

Author name: E. Harkness

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Submission: I would love to see all of the proposed upgrades carried out, however I think the average weekly household income for Port Stephens residents needs to be VERY CAREFULLY ANALYSED.

The Mayor, Ryan has been happy to show a graph comparing our Council rates and proposed increase against other nearby Councils, however despite being asked on more than one occasion to show this information alongside statistics showing the average household income of all council represented on the graph, to the best of my knowledge, has failed to do so.

On one occasion at a public information evening, he agreed it would be a good idea, on a second occasion, on a Social Media post, by the Mayor himself, when I suggested it again (stating that he hadn't to my knowledge made the information public yet), he replied hopefully "better late than never".....yet, did not follow through and provide the information.

I have viewed this comparison for myself (going off 2016 Census data) and feel the proposed increase is inappropriate and dangerous for the people of Port Stephens and therefore the Council itself.

I believe that a smaller increase, along with the annual increase would be a much safer and appropriate course of action for our Council.