

From: Lyn Green
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission against Bellingen Shire Council's Special Rate Variation Application
Date: Friday, March 09, 2018 1:01:28 PM

Dear IPART,

I vehemently oppose the proposed Special Rate Variation Application made by Bellingen Shire Council, yet again!

Bellingen Shire is borderline 'Fit for the Future' with most ratepayers keen to see Council amalgamated with Coffs Harbour, to be more financially fit. There is great concern about the salaries of some of the senior staff and the percentage of our rates that go towards administration!

We are a very low income Shire, with many welfare recipients (aged, disabled, unemployed) and self funded retirees. Both my parents and parents-in-law live in the Shire and are aged pensioners with little scope to support a significant increase in their rates, but too old and frail to move.

With property values in Bellingen going up faster than most other areas of NSW, the rates are naturally increasing at a rapid rate, with those on low, fixed incomes having to bear the cost of these rate rises. These financial burdens will mean a huge impost and negative impact on their meagre lifestyle, causing great distress.

We are yet to fully know the reasons and budget behind the Council's requested Variation Application, other than rural roads need attention. The majority of ratepayers do not live in the rural areas (most can't afford to, as they are large rural/residential properties that command a high purchase and maintenance price), and will see no benefit for the proposed massive rate rise.

Bellingen township has been fortunate to receive some grant monies from the RMS for the main street 'upgrade and beautification' and this has been warmly welcomed. First time since I moved here nearly 19 years ago that something positive has happened to the main street and I would very much like to see more facilities for the Bellingen township, rather than distant rural roads that very few of us ever use!

However the most important point is that the majority of residents (both owners and tenants - rents will be forced up as a result) are unable to afford any extra increase in rates and this does not appear to have been taken into consideration by Council staff or Councillors.

I vehemently object to any further rate rises as a result of this Application to IPART by Bellingen Shire Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Green

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]