

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 March 2017 4:04 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL, SPECIAL VARIATION APPLICATION

The following is my submission -

This huge proposed rate increase would mean FIVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS of massive increases to ratepayers in Ballina Shire - five years of INCREASES WAY ABOVE CPA with rates continuing at this level.

Ballina Council increased rates to cover upgrading two pools just 15 mins apart and just 15-30 mins from at least three other olympic size pools in the region, and in an area where a high percentage of private dwellings have their own pools. The cost of this rose from \$8m to \$14m.

The next rate increase proposal which includes Fit for the Future appears to be a scheme for Ballina Council to remain independent and avoid amalgamation with other council/s. The cost of upgrades and maintenance of Council owned equipment and facilities should primarily be allocated within Council's planning and budgeting.

With regard to the cleaning up of the Richmond River - I cannot see how this can be achieved when the Richmond River flows through three (3) other councils before reaching Ballina. Unless all councils are involved, it would be a waste of ratepayers' money.

Unfortunately it appears that Ballina council has a plan, puts it in place and then consults the rate payers, then proceeds with Council's plans irrespective of public opinion. It seems Council is merely appearing to go through the consultative process without regard to ratepayers' comments/suggestions.

These increases would IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON LOCAL BUSINESS AS WELL with higher rates/rentals and a community with less cash to spend. Of course there needs to be increases to all goods and services but THESE INCREASES ARE EXCESSIVE. I am sure the majority of ratepayers would like to see Ballina Shire Council plan and budget more wisely for the future (both lifestyle and environment) and be ACCOUNTABLE for its spending so we can be assured our money is not being wasted.

We have been residents of Ballina Shire for over 25 years and would like to continue to afford to live here - it's a beautiful coastal town - let's keep it affordable.

I had problems in submitted this on line so was advised to email.

I am an individual.

I am happy for my submission to be published but anonymously.

[REDACTED]
I have read and accept ipart's submission policy.

[REDACTED]
Ballina Shire Resident