

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Tuesday, 5 March 2019

Submission: IPART,

I wish to register that I object to Port Stephens Council's (PSC) ridiculous proposal to increase rates by 66% over 7 years.

I have been a Port Stephens resident for almost 20 years. Throughout this time, I have seen Councillors come and go, making their promises and not delivering on any of them.

The latest failing of the council is to completely ignore the results of the public vote that they provided requesting submissions on the 3 variations. I believe around 70% of the responses were against the 66% increase and I was one of these to vote against this level of rate increase.

This increase over a 7 year period is not in line with CPI, meaning that my family will be worse off and will be required to give up some part of our lifestyle simply to provide more to the council.

In addition to this, PSC have not provided enough evidence as to what this rate increase will be used for. They continue to suggest that major works will be undertaken in the Nelson Bay area and completely ignore the remaining council areas - Medowie, Raymond Terrace, Seaham, Swan Bay, Tanilba Bay and more. These works are generally not a "need" for the community, but rather a "want" by members of the council.

Our council already seems to spend more money on dealing with court cases due to their inability to perform basic council checks and balances where work is undertaken. I have a concern that any rate rise will be funneled into dealing with further court challenges.

A rate rise of 66% over 7 years is not a reasonable impact to ratepayers. Overall the economy is slowing, house prices are falling and wages are not increasing.

I ask you to reject this proposal in full. Even a lowered percentage or fewer years will still hurt people struggling in Port Stephens. The only way to ensure that the destructive potential of this proposal is not realised, is to reject it.

Thankyou