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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam, I strongly oppose the rise proposed by Ballina Shire Council for an 11.1% rate rise over the next 2 years plus the usual Annual Rate increase. I understand this Council has proposed the extraordinary increase for purposes of "improving the swimming pool facilities at both Ballina and Alstonville". Neither of these facilities warrant the proposed improvement as they already constitute Olympic size pools and serve the communities most admirably. Whilst "community consultation" is claimed by Council to have occurred, there has been strong opposition to the special increase - all on deaf ears by Council. The Council has, over many years, engaged in unprofitable commercial ventures - outside the primary charter for local councils. This particular venture and the claimed need for a special rate loading, whilst apparently more in keeping with community infrastructure projects, is only necessary because of BSC's poor use of rate-payer revenue in pursuit of inappropriate commercial ventures. The request should be denied and the Council required to adhere to its primary role of balancing its budget for key and essential community needs, and leaving commercial projects to the appropriate operators.
Regards, J.C. Lane