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Submission: To Whom It May Concern, I whole-heartedly object to the proposed rate rise, led by a Mayor [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
who is so completely out of touch with the stresses on local families. There has been no measured consideration of the circumstances facing families living in Port Stephens, which has large areas of low social-economic communities. The cost of living, utilities especially energy costs continue to rise, as do food costs, more so given the drought. We have four young children in school and find meeting the financial needs related to their schooling/training/therapy absorbing what little is left of wages. This council is out of touch with what is actually wanted by the vast majority of residents which is road repairs and waste removal. They can't even manage to maintain our roads which are laden with potholes! In fact, they seek grandeur in proposing works not warranted like the 1 million dollar loan they signed up for in early 2018 in order to build a car park for Nelson Bay businesses, meanwhile the 10,000 Medowie residents must cue for the one and ONLY public toilet in our town. The inequity of spending in Port Stephens is disgusting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in order to "dress-up" Nelson Bay! There are families in our towns like Raymond Terrace who can't even afford food for their tables, who sit well below the poverty line...this rate rise will push families into further, unnecessary financial and emotional stress. It really [REDACTED] should be thrown out. The Port Stephens Mayor had the money to run a year long election campaign in which he flooded our newspapers with his slogan of "A strong, fresh ETHICAL future"...notably omitting the final three words, 'future rate rise'! [REDACTED]. We OBJECT 100%.