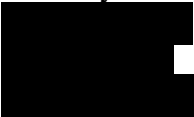


**From:** Tony Heidemann  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Bellingen Shires Special Rate Variation Application  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2018 10:55:22 AM

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I am very concerned about Bellingen Shires Special Rate Variation. Bellingen Shire Council appears to have made no attempt to live within their means and have taken the easy option of a Special rate Variation without considering its impact on the rate payers of the shire. A lot of Bellingen Shires rate payers are pensioners or retirees on fixed income and they simply cannot afford these excessive increases sought by Bellingen Shire. Bellingen Shire received a special rate variation in 2017 and the proposed increases are on top of this which if implemented will push our rates to totally unaffordable levels. Perhaps Bellingen Shire should do what their rate payers have to do and live within their means. You cannot simply increase rates to fund whatever you need, these costs needs to be properly planned for within current budgets. If you can't afford it cut costs elsewhere so you can afford it. Sorry but this rate rise is excessive and cannot be justified while ever Council wastes money on for example two General Managers. Cut admin costs and waste first before slugging the ratepayers

Regards  
Anthony Heidemann



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