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Submission: Dear IPART,

I have recently become a self funded retiree in Port Stephens. Before doing so I carefully mapped my probable finances for the next 20 years. Now the Council proposes to increase our rates by 7.5% per year for 5 years. That is an increase of around 66%, with further increases in years to come making this an effective doubling of our Council rates! I have looked at the services they propose to offer in return, many of which I believe are unnecessary and duplications of those that already exist. I am fairly well off, but will have to cut back in other areas of my budget. I don't know how those on pensions and limited means will be able to cope with this excessive cost.

Please consider that many people of Port Stephens will be financially strained if the Council is successful in this application.

Yours sincerely,

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