

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 February 2019 4:28 PM

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

**Subject:** Port Stephens Council SRV

This is a submission to the above council's SRV

Council has not demonstrated any works or projects that are urgent or critical to the local government area.

Council has not stated in any submission a given dollar amount nor a set time frame for any works or projects

Council notified Lemon Tree Passage rate payers of a meeting to discuss the SRV via the local paper on the same day as the meeting . STARTING at 2.30pm it alienated people working ,people that had to pick up children at school and any one who received the paper late in the day.

Council has not addressed the impact of land value increases over the next seven years.

Council has chosen to ignore the surveys, & polls it has conducted, which over 70% of rate payers are against the proposed SRV .

Council has a poor record of decision making ,turning a\$500000 problem into a \$20m -\$30m debt even after independent court advice .

Council built a croquet field and club house ,then couldn't find anyone who wanted to use it ,when a club was finally formed they refused to deal with council.

At a time when State &Federal Governments are debating ways to reduce energy bills because of the hardships they are causing this council is out of touch with the community

If this SRV is so important to the rate payers of Port Stephens why was it not flagged at the last local government elections

With a large population of retirees and welfare recipients, this SRV will cause not only financial hardship but confusion and stress for the more mature rate payers who are asset rich and cash poor , can't remember our last income increase.

After the Global Financial crisis Port Stephens Local government area had one of the largest mortgage defaults in NSW.

In this turbulent financial Times, most of us rate payers are hanging on ,this SRV will force many to sell ,maybe not straight away , most will hang on ,but in the end ,they will have to sell to

Over the next seven years , with our aging population, how many rate payers will be on fixed incomes?

Could the reason for the SRV be because the council think they can solve all councils problems by throwing large amounts of money rather than good financial planning.

I implore you to set aside Port Stephens Council's SRV application for two years ,untill it can be fully debated by all stakeholders, at a pace that is comfortable for all ,not steamed rolled as it has been since Council told us what we are going to have ,whether we agree or not ."it was not a vote"

Thank you for your patience

Ray Hutchinson

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