

Local Government Team  
**Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW**  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop,  
NSW 1240.

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

re: **Port Stephens Council  
Special Rate Variation (SRV)  
PSC 2018-02118 Special Rate Variation**

Dear Sir/Madam

This submission has been prepared to outline my objections to the Special Rate Variation (SRV) proposed by Port Stephens Council.

The first point I would like to make is that the SRV does not do enough to properly take into account the hardship that it will cause to pensioners who are already feeling the bite from high bills such as petrol, electricity & medical. This is totally unfair to the pensioners & is not equitable. **Based on compound interest calculations with 7.5% annual rise over 7 years the annual rates will increase by 66% at the end of the 7 year period, this is a significant increase compared to a 19% increase if the annual increase is held at 2.5% for the same 7 year period.** Additionally I point out that an annual increase of 7.5% is over 4 times the current CPI rate & over 3 times the current interest rate paid by banks on term deposits; **Council should be content with an annual increase of 2.5% which is still well above the current CPI.**

The second point that I am making is that road widening of Soldiers Point Road at Spencer Park is included in the SRV calculations & this item should be removed from the document. I lodged an objection to the inclusion of Soldiers Point Road widening at Spencer Park in my submissions to Council dated 29<sup>th</sup> August & 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 based on the Local Government Act requirements & **I'm very disappointed that the road widening adjacent to Spencer Park has been retained in the revised SRV document** which leads me to believe that Council is **seeking extra unnecessary funding in the SRV.**

In particular this objection relates to the proposal to construct 90<sup>0</sup> parking bays along the Soldiers Point Road frontage of Spencer Park at a **highly inflated cost of \$500,000.00.** **This construction should cost no more than \$200,000 which leads me to conclude that all the estimates contained in the SRV documents are highly inflated.**

On 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 I had a telephone discussion with [REDACTED] from Council who stated that the increased parking here was requested by local residents. This statement is **totally incorrect** as the local residents strongly opposed this proposal that was put forward by Council staff as a suggestion to help solve the parking problems associated with the failed Soldiers Point Marina extension proposal. The Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council & the Soldiers Point Community Group (SPCG) were strongly opposed to the construction of these parking bays as Spencer Park is classified as an Aboriginal Place & it requires the removal of several substantial & some minor trees along that road frontage thus severely affecting the amenity of the park.

It is my opinion that the proposal to construct additional car parking at Spencer Park is nothing but a stocking filler that has been included in the SRV to boost the amount of money sought by PSC.

It is certified that Peter Maloney has not made any reportable political donations in the past two years.

This submission has been prepared by Peter Maloney of:



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Peter Maloney BE (Hons) Dip Tech (Eng) LGE FIEAust CPEng (ret)