

Author name: J. Milne

Date of submission: Thursday, 2 March 2017

Submission: Ballina Council's proposed increase in rates is far in excess of community expectations when compared to wage and pension increases. The issue is further exacerbated by last years increase to cover pool renovations. Apparently the Council was not aware that assets would need to be revamped over a twenty year life period. The aim to clean the river while admirable is not realistic as Ballina is at the ocean end of the waterway and cannot influence the several councils that the river flows through. A recent poll showed that 90% of rate payers oppose the increase ( Advocate newspaper). The council has more than adequate resources in the form of cash and asserts without gouging ratepayers.