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[REDACTED]
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To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Port Stephens Council - Special Variation Application

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Regards,
Don Thornton

Port Stephens Council proposes a 7.5% increase every year for 7 years, which will then become the rate base. The council has not been forthcoming in admitting that after 7 years the ratepayers charges will be in excess of 60% of the current rate. A significant number of Port Stephens ratepayers are retired on fixed incomes and this will represent a financial hardship for them. Even if not on a fixed income, a 7.5% increase each year is much greater than the inflation rate and well above average wage growth. This council is fixated on completing broad 'improvements' immediately, regardless if these 'improvements' are essential or not and regardless of community sentiment. Not a single person that I have spoken with is in favour of council's application. Indeed a common theme expressed is that this council must 'live within their means' until we have the opportunity to get rid of them. I strongly object to the Port Stephens Council variation application and seek your support towards the rejection of the application.