

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 February 2019 11:40 AM

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

Subject: Port Stephens Council- special rate variation application

Dear IPART, this is a submission from an individual. Your online form did not seem to work for me.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak against this large, cumulative increase in rates that Port Stephens Council is seeking to impose on its ratepayers.

Council has conducted, so called 'community consultation', which in my view has been little more than marketing spin. Council seems to have been dismissive of the overwhelming opposition to the proposed variation, I seem to recall greater than 90% opposition being reported in our local paper. A letter signed by the Mayor sent to residents after the consultation period ended was in my opinion a continuance of marketing spin. That letter in my view was so disingenuous as it only made the briefest mention of the right to make a submission to IPART.

I have been on the committee of a sporting club in the region, environmentally active and have also been involved in landcare in the local area, so I have reasonable community involvement. I think that many of the works proposed to be funded are simply a wishlist of works that are unnecessary, excessive or even grandiose.

A large sector of our community is aged and on some form centrelink benefits, even self-funded retiree's aren't doing that well with interest rates at historic lows. As residents we have to live within our means, Council should do the same.

I can't recall any of our current crop of councillors during the last local government election campaign making any mention of seeking a rate increase of any type. If councillors feel there is community support for this large cumulative increase, let them take it to the next local council election and hear what the community really thinks.

In summary I am making this submission to seek the protection of IPART from what I believe to be an unjustifiable grab for money by council. Please reject

this money grab or reduce it massively. Council should live within its current means plus the normal inflation based increase that is granted yearly.

Thanks for considering my submission.

Regards Trevor Murray