

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Ballina Shire Council - Proposed Special Rate Variation
Date: Tuesday, 27 February 2018 3:10:59 PM

I am a ratepayer within this shire and object to this proposal (no.2) to impose a 17.6% rate increase burden on us.

Following on from the first applic. Council has continued to fail to explain how they propose to "live within their means" other than to attempt to compare us with other councils (apples with oranges: no two councils have identical characteristics), and stating the existing rate base is insufficient to fund its management plan, and using the State Government as a scapegoat for asking councils to identify how they would comply with financial sustainability with the "fit for future" program. Eg, I find it hard to comprehend why council has dug up 100% of our two pools to completely rebuild them at a cost of over \$14 mil and over budget and over time. In the glossy booklet produced for us, Council has omitted to explain the compound effect that the proposed SRV will actually have when added to the previous SRV applied for and approved to cover the pools rebuild, (Council apparently did not adequately provide for the maintenance of our pools in past years).

The average ratepayer may struggle to comprehend the complexity of the graphs and sheer amount of information contained in the brochure. Council says they are concerned and mindful of the large increase and financial impact this will have on pensioners and low fixed income ratepayers. I have not heard a reasonable explanation reconciling a 17.6% (over 2 yrs before compounding previous years SRV for our pools) with a pension rise of say 2.3% pa. Why this shire has to have the "best" pools in the land just demonstrates the lack of priorities thought through. Several letters to our local papers criticize our mayor and councilors of not listening to us. Low income ratepayers CANNOT absorb these large rate increases which will be compounded and ongoing together with huge utility increases. I am disappointed that no advertising by Council has been made about the IPART submission deadlines. Less objections?

[REDACTED]

(my submission can be published but my name is to remain anonymous)