

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 February 2019 5:33 PM

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

**Cc:** John Madden <John\_Madden@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Please find attached my submission on SRV for Port Stephens Council.

Regards

DARRIN JONES

Darrin Jones

[REDACTED]  
OYSTER COVE NSW 2318

To IPART

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the SRV sought by Port Stephens Council.

My reasons for opposing the SRV are as follows:

- To put it simply, I cannot afford to pay anymore in rates. Twenty-one years ago, when I bought this house my net pay was \$900 per week, (not too bad for the time), rates were \$85 a quarter, petrol was 60c a litre, life was reasonably affordable. Fast forward to 2019, my income has been steadily decreasing for the past 8 years. My net income is now \$700 per week, rates are \$350 a quarter and petrol is \$1.50 per litre, not to mention the price hikes in food, registration, power etc. Over the last 3 years I have had to cut home insurance, private health insurance, family holidays to make ends meet. While I accept that this is not Port Stephens Council's fault, it outlines the current economic environment in which many of us low income families live in.  
Port Stephens Council have already made it clear that while they may assist pensioners, they will not assist people like myself with financial rebates. WHAT DO I CUT OUT NEXT?
- Port Stephens Council are IGNORING the residents, 75% of the residents voted against the increase!

- It is my opinion, and many others, that Port Stephens Council conducted the consultation process in a very underhanded manor, for example:
  - Holding community meetings at times when the working people could not attend, commencing these meeting at 2 and 3pm and earlier, also giving documentation opposing the SRV to those who could attend the meetings, instead of mailing it to all Port Stephens households. When quizzed on this at a meeting, they claimed it was going to be too expensive to mail it out to all households.
- Port Stephens Council have already wasted so much of our rates on ridiculous ventures, for example:
  - A \$20 million legal fee for the Lagoons Estate fiasco
  - The Samurai Beach Resort debacle, and so many more, too numerous to name.

Port Stephens Council has many resources to make money other than an unfair rate rise.

In summary please DO NOT give Port Stephens Council any more of our hard-earned money to waste, so many families like us simply cannot afford to pay anymore in rates.

Thank you so much for reading my letter.

Hoping you make the right decision in the best interest of the householders in the Port Stephens Council area.

Kind Regards

DARRIN JONES