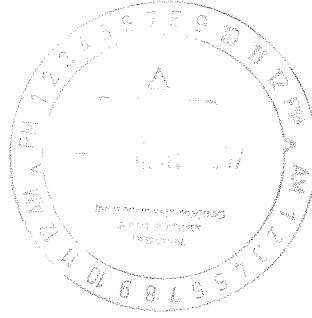


J & U Elliott,
[REDACTED]

28th February 2017

The Assessor,
iPart,
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop,
NSW 1240



Dear Sir,

Objection Submission to Ballina Shire Council Local Government Rates Increase

We hereby wish to object to the proposed rates increase by Ballina Shire Council.

We are 81 and 77 years of age respectively. Our son now farms our property and we are on limited income.

Our current Council rates are \$3,984.56 pa, which is nearly \$77 per week to live in our own home.

We understand an Emergency Services Property Levy is to be billed alongside Council Rates from 1st July 2017. Ratepayers have not been advised of the cost of this new levy. This will make another financial impost on us.

The Council does not provide any additional services south of the Richmond River where we live. There are no pubs, no shops, no sports fields, no public transport, and we have to buy a pass on the Council ferry to go to town. Farmers are required to maintain the gravel roads in the vicinity of their properties. Occasionally we see a Council tractor with slasher (mower) on the back mowing the verge of the road, but one cut only and about twice a year.

The rates increase proposed by Ballina Shire Council is unfair, unwarranted and unnecessary. There are people in the Shire who are doing it tough and cannot afford current rates, let alone increased ones. Many are pensioners or on fixed incomes like us.

Regarding the health of waterways, the Council's domain finishes at the riverbank. A lot of the black water comes out of Bungawalbyn Swamp which is not in Ballina Shire.

Please take this submission into account when iPart investigates the rates increase. The Ballina Council took our money for the swimming pools to satisfy a minority of noisy ratepayers last year and it still hasn't upgraded the swimming pools – please refer to the attached Letter to the Editor by Councillor Ben Smith, Advocate newspaper. He mentions that 90% of ratepayers were against this proposed increase.

Yours faithfully,

J & U Elliott
[REDACTED]

Following article/comment not published due to copyright concerns

Title	Publication	Date
'Rate Rise Unnecessary'	Ballina Advocate, Page 8	22 February 2017