

Elaine Perkins



Local Government Team

I PART

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I PART - Re PSSC SRV

Dear I PART

I wishes to register that I strongly object to Port Stephens Shire Council's ridiculous, unnecessary and excessively expensive proposal to increase rates by 1½% for the next 7 years. This is going to result in 67½% at the end of 7 years.

- Only 14% of submissions submitted to the PSSC supported the option for a 1% increase - overwhelmingly rejecting any rate rise. Local business also rejects increase.
- Council listened to the community but have totally ignored the results. They don't respect residents.
- There is no evidence that any of the proposed Council projects are "needs" rather they appear as "wants" by a small wealthy resident group.
None of these projects are essential for Council to operate.
- History of Council culture demonstrates a waste of large sums of money e.g. failure in numerous court cases (e.g. Lagoons Complex) - millions of dollars wasted - purchase of Treescape Resort, roads works that have been a failure and need to be redone over and over again.
- They have shown the inability and lack of competence to carry out the duties of a large council as evidenced by the many unsuccessful attempts to run a small business now known as Treescape.
- Not only the rate paying residents also those permanent or holidaying rental rates will greatly increase.

- The area has a very large elderly population (many being pensioners) and young families are struggling to survive and pay ever increasing bills now without this excessive rate rise.
- Not all households have a computer or are able to use one. When Council answer to questions about the SRV is "it's on the web site" is of no use to these people it only makes them feel inadequate and a less valued citizen
- Elderly residents are once again discriminated by age and lack of knowledge by living in the "age of computers"
- It is a concern that if the SRV is approved for 7 years it will be a precedent that the Council will use in future years.

I sincerely hope that IPART will have a more compassionate and realistic understanding for the large majority of Port Stephens residents who oppose this SRV and will be greatly disadvantaged by the extra cost to them. They will feel that their

input, desires and suggestions are valued
if the SRV does not go ahead.

If the SRV does get approval it will be another case of discrimination of low income families and the elderly

Yours sincerely

Elaine Perkins