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Submission: Port Stephens Councils' proposed 7.5 per cent rate rise per year, over the next seven years is absurd. This is a 52.5% rise in 7 years which I find inconsistent with community expectations and excessive and should therefore not be approved at this level. I recently read a newspaper article where they spent 20 million dollars in legal fees fighting a case their own lawyers advised them they couldn't win and didn't. If this is true then why would anyone approve such an excessive rate rise when they haven't responsibly managed the money they already have.