

[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 February 2019 10:11 AM

To: Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Port Stephens Council Special Rate Variation Application

I write in protest of the Special Rate Variation being sought by Port Stephens Council.

Firstly, as a pensioner on a very limited income I am simply unable to afford the amount of increase being proposed.

My fear is that I will be forced to sell my home of many years and move away from the area disrupting my family's and my life.

The rate increase would see my rate debt to this Council elevate to my highest annual expense given that the pensioner rebate is a fixed amount per year and not indexed which exponentially increases the gap of the amount I would be forced to pay.

Many other residents are in my position and, like me, have expressed their concerns to this Council with such expressions against this increase being in the majority although totally ignored by Council during the early processes.

Many residents feel, as I do, this Council is incapable of managing the monies already received by ratepayers to effectively administer to the needs of this community, instead choosing to ensconce themselves as high flying developers of property and other developments in the area.

Their track record is abysmal in this area and I quote the Lagoon's Estate disaster where Council is facing damages awarded against it of some \$30 million dollars- a result that could have been limited to some hundred's of thousands of dollars had common sense been applied instead of a blatant disregard of due process and ratepayers monies.

A further massive failure is the Samurai Beach Resort, another disaster for the resident ratepayers resulting in a multi-million dollar loss due to Council's incompetence.

I have become aware that Council has expended hundreds of thousands of dollars pursuing a Raymond Terrace couple through the court's over a \$5000 privacy fence, a matter yet to be resolved. If Council is true to form they will lose this action resulting in a yet to be determined damages payout-again!

I vehemently object to providing this Council with any more of ratepayers money in any shape or form which would allow them to continue to ride roughshod over senior residents and young families trying to get their start in life.

Signed; Robert Fletcher, [REDACTED], Medowie, NSW, 2318 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]