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Submission: I am opposed to the rate variation for Port Stephens Council. It is excessive and does not take into account the residents views. Council have chosen to go ahead with it anyway. I understand that there can be increases, but this amount is just ludicrous and it already costs far too much for the average resident to afford. We already pay higher costs for basic essentials like groceries and petrol in our area, the wages are lower and we simply cannot afford this. This council is completely out of touch with the residents. No rate rise for Port Stephens!