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Submission: The vast majority of ratepayers oppose the Council request for a special rate rise. This is indicated by local media reports and interaction with local ratepayers. Ballina is an area that includes an above average proportion of retired people, many of whom are on fixed incomes or incomes adjusted for CPI changes only. They have to stick to a budget, and the Council should do the same. It should prepare its budget, set priorities and stick to that budget. No matter what income a Council has, there will always be demands to do more, but this is a matter of setting priorities to best use its budget on core Council tasks, rather than getting involved in wider issues, especially open ended environmental concerns.