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Submission: From: Malcolm Gardiner [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, 5 March 2017 2:09 PM  
To: Local Government Mailbox  
Subject: Objection to Special Rate Rise - Ballina Shire Council

Re: Application by Ballina Shire Council for a Special Rate Rises

Ballina Shire Council has applied for two special rate rises to fund vague plans to upgrade undetermined infrastructure projects as justification for the rise. Ballina Council advised the public of their intention to apply for the rises and then offered the public an opportunity to comment on the rate rise via a questionnaire on the council website. The majority of submissions to the council via this website did not support the rate rises.

Ballina Shire councillors chose to ignore the results of the consultation process and to go ahead with the application to IPART.

It seems that the main intention of the two special rate rises is to lift the rating base level to provide an ongoing increase in rate revenue for future years. However, this has already be done in previous years and is more about increasing the Council's general rating income than funding any specific projects.

We submit that the public consultation was a sham and designed only to comply with IPART requirements and not to accurately reflect the opinion of residents and rate payers and therefore proper public consultation has not taken place.

Please respect the wishes of the vast majority of Ballina rate payers and residents and reject this application.

Regards,

Malcolm and Jan Gardiner

Residents and rate payers of Ballina Shire

[REDACTED]