

8 March 2018

Ratepayer submission in response to Bellinger Shire Councils SRV application 2018/19".

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in the Bellinger Shire and I have paid rates towards the Bellinger Local Council for 35 years.

My wife is on a disability pension and I work in the community services industry. My wages have not increased keeping up with the cost of living.

The Bellinger Council's proposal to raise the rates to almost 20% over 3 years is unacceptable and unaffordable for me and I believe for most ratepayers.

Furthermore, two of my three children are renting their housing in the Bellinger Shire and naturally, property owners pass will pass this expense on to their tenants. Again, the people that can least afford it will be footing the bill.

The Bellinger Council has provided (expensive colourful) brochures to invite the rate payers to meetings in which they endeavour to justify these rate increases. First of all the brochure arrived in my letterbox after two of the proposed meetings and the following meetings meeting were organised during my work hours.

Recently your IPART report deemed the Bellinger Council 'unfit for future' and raising rates and bleeding the people inhabiting the Shire will not fix the issues concerning financial mismanagement.

This Council has a history of overspending on expensive items and irrelevant trivia and I strongly object to foot the bill for other people's inadequacies especially when I live frugal and within my means.

Therefore I wish to make it known that I strongly object of these rate rises and suggest that rates remain pegged to the CPI.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.