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Submission: We wish to object to the proposed Rate Variation of 7.5% over 7 years. The Council sent out during 2018 various proposals for a Rate Variation and meeting were held all over the Shire; submissions were asked for and as result of these submissions and voting approximately 70% of Rate Payers objected to any Rate increase above 2.5% statutory increase. Despite these objections from the Community, Council has insisted on applying the maximum 7.5% increase above the statutory 2.5%.

When Councils were rated and considered "Fit for Service", Port Stephens was one of the few Councils to meet this criteria. The Council had investments, money in the Bank and was able to meet it's commitments. Not everyone's expectations is ever met, but critical and necessary expectations, maintenance and upgrades were met. This Council wants to do things the Community can't afford. Residents incomes haven't grown. Residents have had to live within their means; Council must do the same. Some of the proposals are nice but not necessary. This Council in our opinion is trying to fill an area that is not their responsibly; they should concentrate in doing their own job to the best of their ability, not reacting to pressure groups wanting support their own interests. How many times does the Community have to voice their opposition to these proposals? We have listened to, and voted against, these proposals numerous times.