

Author name: K. Sheehan

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Submission: I object to the Ballina Council applying for a special rate variation to upgrade their swimming pools when it is clear from their community consultation that the community disagrees. As stated in a letter I received from the Mayor David Wright "The report presented to the November 2014 meeting of Council states a clear majority of the written and on-line submissions did not support Council applying for a special rate variation." I'm also skeptical of the phone poll the Council had conducted about these swimming pool upgrades as I know of one young person who was surveyed and although they said they knew nothing about it, the survey people continued the survey so that they got a positive outcome. How many others did this happen to as well? I also read in one of the local papers that the Council was again conducting a community consultation about the swimming pools upgrade. Great I thought until I saw the venue for this community consultation was the swimming pools. It is apparent the Ballina Council just went through the motions of community consultations to satisfy the conditions under which it can apply for a special rate variation with no intention of listening to the community. With inflation low I consider the peg rate increase of 2.4% should be more than adequate. If the swimming pool upgrades are deemed so necessary then the Council should consider where it can find savings elsewhere to fund it and not ask the ratepayers the majority of whom don't use the swimming pools for more than the peg rate increase. Property investors will need to pass this excessive rate increase on by increasing their rents and is hurting those in our community who are already struggling to keep a roof over their heads.