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Submission: I wish to lodge an objection to the SRV of 7.5 per cent compounding submitted by Port Stephens Council.

The Council conducted surveys that showed 72 per cent supported NO rate rise.

I cannot understand why the Council is persisting in applying for permission to increase the rates when the ratepayer majority DO NOT approve.

The grandiose ideas which the council has advanced to ratepayers as justification for its proposal put it very close to cloud-cuckoo-land. Should their proposal be approved we may have to live in the pockets of banks.

We have worked very hard for our retirement. My husband is a Veteran and served in the RAAF for over 30 years. We have lived at Soldiers Point for 26 years now and wish to continue to do so. If this special variation goes through, we may not be able to afford to stay on. We would be devastated if we could not afford to stay in our home if the Council was permitted to increase our rates by 7.5 per cent compounding each year.