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Date of submission: Wednesday, 21 February 2018

Submission: From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 February 2018 8:43 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Bellingen Shire Council SRV

My submission re Bellingen Shire Council special rate variation 2018-9.

What is the point of Rate Pegging if a council can get SRV increases year after year? This is poor management by IPART and Bellingen Shire Council (BSC).

My thoughts are that BSC after being declared UNFIT, was declared FIT by including future rates increases, using money saved by neglecting work needs of the past few years, eg road & bridge maintenance and invasive plant and weed control, and possibly using some of the 11.8% rate compounding increase of 2014 (for bridges) for which there is little to show.

BSC states it is a smaller council, sparsely populated, with a lot of non rated land (forest, government), yet will not amalgamate with a larger, more prosperous, and better managed council, which would spread the burden of non rated land over a larger population, thus reducing the burden on a small population. BSC management appears more concerned with protecting their jobs.

My [REDACTED] sqm block, walking distance to the town of Urunga, with river views and a single house, has already exceeded \$ [REDACTED] for 12 months rates.

I have been retired 10 years, after working 40 years in state government, self funded, with an income stream rising in line with the CPI, about 1%-2% PA. I am going backwards financially, and with all the increases proposed by BSC over the next few years, plus increases with private health funds, electricity, and more, it won't be long before I might be better off on an Aged Pension, thus putting more strain on government and tax payers.

Please do NOT give BSC the go ahead to raise rates once again.

Regards,

John Thomson (resident & rate payer)

[REDACTED]