

Dear Sir/Madam

REF: Port Stephens Council Special Rate Variation

I strongly oppose to planned the controversial 7.5 per cent increase rate rise for next seven year period.

Council received many submissions according to it's report and showed that 72 per cent of those residents which responded supported no rate rise. Despite these numbers and opposition Council approved ridiculous rate rise and continued with their submission for the SRV to IPART.

It will have a serious impact on the finances of most households specially with limited pensions and savings in Port Stephens . Australian economy is slowing down. Everybody is slowing down around the World and we have Council living in Wonderland. I think Council is trying to cover their bad books and bad management in the past. They spent millions on Samurai Beach Resort , then tried to sell it , They couldn't get the buyer for even 2.5 mln. Now this resort is called Tree Scapes, still running in red.

Then in 2017 They lost Court case in Nelson Bay Lagoons Estate with estimated 20 mln dollars in damages as per link below.

www.theherald.com.au/story/5637141/left-with-the-bill-council-loses-case-it-was-warned-not-to-fight/

The proposal of the projects would not have a huge improvement of the image of Port Stephens area and still does not mean the projects suggested by the Council would get completed within allocated budget. We do know from the history they are always over budget.

The increase of 66% over the next 7 years would stay after that period

This Council needs an independent auditor to look closely into the council's accounting practices or even have an ICAC enquiry. Somebody needs to take responsibility for the mismanagement and poor efficiency.

PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT PAY FOR THE COUNCIL MISMANAGEMENT

I have attended council meeting with the community at Birubi Beach Surf Club which once again had not been published in details – the venue was mentioned in the newspaper however no time was specified therefore attendance was very low , only 35 people attended meeting .

When the Mayor was asked question why Council was pushing for the increase when 72 % of community has opposed his answer was, quote :

“THE COUNCIL WOULD BE NARROW MINDED IF THEY HAVE MADE DECISIONS BASED ONLY ON COMMUNITY FEEDBACK”

In my opinion the Mayor has lost touch with the community, he has forgotten that he and other councilors where elected by the community to represent us.

I am greatly disappointed with Council proposal and I suspect that many other rate payers feel as betrayed as I do and I just wonder if we work for them or They work for us.

I hope my submission will be taken into consideration, thank you

Regards

Mark Kaczmarek

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