

09 March 2017

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW,
2-24 Rawson Pl,
Sydney NSW 2000

RE: Ballina Shire Council, Special Rate Variation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I make this submission for your consideration in regard to the Ballina Shire Council applying for a SRV well in excess of the standard rate peg.

The request by Council to ratepayers is excessive and is not supported by the community. It appears that Council requested community feedback only to satisfy the requirement as part of their SRV submission to IPART.

The community feedback has in no way been considered by Council when, in their Extraordinary Meeting on February 10, 2017, they decided to proceed with the application to IPART.

The online survey was the method touted by Council in their literature as “the easiest and quickest way to provide feedback” on the proposal. The General Manager then, in his report to Councillors on the outcomes of the consultation process, states that the survey is flawed and does not provide statistically valid results.

“It is important to acknowledge that on-line surveys, as is often stated, do not provide statistically valid results, but rather they provide an easy and efficient opportunity for people to provide feedback.

From submission by Paul Hickey to Councillors at the Extraordinary Meeting of February 10, 2017.

I have attached the 59 pages of the “non-statistically valid responses” for your perusal as I notice that has been omitted from Attachment 6 in the SRV submission.

I trust that the true feelings of the majority of the community relating to this rate rise are better understood through the provision of this additional information and that IPART can make an informed decision on whether this submission should be approved or otherwise.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this additional information.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeff Mahon

Ballina Shire Resident and Ratepayer