

**From:** [IPART Mailbox](#)  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bellingen Shire Rate Increase  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2018 11:52:06 AM

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**From:** tony wright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 March 2018 10:47 AM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Bellingen Shire Rate Increase

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am most strongly opposed to the proposed rate increase over and above CPI applied for by Bellingen Council. There are a number of issues I wish to point out in this regard...

1. We have already had an increase over and above CPI granted by Ipart only a few years ago. This new proposed increase is massive when added to the other increases we have suffered.
2. In the latest evaluation by Property NSW (government department) our UCV on the property rose by 18.13% from July 2013 to 1 July 2016. This rise of course immediately raises our rates. This means that even at CPI our personal rates will be well above CPI. There will probably be another increase in UCV in 2019. This is our home, the only property we own so all these increases add to the burden. I understand most properties in the shire have found their UCV increased.
3. The recent large special rate variation granted has not seen a corresponding increase in spending on roads and maintenance.
4. A recent project being completed, the Bellingen town upgrade, will require ongoing maintenance re gardens etc. I am not arguing against the upgrade. My argument is about yet another project which requires very regular maintenance expenditure. I love the idea of more gardens and green space but I would argue that upgrade of bridges and roads should take priority, particularly as many of the bridges are now in dangerous condition.
5. Do Ipart look at the costs of administrative staff relative to what might be expected for such a small ratepayer base?
6. Does Ipart look at the expenditure on social issues relative to the maintenance required on roads and bridges. I 100% support expenditure on social issues but NOT at the expense of maintenance on key infrastructure which is what I believe is happening.
7. Many retired people, ourselves included, have declining incomes vis a vis cost of living expenses. Huge increases in rates places an unfair burden on (particularly) retired ratepayers. Increases over and above CPI, coupled with over CPI valuation increases, is surely a social issue if Council wants to spend on social issues. Not increases rates would be a social issue that benefits a vast majority of ratepayers. That is surely the widest, fairest way of spending on a social issue.
8. It is somewhat strange that 2 Councillors ([REDACTED]) are constantly being outvoted on financial matters. One is a retired accountant, the other has various degrees including I understand in overall management which includes budgeting. I am unsure what other councillors offer in experience in prudent financial management.

Frankly, I would welcome an administrator being appointed to the shire with a key requirement that he/she look at administrative costs and general allocation of funds received. He/she would also be responsible for presenting a fully itemised expenditure statement so ratepayers could easily figure out where the money is spent.

Regards

Tony Wright

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]