



[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
20th February 2019

IPART

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Haymarket Post Shop

NSW 1240

PORT STEPHENS – 2019 SRV

We are supposed to live in a Democracy and our politicians are “democratically” elected, ie. those with the most votes win the privilege to represent and act on behalf of the community, (subject to preferential deals).

[REDACTED]

I believe only 2 Port Stephens councillors have stood up for the community’s decision in rejecting this SRV and the others are doing “their own thing”, because they think they know better and have disregarded “the will of the people”.

The council reps. need to check the demographics of the Port Stephens local Government area BEFORE making such decisions and inflicting additional financial burdens on the citizens. Basic services, roads, rates and rubbish are the essential responsibilities of local councils. When they are “perfect and up to scratch” then other nice-to-have facilities can be considered.

Many of the roads in the PS LGA are FAR from perfect and are in need of repair or upgrading; THIS SHOULD BE THE COUNCILS PRIORITY.

There are 4 categories of residents within the PS LGA:

1. Those on fixed incomes; pensioners and welfare recipients,
2. “the working poor”, 1 or 2 incomes, 2 or more children and a mortgage,
3. self-funded retirees who have been hammered by the GFC who cannot afford this new impost and

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4. the fortunate few who can afford this additional burden.

Pensions and Govt. support payments only rise by the CPI, once or maybe twice per year, YET EVERYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF INCREASES BY AT LEAST THIS AMOUNT WHENEVER THE CPI RISE IS DISTRIBUTED.

WHAT are we going to have ? a 4 tiered rating system, so NO particular group is disadvantaged to the max ???

Are the Port Stephens Council trying to re-design the demographics of the LGA by forcing pensioners, retirees and "hard pressed families" to re-locate to a more affordable LGA ???

WHAT NEXT, a rating system based upon taxable income ??

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of R Matsen.

R Matsen