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Submission: From: Sonia Laverty [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, 12 March 2017 4:54 PM  
To: Local Government Mailbox  
Subject: Attention: Local Government Team Re: Byron Shire proposed Rate Variation.

Submission concerning the proposed Byron Shire Rate Variation.

“As convenor of Mullumbimby Residents Association I am aware of considerable concern and anxiety among low income residents of Byron Shire over the proposed rate increase.  
While it can safely be assumed that there are some wealthy residents/property owners in the Shire, 70 per cent of resident do not support a rate rise of 33.5per cent adopted by council to be introduced over the next four years.  
The demographic of Byron Shire goes some way in explaining this result. For example 50% of working residents are in low paid part-time work; another 26 % of the working population of Byron Shire is on a low income; 21 % of homeowners are experiencing mortgage stress, and a significant percentage of residents are retirees and on fixed incomes.

Community members of Byron Shire have rejected this rate increase because they cannot afford it!

Despite the resounding NO to all of the options put forward by council in community consultation this was ignored without any effort being made , by council, to restructure a rate increase less problematic for so many residents.

We hope the experience and wisdom of IPART will guide Byron Shire council in determining a more acceptable outcome in this important matter.

Dr. Sonia Laverty”