

[REDACTED]

13th February, 2018

IPART

BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL'S

PROPOSED RATE VARIATION

I **strongly oppose** Bellingen Shire Council's Proposed Rate Variation. It is not in the interest of our community to place further burden upon ratepayers for decisions made by Council that have resulted in a lack of funding for our roads and bridges.

Some reasons:

1. The shires resident base is not wealthy – many struggling to pay rates now
2. Have seen little (or nothing) from last year's 6% rate increase or the 2014's 8% increase which were to go to local infrastructure.
3. Accepts grants that need ongoing funding for maintenance or support eg. Bellingen Youth Hub and Bellingen's "Beautification Project".
4. Spends money on social issues that are not relevant to Council ie \$2,500.00 to the yes vote in the Marriage Equality Debate
5. At least 5 in-door staff too many eg two Assistant General Managers.

Just a few examples

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