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Submission: I am writing to object to Port Stephens Council's (PSC) application for a SRV on the following grounds:
The SRV rises are too high. My family lives modestly and my pension goes up by CPI annually. The SRV rise is well beyond CPI.

PSC's focus for the SRV seems directed toward tourist focussed areas such as Anna Bay and Nelson Bay and not the other 95% of the shire that have little or no tourist potential. Tourism is one element of a successful economy yet the SRV doesn't mention anything about generating wealth for other areas and by other means. The beneficiary of the SRV will be businesses, not residents, that line the shores of Anna Bay and Nelson Bay. The SRV doesn't mention how the rates and economic growth will directly flow onto residents. Medowie is my area which gets little direct investment from the SRV and council plans.

PSC wastes our rates money. Nowhere in the SRV or future plans does the PSC commit to undertaking critical improvements to its internal business processes to reduce management and administrative waste. What I would like to see is more competitive open tenders to provide better value for money services and infrastructure. Industry stakeholders know that when a tender is advertised by council it is an opportunity to inflate the real value of the work to the point where it costs the taxpayer double, triple or more for the work or service. The cost of toilet blocks, car parks, depots, roadworks and drainage is excessive.

PSC should focus on living within its means and managing funds obtained from ratepayers rather than borrowing huge amounts of money, wasting it on tenders that are overpriced and then repaying a lot of interest on their loans. Perhaps the money would be better spent conducting an external audit of how PSC actually uses its funds.

If PSC needs more money utilise Public Private Partnerships with local businesses or other enterprises that want new infrastructure such as carparks at tourism locations, drainage, road improvement