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**Sent:** Monday, 11 February 2019 2:24 PM

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

**Subject:** Variation in Port Stephens rates

Mr. Hugo Harmstorf  
Chief Executive Officer  
Industry Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

### **Variation in Port Stephens council rates**

Please be advised that we are hereby registering our objection to the Port Stephens council proposed rate increase. If approved, this increase would mean '7.5%pa (incl the rate peg.) over 7 years, to be a permanent increase which will be retained within the rate base'

For us as pensioners, this increase would not be financially possible; our annual pension increase nowhere meets this rate increase. 2 years ago we built a home at Seaside Fern Bay, a home for our retirement. At 73 years of age, I have been working 2 days a week to purchase needed fittings for the house. Last week, due to my inability to keep working, I retired and my wife and I will go onto the full pension. A rate increase would mean me having to go back to work (or my 70yr old wife finding work) or sell the house.

Besides paying council rates, we pay a levy on our estate. During the past 2 years, apart from the council replacing a street sign, we haven't seen the council make any improvements, or maintain any of our parks or streets. Currently there are over 600 homes on this estate. That's a substantial amount of income via rates for Port Stephens.

To make matters worse, when we lived on the Central Coast, Wyong Council provided three bins for each household - 2 emptied each week. Port Stephens council doesn't even give us this service....they provide 2 bins: 1 bin emptied 1 week and 2 bins emptied on the alternate week.

Wyong Council gave the ratepayers 6 kerbside collections each year; Port Stephens council offers us 2 per year.

We appreciate you 'hearing' us out

Yours,  
Stan and Angela Webber

[REDACTED]  
Fern Bay NSW 2295  
[REDACTED]

February 11, 2019