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Submission: The residents of Port Stephens are relying on IPART to reassure us that we still live in a democracy.

The rate increase proposal was resoundingly rejected by the residents at every opportunity, at last count only 14% of people supported the increases, which means that 86% do not support the increases.

We can safely assume that the 14% are made up from those select few that will benefit from the massive slush fund that will be created.

This council has already rode rough shod over residents to vastly increase the building height in some areas, the only people to benefit from this are those who "happen" to have bought the land prior to rezoning, How very fortunate for them.

Post Stephens should be managed in a democratic manner taking into consideration all residents in all areas, not just noisy minorities and developers on the Tomaree Peninsula.