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Submission: I object to this application for three reasons. The first is that the size of the application is unreasonable for many of the ratepayers who are on fixed incomes, i.e. the pensioners of the shire. Many ratepayers are well over the retired age and just simply cannot afford additional rates. The reason given by the Council as the necessity for the increase I understand is to clean up the Richmond River. The Richmond River runs through many more Shires than Ballina and there appears to be no such rates increase application for this reason coming from other shires. I believe restoration of any of the State's rivers should be a State function and not that of a particular Shire.