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Submission: I am totally against the proposal for the special variations proposed by the Ballina Council. As I understand it, Ballina Council recently filed a plan assessing their ability to be sustainable into the near future without the need for special variations. This council put out a survey to gauge the opinions of rate payers. This survey showed 90% of rate payers were against it. As they have done in the past, this result has been ignored. They have applied anyway. This is a total waste of the public's money and time. A total rate hike of some 16% will be permanently added to our rates. As a pensioner I will not be able to continue living here in my own home. I moved to Ballina some 20 years ago, and my rates have increased over 400%. The council claims to have some \$65,000,000 in bank accounts. There is a large amount of land put aside for future residential development. why dont they look at developing this and keep the town growing? This application for additional rates is unfair and should not be granted.