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Submission: My husband and I retired to Port Stephens sixteen years ago. We are now in our seventies and are on a fixed pension with no other income. We were away visiting our family last year when Port Stephens Council invited residents to respond to their survey so we did not have the opportunity to participate. We were not very happy to hear on our return that Council proposes to increase our rates by 7.5 per cent which we feel is an unjustifiable demand and will impact on our quality of living.

I am informed that 23 per cent of people in the Port Stephens area are over the age of 60 so many would have similar limited financial income.

In conclusion, as a consequence of my above reasons, I would like to lodge an objection to the SRV of 7.5 per cent submitted by Port Stephens Council.