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Submission: As a self funded retiree I am deeply concerned about the impact of Ballina Council's proposed rate rise on others in my situation. I am living on a superannuation pension of \$640 per fortnight. That's less than the dole and I am already experiencing difficulties paying my rates which are on average about \$640 per quarter. Ballina Councillor Ben Smith published a letter in the Advocate 22 February 2017 with valid and relevant reasons why the proposed rate rise should not proceed. A copy of this letter is attached. Please consider Councillor Smith's argument and bear in mind that any rate rise in the Ballina Council district will cause real hardship to self funded retirees on low incomes and none of the health and travel concessions that pensioners receive

Following article/comment not published due to copyright concerns

Title	Publication	Date
'Rate Rise Unnecessary'	Ballina Advocate, Page 8	22 February 2017