needs to demonstrate it has strong financial management skills and can live within the NSW Government authorised increase in rates.
765)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** With regards to your plan with rate rises over the next 3 years, is disgusting. You have indicated our land is worth $394,000 when we are unable to use over 200m2 due to an open storm water drain. I think you need to come and see the land before deciding its worth. We have been told we are unable to do anything and council are very reluctant to repair. Due to the councils incompetence with their monies, the land owners are the ones coping the fallout with paying more rates. We find councils rules and regulations so hypocritical that they are border-lining on being criminally negligent. For example Fencing of swimming pools is law, but we are unable to fence off an open Storm water drain that flows constantly. Its illegal to change the Natural flow of water onto someone else land this is all happening at our property. And no one seems to care!!!!! We also are of the understanding that the rates notices are a legal document, yet out of the blue you can change without prior notice until you call the offices and they email you the original document that was never sent!!!! Before putting up rates you need to really think about the people you are effecting. Council say that it is broke so are we!! We

	have other bills and to get notice of an increase of this nature similar to your mortgage increases. Would love to hear from someone as the Major doesn't seem to be interested and neither does the rest of the council!!!! We feel this is a waste of time as it falls on deaf ears!!!!
766)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I'm writing this submission in support of Scenario 3: Maintain Services I have been a resident of Queanbeyan since 1973, when it was called 'struggle town' and held in disdain by a large number of people in the area. I would hate to see Queanbeyan go back to that situation because of loss of facilities or lack of revenue into the area. It is vital for Queanbeyan to maintain/upgrade the facilities that it already has, if it is to remain the city of significance in the region. If we allow any decline or sell off any of the current assets, then more people will go to the ACT or other cities to access their facilities. This will mean that the revenue generated in the area will drop and we would see a gradual decline in our beautiful city. If Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services is accepted, privatising the Q, ceasing to fund community activities, removing community grant support, closing aquatic centres and sporting grounds etc. it's as if Queanbeyan has been given a 'death sentence'. The heart and soul of our city will be destroyed. The facilities that are removed will cut across all sectors of our community. If Scenario 2: Reduce Services is accepted, again, reducing all the facilities will affect all residents, young – aged, robs the community of facilities that are so vital and needed for the overall health and well-being of the whole community. Queanbeyan/Palerang doesn't need a reduction in councillor representation. As the area continues to grow we will need more councillors to represent the residents. We will need aquatic/sporting facilities to be maintained to a high standard and community facilities that will attract new residents. If we don't, then our area will be overlooked as a great place to live and/or raise a family. This is why I am in favour of Scenario 3: Maintain Services for the future of Queanbeyan/Palerang area. Thank you for considering my submission.
767)	This submission would call for scenario one to be selected, with only minor changes. Council needs to suspend all unnecessary spending for two years until the Bond Monies are realised and Council has funds to continue essential services. Pools, libraries, cleaning streets and mowing should not be included in the reduction of services.
768)	The first two scenarios almost don't seem realistic to try and execute. Community will expect current services to be at least maintained. How can a council consider, in effect, cancelling all cultural, heritage and community facilities and programs and

	reducing services currently being maintained? Option 3 - A slow increase to fees to maintain the current services seems the only way forward.
769)	Numbers 2 and 3 will make it unaffordable to live here for many residents. Number 1 will also make it difficult for those of us who are retired and on a fixed income.
770)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I think the Queanbeyan Palarang Council has been wasting the money raised by the ratepayers. In my opinion the council is spending too much money on sporting fields in South Jerrabomberra which not many people will utilise and look like it will flood. (36 million dollars). Also the new office building in the centre of Queanbeyan cost over $7 million dollars and is an eyesore. It is so out of place in Queanbeyan. The councillors have given themselves a big pay rise and *** **** still thinks he's not getting enough money. So entitled. The rate rises will cause alot of home owners in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood financial distress when the cost of living has gone through the roof. People move to this area because it is cheaper than the costs in Canberra. I suggest you stop wasting so much money on badly thought out projects that are costing too much money. I choose "Scenario 1" – The council must stop wasting money.
771)	I believe regardless of community opinion Council will go for Option 1. Unfortunately poor management by the previous Council, Administrator and previous CEO have led us to this point. I personally am lucky enough to be able to financially handle the rate increases, however a lot of rate payers are not. I don't believe Council has done an adequate job of ensuring the public know of the hardship exceptions that are available to them. Additionally, whether the new building is playing a part in our financial insecurity or not, the public perception is that it has played a part, with the vast majority I have spoken to seeing it as a folly! Somehow Council needs to address this as public opinion of Council in general is incredibly negative.
772)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have lived in the Queanbeyan-Palerang (formally Palerang) council region my whole life. Rates in the Queanbeyan-Palerang council area have been steadily increasing over time and there has been, in my opinion, no tangible outcome or reason for these increases. In my previous residence we have (and still are) being charged 2 types of rates for some time (rural/residential). Despite this, the property does not receive any kind of maintenance or services from the council (i.e. waste collection, sewerage, water).The roads in the Queanbeyan-Palerang region are atrocious, bordering on being classified a deathtrap in certain places. While I am aware the recent weather has not aided the maintenance of the roads, this is not a new issue. In the time I have lived in this council region (28 years) the roads have always been extremely poorly maintained, particularly once outside any townships in the area. There have been no specific details around the reasons for the rate increase. The reasons provided to the electorate by the council are vague and open-ended.

	Why is the council so far in the red and where has the enormous amount of monies already paid to the council by the electorate gone? As above there seems to be no justification, even after a brief review of the council's 2022 financial statement. The proposed reduction of services such as libraries, pensioner rebates and childcare is a travesty of a solution, especially at this time when so many people are struggling to provide for themselves and their families. Perhaps reducing and limiting new developments and projects, and focusing on improving current services would be a step in the right direction.
773)	The council should be ashamed that they want to increase rates by 97% over the next 3 years. How do they expect single income earners to live, pay for electricity, rates, body corporate fees and a mortgage. It angers me so much to know that council members are earning above minimum wage and expect the public to fund big ideas like a new multi million dollar council building and know that there are still members of the public in this council that do not use services like weekly rubbish pick up or have sealed roads into their property. I own my own house and am currently on a single income I am frugal with my money and have calculated how a 97% increase on rate would affect me and I know with the current income I earn I would be struggling to even eat. I would hate to know how this would affect renters and single woman who are bringing up children without support from the father of the children. I cant believe that the council would think this increase in rates would be far considering electricity cost increases, the increase in food cost and the increases the reserve bank has made. Their should have been better management of councils money and if the council didn't have the founds to build the new building it should never have gone ahead. Council should have also predicted that an increase in costs would happen we had drought for so long, covid happened and building work always goes over budget and you prepare for at least a 10% increase in cost for multi million dollar works. Wages will not increase by 97% and this rate rise does not reflect the inflation increase
774)	I do not agree with scenario 1, 2 or 3 this consult is bias and treating the ratepayers as though we a stupid, we are not stupid. this consult is targeting older Queanbeyan residents and their properties to sell up or take over their land if they can not pay rates Threats to close down essential services such as the swimming pools, libraries and the like is extortion. Using the jerrabomberra swimming pool to then close down the Queanbeyan main pool, outrages. building a new council building then applying for a $50mil loan to part support is a poor judgement.
775)	Selling off the Q means that the government is not supporting the arts in the region at all. It continues to over support sports and recreation in the form of excessive ovals and swimming pools - and there would be zero support for the arts. The Q is also one of the only venues that Canberran companies can use for community based projects. Perhaps consultation with the ACT government needs to happen, to provide some assistance, due to the lack of provision of an adequate theatre/performance space in the ACT!!! Taking away artistic support is irresponsible and totally against the arts policies that have been announced today by the Prime Minister. The Q's financial position has been crippled, firstly by covid, but then by the ripping up of the car park - making patrons stay away in droves!!! Of course it is going backwards and costing too much money. Why did a car park have to happen so soon

	after covid? This has also had a MASSIVE impact on those people hiring the space. You lose money as a hirer, because nobody will come to see a show when they can't access the building properly. There needs to be some accountability for WHY the Q is not producing revenue.
776)	How is it on average that for scenario 3 that rates will only go up by just over $400, I live in a townhouse and it's going up $750 and I have shared waste and don't have a green bin or fogo bin and for what was 2 house blocks, you now get 14 lots of rates. Absolutely beyond belief that in the current economy you expect people to find an extra $750 per year by the end of year 3.
777)	Community service levels have not been established. Without fully understanding what levels of service the community need, then it is likely to under estimate the additional rate revenue that is required. Council is no longer a small operation and management has not evolved significantly to reflect the large characteristics of the merged business. Still operating as a small entity.
778)	I would NOT like to see services reduced . If we want to attract people to the QPRC area we need community services and facilities and good infrastructure or people will go elsewhere. I am a rate payer for a Qbn property and also a rural property in Braidwood. I would like to see improvements that will see our council more sustainable (environmentally not just financially), so there does need to be an increase in order to keep providing services to the community. We live in a beautiful area and this is credit to the staff at council, I think also this is due to a high percentage of council employees are also community members / rate payers who really love the area that they live and care about it. If QPRC area starts to look uncared for then there will be so many other issues that will raise their heads.
779)	I think we need to maintain and continue to improve all our services otherwise we will never regain the services we have once lost
780)	Each of the 3 scenarios asks for an increase in revenue through increased taxes. Since I live in a rural area, I do not have ready access to facilites as these are located in the council's villages and towns.
781)	All untenable
782)	There is still a lack of spending for arts and culture in Scenario 3. (best case scenario for services apparently). I would like to see an option with reduced fees spent on parks and sporting grounds so that there is an even balance between this and the arts facilities. Owning a small commercial premise set up for supporting community I will be incur a rate increase of more that 8K by 2025. With less Council support to run such a business this is not at all encouraging.
783)	I would be willing to agree to scenario 3 if the existing level of services was sustained and improved on where possible. I dont think the community will happily accept a reduction in services as many think they are minimal already. Difficult problem. Does the 3year increase solve the issue or will there be another series of giant rate increases ?
784)	As a Palerang rural residential ratepayer, we receive very few services. I do not agree to any of the excessive changes proposed through each of the three scenarios. Each of the options provided should be fully costed , rather than what appears to be 1) Increase rates a lot, lose everything and we still need to find $12m

	2) Increase rates more than a lot, keep the Q, cut everything else (including basic maintenance & cleaning) and still find $5.5m or 3) Increase rates to ridiculous levels and let us continue as we are and we'll operating normally and also give money to the environment & renew and replace infrastructure. A common sense approach with full costings would 1) State what is costs to - fund council operations & basic maintenance & core activities only - fund asset maintenance & repair How would rates need to be adjusted to just provide these services (and not need to find more $ per year)? Then: offer strategies for saving money or increased revenue which could include - sell the Q (unless it actually makes money, but I couldn't see this in the financial statements) - sell/privatise aquatic facilities - introduction of paid parking (not sold to private firms, but revenue kept by council) - stopping funding to all community facilities and activities, - cutting heritage & other grants. Additional costs for sewerage/water/waste should be attached to additional charges on top of base rates (I assume they are) Sporting fields should be funded on a user pays basis. Ie increase fees for those who use them. Why in Scenario 3, is there the addition of - New environmental programs would receive $1.3 million per year. - Renewed infrastructure – community facilities, footpaths and pools would receive $1.9 million per year. - Expanded infrastructure for growth and to match 1:1 grant opportunities would receive $400k per year (e.g. footpath extensions) If you removed these 3 items, would the proposed annual rate rises be reduced at all? I fail to see how these 3 scenarios are the only options on the table. It would have been good if the recent 2022 NSW Valuer Generals property valuations could have been included in the Rate Impact Table for all scenarios.

	As it stands, if I am forced to make a choice, it would be Option 1 - greatly reduced services My preference would be to merge Palerang with Goulburn-Mulwaree.
785)	WE GET NOTHING FROM COUNCIL AS A RURAL LAND HOLDER, WHY SHOULD WE PAY MORE TO SUBSIDISE THOSE WHO ACTUALLY RECEIVE SERVICES.
786)	I would like services to be maintained.
787)	Prefer scenario 1
788)	Take the middle ground.
789)	It is important to keep the Q open and support local musicians and artists. It is also essential to keep the pools especially in the small towns like Bungendore and Braidwood. There is very little for the young ones to do otherwise. Maybe we could spend less on flowers in the middle of Queanbeyan and more on the country folks who get very little for their rates.
790)	It is financially challenging to consider option 3. With the rise of living, adding so much to our rates notices will impact dramatically on family budgets, and be passed on to local renters. Option 2 will also be financially challenging. With inflation as it is and the cost of living, option 1 is the only one we can afford as a family living in the community. The significant reduction in services will be upsetting. It seems that we will be getting a lot less for our money. I think the pool, skate parks and library should continue to be a focus to keep youth engaged and entertained.
791)	Council should not be seeking any special rate variation permission and should stick to the rate rise allowable under IPART. The recent land valuation changes will lead to excessive rate rises before any special variation is allowed and will not be affordable by the community. Councillers have already voted themself the largest payrise of any council in australia. They should consider doing the job for free and using that money to fund the shortfall.
792)	I believe that the council is trying to take the easiest, least internally painful route with option 3. It is very apparent that very little thought has been given to looking at it's own internal operations, staffing and efficiencies. Things don't change unless you do. Try cutting some of the deadwood from your management team for a start. How do you expect to find efficiencies and bring new ideas to the table with people who've had the same job for 20+ years.
793)	The three scenarios presented are extremely concerning. Firstly, most of the services offered in this community are vital and should not be reduced. However, the community should not be faced with such an unaffordable increase to their rates. The rate pegs are in place for a reason. The community should not have to suffer due to the council not be able to manage the funds effectively. And especially given the huge pay rises the councillors voted in for themselves. Seems extremely unfair.
794)	I think it's farcical that we should consider selling of The Q which has built up a reputation as one of the best theatres around.
795)	Closing libraries is a terrible idea. Invest in them to become more comprehensive service centres. Particularly in the outer areas, they have the potential to be hugely valuable to the more vulnerable if developed to be more that just old style book repositories. Have a look at what other councils are doing around Aus and the benefits and returns, in social and economic value.

796)	It would appear that level three is necessary to maintain services. Is it possible to introduce it over four or five years instead?
797)	Pensioners should not have to pay 100% rates, they should be able to access reduced rates. I believe they should also be able to access more in the community for less. Paid parking should not be one of the first things to introduce, whilst this may be the easiest for the council to install, this does not benefit anyone in the community, especially when the price of living is hiking. Removing aquatic centres... the next generation of children who are unable to swim and a higher rate of drowning deaths in this LGA?? As well as obese children who do not have access to parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities.
798)	I agree that rates will need to be raised by more than the rate peg Senario 3 should not be taken as it doesn't address council's inability to manage its finances and does not address core financial issues with balancing services offered with revenue. Scenario 1 and 2 - I don't agree with paid parking, I think this was included as scare mungering and the return on investment of installing enforcement measures may not be seen in a suitable time frame. Paid parking will be counter productive and just force more people to take their business to the ACT and we will have more empty shops in the CBD. All other measures should be investigated to bring spending into line with revenue.
799)	All three are a joke. How can a council claim a $80 million profit last year, then claim to have no money and demand that rates are doubled whilst you do no change to your normal operations for such a pay increase? How can you ask for money when you gave yourself a pay increase in these tough economical times? Why can't you just remove your money from the bank bonds you bought? How can you hold services you have the obligation to deliver at ransom? What will happen when the 2 year bond ends? Will the rates be lowered to ease the pain of the ordinary citizens you are ripping off?
800)	The service from a rate increase that will be experienced in Wamboin are roads. Every other service is Queanbeyan specific
801)	I am most interested in scenario 2, although I don't think there is any benefit to increasing ticket prices at the Q. They are already higher than Canberra ticket prices, which I think is deterring audience members.
802)	The three scenarios seem to have been arbitrarily chosen and more information should be provided to the community about necessary changes. I accept that the merger of Councils and decisions by both State and Federal Government have created challenges for the future management of QPRC services. But it is not clear how and why the three scenarios were arrived at. Why not other possibilities, such as selling off the new building in Queanbeyan? And the scale of the rate rises doesn't seem to be commensurate with the budget issues outlined in the documentation. It would be good if there was more transparency about what the QPRC management (and Councillors) are prioritising for the future. Also, it would be helpful if there was some analysis of the capacity of QPRC residents to pay higher rates, particularly at a time of larger cost of living pressures. What are the social and economic impacts of increasing rates on the QPRC population. Will residents/businesses leave the region because of these changes? Will poorer residents bear the brunt? We need this kind of information in order to make an informed

	decision. I would ask that the decision on rate rises be postponed until more information can be provided and more community consultation is undertaken.
803)	The council is being unprofessional and derelict in their duty by only presenting these as the options. What efforts have been made to consolidate and reduce expenses and what strategies are council examining to increase other income streams. I agree there is need for rates rises, the cost of everything has increased, but for council to simply throw their hands in the air and say we've got a structural deficit and the only way to get that under control is increase rates or threaten to reduce services. Well I'm sorry, council are not keeping up with the basic services they are proposing to cut anyway, so it is not good enough to simply throw three rate rise options on the table without other considered alternatives put forward to rate payers. What are the senior staff within the payed council doing to keep their relevant departments under control budgetary wise? The councillors need to hold the senior staff to account if they are not producing what they should be within their budgeted limits.
804)	Any plans to sell or increase fees at The Q Performing Arts Centre are only a short term temporary fix to the financial struggles that the council faces, while it will have a devastating impact on the performing arts community and tourism it brings into the area. As one of the best facilities in the area, it hosts a wide range of performances that people travel for, while also supporting local community groups. If sold, the impact of this to the performing arts community and the council area will never be recovered, while the council will face similar financial issues a couple of years down the track yet again.
805)	N/A
806)	I would like services to be maintained.
807)	Prefer scenario 1
808)	The third scenario is my preference. It would be interesting to know how much rates were going to increase in the fourth year? Hopefully not as much as they would increase in the three years of this third scenario! It would be interesting to know how much the three third scenario rate increases could be decreased if Council was to, say sell the Show Grounds for good quality housing development. Maybe the Agricultural Show and other events could be held at Queanbeyan Racecourse, particularly if the Council owns this course (which I am not sure that it does)? I would not sell The Q to the private sector because it provides an excellent public service asset owned by the Council, whereas if it was privately owned, organisations such as Queanbeyan Players and similar community organisaions would not be able to afford to use it. Whilst selling off the new Council building to the private sector and the Council then paying rent for using this is a possibility, I do not think it would be in the best medium to longer term interests of the people of Queanbeyan Palerang. Maybe the Council could consider selling off the Bicentennial Hall for specific conversion to a picture theatre complex? Maybe the Council could take steps to increase the value of its land ownership close to the new Council building, as a first step

	to take before selling any more of this land off for acceptable purposes, at prices likely to be considerably higher than prices received for apparently recent Council property sales in this area. For example, the main street seems to have had its day as a dedicated shopping centre and its purpose could be widened to include use for building good quality housing. Maybe it would be worthwhile for the Council and Icon Water to reconsider the benefits of Icon Water completely taking over the Queanbeyan sewerage network and treatment, as a means of saving the Council the approximate $160 million to build its proposed new plant. The aim of the above-mentioned possible asset sales would of course be to reduce Councils level of debt to a more manageable level.
809)	Scenario 1 is not palatable in terms of service loss. Scenario 2 is OK except for paid parking (unless you want to cripple businesses). This scenario should be trialed for 3 years and then the impacts reviewed. Scenario 3 is too expensive.
810)	Options 3 - we dont want to have a reduction in services
811)	Significantly reduce your services, the cost to benefit ratio offered by QPRC does not justify the increase to maintain lack lustre performance. Bare necessities only.
812)	It is unfortunate QPRC, has to make such substantial changes over a short period of time, given current living costs, I think an option to have rate increases over a longer period of time may have been a more suitable. My choice from the 3 options, would be scenario 2.
813)	Scenario 1 is harsh. In particular I think it would be a grave mistake to 'sell off' The Q as it is a central community hub and has great heritage value given its history. Relinquishing community control of this asset is a big step away from the town's identity and autonomy. Instead, increasing rates and all fees across the board including introducing parking fees would at least even out the burden of payment out across many small things paid for by many people.
814)	I think option 2 with an environmental levy. Is there a way to fund regional pools through state government funding or increasing fees?
815)	The merged council has completely disregarded the report written and agreed by the minister on the benefits but noted issues of the merging of the council. IE the diverse nature of the residents. Council being based at Bungendore and road maintenance. What has happened is council completely ignored that report and noted concerns and spent all its time trying to lure Canberra residents to live in Queanbeyan or Jerrabomberra or Googong. Services provided to those of us outside of the residential area was minimal at least and appalling at worst. I pay for my rubbish collection and my water infrastructure and sewerage and have to drive on roads that more often then not are not in a fit state for vehicles. Millions of dollars have been spent luring Canberrans to qbyn plus millions on a new council building and beautifying qbyn to the detriment of those of us outside residential areas. The council needs to be demerged as other councils are doing in NSW so us rural residents get a council that looks after road infrastructure and services specific to us. I support none of the options but if having to have one then option 1 only till this council is demerged.
816)	To achieve the necessary improvements + maintain existing, rates yes at a sensible increase.
817)	Most people will go for the cheapest option, not realising that that will adversely affect all Council's services. I value these services, so I'll support the rates going up as high as you need them to.

818)	All three are wrong. To cut community services, to save money, should never happen. You are bringing down the communities by putting in those measures. And to change the lights to LED ones, that is still an expenditure that you supposedly don't have. Same goes with charging for parking in Queanbeyan, it cost money to put in that kind of infrastructure, money that could go towards fixing the roads. Our wages have not gone up in more than 6 years, so to make the residents foot the bill for poor management is wrong. If you want to build communities and have a good place to live, maybe you shouldn't vote in your own pay rise, then pass the bill to us.
819)	Scenario 3 is the best way to go to maintain current services.
820)	As mentioned above I expect the role of a council to be that of maintenance of all basic infrastructure such as roads. Your scenarios are ridiculous. They don't make sense, for example why would you close the depots at Bungendore and Braidwood. They pay their rates to so they have to suffer due to bad financial decisions made by you? Ridiculous!
821)	happy with services now. Option 3 is out of the question
822)	I support scenario 1 but also support the council looking at better financial management
823)	Looking at the rate increase data, to get to this situation where such a massive increase in rates is required by QPRC in next to no time notice in order to meet this rate deficit, I strongly feel that finances, decisions and consultation surrounding our rates now and leading up to this point has been badly mismanaged by the QPRC council over the past 7 years. To say that all this issue has resulted due the amalgamation of the councils in 2016 is an excuse and negates the fact that the council over many years has access to other sources of finance, historical statistical data and future growth and planning documents to assist in the planning, preparation and information to rate payers of any 'Future' changes. Noting, as per the QPRC data, the current rate deficit is $21.8 million and Income = $161.3mil broken down currently into 5 streams being: New Loans: $44.9mil or 29% / Capital Gains: $31.4mil or 20% / Operational Grants: &18.1mil or 11.5% / Fees/Charges: 12.5% and Rates: $42.5mil or 27% then why noting 'Rates' are only 27% of the total income stream that under the current scenario's rate payers are footing the full increase? Why hasn't the QPRC lobbied/sought other financial avenues/assistance to help in offsetting this enormous financial burden to rate payers who are currently having to foot the entire rate deficit of $21.8mil? - if they don't want their services reduced! Regards the 3 scenarios', my calculations indicate the following: Scenario 1 - 36% over 3 years will generate: approx. $15mil / Scenario 2 - 54% over 3 years will generate approx. $23mil and Scenario 3 - 76% over 3 years will generate approx. $32mil, noting the peg rates, why via Scenario 3 are rate payers paying significantly above the current deficit? Also, as per QPRC data, this increase 'currently' applies to the 'base amount & adv' of our rates and noting as QPRC has said that this rate rise doesn't mean that rates won't rise again in the foreseeable future, what assurances can QPRC give that the other rate components i.e.: garbage, general waste etc. after this huge rate increase wont also be raised? Regards future impacts to anything effecting rate payers i.e.: rates, increase in fees, water rates etc., what assurances do we have by our council that there will be thoughtful planning, preparation and community consultation/information to all ratepayers, allowing a decent time period for community response and sufficient lead time if required to be implemented? Also, that community consultation on significant issues isn't scheduled over public holidays especially the Christmas/New Year period? As mentioned, due to the period when the response was required, this has meant a significantly reduced timeframe to respond to this significant rate payer issue, I have at present more questions than answers. Looking overall at this Special Rate Variation Rate increase, I believe it has been poorly implemented, rushed, with the viewpoint of council that the ratepayers of QP region will just have to

	stump up the money. Thus, the support to rate payers by our council has been overlooked, resulting in a poor outcome. In a couple of weeks, when the council decides on what scenario to implement, please remember that you are working on behalf of your community, the rate payers and their interests! Thank you. *******!
824)	The Q is a very important to the cultural life of the Queanbeyan community and surrounds (ACT community). We often frequent the Q and love coming to watch local talent put on some amazing performances. The Q also brings multiple people into the Queanbeyan area to enjoy other local businesses including shops and hospitality venues.
825)	Maintain services
826)	Level 1 Preference - and use a pragmatic, smart approach to cost reduction- some suggestions listed above.
827)	Option 1 - not agreed (we don't want less services) Option 2 Not agreed (we don't want less services) Option 3 - not agreed. I want all the services, but I think there is another way to have those services without doing your Option 3 - you have not investigated options that would be more suitable to the ratepayers. You could instead raise a one off special levy (which could go for a year or two). As the land values have been re-valued late 2022, QPRC are already going to receive a substantial increase in rates.
828)	Scenario 1 - Recommended. If you increase more than this then you are going to add to the already dire housing crisis which already exists in this council (and country). This is already a huge increase considering we (rural) do not get any Water, Sewerage, rubbish collection nor our road maintained. Scenario 2 - not Recommended Scenario 3 - not Recommended
829)	Rates should be minimised and service delivery focussed on the essentials at local government level. QPRC's policy approach to the special variuation focussed on 'QPRC income/revenue' obscures the fact that it is is money paid by residents during increasingly challenging economic times. Of the three variants, I do not agree to variant three as the increase over three years, in conjunction with rising land values to underpin ad valorem rates, is not affordable for households. Variant 2 offers a reasonable solution, that balances cut-backs with maintaining services and some community facilities, such as a pool and the library. Variant 1 is the preferable solution, ensuring minimum service delivery but allowing residents to decide how best to spend their own funds, which could include increases in user pays access to maintain existing facilities.
830)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Out of the 3 suggested council Financial scenarios, I would vote for scenario 1, although I do not think that any scenario should involve increases in ratepayer fees, especially if the council remains unrestrained in its financial spendings on wages, buildings, excessive use of consultants and its use of the sale of council assets, such as council owned buildings, without ensuring competitive tendering processes are used to maximize ratepayer returns for the sale of assets that ratepayers had previously purchased via the use of ratepayer monies.
831)	Of the three scenarios, I favour Scenario 1 - Significantly reduce services.
832)	I note the proposals for the rate increase are significantly over that recommended by IPART. As the owner of a 2 bedroom unit & a self funded retiree I already pay double the average residential rate.Any increase is significant for me.

	I question why council has gone ahead with that huge building if finances are so limited. I also note councillors received a 22% pay rise Given the current inflation it is not a time to inflict huge rate rises on the community. My vote would be for SCENARIO ONE.
833)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I do not support the Council's proposed Special Rate Variation nor any of the options proposed by the Council. The size of the proposed rates increases is clearly unaffordable to many in the community. The Council has not abided by criteria set by IPART: the Council has not demonstrated that the proposed rates increases will only have a "reasonable impact" on ratepayers the Council has not provided a "history of well-documented council productivity improvements and cost containment strategies"; remarks in one paragraph on page 21 of the draft 2022-2032 long term financial plan cannot be considered to be such the Council has not demonstrated that the proposed rates reflect a "fair price" for the services provided The Council must be required to present additional opportunities to the community for consideration, including a full description of the services that are able to be provided under the following scenario: the 'live within our means' option: Council reduces its expenditure to be less than its income, where the income from rates reflects the IPART rate peg and is based on the 2022 land valuations issued by the Valuer General only provides services / level of service that are legally required to be provided by the Council a side note: my land valuation has increased 50% in the latest valuation issued by the Valuer General which will have a consequential effect on my council rates before any application of the rate peg or any additional increase proposed by the Council The Council must be required to release the independent financial assessment conducted by Morrison Low, in full and without redaction, to provide the community with all the information used by the Council to derive its three proposed options. In the late Kerry Packer's words, "I can tell you you're not spending it that well that we should be paying extra."
834)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** We are the owners of ****, Bywong and our rates paid to the Queanbeyan Palarang Council for this financial year are $3,818.07, we do not receiving anything for this money. We even have to pay when we go to the tip with our garbage bin. When we ring council about getting the grass and weeds cut along Macs Reef Road, nothing is done, it is now becoming a fire

	hazard. In view of this and the fact that the newly appointed council members (without any experience) voted themselves a large pay rise as well as superannuation as soon as they were elected, we are totally against any increase in rates.
835)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you for the extended opportunity to respond to this important Council decision. Unfortunately, I was away doing remote fieldwork during the previous response period, with travel to visit for family Christmas/ New Year/ Lunar NY thrown in. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who simply ran out of time to make a considered response at this very busy and disruptive time of year. I thank QPRC for its response to the pandemic and natural disasters over the past three years, and acknowledge that these circumstances have significantly contributed to its present parlous financial state. While I recognise that the financial position of QPRC is dire, this was not altogether unforeseeable, given that the primary reason for the merger which prompted the rate freeze was the unsustainable financial position of both former councils, one of which was already amalgamated with the former Tallaganda Shire for much the same reason. This should have provided an opportunity for sober reflection and a thorough examination of spending and potential efficiencies made possible by the merger. Instead, there has been profligate spending (e.g. new council offices relying on tenancy income in a CBD with several vacant premises; Rusten House; several enormous sportsgrounds (including one in Braidwood which went ahead without any approval/ heritage consideration within the heritage curtilage) which will impact QPRC debt and physical servicing requirements for many years. This has also exacerbated the effects of the rate freeze. Although there has been some limited community consultation, we are in the end provided with a choice between three scenarios, each involving substantial rate hikes, and all but the whopping 76% increase over 3 year scenario involving substantial cuts to community services. It's disingenuous to compare QPRC rates as they stand at the moment with other councils when rates are likely to rise by a significant margin, unless we know that other councils' rates face a similar increase. It's unclear how these specific cuts were decided, but their efficacy is sometimes questionable and the effect of some at least on the community is fairly dire, and likely to hit the least well-off and the more remote residents the hardest. It's also very difficult to provide informed and meaningful comment without any indication of the costs/ associated savings of each proposed cost-cutting measure. The Morrison Low report provides very little detail on efficiency dividends that could be achieved by QPRC itself – just a grab-bag of suggestions from staff and councillors, using 'hard' versus 'easy' as a criterion for achieving cost savings. What about a cost: benefit ratio regardless of the ease? As consumers and ratepayers, we probably have a wealth of money-saving suggestions – after all, it's our hip pockets affected. We see many examples of inefficient, wasteful, counter-productive council expenditure on a regular basis. Off the top of my head – paying exorbitant amounts for consultants reports which are subsequently ignored, not utilising expertise within council to do much of this work, outrageous amounts spent on truly cringe-worthy urban amenity, and expensive and utterly counter-productive vegetation management. I could provide an informed

	critique on this alone which would save QPRC vast sums of money. Having said that, many of the staff suggestions about improving the financial efficiency of QPRC have a great deal of merit. Stopping non-essential capital works must surely top the list, with realistic developer contributions, timed fees for considerable staff time in pre-approval meetings and follow-up, rationalising vehicle leasing arrangements (maybe even cutting fuel costs by electrifying the fleet?), scrutinising regular overtime, having a more comprehensive fee-for-service structure that reflects QPRC's staffing costs are all excellent suggestions. The Community Strategic Plan and the Integrated Planning and Reporting system are supposed to drive planning and investment in the medium to long term, and provide some accountability for council expenditure, reducing reactive, unplanned spending and competition within council to prop up its different pillars. The strategy and accountability of the system seems to be sorely lacking, and it's clear from cost breakdowns that portfolio managers do indeed compete for funds at the expense of some council functions – sustainability, biodiversity and rural amenity are standout poor cousins.
836)	As every day living costs are continually rising and we get minimal if any services at all I would like to see option number 1 instigated. Also a return to local council not with Queanbeyan as the funds are spread to thinly.
837)	All three of these scenarios are an insult. Either pay through the nose or get no services? If the later option is chosen can we also disband the council since they won't be doing anything anyway? Perhaps the council should consider how it can better use the money other than on increasing their own pay and having a cushy place to work.
838)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** 1. Upon reading your "Why do we need a rate rise?" section in QPRC News (December 22) my first question is…How on earth did the Council get to a position where such drastic action is contemplated? There is a fundamental issue which is not explained. Are the suggested percentages static or do they compound year on year? If static, the modelled options are drastic (varying from 36% over 3 years to 76% over 3 years). If they are compounding, the modelled options are alarming (varying from 50% to 100% over 3 years). 2. The table of comparative rates to other LGAs shows Queanbeyan rates currently are competitive to other areas. If you apply any of the proposed increases it would suggest that Queanbeyan rates will in the future no longer be competitive. I fail to see the purpose of including this table without specific recognition that it is, effectively, a short term, artificial view. 3. Your explanation for the proposed increases suggests 3 factors, being the rate freeze following the 2016 merger, natural disasters in 20/21 and significant changes to the economic environment in the last 6 months. Taking these in turn: Using the domestic, residential property my wife and I own in central Queanbeyan, and including only the base rate value and ad valorem value, the annual amounts paid by us over the period involved are as follows: Oct 2017 - $1,815 July 2018 - $1,857

	July 2019 - $1,907 Aug 2020 - $2,001 July 2021 - $2,044 The difference Oct 2017 to July 2021 is not great in absolute terms, being $229, but as a percentage that is 12.6%. By comparison, over a similar time period (Dec 2017 to Dec 2021) the All Groups CPI weighted average went from 112.1 to 119.2 estimated (Dec 2020 = 117.2, Dec 2021 = 121.3), representing a 6.2% increase. A cool period yes, but a freeze – no. The natural disasters referenced are not explained – presumably you are referencing bushfires, floods and COVID factors but without being more specific and giving some idea of what they were and their cost, how can this factor be assessed? Economic environment aspects are mentioned – what are they? If you mean inflationary pressures I agree that's a factor, but only commencing (say) 6 to 9 months ago. Nor have wage and salary rates in Australia risen much over this period. I just can't see how the anticipated inflation rate could drive the sorts of rates increases foreshadowed, so my question is …what else? In summary, my rates have already gone up by 12% over the period, ie more than keeping up with inflation over the period rate freeze notwithstanding. For most of the time the economic environment has been reasonably stable. So why is the Council in the dire position outlined? I think dire is an appropriate term given the magnitude of rises envisaged. 4. I have some concerns about numbers foreshadowed in comparison to similar numbers from other sources, or perhaps how they have been categorised. The QPRC News document outlines both Income and Expenses projections for 2022-23, for the General Fund, and I found it useful to compare those projections with equivalents from the 2021-22 Financial Statements, and in particular Table D1-1. The sectional breakdown terminology is inconsistent across the two sources, but it would appear that: Why do we need… Table D1-1 Income from continuing ops $161.3M $185.7M Expenses from continuing ops $183.1M $116.3M and the subset of Rates and Fees/Charges $42.5M $52M I am left wondering why on a year on year basis, that (1) the Income from Continuing Operations appears to reduce by some $24M, why (2) the Expenses from Continuing Ops appears to increase by $66.8M, and why (3) the Rates income appears to reduce by $9.5M. It may be that I am not comparing apples to apples, and if that's the case more equivalence of the

	classifications would have been beneficial. But on the surface, if these 3 outcomes are the case, it is clear why a Rate increase is needed – but it is not clear what is driving those factors. 5. The Expenses column in the QPRC News document stands out and in particular the item shown as $102.5M Infrastructure and Assets. For such a large proportion of the expenses this is just too broad to be useful. Returning to the question of rate freeze over 4 years, I would have thought the appropriate course of action was to correspondingly limit expenditures. However, from the size of the rate increases proposed it suggests that this did not occur, and significant ongoing liabilities have been raised. There is no detail whatever in the QPRC News article and this omission is a fundamental shortcoming. The question of what significance the new Council headquarters building has on the expenses position is clearly a topical one. I would have thought that this issue would have been explicitly addressed in the QPRC News article. The omission of major expense drivers needs to be addressed. 6. Mention is also made of a saving of $2.2M arising from the merger. When compared to the revenue and expense position this is a poor dividend, so it would seem that the merger has failed in economic terms. 7. I am concerned at statement like “Water, sewerage, stormwater and water access charges will not be affected by this change.” While that is strictly true the implication is that those charges will not increase as well. I may be wrong but I find that improbable if not impossible. Assuming there is no freeze for those items, perhaps a more honest portrayal may have been something like “Charges for water, sewerage…water access charges will be assessed in future periods independently from rates”. As it stands the statement lacks an obvious counterpoint. 8. Despite my concerns above I applaud the Council for openly addressing the question of rates in the QPRC News and seeking ratepayer feedback. I would like answers to the points I have raised and I will be in a better position to give an informed preference. Of all the possibilities mentioned in terms of reduced services, one we would not like to see is a reduction of the parks and gardens services. Sean Kaden and his team do a magnificent job, resulting in the Queanbeyan parks being superb in our view. That is one outcome we are prepared to fund generously.
839)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As a resident of Araluen I would like to make comment on the proposed rate rises which I acknowledge the need for. However I would also draw to the attention of council the minimal services provided by council in Araluen. I am aware of garbage collection and I believe that our unsealed road is done once over a 2 year period. I utilise the mobile library and also access the Braidwood branch. The locals have taken up the responsibility of mowing town areas. Thank you for sending men down throughout the year to mow the campground and other areas and to fill potholes. While Araluen remains staunchly independent in relying on volunteers to maintain our hall ,recreation ground, campground and roadside verges we would certainly appreciate that we not be disregarded because we are a small community at the end of council boundaries. All recent improvements in Araluen have been made possible through members of the community applying for funding and following through to ensure Araluen is not forgotten. Hopefully services in Braidwood will not be curtailed either as for Araluen

	residents this is where we need to go. Perhaps council may reconsider also the need for a greenwaste solution here We do not obviously have the urban monetary input of other towns but we are still part of council and I feel that the larger rate increases will be of benefit to the more densely settled areas while we will languish on the periphery without many of the obvious benefits and opportunities. While I appreciate the difficulty of management I would greatly appreciate consideration given to outlying small communities like ours.
840)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** With all the resources available to a functional business, surely a reasonable level of increase in rates should be able to be determined. I receive a CSC pension and a part age pension. The CSC increase in January 2023 was 3.6% in line with the CPI (a whopping $43.50 per fortnight). Of course this is easily swallowed up with the various increases in everyday costs. As pensioners we do not have opportunities to earn extra through overtime and should not have to go back to casual work to pay for extravagant rate rises through the financial mismanagement and incompetence of our local council. There are many pensioners living in Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council area and we should not be stressed by the possibility of exorbitant rate rises. I have lived in ********** **** for the past 47 years.
841)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I refer to Council's proposal to apply to IPART for a special rate variation (a rate increase). I do NOT support any of the 3 rate increase scenarios proposed by Council. It is quite extraordinary that at a time of cost of living crisis Council would propose such extraordinary rate increases. Where does Council think ratepayers will find the money to pay for these increases and at the same tome pay for soaring electricity and gas costs, increased food costs, significantly increased petrol prices, increased home insurance costs, increased mortgage costs etc? Council should do exactly what ratepayers are expected to do - LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS. Ratepayers don't have the option of going to their employers and obtaining a 28%, 25% and 23% wage increase for each of the next 3 years (ie a 97% increase over 3 years). Council's employers are the ratepayers and, in the same way as the employers of ratepayers would clearly reject such an outlandish pay rise, Council should not expect rate payers to fund its totally unreasonable rate increases. The same applies to the proposed rate rises in scenarios 1 and 2 Rate payers are already doing it tough and this proposal by Council is simply the straw the will break the camel's back - or doesn't the Council understand this - particularly when working in the lavish and expensive new Council complex. Probably not, given that the first thing the new Council did (with a few notable exceptions like Councillors Mareeta Grundy, Michele Biscotti, Jacqueline Tournouth and Louise Burton) was to grant itself a 22% pay rise (and the Mayor a 33% pay rise). So much for being

	in touch with community expectations. As Councillor Grundy said at the time: "I find it somewhat absurd that we not only give ourselves a pay rise, but a substantial pay rise to the top of what is possible within the legislation, when the majority of councillors have no experience…It's like immediately rewarding someone who has come to the job without any experience." If, despite extraordinary cost of living rises, ratepayers have to make do with a 2% or 3% annual wage rise, then Council should be required to do the same. Ratepayers are not milk cows that are there to feed the whims and wishes of the Council. If ratepayers have to cut back on essentials and live within their means, then Council should do the same. There are always more savings that Council can make, despite the cost saving measures it touts in its support for the unjustified rate increases. Nothing in life comes for free, and if some residents want particular services then they should pay their own way and not expect all ratepayers to subsidise them. There is a thing called user pays - and if this means that users of particular services (eg the pool) have to pay more, then that is what should happen - Council can increase its fees for those services and not expect all ratepayers to fund services which they do not use. And while Council says that only the general rate charge will be subject to the rate increase, we all know that once this rate charge is increased, it won't be long before Council will be proposing significant rises to garbage or general waste, sewerage, stormwater, or water access charges. This will occur as surely as night follows day. The Council's figures for the rate increases are also misleading and are explained in a way that is clearly meant to mislead the public about the severity of the rate rises. For example, under scenario 3, Council states that: "For an average ratepayer this would be an increase in year one of $356 per annum or $6.85 extra per week, in year two this would be another increase of $407 per annum or $7.85 per week and in year three another increase of $468 per annum and $9.00 per week." This is clearly disingenuous and misleading. I used the rate calculator for my rates and this is what it showed for scenario 3 in relation to the current level of rates: Current rates are $1,520. In year one this will rise to $1,931 per annum - an increase in year one of $411 per annum or $7.90 extra per week. In year 2 the current rates would rise to $2411 per annum -an increase in year 2 of $891 per annum or $17.10 per week. In year 3 the current rates would rise to $2957 - an increase in year 3 of $1437 per annum or $27.60 per week. So in 3 years, Council expects ratepayers to be paying an extra $1,437 ($27.60 a week) over and above what they are paying today - this is essentially a 100% increase in the general rates in 3 years - (or to put it another way, a doubling of the current general rates). And this does not take account the rises that will no doubt be made in the garbage or general waste, sewerage, stormwater, or water access charges. No wonder Council is trying to deceive the public about the real increase of the general

	rates. On this basis, I do not support any of the rate increases proposed by Council. As said previously, Council should, like the general public, live within its means and if this means finding extra cost savings, then so be it. If the ratepayers that employ the Council have to make such decisions and sacrifices in their own lives, then Council should do the same. If it needs to increase the cost of specific services (such as the pool) then it should be the users of those services that should pay extra to use those services, not the ratepayers who don't use the services. If funding needs to be cut for heritage grants and community activities then so be it. Council is already failing in its responsibilities for mowing and maintenance so it won't make any difference as the money it would receive won't be used for these essential operational activities of Council but will no doubt be used for some woke cause dreamed up by some activist Councillors or Council staff, such as climate change activism. Rather than focussing on such woke ideological issues, Council should focus its operations and finances on essential services. Council's argument that Queanbeyan is on par with the rates for other Councils is also disingenuous. While that may be true, what Council does not say is that these other Councils have not proposed the extraordinary rate increases as proposed by the QPRC Council. The same goes for the justification for the millions being spent on the new Council, building that "The current buildings that house Council staff in Queanbeyan are not easily accessible to the community…". This is a nonsense argument. On what basis are these buildings not easily accessible by the community, such that Council feels a need to spend millions of ratepayer dollars on a new, grand building? I'm sure there are lots of homeowners that feel that their home is not as grand as they would like, but they don't have an option to get their employer to increase their wages by 100% over 3 years so they can afford to upsize their houses. As stated in section 8B of the Local Government Act, Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses. For Council to want to increase general rates by 100% over 3 years is neither responsible nor sustainable spending. There are some wonderful staff at the Council who are doing a great job, so these comments about Council's proposed unacceptable rate increase is no reflection on them or the good work they are doing.
842)	Scenario 1 - it's disgusting that Council threatens to reduce services region-wide and cut funding to pensioners unless they get the rate rise that they want. Upon merging and knowing that revenue was capped for the next four years Council should have managed their spending appropriately but instead they overcommitted and are now in this mess. If you're making us choose between bad, worse, or worst this is the best solution, obviously, but that doesn't make the option acceptable. Scenario 2 - deplorable that rates would rise this much and services and funding to pensioners would still be cut. Scenario 3 - absolutely unacceptable that households should have their base and adv charges increased by almost 100% in three years (whilst, let's be honest, all the other fees increase as well) to bail out an ineffective organisation. If rates rise like this Council will force people out of the region and repel newcomers.

843)	
844)	All scenarios do not appear to have been thought out and core services prioritised. The Wastage by council on activities like painting a barely used laneway or replacing flowers every 3 mths which are not core services like good safe roads should be stopped until there is an excess of money for such activities.
845)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I am responding to your survey regarding the imposition of increased rate charges and additional proposals. My comments are made as a long-term Queanbeyan resident and rate payer of 50 years. I accept that increases in rates will occur. I accept that there will be additional user pay charges associated with use of Council owned facilities. I oppose the sale of the Q. Thus I oppose scenario 1. I note that two proposals seem to have targeted the Q theatre and none have addressed other potential revenue sources e.g. the many under-utilised sporting fields the city has (n.b Seiffert Oval) and the new Council building constructed in Crawford St. I would support the sale of under-utilised sporting facilities and Council buildings apart from the Q. Whilst it is a difficult decision to make, the priorities in targeting the Q tell me a lot about what is of value to Council and its Officers. Issues and comments re opinions I accept rate rises It is inevitable that rates will rise and this situation has to be accepted. It appears Council is considering the impact on pensioners and hopefully you would consider support for low income families. I oppose the sale of the Q. Queanbeyan isn't just be about sport. The Q has given Queanbeyan a wonderful image in the region and a sense of identity. It is a source of pride to the community. I see it as the one tangible reflection that Queanbeyan has a cultural life. I also consider that as an older rate payer, I gain no amenity from the sporting fields in Queanbeyan. I pay the same rates as everyone else but should the Q be sold, I receive little back by way of community amenity. I oppose its sale for the reasons outlined below. It is a one-off purpose built theatre (unlike the B) and is unique in the Region. It is the only such facility accessible to residents of Queanbeyan and provides a brilliant theatre experience without needing to

	go to Canberra. It is a sustainable resource which Council will never again be in the position to develop. It was hard fought for, over many years, by many community groups in consultation; and with the financial support of the State Government and community groups. Should the Q be sold as a theatre concern, the hefty increases in costs imposed by commercial owners will lead to unsustainable costs to local theatre companies, schools and community users who will likely be driven out of using Queanbeyan. The Q theatre has relevance for people of all ages (given that it is still supported by Council and affordable for use by community groups). Once sold it can't be bought back and a commercial developer can do anything with it, including using it for purposes other than theatre. It is a community cultural icon. There are many sporting facilities available in the Council area but only this one theatre for a city of this size. Issues to consider re: Sporting facilities and their sale? Both of my children utilised the sporting fields of Queanbeyan as members of the local cricket club and also through soccer and Rugby Union. My view is that many sporting fields appear under-utilised and yet the building of a Regional sports hub in Jerrabomberra is proceeding. My suggestion would be to sell some sporting ovals (e.g. Seiffert Oval) instead of considering the one purpose built theatre in Queanbeyan. Other Council facilities I would like Council to consider the sale or lease of the new Council building in Crawford St whose construction seems to be a very short sighted decision by previous Councils. I recognise this would be an unpopular decision, given that Council staff are looking forward to moving into their new facility. However I see this building as having little impact on the quality service delivery provided to the community. I am not alone in this belief. Interest charges on these buildings will be hefty. I am wondering why we should gain a Council building (of little value to the community) but would consider losing a theatre which is directly of high value to the community. I am also aware that many Queanbeyan ratepayers are unaware of the proposals nor of the consultation period. Finally I am querying if the current Council has approached the State government regarding financial support as it appears to me that the restructure of Councils (under the Baird and then Berejiklian governments) imposed impossible demands on Council in amalgamation. Previous Councils appear to have 'taken the money offered by the State Government and have now run'. It was always going to be problematic.

	With the hopes of a sensible resolution.
846)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I note your information circular re planned rate rises. Some points worth making: a) Given current inflationary pressures it is hard to imagine a worst time for the rate rises you propose. I wonder if you have done any modelling on the likely impact of these increases on residential rents in the local area and the subsequent increase in homelessness. b) Perhaps predictably, your explanation for the need for these rises is scarce to be trusted and seeks to evade properly nominating the reasons for those circumstances. For example : * If, or perhaps as , the rates rises are largely driven by the forced amalgamation of Queanbeyan and Palerang shires then it behooves you to say so and identify where the blame sits EG The blame lies with the State Government of specifically Labor or Liberal stripe.(useful to know with a State election coming up) and the residents of Queanbeyan are being asked to carry the financial can for the rural elements of the newly amalgamated shire. * It is clear that at least part of the problem arises from Queanbeyan Council's involvement in stupid and financially reckless project such as the Q Theatre. The utterly predictable failure of this project and resultant financial burden on ratepayers is extremely vexing. You outline three scenarios and your evident expectation is that people nominate one or the other propositions. Naturally the position is much more complex than that. On balance i lean towards Scenario 2 : Reduce Services but without introducing Paid Parking and taking additional savings from Scenario !. I obviously favor Privatizing or Selling the Q (and cursing the dolts who decided it was a good idea in the 1st place) but it is hard to make other suggestions without a better idea of what the actual cost benefits of particular steps are. I note that in the section entitled "Why do we need a rate rise" you mention that without these rises then you will be forced to introduce paid parking in Queanbeyan CBD. However you suggest that in 2 out of 3 rating scenarios you intend to introduce such a scheme anyway. It is hard to imagine a dumber idea than paid parking in Queanbeyan. Clearly it will have a negative impact on local business and urban amenity and will cause chaos in parking at Jerrabombarre and Karabar as traffic is dis-placed to those areas. Moreover , and perhaps most significantly, it will poison the relationship between rate-payers and Council as they learn to curse the QPRC every time they are forced to pay this unfair and regressive charge.

847)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Greetings from Braidwood. We support Scenario 3: Maintenance of Services. As pensioners, my wife and I, support this scenario. We believe the following points are pertinent. It is unconscionable that you should ever consider selling off The Q and reducing library services as indicated in Scenarios 1 & 2. Libraries provide such an important meeting place for the community and also provide library users with direct access to the internet, especially important for unemployed people who wish to access Centrelink. In an ideal world, QPRC also needs to improve existing library services to match the opening hours of its neighbours at the Eurobodalla and Goulburn Mulwaree Shires. It is only Scenario 3 that lists a $100 pensioner rebate for the whole LGA. Scenario 2 states reduced services would involve only keeping one pool and stopping development of new sports and aquatic facilities. The idea of the Shire having only one pool is beyond belief, especially in view of the 52 drownings reported so far this year (see https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/research-and-policy/drowning-research/summer-drowning-toll
848)	Increase rates.
849)	**VIA HARD COPY SURVEY** Any rate rise will impact me as a self-funded retiree who is just above the cut-off for govt financial support. Cost of living espec power, gas, petrol prices have negative impact and my husband and I struggle to continue to live our preferred way of life on our own 100 acres. ANY rate rise will have consequences for us, but loss of library and customer service in Braidwood, let along losing other facilities would be tragic. In the worst of all the choices I have to opt for Scenario 2.
850)	As farmers we are price takers not price makers, we cannot add price increases when we sell our livestock. When we do sell our livestock we also have the added cost of LLs rates, transport, commission, council rates, MLA levies, Council charges and fees at the saleyards then the tax man. If you increase the rates to Scenario 3 we will be paying $20 000 per year and we dont receive any service for the $11700 rates we pay now so what value for money will we receive for the extra $8000 we will be paying? Two thirds of the time the seasons are average to below average in farming. The majority of us have become very efficient at what we do other wise you would go broke very quickly. We have learnt when things are tough you cant keep spending money. If you borrow it it takes a long time to pay it back. We also have to factor in droughts with an El Nino predicted from October this year we will once again be experiencing the dry times, less money for our product and we wont have the ability to pay the increases on any of your scenarios. If cattle go back to $200 per head we would have to sell 100 cows just to pay the rates. This is not right because we dont get any services for the $20000.

	The Council should be working under the scenario that if you cant afford it dont spend it. You cant keep spending beyond your means. You need to make some really tough decisions to become a lot more efficient. This may mean going back to basics that the councils were originally set up for. Roads, garbage water and sewage, cemeteries and mow the parks. The rest contract out and make the contractors accountable and GUARANTEE their work or disband and start again or make redundant those services that are not essential. Tough times call for tough decisions. You are just taking the easy option raising the rates. You have not addressed all the inefficiencies that are happening in your business (Contractors, waste within the council itself) You need to take this $250million operation apart. A lot of people may not like it But if nothing is done to change the structure of the council you will be in the same situation in a few years time because nothing has changed. As farmers we are also expecting Foot and Mouth Disease or Lumpy skin disease to eventually wipeout our herds. Then we will have no income. We dont have a voice in council as all the councillors are citified and have their own agendas which dont include helping farmers whose current rates at 11700 will increase to 20000. We dont have any chance of having a voice either because the ward system was abolished. So your rate rise will see us paying $20000 for not very little. Our roads are crap, and even the weeds arent sprayed along the road this year yet you say you take biosecurity very seriously. As discussed with Rebecca Ryan and Kate Montgomery at Gundillion Hall we do not support a rate rise because of the wastage and no value for money that we already pay.
851)	Honestly, I think it's pretty unsatisfactory that the majority of proposed funding cuts are to the aspects of Queanbeyan (and surrounds) that make this place a community. Having grown up in Queanbeyan and attended High School here - I'm pretty confident in saying that, cuts to services for Youth in particular (Axis, Skate Park, the Pool, etc.) will have a hugely detrimental impact on the children and adolescents who call Queanbeyan home. One consideration that is probably not too far from the minds of many others is, where do these kids go when the services/facilities they use are no longer available? We have a community that is gentrifying, yes, and there is money here. But to take services away from the people who need, and possibly use them the most, will have serious consequences for other parts of our community. It would be worth exploring what the expected increase to crime prevention and law enforcement would need to be, if these services are no longer available (but this is totally not a QPRC problem, aside from an increase to insurance for damage to public facilities - which assumedly will raise our rates again). The reduction on the amount of Councillors, as one of the last items for the ratepayers to consider, can't be overlooked. I personally am not prepared to watch the community that I know and love suffer, due to (evidently) extreme financial mismanagement - and, that said, am prepared to pay a price that I can afford to not see that happen. The cost of living increases generally, will have devastating effects on some of our community. The proposed rate increases, which largely are to cover the overspend of a merged council with grand plans for their own accommodation, will leave some people with no choice but to sell their homes (if they can) and relocate. It will put an enormous financial strain on those in our community who have

	successfully broken into the housing market, and are now faced with increasing interest and council rates that will see their communities deteriorate, property prices fall, and put many people back to square one.
852)	1. All Options Too Expensive and Hide Problem. All three options are far too expensive. Nobody outside of QPRC will see the problem if the ratepayers simply pay more. Council needs to reduce services to the point where rate increases need only rise in accordance with CPI. If this means that the QP shire becomes a dirty un-kept region with no amenities that nobody wants to live in then that might finally draw enough attention to the problem. More GST and state revenue needs to be channelled to councils by the Federal and State governments. I strongly recommend shutting every QRPC amenity and letting the parks and roads perish until that funding necessity is addressed, which it will, following state and federal elections. Council staff numbers can be reduced proportionally with the loss of amenities and services. 2. Ratepayer Contributions Already Too High and Misrepresented. Council is dishonestly misrepresenting the current costs to ratepayers in QPRC relative to other towns by excluding large additional fixed costs for water and sewerage in their calculations. When adding those costs, the total annual bill for my property in Bungendore is already double what my residence in Port Stephens costs. That will only get worse when these massive land rate increases are added. 3. Revenue from Expansion Misrepresented. Increasing rates in accordance with CPI should be sufficient to maintain services. Adding new ratepayers through population expansion should be a self-funding activity. Council appears to be dishonestly misrepresenting the revenue by only including the ratepayer contributions and not the developer contributions.
853)	Scenario One is the only possible option as no one will be able to pay the increases suggested in Two and Three. Properties will reduce in value as no one will want to buy property in the area when they can buy in ACT with much cheaper rates. Businesses will not see any benefit to establishing in the area with such increased costs.
854)	A group of six farmers (all multi million dollar businesses) met with Rebecca Ryan and Kate Monoghan at the Gundillion Hall and basically said we dont get value for money for our rates and the doubling of our already hefty rates bills Currently around 11000 and will double to 22000 with scenario 3. The group were very vocal when it came to the wastage within the council, the contractors and their inefficiencies and multi million dollar businesses should not be asking for more money from rate payers as this is the soft option. The wastage should be addressed from within first and we arent talking about the garbage services! We are disgusted that rates have continually increased and the council is not living within its means. You know how much you collect in rates so only spend that amount. You are living beyond your means. Look at fees and charges and adopt better systems for the management of contractors because they are inefficient. Look at reducing the cents per unit on the ad valorem rate portion on our rates because we are paying a huge amount for little service. Your policies all say rates should be fair and equitable. The rates we pay are not fair or equitable because we do not receive value for money or any services for that matter. Our roads are falling to pieces, the weeds are not sprayed along the side of the roads yet we are forced to pay for services we do not use. we do not attend parks in Queanbeyan, Bungendore or Braidwood, we do not visit Q buildings or cultural events, we do not attend youth services,or requirethe services of pools aquatic centres, playgrounds, skate parks, sports fields, cycle ways or footpaths, BUT we will have to pay $20000 per year for

	someone else to do that whilst we put up with bad roads. We object to the rate rises in any of the scenarios. Live within your means.
855)	There is plenty of opportunity for the council to reduce mismanagement of funds and still provide services without putting rates up.
856)	I am shocked and quite appalled by the council rates percentage increase in all three scenarios. How on earth is the lowest level of service (still a 41% increase!) not even enough funds council wide to continue current services? What on earth is happening?? I know that costs have increased, but not by any of the amounts that are proposed under all three scenarios. How did the situation get SO dire, that the community is given such an ultimatum, with so little notice or input? The news on the rate increase has also been woefully communicated. I know that it was announced in the QPRC newsletter, but I think considering the hike in rates that is being discussed in ALL scenarios, there should have been more effort to let the community know. The QPRC "have your say on rate rise scenarios" survey was advertised on the 28th November 2022. The financial state of the QPRC would've been more than evident months prior to this date. To have only until the end of January 2023 (extended date) is not good enough considering what you are asking of the community. With the cost-of-living sky rocketing, how on earth does the Council expect rate payers to keep up with these proposed rate increases? My salary has not had such a hike due to the pandemic or the cost of living. So many people and families are struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table. Postponing payment as a method of “assisting” those who can’t pay, just defers the problem. It makes it much worse later when they are facing a mountain of debt. This is an extremely bad time to do this to people. So many households will not be able to pay the increase in rates that will be incurred by even scenario 1, let alone 2 or 3. I feel that the breakdown of what services will go feels like a threat to the community. How are we supposed to respond to that? Of course, we want and need council services. This feels like mismanagement on the part of the council. I don't agree that the QPRC rates are so woefully behind those suburbs in the ACT. I understand the need for some sort of increase in rates, but 41%, 64% or 97% over a period of 3 years is really pushing the envelope. How can a rates increase of 12% per year over a period of 3 years still result in such community service losses?? Maybe amalgamation of the Queanbeyan and Pelarang Councils was a mistake. The size of the LGA is simply too large for the number of rate payers footing the bill. The financial sustainability was only being considered officially (according to public notices on the QPRC website) on November 16th 2022! How does the QPRC council expect the community to be able to respond with that sort of notice for such a HUGE decision? If the QPRC is in such dire straits, how was there funds to build a new multi-million dollar council building and a $74 million dollar QCCP, or increase the salaries of the councillors by over 20% and QPRC staff award increases of $1 million? Regardless of which option is foisted on the community/rate payers, what will happen at the end of the three-year increase and the money required is recouped? Will the rates stay the same? Will they decrease? Or will they increase again? This information needs to be more transparent. The average residential rates that the council has provided in the rate rise proposal doesn’t seem to reflect the rates currently being charged. The data is from the 2019-2020 financial year, not the 2021-2022 or even 2022-2023 financial year. This seems misleading. Who on earth is being charged rates so low?? For what? And how is this the average?? $1155? You must be kidding? I own a 2-bedroom townhouse in Queanbeyan West and I am paying more than $2600!! My current rates, based on the land value of my property from 2019 (not the almost double value figure for 2022!) are currently more than someone living in a 3-bedroom townhouse in the ACT! My current rates, not even the proposed ones, are MORE than those of a property

	worth over 2.5 times as much, with 4 bedrooms, in Adelaide's inner south! Are the proposed rates scenarios based on the 2022 Land Value figure? Or the 2019 land value figure? There is a big difference! Additionally, in regard to remaining rates and charges not included as part of the "general rates", what is going to happen in regard to those figures? I assume that they will not remain the same as they are currently, but also increase? How much will THEY increase? That needs to be considered too. You must realise that any of these scenarios will bankrupt A LOT of people!? How are people supposed to keep up with these increases? I understand that the rates need to increase to reflect the increase in the cost of services and prices for goods/materials etc, but your proposal is ridiculous! Maybe less money needs to be spent on new Council offices? Or perhaps, pay rises could be more in tune with the majority, 3% - not 22%! I think the QPRC needs a reality check. Who has been managing the finances? Where has the money gone? The community should not be punished by having to foot the bill for what is clear financial mismanagement on the Council's part. If scenario 1, involves "significantly reducing services", what on Earth DOES the accumulated 41% rates hike cover? How can an increase so HUGE give us drastically less, if not next to nothing? Same goes for Scenario 2! Clearly some of the Councils "current operations" need a drastic reassessment. I have talked to many rate payers in the QPRC LGA and most of them had absolutely no idea about the proposed rate rises! Boy, would they get a shock come rate paying time! Considering these massive changes you are proposing in ALL scenarios, the council should have at LEAST mailed this information and these proposed changes to ALL RATEPAYERS!!! Putting the information in the council Newsletter is not enough. Those who have "no junk" on their mailboxes didn't even get that. I learned of these proposed changes on Facebook of all places in a Canberra Times article. Not good enough QPRC. I am speechless, fuming and quite frankly terrified. Regards
857)	Scenario 1 is an insult to all citizens of Queanbeyan and is used as a scare technique. Scenario 3 is the only viable one, but I have now idea how I am going to afford it on $25,000/annum with all the other costs going up as well, such as water and sewerage and strata fees. NSW government could spend less on Sydney and think more about the regional/rural areas!
858)	Please stay within your means like we all need to. Cut out this spending beyond your income. Please implement a policy where you can live within the rate cap.
859)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Anyway, I think it's obvious that my wife and I are opting for, um, NO rate increase on top of the annually indexed increases. But in terms of the proposed options, it will be for the lowest (option one). As for cancelling services and closing pools etc, I bloody dare you! People come to Queanbeyan because it offers an affordable lifestyle to those who would otherwise go elsewhere to find value for money, so all you'll do is deter or push them away. Naturally this means less money into local businesses and ultimately less rates for you to squander on your own pay rises! You should be hanging your heads in shame, you bunch of failures!

860)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Braidwood Community Association Submission Summary • While the need for an SRV was inevitable, the timing for this could not be worse given the cost-of-living crisis many are facing. • Council's core funding is being squeezed by both federal and state governments. The BCA urges QPRC and the Local Government Associations to increase their lobbying activities to improve the core funding by both federal and state governments. • Ratepayers want a Council that delivers the services they need at a cost that they can afford and a Council that improve its efficiency and does not over-extend itself. • There is a perception that the previous Council has over-committed to many major capital projects, over-extending Council's commitments and workload. • The dramatic increase in loans is an illustration of this. Since amalgamation $99.2m in loans have been taken out with a further $113.1m flagged for the future, bringing the total loans to a staggering quarter of a billion dollars ($253.9m). The fact that Council has been refused TCorp loans recently underlines its serious financial situation and can only increase cost to ratepayers. • The BCA urges Council to carefully scrutinise all existing and new projects where a final commitment is not yet made and only commit to new projects where clear value is demonstrated. The BCA wants to see accountability and transparency. • The BCA believes Council should seriously consider deferring or cancelling the Monaro Street upgrade project and redirecting the $15.25m allocated toward rural roads where the needs are much greater. • The BCA believes Council managers need to focus on a coordinated delivery of services to ensure that all projects are delivered on time and on budget and that QPRC undertakes a full review of managerial and administrative practices to improve efficiency and reduce waste and duplication. • Cuts flagged under Scenario 1 would seriously disadvantage rural areas where there are fewer services. Many community activities rely on small funds from Council that are multiplied by community in-kind and financial contributions. These activities can represent the heart of a local community. • Loss of community services such as community halls and meeting spaces, pools, libraries, customer service centres and depots would adversely impact small communities in terms of employment, local businesses, education and the physical and mental well-being of residents. • The BCA supports engaging the community in seeking improvements to Council services. The BCA recommends that seeking engagement of the community, and in particular staff, in suggesting efficiency improvements should be part of Council's ongoing work practices. • The BCA does not agree with the use of dividends from the water and sewer funds to prop up the income of the general fund.

	• The possibility of reducing the number of Councillors is not supported by the BCA. Reducing the number of Councillors will lead to a further concentration of representation in the areas of highest population, leading to a reduction in democracy. • The BCA undertook a survey of its members and the broader community in the post code area 2622 on the SRV. The results are included and discussed at the end of our submission. The Braidwood Community Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Special Rate Variation scenarios (SRV). **The need for an SRV** Before amalgamation, both Palerang and Queanbeyan Councils were in financial difficulties. Consideration of an SRV is not new. Palerang Council was intending to request a cumulative SRV of 24.0 per cent over a five-year period from 2016–17, while Queanbeyan City Council received approval for an SRV of 5.8 per cent over a one-year period in 2012–13[1]. The amalgamation incentive payments injected funds into Council's budget at the time, but this just delayed the impact of the 4-year rates freeze following amalgamation. QPRC is not alone in considering a Special Rate Variation. Many councils, especially amalgamated councils, find themselves going through this difficult process. The timing of this consideration is unfortunate given the increasing cost-of-living and current inflationary pressures. **Structural problem in funding councils** The BCA believes there is a structural problem in the way the rates cap is currently calculated by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). By not increasing rates on an annual basis sufficiently to meet the escalation of costs, the council will see itself in the same position time and again in the future. The BCA appreciates that the rate cap system is aimed at improving the efficiency of councils. There is a limit to how much efficiency gains can contribute to reducing costs without impacting on services, especially in this period of rising costs for councils. The decline in funding by the Federal Government is also an important factor, with the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants falling as a proportion of Commonwealth taxation revenue from about 1% to around just 0.53% over the last couple of decades. This needs to be reversed. Council's core funding is being squeezed by both Federal and State governments and so the BCA urges QPRC and the NSW and Australian Local Government Associations to increase their lobbying activities to improve the core funding by both federal and state governments. **Ratepayers want value for money** Ratepayers want a Council that delivers the services they need at a cost that they can afford and a Council that improve its efficiency and does not over-extend itself There is a perception that the previous Council made the situation worse. Council had too many major capital projects at once, over-extending its commitments and workload. A failure to seriously scrutinise these numerous projects enabled loans and

	subsequent debts to dramatically increase. As a result, Council is left with too many legacy projects which are costly, potentially high risk, and beyond its ability to fund. The BCA is disappointed that there is little apparent accountability on those who made these decisions. From a loans summary sheet provided, it appears that before amalgamation the combined loans of the two Councils were $41.5m, with a balance remaining at 30 September 2022 of $29.8m. Since amalgamation a further $99.2m in loans has been taken out, bringing the balance remaining at 30 September 2022 to $115m. Plans made by the previous Council to take out a further $113.1m in new loans from 2023-27 would bring the total loans to a staggering quarter of a billion dollars ($253.9m). While not all these loans are to be financed out of general rates, too many are. Many will need to have the interest and repayments paid out of general rates. Out of the loans taken out since amalgamation only $9.4m are fully funded by fees, $40.4m by rates alone, and a further $51.7m by rates, fees and developer contributions. For the future the balance is better with $80m of the loans to be fully funded from service charges, $24.4m by rates alone and $9m by rates and charges. Legacy loans from Palerang Council were predominantly for essential infrastructure, and were funded from fees and charges paid by users of those services, not from general rates. By contrast, most loans inherited from Queanbeyan City Council were for capital works in Queanbeyan and funded from general rates. The only loan for Braidwood since amalgamation is $2.75m for the Waste Transfer Station, to be funded by service charges. It is extremely disappointing that QPRC finds itself in a position that it recently was unable to borrow from TCorp because of its extremely serious financial situation. The details of commercial loans at higher interest rates are yet to be disclosed. For transparency reasons, it is necessary that these loan interest rates are known. The BCA is not aware how many future loans QPRC has already committed to, but it urges Council to carefully scrutinise existing projects where a final commitment is not yet made and only commit to new projects where clear need and value is demonstrated. The BCA recommends that Council takes a far more critical approach to any large capital works projects. The BCA wants to see due diligence, accountability and transparency in all Council considerations. Our experience with Council staff is that they are typically dedicated, but are over-worked. This is linked to having too many projects to be managed by too few people, which leads to inefficiencies and mistakes in delivery. We see too many projects behind schedule (in part due to the exceptional weather) adding to the final cost and Council's bottom line. The BCA hopes there is a centralised project management system, and requests that a live, current report on the status of projects be made available on Council's website. **Equity of treatment of ratepayers** The BCA fully supports the following statement by the Araluen Progress Association. *"The amalgamation has left us with a clumsy demography, where the bulk of the population lives in the urban areas close to Queanbeyan which already has access not just to QPRC services, but to the National services available in Canberra for arts, sports, recreation, specialist healthcare and commercial activity. Further centralising services into that geographic patch, while expecting outlying communities to increase their funding of those services, with no realistic benefit to them is not fair. We derive no realistic benefit from new sports centres close to Queanbeyan, and while we don't begrudge them to people who will use them it's a bit rich to ask us to pay for them.*" It is understandable that rural communities resent the proposed SRV, when they will receive little benefit from the increase. They struggle to see any benefit while travelling on dangerous roads that are desperately in need of major maintenance.

	Appendix B of the Organisational Service Review Report suggests that Council could stop sealing new roads and focus on existing assets saving a mere $39,000 over 2 years. We wonder if this refers to the sealing of gravel roads, as all new roads in new developments should surely be paid for by the developers. The BCA urges that no cuts be made to the sealing and maintenance of rural roads, and instead more funds be devoted to this activity. The BCA acknowledges that average general rates in Braidwood and villages are lower than in other parts of QPRC. But there are some strange anomalies in the services provided. For example, footpaths in Queanbeyan are swept daily, but only weekly in Bungendore and Braidwood. You have to ask the question why the footpaths in Queanbeyan need to be swept daily but only weekly elsewhere? Surely the frequency of sweeping in Queanbeyan can be reduced. **Scenarios being considered.** During this process the scenarios or options being considered have evolved with some options being rejected by Council. The final three scenarios going to public consultation are: Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services: Increase rates by 12% every year for 3 years. This scenario does not fully fund current Council operations and will require a strategy to find immediate savings of $12 million each year. Scenario 2: Reduce Services: Increase rates by 18% every year for 3 years. This scenario maintains only core services and requires a strategy to find immediate savings of $5.5 million each year. Scenario 3: Maintain Services: Increase rates by 28% in year 1, 25% in year 2 and 23% in year 3. This scenario maintains current services and asset renewal and allows for improvements to facilities and roads. The BCA understands that, until a decision has been made, it is difficult to detail what services will be cut under Scenario 1 or 2. Appendix B of the Organisational Service Review Report gives some costed service reductions. Many of these[2] are not service reductions but efficiency improvements which Council should already be doing and needs to do urgently. Most of the suggestions in Appendix B are for incremental savings, with the exception of a review of the capital works (survey number 57) which leads to $14m in savings. Unfortunately, the detail is not given in the document, but in a pdf document which is not provided. The BCA notes the 3 page explainer provided by Council also gives some of the possible uncosted cuts which appear to be quite different to those set out in Appendix B. This lack of transparency undermines confidence in the process. The BCA notes that Council in its SRV survey has asked in Q4 *"Are there any services you think Council should change, reduce or stop doing? If so, what are they and how should they change?"*. The BCA believes that seeking engagement of the community, and in particular staff, in suggesting efficiency improvements should be part of Council's ongoing work practices. While many of the ideas coming forward may not be practical, it only takes a few good ideas to make such a process worthwhile. The BCA is disappointed that Council appears to not be considering savings from delaying or cancelling some of the major projects of the previous Council. Notably there is no discussion on the scope for potential savings on the $48m expenditure on the QBN Civic & Cultural Precinct in 2022-23. This expenditure represents half of the expenditure in the general fund in that year and is bigger than the total expenditure in any of the outlook years, except for 2024-25.

2

	In particular, the BCA believes Council should seriously consider deferring or cancelling the Monaro St upgrade project, or cut it down to essential work only, to negate the need for a $5.25m loan. Council should explore whether the $10m grant can be diverted to rural roads where dangerous conditions necessitate urgent work. These roads convey local children to school, sport, and social events on a daily basis. A bus accident on any of these roads will be a tragedy. Some of the cuts flagged under Scenario 1 would be an enormous loss, particularly to rural areas where there is a greater sense of community and fewer council services. These include: – Stop funding community activities, (arts, community development, youth, seniors, heritage grants and First Nations activities) – Stop funding community halls and meeting spaces – Closing pools, some sportsgrounds and playgrounds – Closing libraries, customer service centres and depots at Bungendore and Braidwood – Removing community grant support. These are all facilities and activities that help make communities what they are, and the loss of them could be devastating, as rural people are dependent on them. Many community activities rely on relatively small seed funding by Council which is multiplied many times by in-kind and financial contributions by community associations. These activities can represent the heart of a local community. The cost of the use of community halls and meeting spaces is already financially stretching community organisations using these facilities. To further increase this cost may well result in stranded assets which are not used because the cost is too high. This is recognised in the answers to Questions on Notice in the minutes of the public forum held on 14 December 2022, with Q15 answer stating *"There is of course a price point that would make these facilities unaffordable to the general public, and this is not the intent of a community service. It is Council's preference that sporting and recreational facilities, community halls and meeting spaces are used to their full potential. This may mean that user charges and fees remain nominal for all residents, volunteer community groups and sporting associations."* The current spate of tragic deaths by drownings underlines the crucial need for local swimming pools so all can learn to swim and enjoy water safely. The operation of the pools is a loss-making exercise for Council; however, they more than make up for this by preventing loss of life. Further, with climate change, swimming pools are an important refuge during periods of extreme heat. Libraries are important centres for rural communities, and the mobile service is highly appreciated. Those living alone and/or on low incomes appreciate the library as a refuge particularly on very hot or cold days. Many children seek out the library after school as shelter, and a safe space and use its facilities. Young parents and small children spend time in the library on a regular basis. The computer and printer access at Council libraries is an essential service for some of our residents. There is no other public access to this technology in the Braidwood region. We assume that 'removing community grant support' would include removing the heritage grants (flagged in Scenario 2). While these grants are modest, they are important to a heritage town like Braidwood in helping maintain our heritage values, which in turn encourages tourism and thus supports the local and regional economy. All these cuts would individually only make limited contributions to reducing expenditure. The potential sale of the Q Theatre appears to be the only really significant saving option proposed.

We note that Scenarios 1 and 2 rely on the additional income from water and sewer dividends. The BCA does not agree with the use of dividends from the water and sewer funds to prop up the income of the general fund. There is already a 4% management charge on these funds for any capital works. Adding a dividend is effectively a backdoor approach to increasing the water and sewer rate charges and cross-subsidising expenditure under general rates.
The possibility of reducing the number of Councillors is not supported by the BCA. A number of Councillors do their best to represent the voice of Braidwood district on Council. Reducing the number of Councillors can only lead to a further concentration of representation in the areas of highest population. This reduces any rural voice, creating an undemocratic City Council.

Questionnaire results

The BCA undertook a survey of its members and the broader community in the post code area 2622 on the SRV. Other than collecting some information on the respondents (which types of rates and are they members of the BCA), this simply asked which of the three scenarios being considered by Council did they prefer (see attachment 1 for questionnaire).
Some 88 residents responded to the questionnaire, of whom 26 stated they are members of the BCA. This is a much lower response rate than BCA previous surveys. We suspect this is because many ratepayers do not want to have any of the scenarios presented, but want to see a lower increase in rates and substantial improvements in efficiency and reduced waste and duplication; while others believe that Council has already made up its mind and are just going through this consultation because it is a requirement when applying for a SRV. The complexity of the documentation provided does not help either.
The results reflect the disparity of views within the community.
Some of this may well reflect different political perspectives on small versus big government; some reflects the cost-of-living crisis and the inability to pay higher rates and some reflects the view that they do not receive value for money for the current level of rates.

The results are as follows:

Views on scenarios by rate type and all respondents

	Residential		Business		Farmland		BCA Members		Non-members		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services	20	29.4	1	25.0	22	66.7	5	19.2	29	46.8	34	38.6
Scenario 2: Reduce Services	15	22.1	0	0.0	4	12.1	1	3.9	16	25.8	17	19.2

Scenario 3: Maintain Services	33	48.5	3	75.0	7	21.2	20	76.9	17	27.4	37	42.1
Total	68	100	4	100	33	100	26	100	62	100	88	100

Note: Some respondents had more than one rate type

The BCA operates as a consensus organisation and clearly from the results above there is no consensus within our community, nor its membership. Therefore, as an organisation, the BCA cannot give preference to any of the scenarios presented.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Attachment 1

BCA Special Rate Variation Questionnaire

QPRC is currently consulting on a Special Rate Variation with all the options involving a significant increase in general rates over 3 years, and two of the options involving cuts in services.

The BCA appreciates while none of us want to pay higher rates, some of our members would prefer to have all the services provided by QPRC maintained and enhanced, while others would prefer to see cuts. Which option is best is not an easy thing to decide, with the BCA submission to be guided by the views of its members and the broader community.

The BCA therefore encourages all residents in Braidwood and Villages to complete this short online questionnaire on which option you prefer.

Before you give your opinion we encourage to study carefully the information provided by Council on their Your Voice website at: https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/srv. If you want to make a direct submission to QPRC you need to do so by 31 January 2023.

When considering these options please note:

- The proposed increases are only on the general rates component of your rates bill. Garbage, stormwater, sewer access, water access and waste programs charges are not covered by this proposal.
- Reflecting our lower level of services, average residential general rates in Braidwood, at $754pa, are lower than most other areas of QPRC. For example, they are $1,773pa in Jerrabomberra, $1,532pa in Googong, 1,348pa in Queanbeyan and $1,033pa in Bungendore.
- With rates frozen for four years after amalgamation and both Palerang and Queanbeyan in financial difficulties prior to amalgamation (eg Palerang was actively considering a 7% pa SRV over 5 years in addition to the 2.5% rate cap before amalgamation – ie a 9.5% pa increase over 5 years) the need for SRV is inevitable and the situation has been made worse by delays in considering it.

1. **Name** (optional)**:** _____
2. **Are you a Ratepayer in post code area 2622?** Yes ϒ No ϒ

	3. Which Rates do you pay (can be more than one)? Residential ϒ Business ϒ Farmland ϒ **4. Which scenario proposed by Council is your preferred scenario (tick only one)?** Scenario 1: Significantly Reduce Services: Increase rates by 12% every year for 3 years. This scenario does not fully fund current Council operations and will require a strategy to find immediate savings of $12 million each year. ϒ Scenario 2: Reduce Services: Increase rates by 18% every year for 3 years. This scenario maintains only core services and requires a strategy to find immediate savings of $5.5 million each year. ϒ Scenario 3: Maintain Services: Increase rates by 28% in year 1, 25% in year 2 and 23% in year 3. This scenario maintains current services and asset renewal and allows for improvements to facilities and roads ϒ **5. Are you a member of the Braidwood Community Association?** Yes ϒ No ϒ **6. Do you want to join the Braidwood Community Association?** Yes ϒ No ϒ Complete the membership form here or email: info@braidwoodcommunity.org.au Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your views are important to us
861)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Against any Council special rate increase. You can reduce staffs and the services. All staff should wear a Number tag, anyone can feed back anonymously, and only hire good staffs to reduce the waste rate payer's money.
862)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** To the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager, We are not at all happy that we as ratepayers are having to make comments/choices on the financial situation within QPRC. We know the weather has placed increased costs on all councils but this situation arose because QPRC does not have adequate reserves to deal with unexpected events or increases in costs. QPRC has not managed its financial situation in a safe and prudent manner ever since the mergers and the deficit in rates was acknowledged by a request for a rate rise (which was refused by the State Authority). The financial advisers and the decision makers have taken risks and put the ratepayers in this difficult situation ever since - by funding developments like the Ellerton Drive Extension and the new Council Office Block, that have not given ratepayers value for money! We don't find any of the 3 scenarios put to us as ratepayers satisfactory, especially after the majority of Councillors voted to give themselves a pay rise prior to this situation becoming public knowledge. While in the scheme of things this pay rise is not that significant in terms of the total deficit accumulated by QPRC, it does not seem fair when you are asking ratepayers who are already struggling with the cost of living to dig deep and pay higher rates or increased rent (which will be an inevitable result of landlords paying higher rates), or lose access to basic services such as a pool or library.

	We have never understood the financial necessity or advantage of the 'fancy new' office block and would like there to be an external investigation into the financial decision to go ahead with this expensive 'white elephant'. We are very disappointed that despite knowledge of a deficit in rates from the amalgamation with Palerang Council and before that Yarrowlumla Shire Council the decision was made to proceed with the new Council building and other projects that have been of financial advantage to developers - eg. the Ellerton Drive Extension allowed access to Jumping Creek. We have a social conscience and therefore could not support the rescinding of basic services such as swimming pools and library services, particularly in the smaller rural 'villages/towns'. We have 2 properties within QPRC - one semi rural where we live, and another that we rent in the city. We will be put under some financial strain by the rate increase, as we are both retired and have no means of earning extra to cover the higher rates and we do not feel we can increase the rent on our rental property. Despite having considerable concern for the less fortunate than us who live in the QPRC catchment who will be financially challenged by the rates increase but because we do not agree with disposing of assets like The Q or the sports facilities that have been hard won by the community over many years, we can only accept Option 3 - reluctantly and with quite a measure of disappointment that our elected Councillors over the years have allowed the unelected employees to make decisions that have put QPRC Council into such a dire financial situation.
863)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** My vote is for Scenario 1. I will be doing all will be doing all within my power to the amalgamation of Qbn City with Palerang Council abolished. We are now such a big local government area that we cannot afford to function it properly and at a cost that us ratepayers agree to. Please go back to being "2 smaller Local Gov areas" so that this situation of being unable to afford services is stopped".
864)	I vote for Scenario 1. It is the cheapest of all and all I can afford as a non-working pensioner. I also "DO NOT AGREE" with the amalgamation of Palerang and Qbn Local Gov Councils. If this had not occurred we would not be having difficulty affording to pay for services. Please push for this amalgamation to be undone. Then we would avoid having to suffer a rate rise.
865)	a) Significantly increasing user fees" in any scenario is doing no more than applying the USER PAYS principle, a fact of life with any business venture, especially during times of higher inflation and interest rates on borrowings. b) Can QPRC introduce paid parking the Qbn CBD on carparks Council doesn't own? c) If QPRC has "remained at lower staff levels . . ." why NOT reduce the number of Councillors? d) The rates comparison chart in the QPRC Dec 2022 newsletter is a simplification in that no information has been provided to indicate what other rate payers are securing in terms of services and facilities, as a proper basis of comparison. IS THERE VALUE FOR MONEY?
866)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have only just returned from a meeting this morning with the QPRC General Manager, Director of Corporate Services and a few local landholders. The meeting was in relation to the above.

	Prior to attending this meeting, I informed myself by reading the Long Term Financial Plan (the Plan), the Organisational Service Review (OSR) referenced in the Plan and associated information provided on the website. From the information provided it was clear the council was not serious about cost cutting, they expect rate payers to decide what services to cut and the only way forward was to significantly increase rates. Scenario 3 increases my rates 92%. The council representatives at our meeting had no interest taking a leadership role despite their positions. They refused to acknowledge waste in any other area except contract management and confirmed that they would be recommending the Scenario 3 rate increase. This council cannot be given more money to squander. The base case should remain. Council must address its own mismanagement and inefficiencies as evidenced by the limited effectiveness of savings measures in the OSR. Unless real structural change is made and rates remain at a reasonable increase trajectory, I will have no other recourse but to request the removal of this council and appoint administrators that will implement change.
867)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** I have a couple of properties in Fernleigh Park/ Googong and I object to the substantial increase in rates. I believe the council has mismanaged their finances and has wasted money on programs and on superfluous things. We need things to attract and encourage visitors to the town. Council needs to spend money on things that will activate the town centre and attract investors. The rate increase is just another way to get more money that once again will be spent without appropriate consideration for ROI. I would like to raise a proper submission unfortunately I am running out of time.
868)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** As a long time owner-occupier in Bungendore, I wish to make the following submission pertaining to the QPRC Special Rate Variation options and Long Term Financial Plan. BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front) 1. All options are too expensive and hide the root problem 2. Ratepayer contributions are already too high and misrepresented 3. Revenue from population expansion is misrepresented 4. Council spending is excessive 1. All Options Too Expensive and Hide Problem. All three options are far too expensive. Nobody outside of QP shire will see the problem if the ratepayers simply pay more. Council needs to reduce services to the point where rate increases need only rise in accordance with CPI. If this means that the QP shire becomes a dirty un-kept region with no amenities in which nobody wants to live then that might finally draw enough attention to the problem. More GST and state revenue needs to be channelled to councils by the Federal and State governments. I strongly recommend shutting every QRPC amenity and letting the parks

	and roads perish until that funding necessity is addressed, which it will, following state and federal elections. Council staff numbers can be reduced proportionally with the loss of amenities and services. 2. Ratepayer Contributions Already Too High and Misrepresented. Council is dishonestly misrepresenting the current costs to ratepayers in QPRC relative to other towns by excluding large additional fixed costs for water and sewerage in their calculations. When adding those costs, the total annual bill for my property in Bungendore is already double what my similar property in Port Stephens costs. That will only get worse when these massive land rate increases are added. 3. Revenue from Expansion Misrepresented. Increasing rates in accordance with CPI should be sufficient to maintain services. Adding new ratepayers through population expansion should be a self-funding activity. Council appears to be dishonestly misrepresenting the revenue by only including the ratepayer contributions and not the developer contributions. 4. Excessive Council Spending. Council has blown the budget on unnecessary expensive works like the $74 million spent on the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct (QCCP) hot on the heels of the Queanbeyan riverfront development. Incomes from those works will never exceed the expenditure on capital, maintenance, loan repayments and opportunity costs. This should be referred to the NSW Auditor General for investigation and follow-on action. Senior QPRC staff remuneration and tenure should be reviewed accordingly. Paying $16M in annual loan repayments when you have $213M cash in the bank does not seem like good financial management. Thank you for the public consultation and opportunity to comment.
869)	Apologies went to lodge my comments online and it says it closes today. But didn't see a time but says online comments are closed. If there is to be an increase then it would be option 1. Here in Wamboin it is clear that the services we receive are very minimal. This is very evident with regard to road damage given recent weather and the state of norton road amongst others. We have to already pay to get rid of our household garbage at the tip or by private contractor, pay for our own septic and water supply, maintain roadside vegetation and weeds and then have the weed inspection occur, where they spend a sum total of a couple of minutes on the property and then get a letter saying that we have to manage blackberry which we have already been doing effectively amongst managing other weeds. This is the tip of the iceberg and I would be interested to obtain advice on the benefits that we do receive for our rates as I am seeing very little. I cannot see the value that we would get by the rate increases proposed given that we already receive very little service or support from ciuncil as compared to other areas around us.
870)	I strongly support Scenario 1 and only Scenario 1, except the introduction of paid parking. If parking signage was updated and times reduced and parking inspections were employed or more vigilant, this would generate considerable income. I am constantly put in a dangerous position driving into and out of my home by people illegally parking. In particular:

	- I see no reason why Queanbeyan rate payers should be subsidising The Q in any way shape or form. Sell it off immediately. I would estimate that as little as 10% of the patrons are QPRC rate payers. - Reduce the number of Councillors is definitely required. In fact, you have costed for a reduction of 1 Councillor, reduce he number of Councillors by 2. Double the number you have budgeted for in this scenario. PLUS: - I can see no reason why childcare and sale yards should not be fully set-funded, so this should be added to scenario 1. Childcare is already subsidised heavily by the government. - Consider reducing the number of QPRC employees. Every time I go into the Queanbeyan office there is one or two members of staff doing nothing or very little. Add this to scenario 1. In my opinion, Scenarios 2 and 3 are ridiculously undefendable. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. What happens with all the community comments/feedback now?
871)	Good afternoon - Following are my comments/suggestions HN on the proposed rates' increases: Reluctantly, I support Scenario 2 . While a rate rise seems inevitable, I am very concerned about the effect it will have on members of the community, such as myself, on low and or fixed incomes be they home owners or renters. A rise will inevitably push up the cost of rentals which may lead to more homelessness or dependency on community groups for handouts. I do not support the suggestion of a $100 Pensioner Rebate. As the current pensioner rebate comes from the NSW Government, the suggestion that under Scenario 2 the additional pensioner rebate would need to be removed is quite misleading. I certainly cannot support Option 3. While the calculator is a useful tool, it did not take into account the inevitable rise in the UCVs of properties. Operations must be streamlined and savings found by Council. It would appear that QPRC has rather a lot of highly paid officers. Are all these officers really needed for the successful running of Council? But savings must also be found elsewhere. Recently I witnessed a Council truck with three workers on board filling in potholes in a carpark. Does it really take three people to fill in a pothole?

	I suggest the Library seeks volunteers to carry out some of the work of librarians eg home deliveries or returning books to shelves. In the ACT home deliveries are made by volunteers. This would allow librarians to concentrate on core tasks. The library plays a very important role in the community and any diminishment of services and facilities would be unacceptable. I fully support the privatisation of The Q. I don't believe Council should be in the theatre business. I hasten to add I am a supporter of The Q and usually see many shows during the course of a year. However, this year's offerings are extremely disappointing. I am not alone in expressing disappointment in the selection. In fact The Q has gone somewhat downhill since Stephen Pike's departure. At least I will be making some savings here to fund the increase. Presumably, the new building will mean all Council services will be brought under one roof freeing up the many small buildings the Council currently occupies. Will these be sold off or retained and rented at market rates? I assume the new building will have sufficient solar panels to generate all the electricity required for the building? What will happen to all the buildings vacated by Council? I hope Council will consider offering some of these properties to community organisations such as Senior Citizens, Lions and Rotary, which support the local community. I would like to see all vegetation removed from roundabouts and median strips to reduce maintenance. I fully support pay parking throughout Queanbeyan. I believe in the user pays principle for facilities such as the swimming pool. I suggest a discount be give to ratepayers willing to pay their annual rates in advance. I expect Council to maintain parks and gardens to a high start with regular mowing and maintenance but carried out with the most efficient equipment. I have witnessed grassed areas being cut with a whipper sniper when a ride on mower would have the job done in a fraction of the time. I would like to see the plans for beautification/upgrade of the Main Street shelved for the time being. I support a reduction in the number of Councillors by two. As a gesture of goodwill, Councillors should give up the pay rise they voted for themselves. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
872)	**RECEIVED BY MAIL** In addition, reference is made to the official newsletter of QPRC and your proposed rate rises, with numerous scenarios. Queanbeyan forced into a merger with Palerang Council to become more cost-effective, this was another pie-in-the-sky

	scenario from your head-office, the NSW Govt. I would suggest that you seek additional funds from NSW Gov. in Macquarie Street, Sydney. As a party, to a commercial agreement, albeit without proof, or consent, between a legal person under my name and QPRC or Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (ABN 95933070). I do not consent to any rate rise scenarios. I put it to you, once again, where do you derive your authority to impose new terms, conditions and charges on your clients, the rate payers, without any negotiations or consent. Once again I do not consent to any of your terms, conditions or charges. I look forward to receiving a copy of our executed contract.

Q6 – Do you have any comments on the draft Long Term Financial Plan and draft Delivery Program?

Submitter Number:	Submission:
1)	If you intend to double my rates, I expect double the service. This is genuine price gouging. I will file every complaint I can to every agency possible.
2)	Please don't make any cuts to services
3)	It's a dud. Cut expenses before looking to increase revenue.
4)	We will buy outside of this LGA should the rates become exorbitant
5)	Provide clearer and transparent incompetence of council
6)	There is no confidence in this corrupt council. They should be all thrown out and let the people decide on a totally new council!
7)	It's an absolutely f****ng joke. I am a single parent and I'm can no way afford a 96% increase in rates over three years in top of 50% increase in electricity. 32% increase in gas, double the interest rates and 25% increase in petrol with a zero pay rise. I and I'm sure many others will end up having to sell and on the poverty line. This is absolute Insta it's and you should be ashamed of yourself for putting this onto us when the rates are already some of the highest in the country.
8)	Try again
9)	Stop the waste. Stop art in laneways, new streetscape etc in Queanbeyan while rural ratepayers can't access their property but still must pay rates
10)	It needs to be reviewed. Have an external agency come and run analysis over it and provide either advice that backs your plan or perhaps comes up with a better long term strategy because this one looks to be a bandaid solution.
11)	scenario: you have a house plan lodged at council. You have to pay a fee upfront plus pay for rates on the land which legally you cannot access. I say the planning lodgement process should be paid for at the end once the plans are approved and the rates on the land should be frozen. I guarantee that the development application process will speed up if it means that the council will not be receiving their money until the plans are approved.
12)	Absolute joke. You will break this community.
13)	Yes, you have a lot of inefficiencies you need to resolve before I'd support any changes. The council manager in an interview today mentioned there was no wheelchair access to her office as an issue to be resolved through funding. For the number of instances this is an issue, the manager should get out of her office and arrange the meeting in a meeting room, of which you have numerous, with wheelchair access and all the amenities. I'm sure the wheelchair customer would be better serviced and much happier rather than have to hold meeting in your office.
14)	With good workforce management and project management the council can clean up its act and stop this from being necessary.
15)	Council doesn't manage monies very well Elected councillors should not exist. You need proper management team.

16)	The council is going to sink many ratepayers in the area. People are barely making ends meet at this time. Suicide rates will rise, homelessness and poverty will rise, as will our drug and crime rates. We shouldn't be left to pay for council mismanagement of budgets.
17)	No one can afford rates to double. Sell the Q. Why was at new arts area built?
18)	Once you cut back all services who will be left at the council? Desk based officers? Perhaps that's what you should be looking at cutting rather than the guy that trims the lawn and maintains the streets
19)	It's crap! There can't be only 3 options to fix the hole the council has gotten themselves into. Queanbeyan and surrounds are already expensive enough rates wise compared to other jurisdictions and for what? Council are slow to do any work and our roads and facilities aren't by any means gold star.
20)	Council should not see rate payers as a bottomless bucket to extract money for pet projects
21)	It's positive to see the work being undertaken to be transparent with the community on the future plans regarding the financial position. However, it is hard to understand how a cumulative increase of almost 100% is even an option to be considered.
22)	This proposed long-term financial plan and delivery program will hurt a lot of QPRC rate payers on top of already sky rocketing electricity, gas and food prices the rate payers are expected too once again bear the brunt of a council who cannot financially manage a delivery program to the ratepayers of QPRC. The rates will go up council will spend that money and in three years' time when this proposal expires the councillors will come back to the community saying that they need to increase our rates again. The councillors could have shown real leadership by rejecting the pay increase they gave themselves - they are only part-time administers maybe they could get out and mow some spaces to earn their salary. QBN and surrounds use to be one the most beautiful places with well-kept parks and community spaces, now it is run down, the main street has no life in it with shops closed and no real incentive to shop in QBN anymore. The saying country lifestyle with city benefits should now be the "town with no benefits - but with Northern Sydney beaches prices."
23)	Its rubbish.
24)	Who cares.....who would want to live here with this council dictating these changes for the next 3 years let alone the next 20 years.....
25)	Do better. This will shut down the QPRC area. No one will buy here with insane rates and no services.
26)	With any luck this council will be voted out before they can do too much damage.
27)	1. Before this financial plan is passed there should be a review of council spending 2. This increase of rates will decrease the value of land for the rate payers. 3. Money should be focused on essential services. 4. An efficiency review of council services such as DA approvals in a timely manner should be undertaken. 2 years is not an efficient service. 5. Look after the rates payers. We are not stupid!
28)	Need I say any more? Very disappointed

29)	DO NOT GO AHEAD WITH IT. it will push people over the edge.
30)	Go back to basics and if the Council can't figure it out sack them and appoint an administrator. Requiring a doubling in rates is the equivalent of declaring bankruptcy.
31)	The QPRC management team must be held accountable for failing to deliver services within the available budget. This council doesn't have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem.
32)	The whole debacle is a typical example of mismanagement by the previous councillors. *** **** at that time spent public funds without any thought to the growing debt that is now expected to be picked up by residents.
33)	Cut the fat.
34)	Too long to read, I have to go to work to pay my bills as they are currently.
35)	See previous comment. Also, road destruction caused by heavy vehicles travelling to the Woodlawn bio-reactor, including from the ACT must be addressed. We are constantly taught the merits of user pays, but proposed rate increases seems to indicate rate payers will pay for road destruction though it's ACT and Sydney rubbish on those trucks. Not good enough!
36)	Stop increasing the councillors rates of pay above the wage price index.
37)	Disgusted that only 3 Options are proposed. With a push for option 3 just to continue current services of maintaining roads! Which also doesn't talk about a reduction of inessential services. This council needs to be dissolved.
38)	Completely unacceptable. Tighten your belt and produce an affordable option.
39)	As it stands, as a pensioner on a modest fixed income I will not be able to continue living in Bungendore because of the significantly increased costs. I will be forced to sell up and relocate. This may have the effect of reducing the anticipated population growth and ratepayer base which will negatively impact cashflow.
40)	Think very hard and for very long, before you go ahead with anything that costs us more money than other council areas. Your heads will roll at the next election so be prepared to lose your seats and be open and visual about your plans.
41)	You need to look at reducing the spending across all services and not just target easy options like pools and Libraries.
42)	I feel sorry for the current council left to clean up after the excesses of the majority on last council and the Administrator before that.
43)	Excessive.
44)	Find savings in places that don't affect ratepayers (I.e. council pay increases).
45)	If the current situation is truly due to the NSW Govt merging Queanbeyan and Palerang Councils, why isn't the NSW Govt assisting with the funding shortfall? If this was explained to ratepayers, they may vote differently at the next state election.
46)	Cut pay rises to councillors and the mayor and stop wasting money on offices to replace already functioning.
47)	I think a better budget is needed, if the staff were managed correctly who maintain the area you wouldn't need so many people out there
48)	You will, without a doubt over spend and under deliver on any 'program' you have drafted. This is to be expected given the current situation you find yourselves in.
49)	not at this time, I have not had the time to sit down and read the full document.
50)	Get someone competent to review and implement a program for the whole community

51)	Get your act together.
52)	There is so much waste and the council members had their wages raised..... Are you kidding me shame shame shame.
53)	Plan needs more planning. QBN residents cannot afford these rates rises. go and think up some new ideas for solving the problems.
54)	Well done, it's going to be a hard sell but is what needs to be done. Thank you.
55)	You need to just raise rates to maintain services, everyone can afford it but will complain they can't. But they can
56)	Overall the scenarios presented will impact negatively on the area with unaffordable housing due to high rates and lack of maintenance of public areas and public services will reflect poorly on the community. Advancements in public assets attained over the past few years will go backwards. Paid parking, rates increases and lack of services will simply add to cost of living and that will ultimately impact business in the area. Think again council!
57)	Consider those pensioners who have contributed all our lives to building our council and its infrastructure only to be severely disadvantaged more so than those with paying jobs who can more easily adjust their income to suit rising prices.
58)	What's the point...we're going to get the big one regardless of what we say.....aren't we. Enjoy your new $75 million office won't you.
59)	Manage the budget
60)	Your costs need to be cut, not your services. Anything that isn't serving the public - cut it. Stop the waste… Winchester - resign!
61)	If you close facilities, perhaps you should close those in Queanbeyan first. The residents there can at least catch transport into Canberra and use the facilities there. Residents of Captains Flat, Araluen and Mount Fairy will have kilometres to travel to reach their nearest community facilities. How many young children will drown through not having the opportunity to learn to swim in their local pool? How many elderly people will be isolated by not having local clubs and halls to use? We are supposed to be encouraging people to remain active in mind and body, not isolate them in their homes. How about cutting the council salaries? When a friend of mine was a local councillor he received enough money to pay for his fuel, the rest came out of his own pocket.
62)	Scenario one pls
63)	With all the unfettered development going on around here I find it impossible to believe you are not taking in the cash. If you are overspending that much, someone must be embezzling funds.
64)	At a time when individuals and organisations worldwide are tightening their spending any one of the three scenarios go against the trend. Understandable that QPRC has been constrained in the last few years from having additional rate increases due to the merger but even if you had annual increases, I doubt that you could have arrived at an increase that even scenario 1 suggests. You have a serious council general management and financial management problem, and you should not be looking at your rate payers to resolve the issues.
65)	Council needs to learn to live within it means the same as everyone else, don't make it harder for the citizens of the council area to justify increased salary for councillors
66)	It appears that you are spending a lot of money on things for the minority and billing the majority. I disagree and strongly dislike the threatening wording in the three options.
67)	Vote on no confidence

68)	The Long Term Plan needs to be rationalised to Core Council Business. The delivery program is sound and I believe affordable without a 97% increase.
69)	Get your figures correct, as they do not collate. The fact, the senior management have grossly mismanaged the budget and now trying to scare and intimidate. You have LOST the trust of residents of QBY and Palerang.
70)	I think a independent audit should of been done long before we reached this predicament. Council should of gone into a need to done mode rather than spend on new council buildings and things that weren't needed. I would love to look at the financials and see where money has been wasted.
71)	I think more thought needs to go into it all. It's just a money grab at the expense of rate payers and you can see how everyone feels, just reading your social media. We all realise that keeping the town clean and maintained costs money - but it's not the fault of ratepayers that councils (past and current) can't manage a budget.
72)	Yeah. Reduce your salaries by half over the next 3 years. That's basically the opposite of what you're doing by increasing the rates by 97%. See how long you can afford to feed your families.
73)	Seems like the long term financial plan is just to charge more money for the same thing, so good luck with that.
74)	It is a joke
75)	This is taking advantage of your residents to line your own pockets. Money spent on quick wins instead of what is actually needed. It's just greed.
76)	DO NOT bring in paid parking in Queanbeyan. A councillor and staffing freeze MUST be incorporated and auctioned - no more pay rises at our expense.
77)	Start again from scratch. Most ratepayers will echo the sentiment. Had better decisions been made historically with merger funds etc then the reception of a rate increase now may have been different.
78)	Hitting us with a 97% rate increase only one year after the last massive rate increase is disgusting. You will be pushing families out of the area and making first homes impossible to buy
79)	I do not support what you have proposed in the slightest. This "survey" does not offer enough capacity to go into detail - it's a "happiness survey" which will be ignored anyway.
80)	It's a political scam. How will the electorate respond when they are shown your lies.
81)	Scrap it, read the room and actually engage the population on where money should be spent. Stop all council building development and present transparent records of council spending for public scrutiny before running salt in the wounds of people who are already struggling to afford food.
82)	Stop passing pay rises. These roles should be seen as a community service, as a volunteer, not as a quick way to get rich. So if you won't abolish payment, take a pay cut. Abolishing the wages will save 100s of thousands, and may even stop the need for ludicrous rate rises that people cannot afford. Revisit your contracts with companies and organisations that pretend to fix pot holes etc. Get better value for our money. Find ways to entice businesses into the region. This is a dying town, propped up by Canberra. We are not getting a value on

	our rates as it stands. At least if we had options outside of Kmart or old lady clothing stores, money might stay in the community. We don't need all the nail salons, or 3 Mexican restaurants, or so many hairdressers; variety encourages spending, not the same thing day in day out. Lastly, admit defeat. You and previous council members have failed. Stand down, go into administration, something, but move off. You fail to show where you've cut back spending or what you're doing to try and prevent a rate rise, you're just jumping to the only thing you think will increase income, without considering the hardships people are already enduring. Now you want to force them to lose their homes too. Well done you absolute pack of clowns.
83)	You can't afford it and do not have the financial expertise to manage it. Call in the administrators and get help before this is imposed upon you.
84)	Don't spend money you don't have
85)	Has an independent (not someone council has contracted recently or someone buddy from council) looked over councils operations to assist with streamlining and optimising the current situation before you pulled this together and proposed rate increases?
86)	New buildings for you, more money spent by ratepayers keeping you comfortable YET when we need your help. You do nothing. That spells danger in my view.
87)	Rates are substantially high in googong and are inconsistent with other areas of Queanbeyan/Palerang. With the current economic situation we are facing, an increase in rates will affect people's ability live day to day and put food on the table for their families. With interest rates, electricity and water increasing and inflation across the board this increase peoples vulnerability and could send them into desperate times. Salaries are not increasing enough to cover the overall increases we face which now includes this significant rate rise regardless of what option is agreed on. I would also like to know what the 'average' rate payer pays yearly, for what size block and for what estimated value of that block is. I have been in googong for nearly 10 years and the rates we currently pay are astronomical in comparison to other areas in the region for half the land.
88)	How much do you pay the CEO
89)	Cut back spending.
90)	I am appalled that the Council has gotten themselves into this situation. They should be held to account.
91)	It's rubbish, maybe return the 21% pay rise given to councillors
92)	The lack of time for consultation and information dissemination and presentation of the options are threatening and not well explained promoting fear and trying to lead people towards the outcome the council wants. With real wages going backwards you are kidding yourselves if you think people can afford the outrageous increases to not even be able to maintain current service levels. You will have to find a better way. Reducing councillors would be a good start. Please provide a stats quo option without the extravagances.

93)	Bring the service back to basic (roads, garbage, water and sewer) until you have the foundational services solid. At the moment the prediction of all the 'nice' to haves should be placed on hold for the next 3 to 5 years until residents and ratepayers can become more stable in their incomes to be able to afford the additional service within the areas for community art and beautification.
94)	I strongly oppose any rate increase over the rate peg set by the independent body
95)	It needs a redraft. Why do we need a new sports ground and a high school. It is a country town, keep it that way. If people out here want development then move back to the City.
96)	Resign and appoint an administrator.
97)	Get it together, this is by far the most mismanaged LGA I've ever lived in.
98)	What's the point. Get fair dinkum and show some foresight.
99)	Privatise the Q and de-merge from Palerang and our financial problems are solved. We had no financial troubles before the merger. I shouldn't be subsidising people who live out at Braidwood.
100)	Any rate increases should be in line with inflation.
101)	Reduce expenses Reduce staff. THE COUNCIL got us into this problem YOU fix it up at your level BEFORE you penalise the rate payers of Queanbeyan
102)	Extravagant.
103)	I have little confidence in the financial acumen of QPRC. Council did not meet the financial performance of the previous LTPF and so I suspect this draft plan will not survive contact with the enemy.
104)	Well one would hope the current and future councillors and upper management have learnt And we are not going to be in this situation again. And It's only a draft, so not really something set in cement and can change. Only has face value. As some levels of the organisation are top heavy = excessive costs= budget.
105)	Council is going to do what council is going to do, but they will all be replaced at the next election if they punish rate payers for their financial incompetence.
106)	It is unfair more cost are being put on homeowners, instead the state government should increase funding to manage shortfalls, and reduce all non-compulsory services. Privatise some community assets to increase QPRC funding rather than simply increasing rates every time.
107)	At the least the council should not be taking a pay rise. Would vote in favour of a demerger so Palerang could manage themselves again.
108)	You might like to remind the local member who we never hear boo from that Queanbeyan is a marginal electorate and when people's wallets start hurting, they vote accordingly. In terms of cutbacks, the 20 accountants on your books who apparently "manage Council's investments and loan portfolio, provide financial reporting and advice to Councillors and Managers and deliver a range of statutory and internal financial reporting" can be the first efficiency dividend. For an external audit to find that "The base case 'uncorrected' scenario is not an

	option that Council can pursue and will lead to immediate service reductions and financial crisis" means there's a lot of people employed by council's corporate areas that haven't been doing their jobs properly over a long period of time. Please don't give them ratepayer funded redundancies either, just dismiss them. The pool is an obvious loss leader, so closing that is a no brainer until things improve financially. A $15m+ sporting complex and an additional $10m+ in new sports grounds, $48m for urban renewal, come on, we all have our Christmas wish lists but someone has to be the adult here and say 'mummy and daddy can't afford all those things'. All the money that developers like PEET and Mirvac have pumped into this LGA and with new developments like Jumping Creek now commencing, there's plenty of new money changing hands, so where is it all going? I shudder to think what Queanbeyan would have looked like without all of the new development that has been funded through PPP's over the past few years, a bankrupt, one horse town that decayed into the ground because council spends money it doesn't have.
109)	I have not read it and if I did there is a big chance I would not understand it. I think even though it goes through community consultation a lot of items go through because business thinks it's good. Not a lot of community thought is regarded.
110)	Again. Unfair, ridiculous. What council anywhere in the world would do something like this and expect people to blindly accept it? Nobody will move into the area.
111)	Keep rate increases to a minimum
112)	Base rates should be better linked to potential number of occupants of a property rather than the simple valuation
113)	The new suburbs been created have landscape entries which look great but the council has to main them so they should have a dearer rate for there maintenance
114)	The long term draft does not address duplication of efforts between the two merged councils. Address that before increasing rates.
115)	I feel confident the current staff in Council will do what they can to ensure the QPRC remains viable and liquid. They have a long term plan which seems sound and transparent, and staff remain cooperative and available.
116)	An explanation on how we got here would be better served.
117)	Make tough decisions and put people off. Go back to just looking after roads and stop trying to make everything look beautiful. You won't have any viable businesses to pay your rates if you keep going the way you are going with the three scenarios. We the ratepayers didn't get the council in this situation yet we are supposed to come up with the money to bail you out. It's not on!
118)	Obviously the financial management long term plan requires competent management which I believe has been lacking in the past. With the amount of development happening in the region the council should be in a much better financial position.
119)	Consider your whole area - not just QBN city. The majority of size of your council is rural. Your rural sector needs equal priority to the city section
120)	What I have seen looks sensible.

121)	I have little faith in this terrible Council to suddenly provide such grim news and slam rate payers (many who are already struggling to make ends meet) with such obtuse and overt threats to reduce our services.
122)	Need to keep council rate rises as low as possible by reducing expenditure in the areas that are unsustainable (eg for new infrastructure and assets - which is too high in 2022-23 and is not sustainable if it requires new loans). The council does a good job at its core maintenance and infrastructure services (parks, water, grass management, etc.) but is being too ambitious in capital expenditure without enough State and Federal Gov grants for those projects.
123)	Australia is heading towards a recession, the costs of everything are rising greatly. Most rate payers will not have a pay rise, si rate payers have less money going forward. So Council should not try to steal our money! Do your job and live within Council income, just like your rate payers must do! Amalgamation of QPRC was based on a consultants report that savings would be made = Council costs would go down! How did Council fail this so badly?
124)	You're going to double our rates? No you're not, **********. A movement is coming to not only stop you but to put you in ******. Enjoy **********.
125)	Pegged increases are ample if managed correctly Residents aren't getting extra wages
126)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Maybe the best idea is for all councillors to take an immediate 28% pay cut and stop wasting money on things like food waste bins that are not needed at all, just advise people to put food scraps in the green bin, much cheaper and just as effective!
127)	To be honest I don't see many of these things actually being done around the Sutton area. Grass along the roads is always long (often locals mowing these areas is the only way to keep the grass low and safe). Trees are over hanging on the roads even growing along the roads. Potholes are terrible damaging vehicles often. There is NO garbage pickup in the area around Sutton where my property is, to get your rubbish picked up you need to pay another company to come and take your rubbish. My property is fully off the grid so there is no power or water to my house, so council doesn't maintain this so not costs here for the majority of homes in the area that are off grid. There is NO town swimming pool in Sutton or library or any of the facilities really that are mentioned in this and that we pay our rates for. I don't see any real value or benefit from the rates I pay now.
128)	Council seems to be involved (especially financially) in areas that are not core business for local government.
129)	This council should be absolutely ashamed of themselves. Approving a pay rise when they are the most inexperienced council in the country and then asking rate payers to contribute additional funds to their rates when inflation is through the roof, petrol prices and the cost of living are pushing families to the brink and now some stand to lose their homes. What are you doing with all the money coming in through Googong, Jumping Creek and Tralee??
130)	It's a disgrace.
131)	The current rates are actually quite large compared to many councils. If the council is currently experiencing financial difficulties to the point they need to raise rates approx. 97% then the council should allow its books to be opened and investigated by an independent forensic accountant.

132)	The forced merger of Queanbeyan with Palerang forced two communities which have little in common into bed together. The priorities of urban and rural residents on many issues will always be different, and rural residents' views have been over-ridden by the greater numbers in the urban areas. It is time to consider a de-merger.
133)	It needs a very clear explanation of how the council got in trouble with its finances. Other councils providing the same range of services are not in this trouble. Then it needs to show that going forward, the things that have caused the council to be in this financial situation will have been addressed - so we will not be throwing good money after bad.
134)	Spending money on a new building in Queanbeyan is not responsible. Use the Council building in Bungendore.
135)	Not constructive!
136)	The LTFP is an important document which will attempt to provide security when looking towards the future, let's just hope the recommendation within this document is adhered too
137)	Bring in an administrator to look into the abhorrent financial decisions made by the council. Including the use of grants given to the council for town improvements in all areas. Pay rises for all those in charge and then crying poor is unbelievably insulting to all constituents. I have lived in 4 different council areas in 43 years and have never come across one who has made such poor decisions with an administrator brought in and continue the downhill slide. Where is the funding going that comes from Bungendore rate payers who are falsely represented in your "why we need a rate rise" report? The Bungendore community rates do not need a rate rise! Especially during this financially difficult period with everyday living costs rising exponentially along with interest rate pressure, then your local council takes it upon themselves to add to the fire. Do not punish your constituents for your own financial failures. We choose an administrator to be brought in and none of the scenarios!
138)	Reduce staff and freeze any new FTE
139)	Increased State Government support for the pool is essential. Take the cash from North Sydney pool's $10 million facelift.
140)	Yes! No to rate rises whilst building an edifice for councillors and undoubtedly more staff to work in (The Q) whilst giving each other massive pay rises, well above the norm and totally unjustified by a council yet unproven since election.
141)	Please pare everything back to essentials and be prepared to go cap in hand to the NSW State Government to make them aware of the mess that has been made and allowed to become acute.
142)	Sorry, haven't read it/them yet. Will do so.
143)	What modelling has been done factoring in the continued growth of Googong? Not an insignificant number of properties over the next 8 years that will contribute to long term revenue.
144)	I appreciate your efforts and encourage cost conscious behaviours and user pay approaches where possible
145)	Look at pay cuts in upper management and reducing staff levels
146)	It needs more work to present options for internal efficiency gains and cost cutting and savings to offset rate rises
147)	Leave the libraries alone and expand

148)	Council has been left stranded by state and federal governments
149)	Council needs to rethink all its long- and short-term spending and learn to live within its means without always asking for more money
150)	Yes, demerger the council and allow non Queanbeyan areas to self-regulate.
151)	Council are responsible for providing services, stop wasting money and budget more effectively.
152)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL MAIL (LETTER)** Take an interest only loan on the new building. Such building have taken over 100 years to pay off. There is no need to do it in three years.
153)	Jerra already pays rates as Hughes residents so any increase to that is unacceptable. You should charge Queanbeyan residents more rates as Googong and Jerra is already paying way more. Increase rates proportionally. Whoever pays super little gets more increase. It's beyond ridiculous that Jerra and Googong has been carrying the council and are suggesting to increase everyone equally.
154)	I am interested in Council's internal costs and exactly what it is doing to reduce its costs. For example, how much has all employees (including executives) remuneration increased in the last 5 years.
155)	It's a document for council not for the public but I like that you are being transparent. I hope that by using this process that you provide the view of what the community wants which isn't in the Plan. I also think the process of asking the community to rate the importance of critical infrastructure is ridiculous, as if the community could do without those services and infrastructure. Essentially there are mandatory costs and optional costs and that is what your options are about.
156)	Try harder to focus on core council business.
157)	Revenue needs to increase to match cost of services.
158)	This crisis was evident from the time of the merger when it was clear that Palerang Council was struggling to maintain its essential infrastructure, including roads, bridges and sewerage systems. Queanbeyan residents were 'sold a pup' by the NSW Government and will forevermore need to subsidise this vast and relatively impoverished area. However, what is done is done, and I think that there is recognition that the council is struggling. The LPFP and the DP is sound but must focus on the essentials of local government.
159)	Needs to be made tentative to the new residents and needs to be reassessed 12monthly
160)	With the other significant cost of living increases, it's an absolute joke. Why are discretionary activities still on the council's project list like the Queanbeyan Showground Cultural and Heritage Interpretation Plan and rail trails that will provide entertainment for mostly Canberran's who don't pay rates to QPRC.
161)	Happy to see all projects on hold until a surplus is seen by a reduction in services - only operating essential services (sewer, water, waste collection).
162)	It is unacceptable that council ever allowed this debt to accrue.
163)	Increase the rates, support those who need help and make the organisation work smarter.
164)	Cut costs in all areas especially Council wages Council benefits eg car fleet, Spend ratepayer funds on what is important to ratepayers not on a bigger beaurocracy!! Fix roads, fix hoarding and develop strong policy around this! Reintroduce tidy towns competition. Maintain parklands and river corridors!!.

	Do not expect ratepayers to pay extra rates to pay for council mismanagement of ratepayer funds!! Be an accountable council!! Fix what is important to ratepayers Earn your wages!! Do not spend what you don't have!
165)	Why are we in this position, it seems to be since we merged to become QPRC, can this be explained.
166)	The program needs to focus on core business and the majority of public expectations of council duties. Rubbish, roads, infrastructure. These do not include funding arts or community "feel good" items. Everything else can be user-pays.
167)	38 million in employee costs is extravagant.
168)	This plan focusses on increasing the costs to the Community rather than on how the Council can save costs and re-prioritise to provide the much needed maintenance of Community safety e.g roads.
169)	If it is not affordable it must be reduced in scope. The need for an increase in rates of this magnitude in the current economic climate seriously under mines by confidence in the Long Term Financial Plan.
170)	They see very thorough, well considered and staff have clearly invested significant time and effort into the preparation of this document
171)	Council must be financially sustainable
172)	Stop building mammoth projects that cost a fortune to maintain and depreciate, look at raising revenue by selling off or leasing out Council owned facilities, take a long hard look at all expenditures including management and consider amalgamation of facilities and functions, privatisation and contracting out
173)	It would be more valuable to consider how council services are valued in the community rather than focus on what generates cost and revenue. Given the increase in flexible/hybrid working arrangements, the centralisation of council offices into the big tower currently being constructed no longer makes economic sense. To ensure the infrastructure is not a complete waste of space, I suggest you have some workspaces/levels available to be hired out by businesses, individuals, or other government organisations to improve utilisation and value for money.
174)	Fix the problems and invest in a brighter future
175)	Achieve financial viability through restructuring and cost reductions
176)	We need an administrator to replace this council
177)	I'd opt for scenario 3: Maintain Services
178)	I am willing to face the cost of two cheap, or one expensive, coffees a week if it means not loosing access to services.
179)	Have not seen either of the above? Have they been sent to households?
180)	Scenario 3 will bring about the best result for our community.
181)	Again review projects for necessity and postpone those that are not urgent.
182)	Yes as above it is unaffordable and no options where given of what will be turned off if not delivered.
183)	One may think you're trading insolvent, so I suggest you either seek additional funding from the NSW State Government to absorb your deficits, or go into voluntary administration sack the entire QPRC Board and Council Executives. Another solution

	is look at other high-performing councils in NSW and undertake service delivery improvements in the way change management to redevelop your reputation and delivery of services to the community.
184)	Nothing left to say. Council has already made their minds up moving forward.
185)	An independent review of the QPRC including the staffing levels, pay scales and procedures should be undertaken to help determine the long-term direction.
186)	This is a very hard choice. I wonder how much has been done on return on investment. The Q is a great place but then again, are we charging what we need? Is there are return on the investment? I just would like to see those figures further. I believe the biggest priority should be services. We are charged more and more and are expected to receive less and less. That doesn't make sense. Families are under large financial pressure.
187)	You need to look at it again and come up with a CPI increase with is still higher than salary increases.
188)	What experience dose the people writing the draft have??
189)	Council should look for opportunities to make savings in its day to day business going forward.
190)	The general community have the make do with increases in their lives so why do they have to foot another increase because the council “can’t meet costs on the money allocated by IPRT”? You say it doesn’t include waste, sewerage, stormwater or waste, but how long until this is increased?
191)	Instead of just increasing revenue by increased rates, serious consideration needs to be given to cut services, increase productivity through privatisation and stopping wasteful past and new initiatives. Not even sure how accurate these documents are how much of a guesstimate has been used in producing these.
192)	Council is not thinking of the people, how are people going to survive.
193)	What have Queanbeyan wasted rate payer money on, one that comes to mind is spending like there is an endless bucket of money in and around Queanbeyan on parks landscaping, art projects etc.
194)	Plan and Program seem logical and reasonable. At the end of the day, we (residents) cannot expect services to be maintained and grow, whilst continuing to further develop without actively contributing to this.
195)	Let's get the budget and finances in balance Today, and determine where we can more from there.
196)	So where in the financial statements does it show what councillors were actually paid? No productivity or other savings apparently suggested there!
197)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** 1. You say that the average annual rates for QPRC are $1155. But I own a two bedroom flat in a 1970s building in Queanbeyan and already pay annual general rates of $2069.73. The same as the average for a house in Tuggeranong or Gunghalin, you say, and double the average for QPRC. That makes no sense (especially if the distribution is skewed to the upper end as it probably is, and the mean rates would be even lower). 2. The graph of the 2022-23 General Fund shows a gap between income and expenses of $16.2 million, which is 10 per cent of income. Therefore all that is needed, according to that information, is essentially a reduction in the expenditure on infrastructure and assets, of 16 per cent. Or perhaps a 10 per cent increase in rates and a 12 per cent reduction in expenditure on infrastructure and assets.

	3. The infrastructure assets bill and the 'new loan' of $44.9 million are not explained. Is it the case that Council is saddled with poor decisions of the previous Council? If so you should say so. Or is it a problem hanging over from the amalgamation of QCC with the Palerang RC? Is so you should say so. 4. There is no explanation of why the rates need to increase so much over so many years. Clearly there are long term implications of new borrowing equal to one year's rate income just this year. 5. Obviously, people will vote for options 1 or perhaps 2, as few will want to double their rates by 3 years time (Option 3, cumulative rates increase). 6. Accordingly, Council has chosen to present options which pretty much destroy all or most of the normal services of council, which amount to 40 per cent of income (not, note, of each $100 of rates that are paid, since they amount to $42.5 million and employee costs and material and services amount to $64.4 million — the shortfall being made up of fees and charges). Using your own supplied figures.
198)	Yes, sack the council and get an administrator to look after it. Yes, I'm very angry at your suggestions, seems to me ye don't live in the real world
199)	Clearly rates need to increase as infrastructure is ageing and community expectations are that Council will provide a range of community facilities to cater for all ages, socio economic groups and interests.
200)	See above. scenario 1 should be followed
201)	Last rate rise was pegged as back on track but clearly poorly managed. Focus more on what's critical for the safe and efficient operation of the region and less on getting re-elected. Spend rate revenue from towns on those towns, coupled with an equitable distribution of State funds focused on State requirements ie maintain roads used heavily by state and inter-state travel (like Max Reef Rd and Kings Hwy).
202)	Would you share with the community your leadership comments, how you got to this position, who is responsible, what internally are the plans (not to get others to pay for your Mal-administration/mis-management), so before you ask your community, maybe open disclosure is the best option for you to consider - will you consider that?
203)	I do hope you can achieve against this.
204)	Encourage an independent third party review.
205)	I don't think Council's proposal has been the most sensible. I'm rather annoyed that Council has tried to deflect the blame of their own ineffectual budgeting by comparing us to suburbs outside the state. There's been tremendous overspending on this new precinct that I'm not even convinced will benefit the general population as much as the public servants in town. I'm counting on the premier vetoing this proposal.
206)	Responsible government is about doing what is best for the governed, not simply what is popular (in this case saving ratepayers a few dollars a week). Please adopt Scenario THREE and do not reduce services.
207)	As per scenario 2

208)	Don’t spend money you don’t have don’t live beyond your means if you were running a business you would be bankrupt. The only four back you ever have is to increase rates it’s ridiculous.
209)	I would like to see a copy of the independent review on councils use of public money
210)	vote of no confidence to council
211)	As above. The council should not be engaging in infrastructure projects of any type beyond road, water and sewage maintenance if it is in the financial state it claims to be in.
212)	I am happy for the rates to be increased to maintain services
213)	There should be a 4th option. There should be no increase to rates and a vote of no confidence in the council. Rate payers will not be able to cope financially to theses cope financially proposed increases with all the other living pressures
214)	Too many layers of government Abolish this layer
215)	Push harder for NSW Government financial aid to help get over this financial strain, or let us at least know you tried to reach out for help. So we may alter our future votes accordingly. More transparency in ways public funds are being used, as everyone is asking: "How did we come to this situation"? Proactive ways of presenting this transparency to the community, as we do not have time to read official budget documentation, graphics and social media posts are good. Expand upcoming rate increase plan to 5 years to soften the impact to households. Paid parking, paid entry to events. Lease out/sell the Q or anything money draining that can be leased out or sold. Qbn swimming pool can increase entry fee a little.
216)	First rule of a financial plan is live within your means, let's do that.
217)	I can't believe that a really large council can't manage to stay within budget. There must be more flexibility within the budget to put off projects to a later year. Reduce staff, services, new developments. Where is the option to not increase rate and reduce services.
218)	Do whatever is necessary to reduce costs to ratepayers by only carrying out the essential services I have previously described.
219)	I have yet to look at these.
220)	GENERAL COMMENT THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR: Why isn't this being made more widely known in the community? This should be going out to every ratepayer, and the only way to guarantee that is with a rates notice that highlights in red the proposed new total rates bill for each of the scenarios. THE PERIOD FOR COMMENT MUST BE LEFT OPEN UNTIL AFTER ALL RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN INFORMED AND HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
221)	Use better financial planning and prioritization, improve staffing levels and reduce backlog on approvals
222)	It seems that the council has not delivered on the cost reductions that were recommended as part of the 2017 review. It is abhorrent that the council has come cap in hand to the rate payer before fixing structural problems within.
223)	It should never have come to this.
224)	Perhaps the original Super Shire concept wasn't a bad idea. At some level things have to work, they obviously don't at population levels we see in the councils locally. Or leave councils in place, but use contractors for doing works. The way council does works, basically around employee RDOs, is so inefficient it is laughable.
225)	we can’t afford 28% annual increases or even 18%, cost of everything going through the roof, we have to make sacrifices

226)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL - SUPPLEMENTARY TO COMMENTS MADE VIA YOUR VOICE** On 5/12/22 at about 19:40 I filled in your online survey re the Rates Proposals and Long Term Financial Plan. I said in my responses that I'd look at the documents and send further comments by snail mail. Here are those comments. 1. The Long Term Plan (LTP) is not a plan. A plan would set out some aims, goals or objectives, some strategies for attaining the desired outcomes and some measures of progress towards them. The LTP says nothing about what Council wants to achieve, it offers no strategies for getting there and only addresses a symptom, vis. a persistent deficit in the General Rates account. A plan would address the cause or causes of the deficit. The proposed fixes all assume that Council must continue to do what it is currently doing, and do it in the way it has always been done. That is, the LTP is based on a false assumption that change is not possible. There is no vision here or any sense of a future. It's all a reaction to what is painted as an intractable and purely financial problem. 2. The LTP is not long term. It covers a ten-year interval (medium term?) but on inspection the estimates can be seen as i) a restatement of the current year (2023) budget, ii) projections, for the same activities, for two years (2024, 2025), and iii) a linear extrapolation to a time horizon arbitrarily set at 10 years. Thus, there is a lot less to the LTP than meets the eye. It would be better described as a two-year projection of the 2023 budget padded out to ten years on an assumption that nothing can ever change. 3. The assumptions underlying the extrapolation ensure that the deficit will increase indefinitely. Financial ruin is thus assured. The average of the deficits for years 1-10 is $24m pa. But so what? The average for years 1-20 would be $34m pa and for years 1-50 would be $60m pa. Council does not currently face a $24m-sized problem, or anything like it. It faces a $15m problem in 2023, probably a $10m problem in 2024, and possibly a $21m problem in 2025. But only within the completely static and unchanging world that is the model. 4. The LTP fails to mention risk and uncertainty. It is a mere a set of point estimates. In order for it to be at all useful for decision making it ought to at the least give confidence intervals around the key estimates. For example, the projected deficit in 2024, under the base case scenario, is $10m. Is that $9-11m, $1-20m, $9-20m or $1-11m? The best actions are different in each case. The LTP is entirely useless even as a guide to financial outcomes. 5. The 'LTP says the deficit is "Structural" but it does not justify this claim. Only one structural problem is identified that the State Government is not fully funding some activities it expects the Council to do. All Councils in NSW have this problem. It cannot continue in perpetuity so one of two things must inevitably happen. Either i) all councils will go bankrupt, or ii) the rules will be changed. QPRC should act as if the rules will be changed. To do otherwise would be to preempt a future State government decision to do away with councils.

227)	Queanbeyan doesn't need another pool - the current one is sufficient
228)	Previous councillors need to be held accountable, in particular the *** ****.
229)	As above! All options are not suitable for a community that is already called “struggletown”…. The population will suffer and it will be cheaper to live in Sydney than here soon! Pittyful council!
230)	Well presented
231)	Cut the bureaucracy, stop wasting money on consultants and get on with maintaining our town
232)	Get some financial advice from people who know what they’re doing. Come down to planet Earth and see how people are struggling with the rising cost of living already and find a reasonable solution.
233)	sack the council.
234)	Council chambers in Queanbeyan is a joke and there should be a criminal enquiry. Stop building ridiculous buildings then asking us to reach into our pockets to support your terrible financial spending
235)	No. Very disappointed in the Council and won’t be voting for current councillors. I believe mismanagement and their wish for an expensive new building has led to this problem.
236)	The council needs an independent person to do a thorough 'Line by Line zero based examination of its budget along the lines of what P J Keating and Walsh did in the first year of the Hawke government. It is gobsmaking that my total yearly rates in Braidwood ,which are at $3200 are already nearly $1000 more that those paid for a similar property in Goulburn could rise over the next few years by an extra 3to 4 hundred dollars
237)	There should have been savings from the merger, what happened to them? What happened to the money the state government provided to implement the merger? It is a case of gross mismanagement that the council would embark on borrowing money they cannot afford and expect the rate payer to pick can.
238)	The draft LTFP appears to be put together with a direction of finding 3 scenarios but did not include the obvious of placing QPRC in administration or separating the QPRC back into the original council areas and the flow-on affects. Until this is completed it should not be supported. The delivery plan is based on the 3 scenarios and is not in the rate payers interest
239)	I think the Mayor and current council should resign. Yes the problem is probably partly inherited but some of these councillors were part of the previous council. These councillors spend more time trying to score political points than doing what is right for the community.
240)	We are in a mess because of incompetent financial strategic planning
241)	Spend money wisely by sticking to basics, ensuring contractors don’t over price you, don’t cut basic community services like swimming pool. Do not increase fees any more than scenario one at most, otherwise you’ll be putting families into financial ruin especially with the increases If mortgage rates and electricity etc
242)	This is a poorly planned program that never had the intention for future planning a d looks more like an exercise to fix a complete mess that all of the councillors had previously agreed on, thus punishing the community when inflation is high and cost of living has gone up while blaming COVID, it is evidence of poor planning and gross misuse of power by this council.

243)	Council and it consultants have ignored the fact that recent Valuer General's valuations have greatly increased the basis for calculating its rates and for most rural land already resulted in a doubling of the rates.
244)	Easy to say councillors pay rise and new council building is not linked but it's not ethical and ratepayers have lost confidence in the council
245)	Be realistic. The increases proposed are an insult to people struggling to make ends meet as it is. A 5 or 7% increase would be fair, but over 50% to a 100% increase is just unfair and makes people angry when they drive past the multi-million dollar new council building when there are so many empty spaces in Queanbeyan that could have been refurbished to save money. Wasting money for the sake of new buildings and unnecessary spending at the cost of rate payers is why we are in so much debt. The average wage is lucky to go up 1 to 3% in a year. How are people expected to keep up with this.
246)	Firstly stop giving yourselves pay rises a newly elected council should not consider a wage rise with in the first year of their term let alone the first few months. Be upfront and transparent because this has not been the way so far. Every time I have required councils help or information it is not forthcoming so I do not have any faith in your service or your so call plan to fix the problems.
247)	Most of the community recognises the Taj Mahal construction for being what it is, an unnecessary expense which inevitably increases the loan burden. With reduced overhead and expense in a well-managed budget the extravagance is not required. We are pensioners and are required to live within our means after working hard for over 50 years and now question why the Council is apparently incapable of doing the same whilst effectively undermining our retirement plans with over the top increases? The QPRSC newsletter announcing 3 Hobson's choices is an admission of failure in budget management. All the while the incredible proposed increases do not mention any substantive improvement in services. A very poor effort. Thank you for asking for my opinion.
248)	I don’t have the confidence in the Council to stick to any plans. The council has overcommitted and poorly managed.
249)	People can afford this amount of increase due already high cost of living as we do not receive a 20 plus wage increase unlike the councillors
250)	I do not believe a good enough explanation has been provided as the cause of the problem. If council is successful in achieving consensus, and the rates rise by the larger amount, when will the community see the benefits? is there a guarantee that rates won't continue rising?
251)	I would prefer to see an independent (Independent of the QPRC and NSW State Government) assessment with comparisons of the previous years running costs showing where 100% increase has occurred and suddenly now warranted (Please include all Councillor and managerial salary increases). The other Council locale's giving comparison to rates are cherry picked for a reason; please show all country NSW and country Vic and country SA but don't compare the ACT jurisdictions as they are reliably referred to as a basket case of unnecessary expenditure and excessive bureaucracy and you wouldn't want to be tarred with that brush; would you?
252)	Very unhappy at the options. Please prioritise services to the community, not diversity and inclusion projects. Leave it to the state and federal governments.
253)	I think the full implications of each scenario should be more comprehensively spelt out in the Long Term Financial Plan.
254)	I am not sure if I would have any confidence in a financial plan produced by this council at present.

255)	55 pages is too long for a Long Term Financial Plan. I found it difficult to wade through the mass of information and graphics to get to the information I was looking for. It would be great to see a version of this which is not written for accountants or Business Managers.
256)	Contribution of committing to large discretionary capex projects and associated debt (EDE, QCCP, others) to the current situation is not clear. Proposal to maintain or increase current debt levels requires further explanation, noting that the fundamental reason given for unsustainability of the current situation is inability to service debt.
257)	Don't raise rates and privatise the Q.
258)	I vote you all be replaced for your inability to effectively manage the budgets of your local communities.
259)	It's appalling
260)	Millions spent on councils buildings is just embarrassing. Work from home like others and consider the need to actually house so many employees at any one time. You will have empty desks and huge bills.
261)	As above. Not acceptable to offer three bad options and not one that addresses structural change in council spending as per previous comments. Hard to believe there isn't more savings to be had in council operations. A new 'independent' report that is written by someone 'never' employed by QPRC is in order.
262)	First of all stop using Canberra as a rate comparison. Introduce a new system for rate billing that shows what someone has paid, not just what the new bill is Reduce waste and get back to basics.
263)	This will cripple some families and threatening to take common facilities is a joke. QPRC should be absolutely ashamed of yourselves.
264)	As a rate payer, I'm disappointed at the lack of accountability and financial mismanagement.
265)	I am disgusted by the state the previous counsellors have left this region in. Who is accountable for this? Considering how expensive life has become, the fact that rates have to increase (mostly as a direct result of poor management on the council's behalf) is extremely stressful.
266)	While I am disappointed in the future rate increases, I am satisfied that the Council has consulted the community.
267)	More cuts needed in social and community services to ensure we maintain our assets. Councils primary job is Roads, Rubbish and Town Water and Sewerage. All other services are in addition to your mandate and create duplication with state and federal services.
268)	They are scary stuff but I think we have no option but to double rates, the old Palerang would have already gone broke. Councils should be even bigger, based on the current catchment management areas with state environmental responsibilities, with GST funding, devolved to this level of government. These responsibilities should come with the authority to implement them to suit the residents of QPRC, not inner city Sydney. Our small businesses ultimately pay the rates, we need them to flourish.
269)	Option 1
270)	Charge for events, make profits on things like the pool, the q skate parks etc

271)	I am not an accountant nor ever volunteered to be a treasurer. But they appear sound and well thought out. I think it is also time to work towards more Volunteering within Communities which can give people - especially single/widow an opportunity to meet more like minded locals. The QPRC gardeners do a great job in our towns, whilst I do not wish for someone to lose their employment, there is scope for volunteers to assist and do planting and weeding in gardens provided by QPRC. The National Capital Authority in Canberra does this with places along the Lake Burley Griffin, Blundell's Cottage and the Rose Gardens and they all work well. I know I am a volunteer there, we all look out for one another and it is a little community within itself.
272)	Find a way to preserve core services, outsource others, and only increase rates as much as is absolutely necessary. Blaming the economy for an artificial pause on rate increases after the council mergers isn't a solid argument. But I know I'll blame the war in Ukraine if you stop mowing public spaces… sigh.
273)	As mentioned above, Scenario 3 comes with additional service and infrastructure improvements totalling $3.6 million per annum. This additional spending should only be included if it is an absolute necessity for Council to meet mandatory obligations. Otherwise it should be minimised or preferably removed as it is not an insignificant amount.
274)	Nothing to add.
275)	At this current situation, this plan is more pessimistic since the inflation rate is unstable. It seems people doing this kind of project is taking advantage of the situation.
276)	As a person receiving a pension (but not eligible for any rebates) any increase will have a significant impact. I believe any increase should be kept to a minimum. Scenario 1 at best.
277)	I believe this to be well thought out.
278)	Stop giving wealthy old landowners a rates discount!!
279)	Perhaps it is a myth, but there is a common joke around the region that QPRC is a paid retirement home, with aged and inefficient workers pulling a salary or wage and impacting the overall financial viability of the council. This is basic economics - either reduce expenses or increase income... or do both, for long term financial viability. That means that ALL expenses should be reviewed. That should also include the realistic space required in the new building and subletting. In the 2020's with flexible and hybrid work arrangements, many people working from home 50% of the time, surely QPRC needs less space in the new building. Back to the 'increase income' - focusing on and promoting business growth in the Queanbeyan CBD and the town centres should be a key priority. Look at how buoyant Crawford St is between Monaro and Morrisett. Yet, Bells have just moved out and that fenced off eyesore is not conducive to the 'vibe' that The Royal, 3 Seeds and Cafe 34 bring. Don't know how to do it? Perhaps reach out to the successful business people in the region and ask their opinion.
280)	Need to review all elements of the balance sheet and make cuts to non-essential phasing, focusing spending on growth and development projects / services that benefit the majority of tax payers in the region who are already under significant financial pressure.
281)	Only three scenarios have been presented. In light of responses to this survey, are the three scenarios likely to be adjusted post 31 January 2023 and/or are further scenario options likely to be developed?
282)	Long term plans are a farce from a mismanaged council.
283)	See above comments to Q5. I would not trust a financial plan or delivery program to someone that has put the QPRC in the state that it is currently in and that warrants such a rubbish proposal.
284)	Scrap it sack the council call in the local government minister and hold the mayor and councillors to account

285)	The draft Long Term Financial Plan hinges solely on the three scenarios outlined above - which collectively amount to a single course of action. If this is to be considered 'Long Term Planning', it's lazy at best and utterly unacceptable. It is not a long term plan and it does not consider any alternative courses of action for addressing the councils financial woes. I am separately curious about the claimed expenditure (in the plan) of council funds to support Emergency Service Infrastructure. Council financial statements fail to identify a single dollar being spent to support RFS or SES brigades throughout the QPRC area with the exception of a single future funding commitment to support infrastructure development at the Mulloon RFS Brigade. If, as the plan suggests, resilience against past and future natural disasters is a serious consideration, funding MUST be transparently allocated to support these services. This is just one example of where there is insufficient data to inform meaningful discussion about the 'Long Term Plan'. Finally, the Long Term Financial Plan is clearly framed against an assumption that current revenue from ratepayers is current and accurate. I would be interested to know when the last audit was conducted on the number of residences who actually pay rates; there are people in the community who openly admit they have not paid rates in more than 10 years!! Separately, does council have an accurate list of its ACTUAL assets and their cumulative value? I suspect the list is incomplete, undoubtedly as a consequence of the merger several years ago. Any 'Long Term Financial Plan' should be founded on a clear and accurate view of assets and revenue sources - both of which are conspicuously absent from the plan that council intends to justify the only course of action that has been considered.
286)	I am astounded at the lack of foresight that has led to this and the way it is worded is almost threatening.. we will drastically cut services if you don't agree to our massive raise. It could have been put to the community in a much better way. I am not sure how you thought this would get support.
287)	What are other alternatives without increasing rates???
288)	Employ a new GM and Mayor.
289)	I find we are swamped with information, one can spend all day every day reading all the things that are sent out. I personally hate sitting in front of my computer reading but it is important, I do think most people do not have the sort of time that it all takes, and so many things need public imput, I realise the council tries very hard and I wish more people would care more.
290)	Redo your financial plan and no more bloody loans!
291)	We are right out on the shire boundary and feel we don't get anything for our rates. We now have to pay nearly $30 to get rid of our rubbish which still annoys the hell out of me. Both gravel and sealed roads are neglected. No weed management happening. You need to slash grass and cut back trees on the side of the road. We have nothing out this way for kids. We are closer to Collector, Gunning, Goulburn for services. I also have concerns about the Barina Quarry recommencing and I haven't heard any response from QPRC.
292)	The cost saving measures do not seem to be addressing key items. As a property owner that does not have town water or gas or a rubbish collection, the roads are shocking and we’re even before the rain events.
293)	Perhaps council should sell the new council building which I believe is the reason they can’t balance the books. It would make more sense
294)	Stop all fluff. Create a safe environment for people to look after themselves
295)	I think having the 3 scenario is a poor communication tactic as it looks like you don't have any other choice but scenario 3.

296)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Mayor, Councillors and CEO Please consider these points when making your decision wrt the Financial Plan and potential rates increase. I support a phased increase to our rates, particularly to restore roads and other infrastructure following the intense rains and disasters. My view is summarized below: - the financial plan for general operations should demonstrate it can fund the scheduled maintenance and renewal of our infrastructure over the next 10 years - this includes the infrastructure 'inherited' from government grants and developers like Googong, Tralee and Elmslea - special provision (perhaps a temporary rate increase) should be considered to allow for extra renewal and rehabilitation works on infrastructure damaged by rain and disasters (and leverage grants?) - special rating provision should be considered to fund future resilience of those assets and critical environments exposed to impacts of climate change - rethink the egalitarian approach of the former council to spread the same services across the whole local area; perhaps target to population and business size - set a higher rate for those new subdivision areas to at least recover the 10 year forecast cost of the new infrastructure servicing and maintenance in those areas - then reset the developer plans to recover more of the (now highly escalated) upgrade costs of infrastructure every 5 years - if people can afford to buy into these places, they should expect (and can afford) to pay appropriate rates to service and maintain assets - governments can no longer afford to subsidise local councils with expansive grants; so local councils should plan to stand on their own feet with residents and business bearing a suitable share from rates for public benefit assets and services; and the private benefits and regulatory services funded by private fees and contributions - the condition and functionality of our infrastructure is the cornerstone of local government, and the basis that residents judge the performance of a council - it should be expected a growing council with large environmental and development areas will struggle to make ends meet with rate pegging; the government and IPART expects a rate increase to cover those gaps guided by suitable and clear planning and purpose of a council - while this increase should be about infrastructure and services supported by that infrastructure, future increases should be planned for resilience, climate change and environmental/catchment management please I look forward to a sensible approach by Councillors. Councils are not responsible for other increases in costs (construction materials, energy etc), and has no obligation to subsidise its operations for public benefit to offset other consumer increases.
297)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thankyou for your invitation to comment on the anticipated General Fund Deficit.

	I note from your Official Newsletter that the "Estimate" for the general fund for 2023 includes: "Capital in" : New loans 44.9 mil Capital Grants 31.4 mil -------- Total 76.3 Infrastructure And Assets 102.5 mil ------- Shortfall (26.2) mil --------- It is not obvious from the Categorisation ,but to the extent that 'Infrastructure and Assets " includes New Assets (Capital Expenditure),then New Assets will have been purchased out of Operating Revenue. If new Assets cannot be purchased from Operating Revenue without incurring significant Deficits ,their cost should be met out of Capital Grants, supplemented by New Loans, or their purchase re-considered.
298)	How did we get into this mess? I am worried that if you increase the rates (by any amount) what is to say that you will not increase them again because you have not managed our money properly!
299)	We currently receive zero services from the QPRC on Doust road in Bywong, and we are happy with that but not happy that we are paying towards things we do not receive. we pay for our own garbage removal, weed control, water storage, electricity, childrens schooling.... EVERYTHING. I am in no way supportive of any increase in rates for our area what so ever.
300)	Plans read like they are strategic hope rather than a strategic will. Neither address any accountability/responsibility when the hope becomes the reality of failure. Ratepayers are often left holding the bill when highly paid professionals get it wrong then move on to their next gig seemingly without consequence/accountability. Councillors provide guidance based on community wants/wishes and the council team deliver within the rules. Each point to the other when it goes wrong and Councilors take the credit for any positives. Can we get rid of Councillors and just have an administration? If the Plan and Program are worthy and just then they each have accountability and public ownership.
301)	I think we need to raise our heads from the small details and make this a strategic step up. How about having community resilience hubs that blend services (so you can close some) inc library/youth centres /pools. How about focussing on heat / bushfire / drought preparation - getting ppl to plant subsidised fire resistant trees in their gardens and creating bio diverse corridors. Hi about attracting businesses who will pay rates and create jobs rather than relying on Public sector commune. Looking at where to save money is not the answer.
302)	NSW councils on average rely on rates for approximately 40% of their revenue. QPRC's revenue appears to be almost 60% from rates. Other revenue sources should be identified and maximised. The borrowing costs also seem to be above the average percent of council expenses and ways to reduce this should be prioritised. There should be a better spread of funding across the Community services, and reduction particularly of the Customer line item. Recreation seems to be an over-

	represented service area compared to others, particularly when there is already a lot spent on sports fields in the Urban Landscapes service.
303)	Will narrowed down options come out post the first round of consultation, priming the communtiy ofr a second round of consultation?
304)	Forget it
305)	Council is in a challenging position. I hope level heads can steer the Council into a strong financial position and maintain as much services as possible.
306)	I don't think it is a great time to increase rates when little services are provided to Googong. If Queanbeyan Council are trying to attract families to the area in a volatile economic time I think this is a bad idea. Googong does not even get the services that we are already paying for
307)	Lobby the Federal Government to give funds directly to councils rather than wasting money going through states.
308)	The Long Term Financial Plan does not provide adequate explanations for the current financial situation. The 'root cause analysis' is a generic diagram with no data or evidence provided. I would expect a far more mature analysis in this kind of document. The Long Term Financial Plan does not reference previous audited financial statements. If it did, then it would be immediately obvious that there are some strange assumptions in the projections which are not in line with previous years. For example, rates and charges are estimated to plummet, and spending on infrastructure and assets to massively increase. There's literally no explanation provided for these assumptions. Without an explanation for why the projections have very different trends than the last 4 years of financial statements, I can only assume that the projections have been tweaked to justify the wildly unreasonable increase in rates. I have no faith in the accuracy of the projections, and therefore reject all scenarios because they are not justified.
309)	Only that it does not adequately address the needs and feedback of the community, and that it lacks insights, innovations and consistency with other regions, that could be addressed if it was developed with the support of state government resources and closer collaboration with the ACT to share more services and therefore build practical efficiencies regardless of politics (we do it with policing, why not other services).
310)	There are too many projects funded by large loans that Council cannot afford to repay. Community services should not be sacrificed to repay loans, especially as most of the loans benefit Queanbeyan, not the regional areas. Basic infrastructure like rural roads and footpaths should be prioritised over projects like the Monaro Street upgrade. That project should be deferred and the loan of $5.5m diverted to essential repair of rural roads. Future loan proposals should be heavily scrutinised by Council.
311)	No, except why did the councillers get a wage rise if we were in this financial position.
312)	Could borrowing be curtailed and developers have greater contributions. that no large scale projects be embarked on without grant monies fully funding them. It appears that QPRC debt is untenable and dysfunctional as it stands. I question whether the council is viable and can only say I would like to see a few previous office holders and politicians be made to take responsibility for the mess.
313)	See above. Sell or give water and sewerage treatment system to ICON Water.

314)	The idea of selling public assets is a very short sighted approach and actually is not the answer to attracting people to this area. Ammenities are important to community and ultimately your bottom line - especially pools for goodness sake!
315)	Reduce wastage, be financially frugal and focus on the basic needs of your rural population.
316)	As an age pensioner on a tight budget, I am already finding the rates high. Any further increase creates additional financial stress.
317)	I note that there is not the option to pay nothing if the expected services are not provided.
318)	Appalled at the lack of planning that has led to this position. Too many projects started together and before the community has the capacity/funds to pay. Disagree with the analysis on the Queanbeyan Civic and Cutural precinct- I have lived in Queanbeyan over 20 years and have never be 'inconvenienced' by the multiple sites for the council offices, I do not feel that the rooms are inadequate for staff - although some upgrade would be nice, the spaces are generally air conditioned etc. Not sure if you are saying your staff are currently "ineffective and inefficient" (?) This project has a cost of just over $48million to ratepayers according to your files. To go ahead with this sizeable commitment without further consultation with the community was extremely poor. Most people over the last few years have had a number of stressors that they have had to deal with and adjust to. I am unsure as to when this project was put in place but to do so anytime over the last few years was reckless (suggesting that any general type of notice or consultation process would not have been to the forefront of most community member's minds). Council - in the future- needs to reconsider how they communicate with the ratepayers/community in regard to such large amounts of money. I believe that the general idea behind the project was not askew- but the timing was completely wrong. There would also have been potential for far more modest changes that would have suited the community/ratepayers just as well. Additionally, I do not feel there is a need, currently, to have the CBD transformation (Lowe to Crawford St) or the council refurbishment in the coming year. Both of these things are superfluous at the current time. A general comment - the community (from all I have spoken to) are very angry and concerned.
319)	No, I suggest Council staff and Councillors go back to the drawing board once this consultation period is over and even consult with other LGA's of similar size with some of the similar problems.
320)	Fees for major subdivisions such as Googong and Jumping Creek (now Jumping Desert) should be at a level to FULLY cover all Council costs.
321)	Council needs to think outside the square sto how to capitalise on the huge amount of traffic and tourists (not QPRC residents) that travel through our town and use our services. Council is spending alot of dollars supporting services - parking, public toilets etc for the huge summer surge in our town - we pay for our visitors to use our services - why not make it user pay? Pay parking, tolls, public toilet coin surcharge?
322)	I suspect that all these extra expenses will just fuel the inflationary fire while providing fewer or lower quality services in a region (ACT and surrounds) that is one of the most expensive in the country.
323)	Exceptional work by committed professionals doing the best they have with what they have to ensure our future is a positive one in a world full of uncertainty. Let’s help continue to keep QUEANBEYAN the best kept secret regarding city benefits with country living.
324)	It's an unfortunate situation that QPRC finds itself in. A lot of people will suffer hardship due to these increases. Perhaps better funding could be sought from the federal government

325)	The council needs to get rid of the attitude that everything needs to be Bigger and Better than last year. This very much applies to events. Savings could be made by not responding to dictates from state government for more paperwork, more long term plans, more expensive methodologies and techniques.
326)	Refer to previous response, Council need to work harder to find a way to deliver with a less exorbitant budget.
327)	**RECEIVED VIA HARD COPY SURVEY* The rate peg was supposed to stop councils from unnecessary and extravagant expenditure.
328)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Sirs – I wish to add a few points of my own in relation to Council's suggestions regarding the monetary shortfall / recovery. First and foremost, a flat 30% increase in rates is untenable. If such an amount were to be added to rates there will undoubtedly be many people who simply cannot afford to pay which will lead to further expense by Council as debts are monitored. It has to be asked why such a deficit has been allowed to occur and how much of it is due to factors other than the wellworn covid and/or economic environment as justification. It is disappointing to see Council immediately focus upon residents, the very people they have been elected to support, to remedy the shortfall. Perhaps Council could assist by curbing their own spending on some projects (eg. the glass and concrete blot on the landscape dominating the town) to help make up the difference or follow through with their own suggestion of fewer councillors. Queanbeyan has much to offer of which previous and this Council can be rightly proud. In the current climate, people are prepared to curb their spending but summarily reducing or withdrawing facilities such as the library, theatre or swimming pool will be counter-productive. I would urge that the drastic measures outlined by Council need to be reassessed, moderated and better distributed.
329)	I am still trying to work my way thru these documents
330)	Council obviously paid a lot of money for this report, but there is one option NOT explored. If this report is to be believed and rates need to be increased, why does it not consider a gentler increase by spreading the 93% over 10 years?? This is so obvious since it is making projections over this period of time. Will be much easier to sell to the rate payer!! And who knows after a period of time and sufficient restructure and cost savings measures you might find that the balance sheet catches up and we can return to CPI.
331)	Smoke
332)	Councils poor past and present budget management IS NOT the fault of rate payers and therefore you need to continue to provide the rather sub-standard services you currently provide with NO INCREASE in rates. I will be raising this with the community, IPART, Members of Parliament, the media, legal, and anyone else who might be able to help to oppose this unjustified, unreasonable, and unaffordable increase in rates.
333)	Living out of town results in very limited services directly required from council. Other than road maintenance, which is appalling, we do not receive any other real support from council. It is also hard to accept council spending on council offices etc if council finances have been so poor.

334)	No - I expect QPRC to work in the communities best interests! I shouldn't have to scrutinise documents to know that my elected members to Council are acting in my and my fellow communities best interests. Although I may start paying much more attention now!
335)	The dot-point survey is difficult to respond to - all those things are important, but it is how you manage and balance them. You say 'bridges' - i don't understand what do you mean by that. Of course a road needs to cross a creek for example, or are you saying we drive through it because it's not maintained, or do you mean a new pedestrian bridge over a particular road... Question 3 is hard to answer as yes or no. Is there middle ground? Could all pensioners in the LGA be treated equally but perhaps at a lesser rate? Does it have to be all or nothing. Seems odd that there is different treatment.
336)	Stop spending money unnecessarily on infrastructure we dont need, you have blown all ratepayers money on that stupid building which is of no significance, yet when council consolidates all the properties they have in Queanbeyan there will be so many empty buildings - then you will spend even more money to knock them down - it's all about money management and obviously whoever is in that position in Council has no money management skills!!
337)	Stop looking in everyone else pockets to solve your financial and service delivery challenges. Start looking internally by prioritising essential services, improving productivity, containing costs, issuing redundancies and exercising fiscal discipline. And come up with a plan that is sustainable using the rate peg - your circumstances are not sufficiently unique, special or extraordinary to justify anything beyond this amount.
338)	No rate increases.
339)	I'd like to see a draft financial plan that is based on the rates peg set by IPART. Freeze the councillor allowances, because the increase in allowances just prior to launching a campaign to lift rates was astonishing and very poorly timed! How does the AR Bluett award winning council of 2020 turn around in 2022 with its hand out to increase rates by this magnitude?
340)	These documents require different considerations and this question should not be shoehorned into this issue. Council should make this another opportunity for public consulation.
341)	Australia at a local-level is becoming a third-world nation (just like as individuals our wealth has been eroded, and pay increases diminished over the past 2 decades). As individuals we have had no choice but to start living within our means - so councils have too as well. If that means that council has to seriously cut services to a level that the community is able to fund (because the Federal and State Governments wish to waste money elsewhere on Defence and other waste spending), then let that situation come home to roost for the politicians making such policy decisions. E.g., the pain at the local level needs to be propagated to the State and Federal level, else the State and Federal Governments will continue to look the other way and take no responsibility for the funding and and other policy decisions they make. I pay enough taxes to fund council programs, it is about time more of those funds flow through to council - to provide for the types of services that taxpayers are expecting taxes to be used for.... not buying weapons for the Ukraine.
342)	I do not agree with them at all. Unfortunately the council has missed managed the finances due to increasing their wages by 25% and 35%. They decided to build the huge council building without informed consultation with public. This region has had a huge growth in property and the council now receives rates from from the expanding property boom in this region. It is unfair the council asks rates payer for this money due to increase of cost of living, food, petrol, electricity gas, water and

	interest rate hikes. The council could use an independent administrator to oversee all the spending that has occurred in the past. Ensuring the administrator isn't someone like *** ***. The council says it was the previous council however the majority of councillors and mayor have been in office for a long time. I do not agree with this proposal at all.
343)	Considering the growth in your rate base (ie Jerrabomberra, Googong etc) we wonder how the Council is in such a dire financial situation.
344)	Could more effort be put into promoting QBN as great place to run your business, especially for ACT businesses? This could increase revenue. Also medium sized events currently held in Canberra could relocate to NSW ie like Octoberfest. More promotion of Queanbeyan to ACT residents as an option for people to live, especially with rates having increased so much in ACT.
345)	See above
346)	1) Review extending timeframes for implementing big capital investment projects 2) More scrutiny of overall costs to ratepayers of seemingly 'vote winner' asset grants to Council, when we are left picking up ever increasing asset maintenance and depreciation costs...ie discuss whole of life net benefit when accepting such grants
347)	Hope it doesn't happen agaim
348)	The reasons for the funding shortfall have not been adequately explained. There is significant population growth in the region, which should be increasing revenue to QPRC, along with the revenue received from developers through the subdivisions approved. This should be reducing pressure on ratepayers, not excessively increasing it. Mismanagement of funds by QPRC should be investigated.
349)	Pensioner rebates should be increased to entirely cancel out the effect of any Rates rises, and should then increase annually with the Rate Peg.
350)	Yes, it will place our family in serious financial strain - whilst we already deal with needing to travel far and wide to receive basic services, and spend thousands of dollars trying to maintain and repair our vehicles.
351)	I can't understand why the council is in financial difficulty given the increase in ratepayers. Raising rates to such a level at a time when most rate payers are under financial stress is unconscionable
352)	Whilst it might look good on paper, the queries raised by Russell Buzby's Facebook post about QPRC financial position the answers make this doc look subjective.
353)	DO NOT SELL THE Q/THE B!!!!!!
354)	Reducing service would probably be good from a financial standpoint, but would decrease quality of life. Maintaining services and increasing rate charges would be much better. And the Q is a vital part of the community, and should not be sold under any circumstances - it is so valuable to the cultural life of QPRC, bringing in patrons from across the LGA plus across Canberra and beyond. Losing it would be very short-sighted.
355)	The possible selling of The Q Performing Arts Centre would be dire for all local artists who currently utilise it, and could potentially ruin the longrunning Queanbeyan Players, a beloved community theatre company that has been a cornerstone of Queanbeyan for decades. It is a valuable asset to the cultural life of Queanbeyan, which would not be the performing arts hotspot that it is without it. Please reconsider this drastic course of action.

356)	I only come to Qbn for the Q
357)	DO NOT sell the Q
358)	Please do NOT sell the Q - the Q is the only theatre in the ACT/Queanbeyan area which can support/house local community and is used multiple times a year by several local companies. The production of performances at the Q brings money to many local Queanbeyan business from hiring spaces for rehearsals and audiences and performers attending local establishments for meals before performances. Queanbeyan Players is a not for profit community organisation that has been part of the Queanbeyan community for over 50 years. Selling and privatising the Q would literally mean the end of Queanbeyan Players. Community involvement and events are vital, please please please don't sell the Q.
359)	The main reason I've come to Queanbeyan is for the Performing Arts Centre and the various shows that are performed there. Many fantastic performances have been presented and I would love to see them continue.
360)	PLEASE DONT CLOSE THE Q - it is a incredibly important part of the community and Canberra community. Please I'm begging you, the arts industry has already been beaten to death by covid. Don't kill it any more. We are just starting to bounce back. I'm begging you, all perfomers everywhere are begging you. The Q is so important to us.
361)	Don't sell the Q or cut arts funding! The Q is incredibly important, at a local and interstate level. It brings in productions and audiences from around Australia, with international connections. Jordan Best has done such a brilliant job of bringing the community into the theatre. Theatre should always be a mirror to society and her programming, including Q the Locals, has done exactly that, allowing for space to have local stories shared and told - as well as providing jobs for many professional artists in the area, including actors, directors and designers. The Q for many is representative of Queanbeyan as a whole, and the first thing that they think of when considering the area. Selling the Q and cutting arts funding should never be an option. When the arts are damaged or negatively impacted (which is often the first thing to happen when money gets tight), these negative impacts permeate the community around it. Artists already struggle with being paid, as the lowest paid industry in Australia relative to the amount of income it brings in. Let Queanbeyan and the council set the example of prioritising the arts and giving it the value it needs.
362)	Give more funding to the arts
363)	There is only one Q.
364)	Council should not apply for or accept any new grant funding which requires matching funding or undertake any new major capital projects. Council should concentrate on delivering core services to a level in line with promulgated service standards. Council needs to work smarter not harder and look to reduce, re-use or recycle wherever possible - council should be leading by example if it wants community support. Council should be looking to the state government for more assistance to deliver some of the required services locally. The current funding/assistance model and processes appear to be overly complex, politically partisan and even broken in some

	instances - all councils should be expecting more of their state and federal members. There are many councils in dire financial need; some through their own action/inaction and others are victims of recent 'unprecedented' weather events. Regardless, now is the time to look beyond the simple solution and think bigger - approach the federal minister for regional Australia and start a conversation about a better way!
365)	No, except that it is essential that local production and arts companies are supported to encourage the many talents of people of all ages in the Queanbeyan/Palerang region who give unstintingly of their time (voluntarily) to support the development of the arts. E.g. The Queanbeyan Players.
366)	The documents refer to an equalisation of services across the amalgamated LGA as one of the reasons for the current deficit. As a rural resident outside of Braidwood, I'm genuinely trying to think of a new service that we have received since amalgamation but I can't identify anything. The facility that I'm most familiar with - roads - seem to be in much poorer condition and the associated service of maintenance is much less responsive.
367)	it is a **** move on council to blame rate payers who cant afford a rate hike to be the reason we have reduced services. There is no guarantee reduced services will solve this structural financial issue. Let just suck it up.
368)	I am not clear on the long-term financial plan and draft delivery program.
369)	Please do not sell the Q or Bicentennial Hall, they are very important to many people and allows people to make money if they are in the arts business. It is also very important to the arts and to the culture of Queanbeyan, selling points for coming to Queanbeyan and ways to improve happiness and satisfaction within the community.
370)	Please don't sell the Q, it's such an incredible venue with so many good memories, there's really nothing like it.
371)	I strongly oppose the suggested sale of The Q theatre, as outlined in Scenario 1. The Q has for fifteen years been an important and much valued cultural fixture, not only for Queanbeyan residents but also for those in surrounding areas. The Q houses dozens of theatrical, corporate and cultural events each year. These include both those which come from interstate and significantly, those which are run by local organisations such as the Queanbeyan Players, the disbandment of whom could potentially result from The Q's closure. This is not to mention the hundreds of professional artists and theatre staff who would lose employment. The arts are as important a part of Queanbeyan-Palerang's culture as sport, festivals, etc. They provide much needed opportunities for our community to come together and be entertained, challanged and inspired; such vechiles for reflection and unity are even more vital as we emerge from the pandemic. The Q is perhaps the premier local arts venue of its kind and in bringing together residents of Queanbeyan, Palerang, Canberra and other towns around NSW, it strengthens the social fabric of this community as well as, if not more so than, any other area of local culture. The QPRC Mission Statement says that council values "cultural diversity" and "creative opportunities." To rob the Queanbeyan-Palerang community of its main performing arts venue in these times would go against both of these values, to the ultimate detriment of the region. The Q is a venue that means a great deal to myself and many others in Queanbeyan and beyond. I humbly ask that you alter the plans outlined in Scenario 1 to prevent its selling off, for the sake of the community and its residents.

	Thank you for your time and consideration.
372)	I am a visitor not a resident, I want to indicate the importance of the Q as a Canberran it's the only reason I go to Queanbeyan and that's when I spend money in the community there
373)	No. I won't be here to benefit as we will have to sell if the rates more than double. That's the reality.
374)	Lacks creativity, innovation and realistic vision (councillor expenses notwithstanding).
375)	I am pleased to see the quality of the planning documents provided at part of this consultation process. The documents are available, clear, consistent and show that there has been significant analysis of the situation and options.
376)	My overall concern is that QPRC will fail to implement the obviously required structural changes, continue existing operating procedures, and continue increasing rates to rate payers. Also how are the proposed changes to be monitored, to ensure rate payers are at least getting value for their rates contribution, and who on QPRC will be responsible for its implementation and any potential cost over runs.
377)	Get back to basics. Some very aspirational goals for a council without the funding.
378)	no comment
379)	The Long Term Financial Plan requires residents to pay more for diminishing services. The Council and Counsellors need to be held to account.
380)	At this stage no I am coming to terms with the rates rise after using the calculator it is a lot to take in. Was this financial crisis flagged by the previous GM? It seems a shock to be honest.
381)	Staffing levels need to be reviewed Reduce the number of councillors significantly Encourage more private or charity groups for heritage maintenance
382)	I do not think that The Q Theatre should be sold. It is important that it remains as a theatre for the community as it adds so much value to the area. It provides a creative outlet for artists and entertainment and knowledge to the audience. The Q is where I first acted in an independent production. I learnt so much and grew as an artists and met so many amazing people. I really hope that The Q can continue to do this to other young people and provide opportunities for actors and entertainment for audiences. Storytelling is one of the oldest continued practices of humankind and taking it away removes so much of a communities history and connectivity.
383)	Basing rates on property values, particularly for the people that live in my area, is a crude way of raising revenue. We don't live in Jerra or Googong. It will place unfair hardship on many people, foster gentrification and force locals to move.
384)	Yes, not anything in it for Burra/Urilia
385)	55 pages is too much for me to absorb and comprehend today.
386)	What is the plan from here? after reviewing the responses is it a matter of council voting on which SRV to adopt and then implementing it? it seems to me that the most likely scenario from responses will be minimal increase with minimal reduction in services, not really possible, so lots of very unhappy people. I think the financial side of things is very complicated and the perception may be that we are being blinded with figures to get the outcome Council wants, this will need to be well managed.
387)	Sell some heritage buildings to commercial investors and move the current workers into your new building.

388)	If the long term financial future is not viable, I think the councils need to lobby the NSW government for more funding of the infrastructure for rural areas as there are not enough people to support funding these services and country folk deserve to have services available too.
389)	We have had special rate variances for years for different council projects. I understand costs have risen everywhere and that the council costs have risen too. But raising the fees so much is going to be a huge challenge for so many in the community.
390)	I choose scenario 1. The breakdown of money spent, as explained in the information charts, indicates it will only benefit Queanbeyan city.
391)	The plan is a complete joke considering the councillors gave themselves a massive pay rise and the massive change in land valuations. Our land value as assessed by council went up much higher then a bank valuation given at the same time.
392)	We appreciate council is under financial difficulty but think it's hard for the ratepayers to have sympathy when we have so many councillors and said councillors gave themselves a substantial raise!
393)	I find it unacceptable that the council is crying poor when they made a profit of 80 million last financial year. And 76 million the year before. So, doubling our rates over 3 yrs is merely a greedy money grab. If the money is tied up in a 2 yr bond, why are you increasing rates over 3 yrs? How will the elderly be able to cover that? How can you in good conscience, say you need go double rates when so many people are already struggling on their home repayments and daily expenditure? Are you going to lower rates in a few years once you have your bonds back and these higher rates are too expensive for your residents??? Why hasn't this been fully publicised? How is it fine that you can just post something on your council website which most of your residents don't view?
394)	Reduce spending as currently it is over budget.
395)	This is also a joke. You should sack the entire council, including the current financial controller and go into administration so to understand where all your money is. Especially as to why you have massive profits and no spendable cash. Or why you have been cutting services that the previous councils had, even if you now have far greater rate collection resources than before the amalgamation? What about Elmgrove? Or Jumping Creek's expansion? Even the extra land in Googong?
396)	We see no benefits from the increased rates. We will be paying for services which are for other areas
397)	It is still not clear to me what efforts Council and senior council staff are going to do beyond the three year period to cut expenditure and increase revenue. What is the clear considers direction going forward? Council needs to live within their means and I want to know what are council and the mayor doing to ensure the senior paid staff are managing their budgets appropriately. I see no evidence that they have been held to account nor delivering considered approaches to the issues being face. The strategic communications around this entire SRV process has been terrible, the messaging sent out purely focusing on rate increases have completely missed the mark and there need3d to be more focus on what efforts have and are being made to reduce expenses.
398)	Basing rates on property values, particularly for the people that live in my area, is a crude way of raising revenue. We don't live in Jerra or Googong. It will place unfair hardship on many people, foster gentrification and force locals to move.

399)	Sell off the new office block areas to gain back financial stability. Don't sell the Q Theatre as it is a vital asset to the city of QUEANBEYAN.
400)	Please don't sell the Q. It has wonderful showa there and enables amateur theatre to afford to put on shows. My friends and I from Canberra go regularly to see the musicals and other shows there. We are from Canberra and choose to go to the Q instead of the Canberra Theatre.
401)	If the Council Financial adviser was doing there jobs properly maybe the council wouldn't be in so much debt, and also it needs to have an independent audit would help keep things in order. Also you want to take away our pools, parks etc. How about cutting back with fleet cars and take one care to the site not 2 or more.
402)	My comments are in question 5 - and will any of the scenarios include any upgrade and maintenance for Captains Flat, or is this just for Queanbeyan CBD?
403)	No because it is what it is -That's that! I've lost faith.
404)	Like any business when squeezed - do better with less.
405)	Increase the prospect for economic development by rural zonal changes that accept the peri urban nature of the region and increase residential and business development in rural zones.
406)	Dont spend 125 million on sewage in Queanbeyan Dont spend 30 million on regional sports complex Dont spend 10 million on a new pool for Bungendore Dont spend 14 million on CBD lowe to crawford street transformation Don't spend 14 million on carparks If you dont have it dont spend it . Be like the rest of us and live within your means. You know how much your income is....only spend that. Dont take on any works that require $ for $ grants. You cant afford it.
407)	Due to Council's failure to understand the economy by tying up funds for any amount of time, the Council Management should be dismissed and an Administrator be appointed due to their incompetence. Councillors should reverse their self-appointed pay rises to show good faith in their positions as a voice for the community in need. The ratepayers in this Council area are already finding it hard to survive with the increasing costs of living and to subject them to an increase in rates in any of the three scenarios will put even more strain on the community.
408)	A positive community is created by all of the sporting, cultural, heritage and arts facilities that Queanbeyan is known for, and these also attract a lot of traffic to Queanbeyan which in turns supports local business. Without the Q, pools, showground and other facilities being maintained and improved over time, valuable local community organisations will close and there will be no reason to attract local tourism which will then adversely affect local business. Personally I am shocked and disappointed that council would consider defunding or selling The Q considering the value this facility offers the community. If The Q is defunded or goes to private operators, community theatre organisations who provide and rich and diverse arts experiences as well as employment and experience for local residents will not be able to operate. What a loss this would be for Queanbeyan and the greater area indeed.

409)	Unaffordable. Time to disband QPRC and appoint an administrator.
410)	Return the QPRC back to the Queanbeyan City Council and cease the amalgamation now. The LTFP is drafted to increase rates The supposed affordable housing in Googong and now Jumping Creek is set not to be affordable, no one can afford to buy out there. Forensic audit should be conducted this is a consult only, this is not a given plan long term At the time of the merger, council was in debt by $40mil, now $270mil. How can this merger be successful, its not successful, its a money drain.
411)	If you take away services, what ARE you actually providing for people's rates?
412)	Council should be dissolved and a financial administrator is put in place.
413)	Long Term Financial Plan does not include good asset management scenario planning or understanding of the importance of asset management in service provision. Asset management is a whole of organisation activity and poor asset planning has resulted in expensive decisions that are impacting financial situation.
414)	thank you for the enormous time and effort I hope the rate payers can see the big picture propsed
415)	The proposals do not detail savings, nor do they detail growing the revenue base by making council assets generate more income.
416)	We always knew that this was going to happen before the merger was approved. The previous Council should have dealt with it but **** fobbed it off to the current Council. The funding model for all local governments is wrong and the NSW government must change the model.
417)	Recast the long term plan over a longer horizon, perform detailed scenario analysis (Montecarlo) using artificial intelligence to generate unbiased logic and stop marketing QPRC as if it's a professional council - look at the situation it's in.
418)	Real policy change in climate adaptation and planning is a high priority. This should be part of every decision made by council. Waste mitigation and management is essential through supporting local communities to reduce waste and support industry to create a circular economy.
419)	No, not fully aware of all involved.
420)	Do better
421)	Rework the scenarios based upon feedback and make it more in line with what the voters want!
422)	I do not support the Council's proposed Special Rate Variation nor any of the options proposed by the Council. The size of the proposed rates increases is clearly unaffordable to many in the community. The Council has not abided by criteria set by IPART: - the Council has not demonstrated that the proposed rates increases will only have a "reasonable impact" on ratepayers - the Council has not provided a "history of well-documented council productivity improvements and cost containment

	strategies"; covering off remarks in one paragraph on page 21 of the draft 2022-2032 long term financial plan cannot be considered to be such - the Council has not demonstrated that the proposed rates reflect a "fair price" for the services provided The Council must be required to present additional opportunities to the community for consideration, including a full description of the services that are able to be provided under the following scenario: - the 'live within our means' option: o Council reduces its expenditure to be less than its income, where the income from rates reflects the IPART rate peg and is based on the 2022 land valuations issued by the Valuer General o only provides services / level of service that are legally required to be provided by the Council o a side note: my land valuation has increased 50% in the latest valuation issued by the Valuer General which will have a consequential effect on my council rates before any application of the rate peg or any additional increase proposed by the Council The Council must be required to release the independent financial assessment conducted by Morrison Low, in full and without redaction to provide the community with all the information used by the Council to derive its three proposed options. In the late Kerry Packer's words, "I can tell you you're not spending it that well that we should be paying extra."
423)	Stick to council core business. Let the state and federal governments d o there work- do not interfere
424)	Please do not sell off the Q. This would be dire for local artists and potentially put many local performance groups and artists out of business.
425)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL*** SUBMISSION - JERRABOMBERRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed three options for the Special Rates Variation (SRV). The financial situation of the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)requires immediate action. The proposed rate increases will have a significant impact on residents -for each of the three rate increase options proposed. This comes at a time where there is financial tension on households coming from multiple sources. Dealing with the QPRC financial situation should be strongly directed at the source of the problem not the recipients of services. The literature provided by Council to support the options highlights the reduction in revenue that has been available while per capita expenditure has increased. Reduced revenue available to Council has been a result of NSW State Government policies and programs and therefore the financial problems that have been created should be solved through the State and Federal Government funding arrangements that augments the basic revenue obtained by Councils through rates. This should be incorporated as a financial planning instrument, removing the need for Councils to raise revenue through avenues such as bidding for grant funding for essential services. With a state election on 25 March 2023, there should be strong representation to the major parties contesting the election with the aim to increased Council funding preferably through bipartisan support. Further representation should be made to the Federal government to secure Commonwealth funding on an equitable basis rather than the existing grants programs as controlled through the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. The Objective of the Act is as follows:

	(2) The Parliament wishes to provide financial assistance to the States for the purposes of improving: a) the financial capacity of local governing bodies; and b) the capacity of local governing bodies to provide their residents with an equitable level of services; and c) the certainty of funding for local governing bodies; and d) the efficiency and effectiveness of local governing bodies; and e) the provision by local governing bodies of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The current state of local government indicates that the Act is failing to meet its objectives. Our community does not want to see the services that Council currently provides reduced, many of us can clearly remember the “struggletown” label that reflected our city in the late nineties,and we do not wish to return to that era or that label. We also do not see the need to sell off the Q and other key assets or introduce paid parking in Queanbeyan CBD that will add further pressure to the struggling local businesses in that area. The increase in the Council borrowings needs to be halted. The grants received where the Council has to match 1:1 must stop as the community is no longer in a position to pick up the bill under the current funding model. As it stands Council has left future residents/generations with a large level of debt (a memory or legacy of the previous Council) that the community will have to pay for in an environment of increasing interest rates. What is clear from the MorrisonLow Report is that the current structure of QPRC needs to change as it continues to operate with much duplication/limitations.The operational structure of council needs to be flattened and that current grandfathering arrangements with staff of the previously Councils need to end so that the new organisational structure is lean and efficient to bring about real savings and greater accountability to the community. There needs to be a full and through audit of all Council operations, not just financial. The savings recommendations listed in Attachment A of the report need to be seriously considered and implemented. Many of these are easy to implement. There needs to be areal cultural change on how the Council operates to remove duplication and excess. If Council expects the community to increase its contribution to pay to keep existing services,then in return we expect a lean more efficient Council.In the meantime, we suggest that option 3 is selected, noting that this will have a huge impact on the whole community and when the SRV is granted it doesn’t have to be passed onto the community in full when future saving have been realised as a result of the Operational audit.
426)	Return to just local area council not as is with Queanbeyan
427)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Hi, 1. I pay rates in Queanbeyan-Pelerang Council - my wife and I live in our home with our son on ********** in Jerrabomberra 2. QPRC's discussion paper notes a deficit of revenue & expenses 3. Council revenue is a function of (1) levied rate, multiplied by (2) asset base 4. To raise revenue, QPRC's scenarios only consider increasing the levied rate. They do not consider increasing the asset base. 5. QPRC can increase its asset base by rezoning land and allow more denser living.

	6. This is a genuine "win-win" outcome : (1) residents on rezoned land can choose to pay higher rates, or they can choose to sell their land to a developer for a significant capital gain, (2) other residents do not have to pay higher rates, (3) the development that would occur would add to housing supply, and make it much easier for young people to enter the housing market, (4) the increase in prices in recent years clearly demonstrates that supply of housing in Queanbeyan in not keeping pace with demand to live in Queanbeyan (5) it is clearly fair to rezone parts of Queanbeyan for increased density: a comparison with similar Canberra suburbs, reveals Queanbeyan is underdeveloped, as noted in 7, below 7. For example: At 8.30am in the morning, Queanbeyan West to Parliament House is about a 20min drive (according to Google Maps, for 30/1/2023). This makes it similar to Belconnen. The development of Belconnen is far greater than Queanbeyan West. Queanbeyan West, Crestwood and Queanbeyan, by any reasonable measure are underdeveloped. The losers from this underdevelopment are young people who can't afford to rent or buy anywhere, the parents of these people (if their kids move away) and rate payers who have to offset underdevelopment (which means an artificially low asset base) with higher levied rates. 8. Increasing density in existing suburbs requires substantially less infrastructure than opening up new suburbs. 9. The strategy of increasing the levied rate is "win-lose": it is a benefit for the people who use the services, and a loss for the people who have to pay more. 10. The point made in your discussion paper that Queanbeyan should have higher rates because Canberra has higher rates is silly. We left Canberra to avoid the cost of living problems. I wanted to write a more detailed submission. I am happy to talk to someone on the phone to explain my concerns. You should make a more detailed analysis of the density in Queanbeyan vs density in similar Canberra suburbs. This will confirm there is very reasonable scope to increase density in Queanbeyan, and raise revenue this way.
428)	I think it clearly indicates that the QPRC is a failed council and should be broken up and the individual areas (such as Braidwood and surrounds) should have their own councils.
429)	Council needs to stop wasting ratepayer money and needs to stop committing monies it doesnt have on projects which the shire obviously cant afford eg new buildings. Loaning money to developers and then never getting it repaid is obscene and corrupt - especially when you are proposing to slug ratepayers with huge hikes.
430)	**VIA HARD COPY SURVEY** It needs more consultation and more time for deeper consideration of options.
431)	Clean up your inefficient mess. The money that is wasted on the inefficiencies needs to be addressed.
432)	I don't think I can really say much more, than that it is a disappointment for private contractors to be needed to evaluate the financial position of the council. The cost of this activity would have far outweighed the benefits of the Plan that will not be adhered to either way.
433)	Excessive Council Spending. Council has blown the budget on unnecessary expensive works like the $74 million spent on the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct (QCCP) hot on the heels of the Queanbeyan riverfront development. Incomes from those works will never exceed the expenditure on capital, maintenance, loan repayments and opportunity costs. This should be referred to the NSW Auditor General for investigation and follow-on action. Senior QPRC staff remuneration and tenure should

	be reviewed accordingly. Paying $16M in annual loan repayments when you have $213M cash in the bank does not seem like good financial management.
434)	A reasonable increase is expected but doubling rates is unacceptable and impossible for anyone to afford. It should be linked to CPI not just on what you think you want to spend. Why have funds been so badly managed?
435)	It needs a more structural review to cut inefficiencies and mismanagement.
436)	SEE ABOVE, but just in case, I will post again: I am shocked and quite appalled by the council rates percentage increase in all three scenarios. How on earth is the lowest level of service (still a 41% increase!) not even enough funds council wide to continue current services? What on earth is happening?? I know that costs have increased, but not by any of the amounts that are proposed under all three scenarios. How did the situation get SO dire, that the community is given such an ultimatum, with so little notice or input? The news on the rate increase has also been woefully communicated. I know that it was announced in the QPRC newsletter, but I think considering the hike in rates that is being discussed in ALL scenarios, there should have been more effort to let the community know. The QPRC "have your say on rate rise scenarios" survey was advertised on the 28th November 2022. The financial state of the QPRC would've been more than evident months prior to this date. To have only until the end of January 2023 (extended date) is not good enough considering what you are asking of the community. With the cost-of-living sky rocketing, how on earth does the Council expect rate payers to keep up with these proposed rate increases? My salary has not had such a hike due to the pandemic or the cost of living. So many people and families are struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table. Postponing payment as a method of “assisting” those who can’t pay, just defers the problem. It makes it much worse later when they are facing a mountain of debt. This is an extremely bad time to do this to people. So many households will not be able to pay the increase in rates that will be incurred by even scenario 1, let alone 2 or 3. I feel that the breakdown of what services will go feels like a threat to the community. How are we supposed to respond to that? Of course, we want and need council services. This feels like mismanagement on the part of the council. I don't agree that the QPRC rates are so woefully behind those suburbs in the ACT. I understand the need for some sort of increase in rates, but 41%, 64% or 97% over a period of 3 years is really pushing the envelope. How can a rates increase of 12% per year over a period of 3 years still result in such community service losses?? Maybe amalgamation of the Queanbeyan and Pelarang Councils was a mistake. The size of the LGA is simply too large for the number of rate payers footing the bill. The financial sustainability was only being considered officially (according to public notices on the QPRC website) on November 16th 2022! How does the QPRC council expect the community to be able to respond with that sort of notice for such a HUGE decision? If the QPRC is in such dire straits, how was there funds to build a new multi-million dollar council building and a $74 million dollar QCCP, or increase the salaries of the councillors by over 20% and QPRC staff award increases of $1 million? Regardless of which option is foisted on the community/rate payers, what will happen at the end of the three-year increase and the money required is recouped? Will the rates stay the same? Will they decrease? Or will they increase again? This information needs to be more transparent. The average residential rates that the council has provided in the rate rise proposal doesn’t seem to reflect the rates currently being charged. The data is from the 2019-2020 financial year, not the 2021-2022 or even 2022-2023 financial year. This seems misleading. Who on earth is being charged rates so low?? For what? And how is this the average?? $1155? You must be kidding? I own a 2-bedroom townhouse in Queanbeyan West and I am paying more than $2600!! My current rates, based on

	the land value of my property from 2019 (not the almost double value figure for 2022!) are currently more than someone living in a 3-bedroom townhouse in the ACT! My current rates, not even the proposed ones, are MORE than those of a property worth over 2.5 times as much, with 4 bedrooms, in Adelaide's inner south! Are the proposed rates scenarios based on the 2022 Land Value figure? Or the 2019 land value figure? There is a big difference! Additionally, in regard to remaining rates and charges not included as part of the "general rates", what is going to happen in regard to those figures? I assume that they will not remain the same as they are currently, but also increase? How much will THEY increase? That needs to be considered too. You must realise that any of these scenarios will bankrupt A LOT of people!? How are people supposed to keep up with these increases? I understand that the rates need to increase to reflect the increase in the cost of services and prices for goods/materials etc, but your proposal is ridiculous! Maybe less money needs to be spent on new Council offices? Or perhaps, pay rises could be more in tune with the majority, 3% - not 22%! I think the QPRC needs a reality check. Who has been managing the finances? Where has the money gone? The community should not be punished by having to foot the bill for what is clear financial mismanagement on the Council's part. If scenario 1, involves "significantly reducing services", what on Earth DOES the accumulated 41% rates hike cover? How can an increase so HUGE give us drastically less, if not next to nothing? Same goes for Scenario 2! Clearly some of the Councils "current operations" need a drastic reassessment. I have talked to many rate payers in the QPRC LGA and most of them had absolutely no idea about the proposed rate rises! Boy, would they get a shock come rate paying time! Considering these massive changes you are proposing in ALL scenarios, the council should have at LEAST mailed this information and these proposed changes to ALL RATEPAYERS!!! Putting the information in the council Newsletter is not enough. Those who have "no junk" on their mailboxes didn't even get that. I learned of these proposed changes on Facebook of all places in a Canberra Times article. Not good enough QPRC. I am speechless, fuming and quite frankly terrified. Regards
437)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** The rate peg was supposed to stop councils from extravagant expenditure. It obviously was not successful.
438)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL**Sell The Q building (although who would want to buy it?). Sell the current Council office building. Convert the 2 top floors of the new office building into residential units that can be sold. Stop elected Councillors voting themselves pay rises, when they do nothing to earn it, especially ** ***.
439)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Prioritise long term financial planning and delivery in terms of where every $100 or rates appears to go: a) $36.20 - Transport (roads, bridges, stormwater etc) b) $21.29 Greenspaces (including weeds and weeds) a and b are vital in terms of weather events, associated with Climate Change

	c) $13.63 Community Facilities (pools, libraries, etc) d) $13.05 Community and Economy e) $13.90 Assets, planning and development
440)	**RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL** Thank you for taking the time to reply to my email of 25 January 2023 (refer email trail below). However your responses have only served to further exacerbate my concerns. I will not attempt to cover all responses in this email but I must place on record my objection to your claim under Item 3 below that "Council has known about its financial sustainability problem since it was formed in 2017 and it has been reported in every long term financial plan and revenue strategy as a problem that will need to corrected by increasing revenue or decreasing expenses or likely both.". That statement is simply not true. For example, I refer you to Council's report titled 'QPRC Merger Report 2016-2019'. I understand that this report was tabled at the Council meeting on 27 November 2019 (Agenda Item 9.21 refers). In that report, prepared by Council (QPRC), the following information is provided by Council: a) In the Executive Summary I cannot see any mention of the 'financial sustainability problem' that you refer to. The only mention of debt relates to the funding of debt for the Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct. ('The ongoing savings realised from the merger are intended to be used to fund debt associated with the new Queanbeyan Civic and Cultural Precinct project expected to start construction during the 2020-21 financial year.') And as previously mentioned in my email (below) on the subject of rates the Council report only refers to IPART 'rate pegs'; no mention of the currently proposed substantial increases. ('….some rates may increase, while others will decrease, however Council's overall rate income will remain in line with the rate peg set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.) b) Financial performance and forecasts are covered under pp 44-52 of the report. On page 44 Council states that: Council's view is that merger benefits (rather than savings) are better represented as: a rate pricing path lower than that published by the councils prior to merger…. There can be no doubt as to what impression that advice from Council would give ratepayers and it is NOT Council's current proposal of nearly doubling of general rates over the next three years! On page 45 Council summarised its financial position as shown below. The table shows income exceeding expenses and an increase in cash reserves etc. **QPRC Merger Report 2016-19** **Financial performance** Below is a summary of QPRC"s financial statements for the three years since the merger, shown against the benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government. **Benchmark** / **2016-17** / **2017-18** / **2018-19** **Total income from continuing operations** — N/A — 228,813 — 178,058 — 195,294 **Total expenses from continuing operations** — N/A — 137,629 — 131,597 — 126,722 **Operating result for the period** — N/A — 91,184 — 46,461 — 68,572 **Total cash, cash equivalents and investments** — N/A — 85,723 — 86,863 — 138,413

On Page 46 Council provided Financial Forecasts covering the out years as far as 2027-2028. The income from rates and other charges provided by Council in that table show an annual increase of less than 4% over the out years as far as 2027-2028. Allowing for the projected population increase the actual yearly increase is only 2% per year. With the reported current cash reserves and 'Net Reserve Movements' shown below (which allow for all other items including depreciation) Council's cash reserves would remain positive (i.e. Council would remain 'in the black'). Only three years after this advice from Council in late 2019 ratepayers were given totally contradictory advice in late 2022.

QPRC Merger Report 2016-19

Financial Forecasts
In 2018 Council adopted its Long Term Financial Plan 2018-28. The draft LTFP was placed on public exhibition and proposed three potential scenarios which were:

Base Case Scenario (1):
- Delivery Program
- Consumer Price Indexation
- Debt and Capital Plan
- Land Sales

Scenario 2 (preferred)
Base Case Scenario plus
- Dividend (Queanbeyan Water and Sewer Funds)
- 100% Asset Renewals
- Improve Unrestricted Cash levels to $2 million.
- Additional Merger

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Average
OPERATIONAL											
Total Rates and Annual Charges	69,640	71,376	73,156	76,300	79,510	82,826	86,253	89,794	93,423	97,172	81,945
User Charges and Fees	28,686	35,507	36,391	37,268	38,831	40,446	42,117	43,843	45,627	47,458	39,617
Other Income	6,891	5,871	5,938	8,176	7,606	7,720	7,900	7,989	8,292	8,665	7,505
Grants and Contributions - Operating Purposes	11,156	11,308	11,500	11,759	12,023	12,294	12,570	12,853	13,142	13,438	12,204
Total Income from Continuing Operations	117,376	126,551	128,988	136,155	140,637	145,969	151,538	157,194	163,202	169,467	175,997
Services – operational expenditure	42,957	53,464	50,891	64,785	66,408	64,460	66,016	67,671	69,367	71,107	60,491
Asset Maintenance	46,493	36,412	38,991	24,600	25,301	29,635	30,527	31,384	32,266	33,169	34,099
Debt expenses	2,412	4,508	5,074	11,016	9,109	8,709	8,343	7,963	7,569	7,158	7,186
Depreciation	21,014	23,991	27,095	30,469	31,472	33,302	34,477	35,598	36,755	37,946	31,212
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	112,876	118,375	122,051	131,581	133,017	136,851	140,123	143,394	146,738	150,181	153,714
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions - Capital Purposes	4,500	8,176	6,937	4,574	7,620	9,119	11,415	13,799	16,465	19,285	10,189
CAPITAL											
Grants and Contributions - Contributed Assets	19,644	20,076	20,517	14,407	14,767	15,136	15,515	15,903	16,300	16,708	16,897
Grants and Contributions - Capital Purposes	68,323	57,178	57,928	3,945	4,016	34,088	4,162	4,237	4,313	4,390	24,258
Borrowings (Debt)	50,400	33,900	105,400	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,970
Depreciation (non-cash)	21,014	23,991	27,095	30,469	31,472	33,302	34,477	35,598	36,755	37,946	31,212
Asset renewals	65,561	74,969	74,300	31,469	31,472	33,302	34,477	35,598	36,755	37,946	45,585
Asset enhancements	100,059	82,972	132,006	59,407	14,767	45,136	20,515	15,903	16,300	16,708	50,377
Net Reserve Movement	(8,238)	(22,796)	4,834	(12,056)	4,016	4,088	(838)	4,237	4,313	4,390	(1,825)

Based on the above examples alone, the information provided by Council on its financial position has simply not been consistent. With such substantially conflicting financial information ratepayers could only feel confused, mislead and questioning of the actual status of both QPRC's financial position and the impacts of the merger between Queanbeyan and Palerang in 2016.

There is a pressing need for an <u>independent and extensive investigation</u> into the QPRC merger and financial position.