

**From:** Nicole Young [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 February 2019 1:45 PM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Port Stephens IPART submission

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission- I was unable to submit via your online form.

As a working parent family, we have 3 young children and must juggle running a business (I am self employed & work part time) and my husband works full time to survive and make ends meet. We live in Medowie- which while an amazing community and thriving place, is no man's land for Port Stephens Council.

That is, in their special rate variation, Medowie doesn't rate a mention until we get to the 7.5% price rise. The focus is on Raymond Terrace and Nelson Bay. Despite appealing to the council in writing and in completion of numerous surveys and petitions, the wider community were again ignored and the money hungry development was heard.

I appreciate that the PSC are looking at establishing financial hardship schemes- but they would not have too if they worked within their means and did not impose this level of rate rise. Our eldest children recently started in Kindergarten but despite my husband and I both working (to pay tax and rates really) we were not eligible for OOSH because we are not RAAF and not on welfare. It will be the same with the hardship scheme- we will not be eligible because we actually work. IF council could for one minute look at what the community actually needs, and also to an extent wants, and were open to true consultation, I believe that we could achieve similar outcome by spreading the current rate wealth across the area instead of pocketing the money into Raymond Terrace and the Bay area. Furthermore if the council stopped wasting money on brochures, flyers and consultation reports for fake community consultation there would be more money available for infrastructure. When 70% of the community oppose the move to raise the rates by 7.5%, why not listen and go back to the drawing board instead of now forging ahead and placing many working families under more pressure and ironically forcing the working families into positions where they cannot get away to enjoy the proposed infrastructure anyway. I fear that this move will not just affect the pensioners, but the working families will again be punished and forced into considering leaving the area in order to make ends meet.

While I do believe the community will remember this at the next council election, and speak again with our voting. It will be too late too undo the damage that this increase will cause to my family, our friends and our local area.

Thanks again for your time in considering this submission.

Nicole Young  
[REDACTED]