From:

Sent: Friday, 15 February 2019 1:28 PM

**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au> **Subject:** Objection to Port Stephens Council proposed rate rise

## Dear IPART

I wish to register that I object to Port Stephens Council's ridiculous proposal to increase rates

by 66% over 7 years.

Over 70% of submissions to Council's proposal were against the increase. Over 2,000 people

made their voices heard. Council ignored every single one of these people. Thousands more

locals have signed online and paper petitions. Local businesses are against this proposal.

There is, poor awareness about Council's proposed projects. This lack of awareness has been

fuelled by Council changing amounts of money being allocated to projects, between whe this

proposal first went out for public submission, and what has been submitted to you.

This includes \$25million less over 10 years for roads. Perhaps the 30% of people who

indicated a willingness for a rate rise in the first round of consultation may have opted

for no increase had they seen the most recent proposal from Council.

There is no evidence that any of the projects proposed by Council are 'needs'. Rather,

they appear to be 'wants'. I agree that most of the projects would be nice to have, but

none of them are essential to Council continuing to operate.

Council has, in recent years, demonstrated a sound capacity to fund largescale projects

without the need for a rate increase.

Wages are stagnant, power prices are soaring, and the cost of petrol, insurances, and

consumer goods is only increasing. Cost of living is rising and I am one of many people

who are already struggling.

Pensioners are already deciding between turning the heater on in the dead of winter, or

not spending that money so they can pay bills. Parents are already deciding whether they

can afford to buy bigger shoes to send their kids to school in, or whether they can afford

a bigger school uniform. This is without a rate increase!

Port Stephens Council has ignored residents, and I ask that you listen to us when we say:

this rate rise is unnecessary, unaffordable, and will cause extreme hardship for many.

I ask that you reject this application outright.

Regards

Dianne Burton.

