

IPART Special Rate Variation Submission for Ballina Shire Council

Does council listen to ratepayers. NO. Refer to IPART Fact Sheet at No.3. No consultation on ability to pay or affordability. The newsletter projects the financial outcome after 3 years at 17.7% cumulative and relies on an independent taxpayer funded survey by Micromax to justify increases. 3 quick observations: No discussion or conclusion on financial impact on ratepayers years beyond the 3rd or how future councils would quarantine the cumulating funds for this specific purpose (new councillors have “new” dreams). No reference to the previous SRV for poor infrastructure) (\$8mil blown to \$14mil). Council appears to justify by comparing our lower general rate to nearby councils. Surely for so many reasons this is near impossible. Both these SRV’s are PERMANENT. We may have considered “temporary”. We are at the end of the Richmond River so that all runoff from 4 other councils ends up in our yard.

It is so disheartening to see the amount of “fast food” rubbish uncovered by council when they mow the road side. Nothing is picked up at the time. Much of this rubbish finds its way into the very river that the ratepayer is now asked to become the sole cash fix for.

Only 8 of 128 state councils applied for SRV. Maybe 120 councils are able to live within their means.

J Hume

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