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Submission: I am writing to object to Port Stephens Council's (PSC) application for a SRV on the following grounds:

1) It seems apparent after reading numerous lengthy documents submitted by PSC to IPART that there is an imbalance between the proposed funding channelled to the 'tourist' areas of the shire (in particular, the east ward areas of Nelson Bay and Anna Bay) to the expense of the rest of the central ward and west ward areas. Whilst tourism is an important driver of the Port Stephens economy, the infrastructure costs and corresponding benefits to the retired population and locals outside of the tourist locations is minimal. Hence, when tourists come to the shire for their enjoyment, it is the business owners that stand to make a direct profit from their visit - ordinary homeowners who work within or outside of the community will not share that benefit and will in fact also end up paying higher prices for goods and services. Areas such as Medowie, where we own property, receive little attention in relation to the creation of hubs where tourists would be equally happy to visit and spend money.

2) PSC seems overly reliant on borrowing money to fund projects rather than obtaining competitively priced tenders for the allocated work. For example, a PSC staff member recently informed me that the cost of building a 3 cubicle public toilet block was in excess of \$300,000. This price seems outrageous, having built a 30 square house (including all site costs on H grade soil (Highly reactive clay) incl. BASIX just 4 years earlier costing a total of \$215,000. I was told (re toilet block) that concrete is expensive! PSC would be far better living within their means and learning to manage and judiciously spend the funds obtained from ratepayers rather than borrowing huge amounts of money, wasting it on tenders that are overpriced and then repaying a lot of interest on their loans. Perhaps the money would be better spent conducting an external audit of how PSC actually uses its funds.