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[REDACTED]
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To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Port Stephens Council Special Variation Application

I strongly object to Port Stephens Council's proposed rate increase of 66% over 7 years for two (2) main reasons.

1) This Council has mismanaged rate payers' money to date. I cite recent millions spent on a futile court case (see <https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5637141/left-with-the-bill-council-loses-case-it-was-warned-not-to-fight/>). According to Local Government Act 1993 No 30 Chapter 3 8B(a), Council spending should be responsible. Council must be made to prove they can manage well what they have before demanding more.

2) This Council has disregarded community feedback. Over 70% of submissions were against the initial proposal of a rate increase. It could be argued Council had no intention of regarding community feedback. According to Local Government Act 1993 No 30, Chapter 4 Part 3 Division 3, Council is not required to act on an "informal" majority expression. A formal poll would have supported the notion that Council was genuinely interested in a democratic result.

Sincerely,
Jodie Gill