

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Port Stephens Council, Special Variation Application
Date: Monday, 11 March 2019 3:17:33 PM

Re Local Government , Port Stephens Council Special rate Variation Application

I am an individual residing in this Shire area for over 75 years now.

I make the following submission:

I strongly oppose this 7.5% special rate variation proposal. I DO NOT believe it is affordable to many if not most local residence in this LG. area.

This proposed increase as i under stand only applies to the land rate component of the rate notice, it does not apply to any other levies, fees or charges which continually increase by varying amounts annually, and are included on the Council rate notice. Not to mention the ever increasing obligatory living costs, eg. Water & Sewer rates, Electricity, Insurances, Health & Medical costs, Motor Vehicle, Food etc.

A high percentage of permanent residents in this LG area are either Pensioners, Self funded retirees, or receive various forms' of government assistance now to survive.

This proposed cumulative increase will mean over \$2-00 per day to me. My land value is [REDACTED]

Council should not look to spend so much on NON ESSENTIAL ISSUES, eg. Tourism Promotion, (which only benefits a few and costs the community a lot), Scholarships & like grants, Provision of, and maintenance of so many sporting facilities including continual up grading and additional amenities.

No matter how much Council provide & do for the community they will always want more, there will always be a WISH LIST of things required.

Council should go back to their BASIC CHARTER of obligations to the community in tough times, and set their priorities from there within their funds & resources available to them, and NOT seek to further burden the rate payers further.

I DON'T believe Council are adopting the results& findings from their "Public Meetings", and "Community Survey on SRV" which they held during mid 2018

Whilst I am some what supportive of a minimal SRV, say 3.5 to 4.0% increase.

This would give council more funding than current to operate and develop extra infrastructure, but we must live within our budget.

Wish lists must be prioritised & constrained to within our communities capacity to pay. i acknowledge rate pegging is basically only inflation increases.

HOWEVER Increases added now this way will remain for ever.

I trust that the above will be seriously considered before any approval is given to Council's request.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]