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To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Rate rise submission for Port Stephens Council

We are a couple who work casual jobs and we will find it very hard if this rate rise goes thru to pay bills other than council rates .We are at the other end 60s we cannot get loans and will not borrow money from banks. Our lifestyle will change for the worse, always wondering to choose between dinner or rates and that's not a way to live your life. I recommend we have the normal rise 7.5% every year. Some of the money from the rate rise is being wasted they wish to move the old historic school on heritage site to a family friendly park to make village there is nothing wrong where it is the facilities get used where they are and are not being vandalised, but where they are going to put the buildings they will. Added costs electricity, water to these buildings also. There is a PROTECTED BUSH STONE CURLEW BIRD where they are going to place these buildings. THE BUSH STONE CURLEW HAS BEEN FENCED OFF FOR YEARS and the bird comes back YEARLY gives birth to new chicks .NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE COME AS WELL TO CHECK CHICKS BIRDS. Do we remove an endangered species of bird for the sake of buildings.NO!!! I also think of all the pensioners of the area they are doing it tough as well. We are at Lemon Tree Passage a middle to low income area. A lot of groups in the area that submit things to council do not run information talks on what ALL the community wants and to have a say or participation as well how and why does a minority make the decisions for the majority. WE SAY NO TO THE 7.5% RATE RISE PER YEAR. THANK YOU.