Hi,

Due to limited resources, it is difficult to respond in detail.

In summary, the rate cap has effectively introduced a substantial efficiency factor on our council.

Prior to the introduction of rate capping Loddon Shire Council's rates were significantly below other councils. The introduction of the rate cap, plus our councillors desire to not borrow any money and not apply for any variation, plus a reliance on rates and grants income means that we will continue to struggle to have sufficient income to meet the service and infrastructure expectations of our community.

At Loddon Shire, our councillors have introduced an efficiency factor by introducing a wages cap. Responsible representation by councillors would manage efficiency on a council by council basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

**Loddon Shire Council**