



The Office of the Mayor of Port Stephens  
**Bruce MacKenzie**  
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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

At its meeting of Tuesday 9 August 2016, Port Stephens Council voted unanimously in support of a Notice of Motion calling on Council to request, in writing, the support of all New South Wales Councils in opposing the proposed plebiscite into same sex marriage.

Council's opposition to the same sex marriage plebiscite is on the basis of its proposed cost, which has been widely reported as being in the vicinity of \$160 million, as well as the non-binding nature of the vote on our federal parliament.

It is the view of Port Stephens Council that federal politicians, no matter their party allegiance, should be afforded a free vote on same sex marriage. Council also believes that the decision reached should reflect the personal beliefs of those politicians, as well as, most importantly, the shared beliefs of the communities which elected them.

Port Stephens Council believes that the money that would be allocated to this plebiscite would be far better spent on other more pressing community needs – be it education, health, infrastructure, in particular assistance for the homeless and accommodation and support for victims of domestic violence which are both increasing at a devastating rate throughout the State.

I call upon you, on behalf of your communities and your organisations, to join with Port Stephens Council in this effort. I call on you to stand up against this flagrant waste of money, and oppose this plebiscite.

Our federal politicians should be forced to do the job they were elected to do, to make decisions on the issues of the day. They should be forced to have the courage of their convictions in casting their vote on this issue.

History is watching them. History is watching us all.

Yours sincerely,

**Bruce MacKenzie**  
**MAYOR OF PORT STEPHENS**

16 August 2016

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**PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL**

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