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Submission: Despite a Council poll showing massive resident rejection of their plans to increase the rates burden over a period of yearly extra rate rises; This Council has pushed on with their grandiose plans, and ignored the wishes of their voters ! So much for democracy.

Instead of reducing costs and concentrating on the bare necessities, they wish to increase spending of funds by screwing ratepayers over. As a pensioner, I can't demand an increase in my pension because prices continue to rise etc. I have to live within my means and that doesn't leave much left over.

Maybe, Port Stephens Council, should sell off some of their commercial property portfolio and cancel their expensive expansion plans for Newcastle airport;[ perhaps that's why they need extra funding!]

This community has many people living on a fixed income, who are struggling to get by already.I believe the various levels of government are already getting too much of our hard earned dollars and we don't need this legalised robbery to continue. I am objecting and do not support this money grabbing rate rise.