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To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Port Stephens Council Special Rates Variation Application

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Submission re: Port Stephens Council SRV application.

- I strongly object to the proposed SRV. It is totally unaffordable. I and a large proportion of the ratepayers are on fixed incomes and do not have the capacity to pay such huge increases particularly due to the compounding effect on the base rate into the future.
- The community response to PSC was strongly against the SRV proposal, this has been ignored by PSC. The community should have the opportunity to vote at the next council elections on such a far reaching proposal.
- The current State MP Kate Washington (Labour) is opposed to the SRV. In addition the Liberal candidate for the next NSW state election (Jamie Abbott) who is also a councillor on PSC, voted against the proposed SRV in council.
- If granted the SRV PSC intend to borrow a large sum (reportedly \$60M) to fast track expenditure. This would effectively lock in the SRV increases whether or not the community rejects it at the next council election, and encumbers future councils with large debt repayments
- PSC have not previously demonstrated the capacity or competence to effectively manage contracts for multiple projects over a short time span.
- The community have NOT been adequately informed about the compounding effect of the SRV on the base rates into the future. The community remains ill-informed.

I strongly recommend that IPART reject the SRV application in its entirety.

Peter Dunkley.