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Submission: I believe that the rate rise being sought by Port Stephens Council under the Special Variation Application is disproportionate to the return provided to the geographical majority of the Local Government Area (LGA) by the proposed infrastructure projects. Localities in the North West quadrant of the LGA lack even basic infrastructure such as reticulated sewerage and public transport yet the majority of proposed projects focus on public amenities and barbecue facilities solely within the tourist areas. In addition to these concerns I have diminished faith that the Port Stephens Council will deliver on the proposed projects and strongly believe that any rate increase above the existing rate peg will see significant financial hardship placed on those who can least afford it. Considering that the majority of feedback received from the community during the consultation period was against significant rate increases I cannot support the application as it currently stands.