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Submission: The community consultation resulted in an overwhelming response of 74% not in favour of this SRV citing, hardship, rising cost of food, electricity, insurance, petrol, jobs, school fees, mortgage and rental affordability, etc. The Mayor is the leading body wanting this SRV. He was a member of the Business Chamber. A high percentage of the businesses in Port Stephens are privately owned and staffed, they do not employ locals because it is a small business, so with salary, insurance and council rates it is not a viable operation to employ staff. These businesses do not generate jobs, the likes of Wollies, Coles and such like businesses create the local jobs.

Mayor Palmer wants to build a new Sports Complex costing millions, yet the people said we can do this when we can afford it, it is not a necessity of life at this time of high costs which we are struggling with and no pay increases over the last few years. The Council spent over \$5 million in the last financial year upgrading the local caravan parks. This was done with rates money. The people of Port Stephens do not use the caravan parks yet they have to pay for this. We have to live within our means. Most people would love to own a million dollar house but most can't afford it so we buy what we can afford and that applies to Councils. The Government of NSW have been telling us that for years..when the Government can afford it we can have until then...NO...These councillors have a responsibility to the people of Port Stephens and are guided by the Local Government Act e.g. 8A (2)(c), 8A (2)(e), 226 Role of Mayor, 232 (d) to represent the COLLECTIVE interests of residents and rate payers and the local community. These councillors are not listening to the people and definitely do not represent their interests. Port Stephens roads have more patches than a CWA Quilt. 74% of the people PS voted against this high SRV, are the council listening, NO. Will we listen to these councillors at the next election..NO..