

Author name: L. Lake

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Submission: I am writing this submission, as I will try anything to stop this rate rise. As a pensioner I am happy living in this low income area. If this council gets its way it will cost me one months pension, with house insurance costing nearly another month, it doesn't leave much for all other expenses.

This council is made up from nearly half newly elected people that have not had previously held a position on council. I don't think they have enough experience to manage what they have taken on.

When they were campaigning, none put forward that they wanted to hit us with financial difficulties.

I wish we could turn the clock back and take back my vote for them.

Port Stephens Council was one of the strongest councils under our previous mayoral system, how come this one needs more funds.

Only three councillors have listened to the people, they are the only ones ever getting my vote again. A local paper put a Poll up about the rise & when I voted on the poll it was 95% against. So this council is clearly not on its people's side.

Lastly, when there was talk about Port Stephens & Newcastle councils merger a couple of years ago. All councillors were against it because it was going to add financial difficulties on its rate payers with an increase.

Thank you

Lester Lake