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To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Proposed Port Stephens Council Rate Rise

I would like to express concern about the proposed variation to increase council rates.

The proposal calculates an increase of 54% extra to rate rises normally expected to be levied.

I am sceptical of any accountability by the council to use the money wisely, where it is all too easy throw a burden on the rate payer, in return for vague & nebulous reasons.

I have recently withdrawn from a secondary dwelling project, where council was requiring in excess of \$18,000 of contributions that, when questioned, they could not adequately justify how my local area would benefit.

This council should be held to account for the way they have historically managed rate payer funding.

Perhaps an independent body should score council's financial management achievement first before any extraordinary rate rise is sort.

In short, I am opposed to the rate rise.

Mike Hayes

Medowie