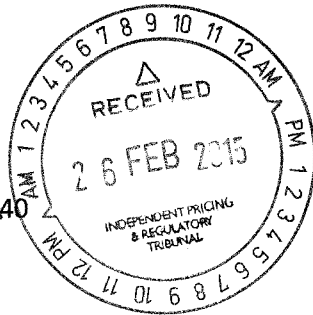


IPART
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
19th February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

OBJECTION TO BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL SPECIAL RATE INCREASE

We OPPOSE the application by Ballina Shire Council to increase rates to fund “maintenance/renovation” costs for 2 Ballina Shire swimming pools.

This issue has caused a major disturbance in our community. We have enclosed copies of some of the objections to the rate increase which have been published in our local paper, the Ballina Shire Advocate, over the last few months. There has been negligible support for this proposed rate increase in our community. Objections have been from a wide cross-section of the community, including [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Council commissioned a telephone survey to assess community support for this proposal. We were included in this survey and as we answered the questions, it was clear that the survey questions had been designed with the specific purpose of directing our answers to ensure Council could achieve the outcome they were looking for, ie. support to increase rates.

It is extremely concerning, that Council is ignoring the large community opposition to this proposed rate increase and instead, is proceeding with its application to IPART.

Council should be prepared to fund pool maintenance/renovation, on an ongoing basis, from current general rates. It has also been acknowledged that there are many other strategies which Council could use to save on costs and thereby have sufficient funds available to fund this pool proposal (the salaries of senior Council management, who earn not much less than the Prime Minister, is one such area). They refuse to do this.

This issue is yet another instance where Council insists on proceeding with actions which are in direct contravention of community wishes. Last year, despite 100% of affected ratepayers being in opposition to Councils proposal, they proceeded with reclassifying 2 Ballina waterways from Community land to Operational land.

Would you please note our objection to this rate increase and also note that in this instance, Council does NOT represent the interests of the community or have the support of the community.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]