

## Send a Submission

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| <b>Submission ID</b>      | [REDACTED]         |
| <b>Date of submission</b> | May 17, 2022 14:24 |

The following information has been submitted from the ESCOSA:

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| <b>Project Title:</b>  | Local Government Rates Oversight Scheme |
| <b>Date:</b>   | May 17, 2022                            |
| <b>Author type:</b>  | Individual                              |
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| <b>Organisation:</b>   | Private                                 |
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| It is the Commission's practice to treat submissions as public information, unless there is an express request from a submitter to treat the submission (or part of it) as confidential. |   |
| <b>Is your submission confidential?:</b>   | No (My submission is not confidential)  |

**Option to write your submission:**

My Submission relates to Mid-Murray Council and its attempt before the introduction of this scheme to introduce an unfair and discriminatory Special Rate on a small number of ratepayers within the municipality.

For the last four years, Council has funded the purchase of additional waters required (to compensate for water evaporation in the Mannum Waters development) using council-wide rate revenue.

Now with the imminent introduction of the Rate Oversight Scheme, they are attempting to foist a Special Levy (to purchase a permanent water entitlement) on a small group of ratepayers rather than to continue to use municipality-wide rate revenue to purchase this entitlement. The Special Levy is both unfair and discriminatory, as the waterways of the Mannum Waters development are open to the broad community and are used by a wide range of local residents and tourists.

Council estimates it will cost \$1.715 million to purchase the water entitlement and have developed a proposal for rate payers in the immediate vicinity to effectively fund the full costs. If council had acted four years ago to purchase a permanent water entitlement, the cost would possibly have been a quarter of the newly estimated cost (\$1.715 million).

Council is rushing to introduce this Special Levy now four years after becoming responsible for the evaporation levy costs in anticipation any Special Rate would be more closely scrutinised after the introduction of the Rates oversight Scheme.

This consultation should be aware of this accelerated change in the way Council is using its rate revenue to fund a vital community service.

Mid-Murray Council should be required to delay this Special Rate until after the introduction of the Rates Oversight Scheme so that any Special Rate is given appropriate scrutiny.

**Upload your submission:**

Our preferred format is Acrobat pdf, Maximum attachments size is: 3MB

**Additional file upload:**