

From: [IPART](#)
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Objection to Special Rates Variation for Port Stephens Residents
Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2019 8:49:19 AM

Sent: Monday, 4 March 2019 4:33 PM

To: IPART <ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Objection to Special Rates Variation for Port Stephens Residents

Sir, Madame,

I am in total opposition to this proposed rates rise/hike put forward by the Port Stephens Council on several fronts.

- This rates hike will impact on older members of the community that may not be able to accommodate such a rise over a relatively short period of time.
- The whole proposition has been voted against at public meeting and there remains quite a vocal opposition - however the council sees fit to simply over rule this and go ahead with its scheme.
- The proposed rationale for needing this rate hike has little basis in terms of spending for community needs.
 - The argument for developing sports stadiums in the area of Nelson Bay etc. is spurious. The existing facilities are barely used, certainly under used, let alone to capacity
 - The idea that people will travel from far and wide to participate in sports at these new facilities is fallacious. WHY would anyone want to make this journey, unless it is for water based sports - of which I would have to agree the opportunities here are wonderful, if again, used far from capacity.
 - It is unlikely that the proposed rate hike will come close to meeting the financial requirements for these developments, never mind the supporting infrastructure that will be required. The Road between Nelson Bay and Newcastle is already far too busy at some times of the year. To add this additional traffic pressure on the only road in and out of the bay is pure folly and will do nothing for the reputation of the area a natural ecological laid back destination. The council needs to taking a long hard look at their actions in terms of planning etc and come up with some more inventive solutions that don't wreck the place in the process.
- In my opinion this council does not have the competency to have the responsibility of managing this beautiful area for the benefit of all. This is quite clear when some of the developments and planned developments are taken into perspective. It would seem to be a process designed to accommodate the developers needs over that of the residents. I would have liked to think that this would be contrary to council constitution and certainly not so many people are moving here.
- The council should be able to manage on the funds raised through the existing rates, including road repairs and other facilities.

Regards

Iain

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Iain Watt
Lagoon and Marine Ecosystem Services
Marine Environmental Management

Sustainable Tourism and Training

