

Author name: Anonymous

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Submission: We are a retired couple living in Byron Bay and can simply not afford the planned increase in land rates. We have enough difficulty paying the current rates, which are higher than we paid in Sydney! and then there's the water rates! Please consider the residents of Byron instead of Council's insatiable greed for more and more money. Where is it going? Paid parking and now this! Where is the money going? Why indeed should we, the residents, have to pay this increase and not those who completely take over our small town all year round, ie the tourists. Bed taxes exist in most countries and it is blatantly obvious that Byron needs to introduce this system... and soon! Tourism is good, but not when it results in the loss of identity of a small town and constant pressure on its residents to part with more and more of their hard-earned money, just to please our Councillors. This proposed rate increase is totally ludicrous.....please don't let it happen.