

[REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 17 February 2019 1:06 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Port Stephens Council SRV IPART submission

I am a former cwlth public servant and for decades worked for depts that had to live within their budget means. That meant stripping staff or streamlining. It never meant raising taxes. Councils are the same. they would have increased revenue from the new estates. They have been irresponsible in the past with costly law cases. The are of port stephens has a lot of retirees - people on fixed incomes. My mother is on the aged pension, owns her own home and struggles. She freezes in the winter, not able to afford to run her aircon on heat, until I give her money for the extra cost. That was until I retired and now I am on a fixed income. I am on a better wicket on a super pension than aged pension or disability pensions, but am unable to increase my income to counter increases above the CPI that my pension increases. I still have mortgage payments etc. CR Le Mottee gave some irrational speech about how "it will only be the cost of a coffee and muffin a week". He fails to see that people at the lower end of the socio economic scale, cant afford a coffee or muffin each week as it is. The area of raymond terrace has many low income homes. The cost on the local economy is lost on him. All those businesses where people are not getting their coffee because they have no spare cash. This will have an impact on the commerce in the area with a large portion of the residents unable to afford to spend as much in the local businesses. Rents will go up, this could result in a lower occupancy rate and then less people spending in the area. The items gor my area - a BBQ, a footpath - really? Not needed. An arts centre in the Terrace? just no. These are not essential. I would agree to a one off rise if there had been some sort of natural disaster, but the council needs to learn to work with that they have. Have the looked at reducing their running costs? I bet the answer is no. I bought here because I could afford it. I looked at the rates when buying;

I authorise publication anonymously

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]