

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 February 2019 7:52 PM

**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** IPART SUBMISSION FOR PORT STEPHENS SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Please accept our submission for the Port Stephens Special rate Variation.

Can you please exclude our Names but we are happy for you to show the submission.

is it also possible to have a receipt of our submission?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ipart Submission: Port Stephens Special rate Variation.

As a working family who are trying to put our kids through school, pay the mortgage, keep up with the ever increasing utility bills, provide healthy food and medical treatment increasing the rates will be enough to sink us.

We already can't afford to go on holidays, and are not able to put very much money, if any for emergencies. We live very modest lives, in a modest house. We chose to live here for many reasons one of those reasons was affordable rates.

Our family is doing our best to live within our budget, our council needs to do the same. The very real stress of not being able to provide for our family is already weighing heavily on us and I am afraid of what this rate increase will mean to us.

We understand that we are not alone in this, that up to 70% of the Port Stephens community voted against this increase.

a substantial amount of money was spent on designing a Logo, Marketing Teams, Surveys, Social Media Campaigns, Telephone Surveys and Community Consultations. All of which was designed to gain the outcome they were looking for and yet 70% of us still said "NO".

3 Councillors listened to their constituents and voted against the proposed rate increase.

Port Stephens Council is not a poor Council who could with a little effort raise the funds for most of the proposed projects by writing Grants.

They stand to make considerable money from the newly approved Sand mine on Cabbage Tree Rd along with the increase in Sand Mine activity.

They create a substantial amount of revenue from the many over 55 developments happening within their area and all the new subdivisions going in will also create wealth.

Their share in the Newcastle Airport along with all the Airport industry that is due to start being developed will also yield well.

Our Council is watching other Councils apply for Rate increases and receiving them and they are just not wishing to miss out. This is not a needs basis but a 'want' They wanted this rate increase so badly they allowed community to make a wish list not unlike a mother asking it's child for their Christmas list.

The alarming thing is that 70% of our community is saying "NO" because they are already to financially stretched and they are not listening. They don't care about the average rate payer, they don't care about the families missing out. They don't care about our family.

Our Family along with all the other families who are battling should not be made to go through this stress and asked to suffer the humiliation of having to ask for extended periods to pay their rates just because they see an opportunity to earn.... no that's not the right word is it? demand more money.

Sincerely

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