

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 February 2019 8:46 AM

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

**Subject:** Submission for PSCC Rate Increase

Dear Sir, Madam or Committee,

Attached is a letter with my comments forming my families submission on the rate increase proposal.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Nelson Bay NSW 2315  
12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

IPART

[www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au)

Submission from 11.02.2019 to 11.03.2019.

### **PROPOSED PORT STEPHENS RATES INCREASE**

Dear Sir or Madam,

From council documentation I see that there were four proposals presented for our shires annual rate increase.

- 1) MAINTAIN - Increase @ 2.5% per annum for the next 7 years.
- 2) ENHANCE - Increase @ 6.5% per annum for the next 7 years.
- 3) EXTEND - Increase @ 7.5% per annum for the next 7 years.
- 4) TRANSFORM - Increase @ 8.5% per annum for the next 7 years.

I believe that the council voted for number 3)

The last three proposals to apply excessive rates to the residents is ridiculous.

A lot of our population are Retirees who have lived in this area for a long time and only have limited income. This option 3) which amounts to a 66% increase over the next 7 years will force a lot of them from their homes and this area.

Updating the Town Centres is only beneficial to the business owners and not most of the residents.

Most residents do not require or want all the proposed new amenities that are mostly used by holiday visitors, again to basically benefit local businesses.

Most residents want a quiet beach-seaside town with fewer visitors to clutter the area and not so commercialised. I am a long-time resident, now a retiree and definitely one of these people.

If the visitors and businesses want these upgrades to the infrastructure and amenities then let them pay for such improvements. All these modifications under the heading of improvements will eventually ruin this town.

The businesses undoubtedly want the area to be as popular as possible to increase their profits. They want to increase High Rise and basically turn our town into a duplication or triplication of Surfers Paradise & the Gold Coast. A visitor orientated over used concrete jungle. An area over commercialised by money hungry people, who do not care about the nice surroundings, only about lining their pockets.

One cannot even take a quiet stroll along a beach anymore without falling over visitors, and that's only if you are lucky enough to get a parking spot.

During the holiday season at times the locals cannot even purchase their normal food supplies due to them being sold-out due to the high number of visitors. Our main road is always banked-up at Salt Ash due to the single lane bridge, making it difficult for the locals that are trying to get to and from their workplace.

Getting side-tracked..... This dual road was promised by the government many years ago, but the people in charge approve construction in areas other than the main problem spot. Why?. Every time there is an accident at this spot, noted above, the whole road and access is blocked..... Cannot even get this priority right!.

I see in the latest 07.02.2019 "Port Stephens Examiner" the results of submissions to our council. Long submissions:- 58% not supportive and only 10% supportive to any increase. Short submissions:- Majority said "No" to any increase.

From these published results I must admit that I am confused.

Councillors are elected by the residents.....The majority of residents said No! in the PSCC submissions.....Therefore the Councillor's should project the residents opinion at the council meetings.

Apparently most of them must have voted against the residents that they are supposed to represent, and decided to proceed with the second highest proposed increase. In my humble opinion this is not right. Should the question be asked if there is some underlying agenda that we as residents do not know about for this to happen?.

Look at the residents in the "Red Zone" at Williamtown & Salt Ash area. My sister-in-law lives there and she can no longer have her veggie garden, or have her chickens, due to the whole area being contaminated. She cannot sell and move due to the complete devaluation of their properties. So, even these residents should pay increased rates for being completed "Screwed". The people making these decisions really cannot be that stupid!.

The council should maybe utilise & prioritise the jobs better within their allocated budget and not appear to waste money. e.g. ....Every year the council resurfaces some perfectly good roads in

our shire while others are full of "pot holes". Why?. This process appears to be a waste of good rate payer's money to most residents. There is usually some comment in our local paper when this occurs. Do they do this as it is easier, rather than work hard to fix the roads with pot holes?.

We see that Marine Parks can be made in our waterways, so why not think outside the box and if possible make the whole peninsular a National Park, put gates at Bobs Farm and charge every visiting vehicle a nominal fee to pass that point. This would pay for the improvements to the infrastructure and amenities that such visitors require and use.

Local residents would have an electronic pass to gain access past this point, plus could also be used for free parking.

Regards,

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