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Submission: Please accept this submission as support for the SRV in Port Stephens.

I acknowledge there is an increased cost and burden to households if this proceeds but I feel that the benefits for the community outweigh this increase. If residents want better facilities like cycle paths, parks, roads etc they need to contribute to the cost. Rate revenue is a small part of the council budget and these funds can be added to with successful grant applications by council. I see this proposal as a decision for the future of Port Stephens. Many people say that council should operate on a smaller budget but this means that essential works and maintenance fall behind and we end up with a backlog. This is the current position and the SRV is a chance to work through the backlog and provide some new infrastructure for Port Stephens. The council have also considered rate relief options for people who are struggling to make payments and a reduced waste charge for pensioners. There will always be people who need to use these options but thankfully they are in a minority of ratepayers.

Investment in the whole of Port Stephens will see job creation and economic benefits across the LGA. The area already has a strong visitor economy and this will only improve over time if we can provide a better experience for visitors. The SRV is a positive plan for the future generations of Port Stephens residents.