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Submission: I am opposed to the proposed rate increase on the following grounds: 1. Ballina Shire Council conducted a survey inviting ratepayers to comment on the proposed special rate variation. An overwhelming majority voted against the increase, however Council having been thwarted in its attempt to gain public consent then totally ignored the ratepayers wishes and voted for the rate increase 2. If Council wishes to carry out major works of this kind then funding should be obtained by a "user pays" method, or fund the project through existing resources and reserves. Council needs to better manage their income as other businesses have to do prior to considering major expenditure, and like the rest of us live within its means. 3. Council has been remiss in not, in previous years, making provision for the ongoing maintenance of its infrastructure, one shudders to think of what other major works need refurbishment as evidenced by the fact that this impost is not just to raise the funds for the pools but will apply forever. 4. Many residents fall in the category of low income earners and/or social security recipients for whom even a small increase in expenses adds to their already financial resources.