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Submission:

Reason [REDACTED] council conducts consultation process is because it has to under regulations. Use [REDACTED] to describe unethical & uncaring practises of councillors elected by residents who pay councillor's salaries. e.g., refer 2015 when council ignored overwhelming opposition to its seeking approval of a rate variation to upgrade swimming pools in Ballina & Alstonville which was promised as one-off application & was approved. Yet in 2016, council again ignored opposition for another rate rise to fund pool upgrades, applied for increase in annual rate income above rate pegging limit & was approved.

From my submission opposing council's current application: "Respondents will overwhelmingly oppose rate variation for next 3 years to permanently increase general rate income, council will ignore community opposition, vote to apply for rate variation and increase will be approved. Prior to proceeding with community consultation process, council had all ready determined to apply for permanent increase in general rate income above standard rate pegging limit. Community consultation process is a sham."

90% of submissions oppose rate rise and IPART cannot ignore this significant figure. [REDACTED] lied in meeting on 14 February claiming rates would go up by only \$10 a year. My rates will go up by over \$485 a year which is common for shire. In past 10 years, my annual income has fallen by about 75% and I cannot apply to government for permanent increase in my income above CPI. In fact, over 98% of residents in Australia have seen their wages fall below rate of CPI not keep up with it. Council has to do what ratepayers do & live within its annual budget. If does not have funds for asset renewal & healthy waterways programs, it should postpone programs until it does. IPART cannot justify granting council permanent increase in general rate income above rate pegging limit and should not only refuse council application but force it to reduce rates by \$500 a year.