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[REDACTED]  
21 February 2018

Executive Director  
IPART  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240



Dear Ms Garnier

**BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL RATE INCREASE**

We wrote to you late last year concerning a proposed rate rise application by Ballina Shire Council, and you advised on 6 November 2017 (your ref. 17/422) that Council would make an application mid-February, and objections should be lodged within 4 weeks of that time.

Our earlier letter sets out some, but not all, of the reasons for objecting to the proposed special rate rise. We understand that Council is required to consult the community. It has sought submissions, but it is ignoring those submissions. In a letter to us dated 5 January 2018 the Mayor states "As with all our rate consultation processes, a large majority of submissions opposed the proposed increase." It does not seem to be genuine consultation if a large majority opposes the increase, but the Council ignores that and proceeds with the special rate application.

There is strong opposition to the proposed increase, which is evidenced by public comment, submissions to Council, and letters and comments in the local newspaper. A great majority are of the view that Council should set a budget and stick to it, prioritising those things which are traditional Council function, instead of regularly seeking more and more rate rises to do other things.

We strongly object to the proposed special rate rise and hope that you will refuse the application.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
*B and L Lewis*