

**Sent:** Sunday, 17 February 2019 9:31 PM

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

**Subject:** Rate increase Port Stephens Council.

To whom it may concern

I am a rate payer in this council and I am against the increase as I am on a Disability Pension and I cannot afford this rate rise as my pension has not gone up and why should we pay more for rates when the rate money is not spent in Medowie. I get nothing for my rates as I don't use the parks as I am in a wheelchair. I don't use the foot paths as where I go there is no foot path on that side of the road. I also informed the Council that they let me down onto the road to cross but cannot get up on the other side nothing done.

The pensioner rebate has not been changed in 20 years that I know but the rates in 20 years have gone from \$ 48.00 a quarter and now we pay \$282.00 per quarter. My pension and rebate have not gone up with what the rates have. Pensioner rebate has never changed. I have spent 2 years fighting the NDIS to get a bedroom and bathroom for my disability which is slow progressive MND. I am having this put on at the moment . If I had of known the rates were going up so high I would not have put up a fight to get the room on this house I would have sold up and moved out of this council. I have now had this done therefore I cannot sell up and move because I cannot have this room put onto another house. I think this rise is something that should not be approved as this means less food on the table for most people. People that are renting means their rent will go up. With electricity bills rising, water bills, fuel prices which is my only means of transport. Could you please tell me where I am to get the money for this rise. My attitude is I will pay what I paid this year and no more to the council. Also why are councils part of the state government when the referendum that was put to the people in a vote was denied by the people but government put this through. Therefore why do we pay rates. I can understand paying for garbage being collected but a management fee for garbage also on our rates, council are after every cent they can get and then they waste the money taking people to court and loss and this cost rate payers it is about time people in the council are made accountable for what they do with rate payers money.

thank you

sharon James.