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Date of submission: Friday, 23 February 2018

Submission: From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 22 February 2018 10:13 AM

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: Rates increase in Bellingen

To whom it may concern,

As a long time rate payer in the Bellingen shire I would like to register my concern about a proposed rate increase of a total of 20% for residents. I have been a land/home owner in the Bellingen shire for the last 35 years.

It has been proven that management treats ratepayers with a lack of respect when it comes to the real needs of people in the shire, particularly those who live in the outer rural areas where maintenance of roads and bridges are of utmost priority.

Many rate payers are struggling to pay rates and such a large rise in rates is going to be a burden for many rate payers.

It seems to me that the balance between workers who actually do the maintenance and indoor staff is in the wrong proportion with too much of our rates being spent on office staff eg. two assistant managers.

The recent Hyde Street upgrade has bottled up the traffic in town and taken away 17 places for cars to park in the main shopping area with no thought to shoppers. This was a grant which was hastily used on the street scape but will take expensive maintenance into the future. To my knowledge there was no communication with local residents re the proposed changes.

Unfortunately we have seen much waste of rate payers money over the years while our roads fall into rack and ruin.

Consequently I do not support such a large rate hike at this time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]