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Submission: Our community just cannot afford such a significant rate rise and many don't realise that the increase stays after 7 years. I cannot believe that council went ahead with this submission considering rate payers were against it. Again they are not listening to what the community wants. Port Stephens Council has always indicated they are in a good financial position, so there should be no need for such a ridiculous rate hike that will put families on the poverty line. It's councils mismanagement that could see the local government area prosper further, rather than asking common rate payers for more money that will be spent on infrastructure that less than half the community will utilise. No one wants this rate rise and it us going to force those less fortunate to another area that is more affordable.