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Submission: Folks,

I am quite disappointed that the Port Stephens Council has submitted an outrageously exhorbitant 7 year, 66% Special Variation (SRV) Application despite the fact that the majority of written feedback they have received from Port Stephens residents has not supported the variation, citing the financial burden it will place on residents. Furthermore, when the Councillors who support the SRV are questioned about the lack of resident support, they refer to unverifiable and untraceable "conversations" and "verbal" feed back they've received supporting the SRV. As proof of this I have attached an email exchange that I had with the Port Stephens Mayor and he refers to "submissions", "conversations", "surveys", and "meetings". Conversations and meeting discussions are unrecorded and cannot be verified, and I have been unable to find any published "surveys" supporting the SRV. As it is clear that the Council does not have the support of residents, including this resident, and I would even question whether the rate rise is actually for the benefit of residents, I implore you not to approve the Port Stephens SRV.