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From: Paula James  
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24 February 2016

### RATE RISE APPLICATION BELLINGEN COUNCIL

As a ratepayer, I object to the proposed rate rise by Bellingen Shire Council on the following grounds.

1. There have been recent special rate rises which do not seem to have improved the Council's efficiency or performance, for example last year's rise which was to be spent on local road infrastructure.
2. The Council devotes too much energy and funding to 'feel good' social issues instead of basic ratepayer needs.
3. Maintains a bloated head office staff, especially in the higher ranks, to the detriment of operating field staff.
4. Is notoriously slow and 'difficult' with applications, probably due to the excessive head office staff.
5. Is over-reliant on expensive consultants and temporary staff for activities that should be within the capacity of Council officers.

A thorough review of this council's operations by an independent body is long overdue.

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Paula James