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Submission: The 7.5% year on year for 7 years proposal is preposterous, with current general cost of living increases, insurances increases, power increases, fuel increases along with lack of wage growth I feel it is entirely inappropriate for the council to receive this special rate variation in full, if at all.

My partner and I are both in full time employment with no children and it is even getting tight for us, there is only so far a belt can be tightened before breaking.

I would hate to see what this barely thought out variation would do to Port Stephens home owners who have children, that along with the high amount of renters in the area as the costs will be passed on in full and then some, this is not even to mention the large retiree population within the Port Stephens LGA who if on a government pension are under the poverty line and if living off super, with current interest rates are not much better off.

In short, please do not allow this variation as it will break the largest population segments of the Port Stephens area, no matter what services or supposed benefits are promised in return.