

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Thursday, 8 March 2018

Submission: I am writing to you in response to the Bellingen Shire Council's current application for a Special Rate Variation Increase of 6% per year for the next three years. I would ask you to consider this carefully as I, along with more than 50% of the residents of the Bellingen Shire are on fixed incomes, and most are already struggling to meet existing rates payments; I know this from my own personal experience and from talking to everyone I know in my predicament. Our land values are escalating which also pushes up our rates, which my pension does not cover. We are very worried about what will happen not too far into the future when we simply cannot make these new and ongoing rates payments. I would also ask you to look at this proposal in conjunction with the other recent special rates variations imposed by this Council. I question the Management of spending appropriately the \$13.2 million budget they already receive. Getting Council to more wisely use our rates would be the better option, in my humble opinion. Please do not allow this new rate increase to proceed. Instead, please instruct Council to rein in waste to save these much needed funds. Yours Sincerely, [REDACTED] Resident and Bellingen Ratepayer.