

10 March, 2019



Local Government Team
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop,
NSW 1240.
email: localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Re: PSC2017-01717-001 Special Rate Variation of 7.5% per annum over 7 years

I would like to object to Port Stephens Council's proposal for a 7.5% rate increase each year for 7 years on the grounds that:

- The annual increase is too high – pensioners I have spoken to say they will struggle to pay it.
- The year-on-year annual increase over 7 years is too long and will result eventually in a 65% increase that many pensioners will find impossible to pay without experiencing extreme hardship.
- When objecting to the NSW Government proposal for a merger with Newcastle, Port Stephens Council claimed to be 'fit for the future' – why then is it now crying poor.

If Council feels a rate increase is necessary, then it should be modest – around 4% to 5% and only be applied to the life of this Council, not 7 years.

I therefore ask that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW reject Council's proposal.

Yours sincerely

