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Submission: From: paul gannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 2:55 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Proposed Rate increase for Byron Shire

Sir/Ms,

As a ratepayer in Byron Shire I totally object to a proposal to increase the level of rates in this Shire. If council was honest this should have been raised by prospective councillors before the last election not immediately after. If councillors were honest they should be agreeing with the public response of being totally against a rate increase and not ignoring the overwhelming majority of ratepayers objecting to an increase!

In these times of low inflation generally, the pegged rate level is enough to deal with the local government historical basics of roads, water, sewerage, and public infrastructure (parks, halls etc). In addition the continual escalation of housing demand here has pushed unimproved capital values of land up well above inflation! A continual windfall for our local council!

Byron Council has continually received an ever increasing rate income well above inflation. They have not focused spending the windfall on the historical basics, but have ever expanded their spending horizons on things like achieving a zero carbon footprint!! Or music festivals for people outside of the shire at ratepayers expense. These new horizons usually duplicate efforts already supported by State and Federal governments!

Say no to the request to a rate increase and tell our local government to stick to the basics and fix our roads!

Paul Gannon
[REDACTED]