## Dear IPART panel

I hope you receive this. I seem to be having trouble lodging my submission on your website so I'm sending through an email instead. Here is my submission:

As a citizen of Port Stephens I urge you to not allow these special rate variations. Port Stephens Council has not acted according to its citizens wishes and is blatantly defying the vast majority of ratepayers who are against these variations - or to be more accurate - rate increases! Not only has it not made a convincing case to its own citizens regarding these increases it has also defied those same councillors statements before the election. Increasing rates was not on their agenda before the election, quite the contrary in fact.

I am one of the Port Stephens citizens who went all the way to the NSW Parliament to protest the NSW Government council amalgamation proposal for Port Stephens and after many months of very hard, determined work we were successful in keeping our council and one of the major arguments against merging our council was the rate increases that would follow. At that time, when their positions were at risk, they were totally opposed to the rate increases but now many of those same councillors have defied the people they are supposed to represent by strongly advocating for rate increases. It is not only outrageous it is highly hypocritical.

Many Port Stephens residents are disabled or pensioners on low fixed incomes and simply cannot afford such exorbitant increases. Also wages have been stagnant for some time and rate increases of such a magnitude cannot be justified under these circumstances for so many citizens even those in full time work let alone those without.

I am a silent elector in Port Stephens and I am trusting that you will take the only fair and just decision and not allow these special rate variations. Please make sure that the citizens of Port Stephens do not have to bear the burden of the councillors poor judgement and decision making. Our citizens have sent very loud and clear messages to them to no avail so now I ask you to support the citizens rather than those few who are councillors of Port Stephens.