

BALLINA CITIZENS & RATE PAYERS ASSOCIATION
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

March 7, 2017.

To:- I.P.A.R.T,

To whom it may concern.

I am writing on behalf of the members of our association, who have voted unanimously to oppose the enormous and totally unreasonable increase in rates that the Ballina Shire Council intends to impose upon us.

We believe this is just an unfair money grab on their behalf, as they are already very wealthy, and refuse to sell some of their many investment properties [bought with ratepayers funds] to assist with their infrastructure costs, and maintenance.

You will remember that last year they were granted an increase in rates over and above the pegged increase, supposedly to pay for upgrades to 2 swimming pools. Not a cent of that has been spent on these pools as yet! And I believe that the original costing of 10m has now blown out to 14m.

The BSC organised yet another outside consultant to run a telephone poll on a certain number of residents and they are relying on this to sway your decision, but we found that the questions asked were all skewed to give the council, an advantage. And only 4 possible answers to the questions were accepted. The Ballina Shire Council are masters at this kind of deception and have done this in the past [eg. Last rate increase].

They say that their councillors have voted in favour of the increase by a margin of 7 to 3. But what they have failed to tell you, is that the councillors all voted for varied options. So to say that the motion was carried 7 to 3 is an untruth.

90% of people in Ballina are against this, and many are asking for the appointment of an administrator, as they have lost all faith in this Council.

Hoping you will investigate this further and come to a sane decision,

I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Ross. M. Pickering.
President B.D.C.R.A.