

Author name: N. Blanchard

Date of submission: Wednesday, 13 February 2019

[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 February 2019 8:18 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Port Stephens Council proposed rate increase

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed rate increases for Port Stephens. I am a resident of Fern Bay and can see that the proposed improvements for our area are minimal and in no way justify such a steep increase.

We live in Seaside estate and already pay strata for our area. The part of Seaside estate that has been handed back to Port Stephens council is not looked after effectively and I can see no evidence in the councils proposal of intent to invest in improvements to these areas.

A 65% increase over 7 years is a steep increase for the community of Fern Bay which has over 3000 residents. We represent approximately 5% of the population and only \$1m of the funds will be distributed this way (less than 1%).

The majority of the money looks to be spent in Nelsons Bay which is 35kms from us (too far for us to reap the benefits).

These increases far exceed the rate of inflation and likely CPI pay increases of residents and may cause financial hardship for no gain to our community. A refurbished bus shelter and footpath just don't cut it.

I also note that councillor vote was not unanimous. Two councillors opposed this change.

Regards,

Nyome Blanchard
[REDACTED]