

Friday 10 March 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to you in regards to my councils (Ballina Shire) requesting of an extra special rate pegging increase to our rates for the next financial year and to be carried through there ever after.

The council requested a similar action a few years ago so that they could refurbish our 2 public pools and after this to help pay for further public works in the future.

The council told the ratepayers the work would ^{cost} \$8 million (per pool? think) this has now gone out to \$14 million apparently and the said pools are supposed to start some time this month.

Money that should have been put aside for future pool maintenance was squandered elsewhere, the Mayor at the time said the pools were running at a loss (and still are) as admission cost would need to be double to be about break even.

Council also now wants to expand the local airport terminal also at a considerable cost to the ratepayers. Our council has quite a considerable amount of money and assets squirreled away but continually wants to hit up the ratepayer whenever they want something.

There are several new estates being developed or expanded by private concerns within walking distance of where I live (one of which is for 420 allotments on its own) so my guess is probably at least 800) from which council will reap the benefits from.

Our area up here in the Northern Rivers consists of a large population of retirees, has a high level of unemployment (both fixed income) whilst wages for those working it would be fair to say are low to middle income whilst expenses (food, fuel, lack of public transport etc) are considerable.

Council asked the ratepayers for their input as to the special rate pegging increase and in their own admission 90% of respondents were AGAINST the increase.

I am therefore hoping that you will deny Ballina Council its request for a special rate pegging increase and appease the ratepayers wishes.

Your Sincerely

G Giles