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Submission: Dear IPART member,

I am opposed to the proposed Special Rate Variation that Port Stephens Council has submitted to IPART.

Sadly the Majority of the Council members, including the Mayor, have chosen to ignore the overwhelming response of ratepayer's submissions, petitions, phone line polls and community meetings against this proposal. More than 70% of residents who contacted the council were opposed to the rate rise, including 75% of residents in a phone poll.

They promised to listen to the people but have chosen to do the opposite. Shame!

I am opposed to this variation as it is excessive! Who can afford a 7.5%/pa increase! This will add approximately \$1200 over a 7 year period to our rates. What retiree can afford that! This could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Ratepayers see the same roads being resurfaced often, and other well-used roads that access our beautiful coastline and sunsets, disregarded.

Ratepayers see signage stating "Rear to kerb" in Nelson Bay that is rarely policed. Every Sunday there is at least 10 cars that we see, in just an hour that disregard this law; but no \$112.00 penalty.

On any weekend we see cars parked in "No Standing" areas along Dutchman's Beach. No penalty!

On any day/night we see cars/RVs and even caravans free camping along our beaches. Signage is there but no penalty.

Clearly the council could be making money in patrolling these areas, but it's probably easier to hit the ratepayers with an SRV (tax)!

Will the SRV be used to pay for the HUGE court costs that Council incurred over "The Ponds" debacle?

Why should ratepayers believe the Council, when they don't enforce their own rules!

We live in a beautiful coastal town. We would like it to remain that way. That's what brings in the tourists; not a concrete jungle!

Thank you

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