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Submission: Dear IPART. We at Ballina have a generally well governed council I believe. However we STRONGLY object to the additional rate rise above inflation. We live in an area of Alstonville where we dont even have proper kerbs and guttering on our street. Erosion is a constant problem during medium to heavy rainfall. This is where we would like more resources used , not so much on projects like swimming pools , the Richmond River and others. A small skate park in the plateau should be reconsidered say at Jeff Watt oval. Our youth, skaters etc need this facility as an additional leisure outlet. I request that BSC slow down the proposed projects considered to reduce expenditure, and/or seek external finance to be repaid over the long term. Interest rates are at record lows so it is a good time for borrowing. I also suggest council review its expenditure on items like machinery and vehicles. Most residents do not automatically buy a new car after 5 years so why should the council? Some review of the amount of vehicles used by council workers should be looked at. Often there is nearly one vehicle per worker at a roadwork site! Also, I advocate for the middle and lower income residents of the shire. Higher property rates will put pressure on landlords to raise rents to maintain their return on investment. We have many pensioners and lower income earners who would be paying higher rents, when already they are on a tight budget. Rate rises would create extra economic stress for new home owners residents when they have paid to enter the market. To conclude I believe we are generally well served by Ballina Shire Council. However the projects and extra rate funding sought is NOT JUSTIFIED for the above and other reasons. Our council needs to operate within the current income stream. Yours sincerely, Greg and Alison Hay .