

Submission AGAINST Port Stephens Council SRV

I wish to advise that I do not support any increase in the rates by Port Stephens Council beyond the annual CPI increase.

Port Stephens Council is attempting to offload their responsibilities for sound financial management onto ratepayers via a SRV. This is lazy government in my view.

Our council argued only a couple of years ago when the NSW government attempted to amalgamate Port Stephens with Newcastle Council, by pointing out that Port Stephens was fit for the future in many areas, importantly including financial strength. To now argue a short time later that they are in need of ratepayer support to help them manage is not believable.

My wife and I are a retired couple with limited income. We are not in a position to pay the exorbitant rate increases proposed, which will place us in financial stress (note: I calculate that we will need to pay an additional \$1000 per annum in rates, ongoing, in the final year of the maximum proposed rate increase).

I have read the wish list of projects proposed by council to justify their SRV. Many of these should form part of their current responsibility, within existing budgets. Furthermore, many other projects are unnecessary, and nice to haves. They should stick to core work. Over the years there have been for too many funds, millions of dollars, wasted through litigation following poor decisions by Council.

We implore IPART to deny the Port Stephens Council SRV application.