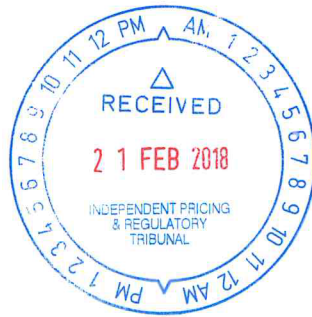


[REDACTED]  
13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018



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**BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL'S**  
**PROPOSED RATE VARIATION**

I **strongly oppose** Bellingen Shire Council's Proposed Rate Variation. It is not in the interest of our community to place further burden upon ratepayers for decisions made by Council that have resulted in a lack of funding for our roads and bridges.

Some reasons:

1. The shires resident base is not wealthy – many struggling to pay rates now
2. Spends money on social issues that are not relevant to Council ie \$2,500.00 to the yes vote in the in the Marriage Equality Debate.
3. Accepts grants that need ongoing maintenance or support eg Bellingen Youth Hub (\$150,000 a year at least) and Bellingen's "Beautification Programme".
4. At least 5 in-door staff too many eg two Assistant General Managers.
5. Have seen little (or nothing) from last years 6% increase which was to go to local infrastructure. The same for the 8% increase in 2014.

Just a few examples

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]