

Port Macquarie Council: Special Rate Variation – Submission to IPART

I would like to register my objection against the rate variation proposed by this Council. The money is apparently required to fund road improvements. This Council already has in excess of \$200m of unspent funds. The roads in the area have not benefited from previous rate rises and very little is being spent, as the accumulated funds would indicate and consequently the state of the roads are 3rd world. When most of the accumulated funds have been spent on the roads and it is evident that still more requires to be done that is beyond the capacity of the normal rates, I would have no objection to a special rise. However when you have a council that refuses government funding for a new sports complex and uses ratepayer funding of around \$5m instead and \$1m is wasted on a court case, to reward council with extra funding would not be in the best interests of ratepayers. In addition, a large increase now locks in higher rates in the future, even if minimum increases occur, due to the larger base. Perhaps IPART should consider basing minimum rate rises on previous rates with special variations removed.

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