

From: [IPART Mailbox](#)
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed rate increase for Bellingen
Date: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 2:05:49 PM

From: Sue Robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 1:15 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Proposed rate increase for Bellingen

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the proposed rate increase put forward by the Bellingen Council.

1. I am a residential rate payer with a limited income, and the current rates are already high-approximately \$[REDACTED] for the year 2016-17.

2. The council has shown incompetence in their management of town projects, with recent supposed beautification being an example.

The felling of very old trees in the middle of town, on the basis of them affecting the pavement is not an informed response to an issue dealt with by inner city councils in the capital cities on a regular basis. The street trees in Melbourne regularly have their roots pruned and the pavement is levelled - this enables old valuable street trees to be maintained and pedestrians can use the pavements safely.

This could have happened with the street trees in Bellingen.

Instead they wasted money, cut down the green heart of the town which has provided shade to the town centre for years, and replanted the area with plants which will require significant maintenance into the future- and costing ratepayers.

There was poor communication with the community regarding their objections to the "beautification" of the town, and they treated people who opposed what they were doing with contempt.

3. The council spends money on too many indoor staff, and seems to neglect maintenance issues such as providing rubbish bins and their maintenance in the local areas frequently visited by tourists.

4. Their processes don't seem to be transparent and they are not adequately consultative. They seem to hire contractors who are slow and inexperienced for example with the road upgrade works in this area.

Yours sincerely

Sue Robertson
[REDACTED]