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Submission: Dear Ipart,

I am writing to you to protest the huge rate rises proposed by Port Stephens Council. I am an aged pensioner and don't know how I will afford to live on the money left to me after I pay my rates if the 7.5% proposal goes through. I don't understand how our elected officials can vote for a 7.5% increase when 75% of community respondents opposed the rate rise. I feel betrayed by those I voted for. For older Port Stephens residents there is very little in the package that will provide us with a better quality of life only the choice between eating poorly to afford rates and never going out because I wont be able to afford to attend the outings that I do now with Probus. Please consider the fact that pensioners will suffer under the proposed rate rise the hardship package simply won't make a difference - my rates will go up enormously and I can barely make ends meet now.

