

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2018 2:10 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Bellingen Shire SV Application

Good morning

Please disregard my previous email as it was mistakenly sent before completion.

Please find my following submission and request that my name remain confidential.

Bellingen is an eclectic town with many retirees, young families, farmers and of late, people who have made the exodus from the city to work in IT.

The majority of the working community need to work elsewhere and return weekends or travel an hour or more daily as Bellingen does not offer growing employment opportunities.

People live here because it offers a simple life. We have our organic produce and a clean flowing river and we accept our minimum wage because we live in a very beautiful and unique town.

Since moving to Bellingen I have seen Council staff growing at an enormous rate with Major council building works undertaken. I feel a financial audit in the first instance would be beneficial before a rate increase is considered to ascertain if Council have the expertise and experience necessary.

For most of us, a rate rise will cripple us financially on our minimum wages and fixed income. As a single parent on \$30k pa, I will struggle to meet this as I continue to weed and manage the medium strip and mow council land as they cannot manage.

The people of Bellingen were refused the opportunity to voice their concerns at the last meeting with more than 70 people attending. This was such an important and heartfelt missed opportunity for our community.

The General Manager, [REDACTED] of Bellingen Coyncil has announced that if there is not a rate rise then there will be cuts to our services such as our library, pool and youth hub.

We should not be threatened as these services are a necessary requirement for Bellingen.

I object to a rate increase and hope that this submission is one of many that you receive.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]