

Sandra Bailey

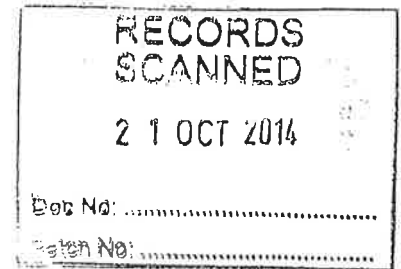
From: Robert Field <salcombe1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 21 September 2014 1:33 PM
Subject: Ballina pools upgrade

Of all the options, I consider heating of the 50 m pool to be the most important followed by all weather access and disable access to the pool.

Robert Field
Sent from my iPad

SUBMISSION FOR BALLINA POOLS PROPOSALS

From Robert Field
23 Westland Drive
Ballina
NSW 2478



20 Oct 2014

Dear General Manager and Councillors,

I am a regular user of the Ballina Pool during the months it is open and when it is closed I use the Indoor heated pool at Ballina Fair.

I use the pool for exercise and am fully aware of how well it is used for exercise classes and for teaching children to swim.

It is not possible to learn to swim at the beach.

Although the current facility is very well maintained, it cannot however avoid signs of ageing and I would fully support any rate increase to improve the overall facility.

In particular:-

1. Provision of a ramp for easy access to the **50m** pool
2. Improve the covered seating arrangements and provide better wind protection for the **50m** pool.
3. Consider solar heating for the **50m** pool to allow extending the season.
4. Provision of a **25m** enclosed heated indoor pool (in view of the likely demise of the Ballina Fair facility), to allow year round training, exercise and learn to swim classes.

I understand that non swimmers in the Shire may not agree with spending monies on the pool. However, although I do not use other sporting facilities in the Shire, I accept that part of my rates go toward maintaining and upgrading these facilities.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Field

Sandra Bailey

From: greg.unwin@bigpond.com
Sent: Sunday, 21 September 2014 2:00 PM
Subject: Ballina & Alstonville Pool Upgrades.

The General Manager,

I fully support the upgrade of the two above pools. If the Ballina facility could operate over 9-12 months this would be welcome.

Regards

Greg Unwin
1A The Ridgeway
Cumbalum

Sandra Bailey

From: greg.unwin@bigpond.com
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 2:41 PM
Subject: Submission on Pools Upgrade

Hi,

I strongly support the proposed upgrade of Ballina & Alstonville pools & the method of funding same. This is provided Ballina pool footprint is extended to cater for the proposed changes. The Open space area needs to increase to cater for families, BBQs, beach volleyball etc. The opening hours especially during daylight saving & on weekends needs to be extended.

Regards

Dr. Greg Unwin



"Cassel Eden"
54 Blue Seas Pde.
Lennox Head 2478
30th September 2014
Phone 66 877321

Cr. David Wright
"Mayor"
Ballina Shire Council

your ref 480-03

Dear David

Re rate increase for pool upgrade

Thank you for allowing rate payers of Ballina Shire the opportunity to give their input on whether the rates should be increased for 2 years in order to pay for pool upgrades.


You will possibly find most rate payers will not agree with this increase.

Personally I consider the idea is a good one. We must keep our pools up to present requirements. Council pools in my opinion are a great public amenity for the whole community to enjoy from the young to seniors, schools, & swimming clubs.

However in saying rates should be increased some consideration should be allowed for farmland rated property especially for land over 40 H.A. where only one dwelling is allowed. Thanking you for the work you do as our Mayor.

Yours sincerely

Peter & Judy Small



Sandra Bailey

From: lorraine aboody <angels.55@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 2:52 PM
Subject: Re: Possible Special Rate Variation 480-03

Dear Sir,

I'm 84 and my wife is a little younger and after discussing the contents of your letter we formed the view that we should support the proposed improvements to our swimming pools.

Many years ago we enjoyed the sporting amenities that were available in Ballina and paid for by ratepayers both current and those of an earlier generation, They may not have been lavish by to-days standards but never-the-less served the purpose well.

The point we wish to make is the facilities were provided in lots of cases by those ratepayers who came before us and hence we feel we can do our little bit to provide for the next generation.

We calculate it may cost us approximately \$24 for year 1 and \$25 for year 2 or less that 6 cups of coffee.

There is an urgent need to upgrade these facilities and trust Council will receive sufficient support to allow the project to proceed and be completed within the proposed time frame.

Yours faithfully,

Lyle and Lorraine Aboody
72 Silver Gull Drive
East Ballina NSW 2478
e-mail angels.55@bigpond.com

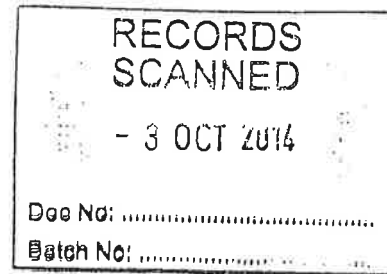


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PO BOX 1122
BALLINA NSW 2478

1st October 2014

General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear Sir

As a regular user and seasoned ticket at Ballina Pool I am pleased that the Council is considering improvements to Ballina and Alstonville pools.

Heating of the Ballina Pool would extend the season and increase attendance. As a lap swimmer, dedicated lap lanes would be welcome. Any improvements to picnic and barbeque facilities would also increase attendance and pool use.

I do not feel however, that additional lanes is an expense that is warranted at this time. This would be a major cost in any upgrade and I don't feel that the majority of rate payers would accept a rate increase to fund this work.

Yours faithfully

Tony Quinn

Sandra Bailey

From: CAMERON BIENKE <bienke81@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 6 October 2014 12:40 AM
Subject: In support of pools proposal

Dear Sir/Mam,

I am writing in support of the pools upgrade proposal and the temporary rate increase linked to this project. I have a 5 year old son and believe this will be of great benefit to families of the Ballina Shire.

Regards,

Cameron Bienke

13 Ridgeview Crs Lennox Head NSW 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 5:25 PM
Subject: RE: phone message

This lady advised that she and her husband supports pool proposal

Elderly residents and not users of the pools but support concept.

Please register thanks

From: Sandra Bailey
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 3:35 PM
To: Paul Hickey
Subject: phone message

Geraldine Somerville 6628 1369

Wanted to speak to you but would not tell me what it was concerning

Sandra Bailey
PA to the General Manager & Mayor
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 6686 1273

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Sandra Bailey

From: Rose Leeson <errose@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 12:45 PM
Subject: Rate increase for Ballina Pools.

General Manager, Ballina Shire Council.

Dear Mr Hickey.

I whole heartedly agreed with everyting Keith Johnson had in his letter to the editor of the Northern Star a day or so ago.

I will never support selling councils assetts for a quick fix, as is suggested by some of the newer councillors.

As for the pools and the rate increase, I support it totally, as my rates are abut \$1000, and that is only an extra \$25, about 50cents per week.

A week or so ago I got a phone call to do the council's survey, was pleased to do so.

Today's world everybody wants everything for nothing, as long as someone else is paying, they do not care.

Get what they can for free, If you do not smoke, drink alcohol, take drugs, gamble, buy a McMansion with all the trimmings, you can live within your means, makes a big difference.

Another good letter to the editor today from Allan Brown in the Advocate, which I agree with. I am hopeful that common sense will prevail.

Pleased to see if you have extending the Tamar Street public car park.

As I have a disabled sticker, just how long can I park in a disabled car park space.

During the past couple of months Jeff and I have been busy with Errol's estate, and 2 hours we were watching the clock all the time

So as we did not get a ticket. So the 4 hour would be much better for people like myself, that only get out now and again,

And get back into River Street Shops, rather than a shopping centre all the time, has been good. Then we can have a lunch in the main street.

Which is better than the shopping centres.

We were hoping to have lunch at the old Pelican the other day and damn it was closed on Tuesday, and not a park in site in that street,

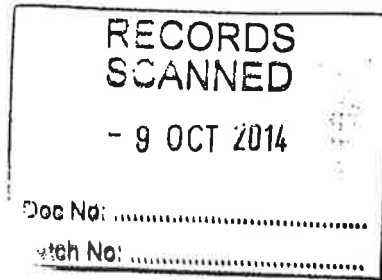
Keep up the good work

Regards

Rose Leeson.

Ronald McClintock
28 Shire Street
West Wyalong NSW 2671

Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



3 October 2014

Attn: Paul Hickey
Ref: 480-03


Dear Sir,

No one is ever in favor of a rate increase.!

In this case, where you have a need to update a facility such as a swimming pool, I am completely in favor.

As a rate payer I would expect you to achieve this work efficiently but please make it (the swimming pool) as complete as possible with all necessary amenities – no cutting corners.

Yours sincerely,



Ronald McClintock

Mr Paul Hickey
Manager Ballina Shire Council

Ref. 480-03

10th October 2014

Mrs Anne Marchment
56 Summerhill Crescent
Cumbalum 2478

Dear Mr Hickey

Enclosed please find attachments dating back to 2009 I have had on file relating to the upgrade of the Ballina Swimming Pool.

I do not want to repeat all the reasons for the urgency for upgrading the Ballina Swimming facility to meet the modern requirement of a public swimming centre. It is all in the documentation.

I will state that at a Council Facilities meeting on 7th April 2011 (attachment 6) I presented a petition from over 800 users of the pool. Had time allowed I could have obtained several thousand signatures. I also presented two previous consultancy reports which the Ballina Shire Council had initiated over a five year period both stating the essential works that were required. It saddens me to think that before the pool is upgraded another expensive consultancy report will probably be commissioned. Hopefully though it will be the final report before the swimming centre is upgraded.

I hope the Shire ratepayers will not be shortsighted and do support the rate rise for an essential community benefit for the present and the future users of the swimming centre.

I wish you and the councillors well in your proposal for an increase in the general rate income to finance the improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville Swimming pools

Yours sincerely



Anne Marchment
Email: wtia17@gmail.com

LETTER SENT TO ADVOCATE SEPTEMBER 2014

Rate Rise

I don't use the skate park, or play football, netball, or hockey. I do appreciate the Ballina public spaces complete with picnic facilities, the wide footpaths in River Street the enhanced river frontage and walkways. I do use the library and in season I enjoy the swimming pool and am happy to make my contribution to all those amenities by being a rate payer. What a negative point of view if we as ratepayers take the attitude that if we don't use facilities why should "we" pay for them.

Ballina probably has the one of the cheapest residential rates in New South Wales.

Maintaining the Ballina Shire infrastructure costs an enormous amount. I often compare with what we have in this Shire with neighbouring shires and I think that we get good value for our rates. Regarding the proposed rate variation to upgrade the swimming pools it will be money well spent. No public swimming pool survives on a user pays basis. They are public amenities, necessary for the health and well being of the citizens. How many thousands of children have learnt to swim in the Ballina and Alstonville pools since they were built over 30 years ago? And, consequently probably many lives may have been saved. Almost every town I visit has upgraded their swimming pools to meet modern standards with appropriate toddler pools, wet decks (instead of scum gutters) and most importantly to a facility that can be used all year round. I congratulate the Ballina Shire Councillors for putting the upgrade of the swimming pools high on their agenda. Councils must have a vision for the future and fortunately over 30 years ago they did, and the two pools were built. Now it is time to again take that vision into the future for the benefit of our citizens and expanding community by upgrading the pools to meet the modern standards which exist in community aquatic centres.

Anne Marchment
Cumbalum

Sept

2012.

(2)

The Editor
Graham Broadhead
Avocate

Copy to All Ballina Shire Councillors

In almost a month the Ballina Public Pool will reopen and nothing has been done about a long over due of an upgrade for the Ballina pool complex.

For four years after many letters, representations to the Ballina Council, a petition and a promise that \$200 000 would be set aside this financial year to proceed with the feasibility of expanding, covering and heating the intermediate pool to provide a year round swimming facility nothing has eventuated.

I congratulate the surf club for the five million dollar new complex but children in most cases learn to swim at public swimming pools. Heated public pools are used all year round by schools, rehabilitation clients, lappers, water exercise classes and recreational users. I cannot imagine that the surf club would have the same all year use.

As the private indoor pool at Ballina Fair is destined for closure I appeal to the many people of all ages who use this facility to write to the Ballina Shire council and express their concern that a town the size of Ballina does not have a public all year round swimming venue.

I also ask the Ballina Shire Council to come clean on the future plans for the Ballina Swimming Complex and a definite time frame of when the upgrade will happen.

Two expensive reports by consultants have already been commissioned by the Shire which have identified the necessary works that should be implemented to bring the pool up to 20th Century standards. The inadequate toddlers pool and the main pools with old unsightly scum gutters instead of modern wet drainage decks is just one of the upgrades that needs to be resolved.

Too much time has elapsed since the upgrade was proposed I urge the Council to just do it.

Anne Marchment
Cumbalum

Upgrade the Ballina Pool 28/8/2012

Councillor Jeff Johnson in his letter to the Advocate expressed the community's concern that Ballina may lose its only indoor heated swimming pool.

What the community should really be concerned about is the paltry funding of \$20000 allocated to the Ballina Shire Pools over the next four years and no indication that the proposed upgrade of the pools is on the forward agenda of the Ballina Shire Council.

It is a disgrace that that a population the size of the Ballina Shire does not have an all year round heated Aquatic facility. Two extensive and expensive reports have been commissioned by the Ballina Shire Council over the past 10 years identifying the shortcomings of the Ballina public pool and the necessary upgrades required to bring the pool up to modern Aquatic standards.

I will state that from my observations along the east coast of Australia of towns with comparable population sizes to Ballina or smaller communities such as Wauchope, Ballina has the worst public swimming centre. Just last month I visited two communities where complete upgrades had occurred to give the local populations excellent indoor swimming centres which included gymnasiums and refreshment areas. The cost of one of them was 27 million.

At two finance meetings I attended at the Ballina Shire Council it was estimated \$5million would be required to upgrade the current Ballina public pool. This would provide a heated pool and improve the outdoor pools to an acceptable standard. It has been well stated in previous articles and letters the health and physical benefits for the whole community, in having a heated pool available all year round.

It is not the obligation of the private sector to provide libraries, galleries, pools, parks, and sporting facilities. This is the shire Council's responsibility, then in many cases dedicated committees assist in maintaining those amenities (i.e. the Ballina Tennis Club) thus saving the Council hundreds thousands of dollars over the years in maintenance costs. These important community facilities are not provided for the benefit of making a profit, but for all of the intrinsic, cultural, recreational and health benefits for the citizens of the shire.

With the forthcoming Ballina council elections due, I urge voters to support candidates who will focus on the delivery of community infrastructure projects, particularly the long overdue upgrade of the Ballina Shire pools. The cost of \$5million to bring the Ballina pool up to standard is cheap when one considers that the longer the Councils delays this project the more it will cost. It is a far cheaper option to upgrade the pools rather than build a new Aquatic Centre out of town which was proposed at one stage. It is over 30 years since the present swimming pool was built. A new swimming season will soon begin in Ballina's cold unheated substandard pool. An upgrade is long overdue.

Anne Marchment
Cumbalum



BIALA SUPPORT SERVICES INC.

P.O. Box 1279,
Ballina N.S.W. 2478
Telephone: (02) 6686 4763
Fax: (02) 6681 4785
Email: bssine@bigpond.com
ABN: 99 399 360 229
CFN: 10797

7th April, 2011

TO: BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

LETTER OF SUPPORT

RE: BALLINA OLYMPIC POOL

I write this letter in support of proposed upgrading of the Ballina Shire Olympic Pool in River Street Ballina. Our organisation supports the needs of those in our community with special needs and foster and encourage those with special needs to use and support local facilities. Many of our groups utilise the Ballina pool facility for group activities to promote healthy lifestyles.

Upgrading and heating of this facility would allow the special needs children and adults whom we support to utilise this resource throughout the year. This will allow them to maintain an overall healthy lifestyle. Ballina, along with the entire North Coast, promotes and enhances a relaxed lifestyle with a focus on healthy outdoor living. We are renowned for our beautiful surf beaches, hinterland rainforests, waterfalls and general outdoor focus. With this in mind the provision of an all year round outdoor swimming facility would assist those in our community to maintain a high level of health and fitness.

Children and adults with special needs also need to be considered with the upgrade as to their entry and exit points within the pool/s. Having a climb ladder is not adequate to address their levels of disability and even though a chair hoist is currently provided at the pool this too is not adequate for those that are mobile. The installation of a ramp access or platform steps with handrails needs to be considered for the easy entry and exit of children and adults with special needs.

Ballina boasts an array of fantastic entertainment options including art and cultural activities, pubs and clubs and is perfectly positioned on the Richmond River. So please council for the benefit of both locals of all needs and the many visitors that spend time in our beautiful part of the world make our pool a part of the Ballina and North Coast lifestyle all year round.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage Ballina Council to commit resources to the upgrade of the pool and by doing so assisting those with in our community with special needs to maintain and make healthy lifestyle choices.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Lee Playford
CEO

BIALA SPECIAL SCHOOL
78 Fox Street,
Ballina NSW 2478
Telephone:
(02) 6686 3395

**NORTH COAST
FUN CLUB**

**MELALEUCA
RESPITE HOUSE**

**BALLINA
DISABLED BOWLING
LEAGUE**

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Ballina Shire Council Monday 12th December 2011

Mayor Phil Silver and Councillors

Thankyou for this opportunity address members of the Facilities Committee regarding the redevelopment of the Ballina Swimming pool. I wish to acknowledge those members of the public who are here in support of this redevelopment, in particular Noel Warr who is a regular user of the Ballina pool and has a special interest in disabled access to the 50 meter pool.

On 5th November in the Lifestyle section of the Daily Telegraph there were the six best outdoor pools in NSW mentioned and Ballina pool was featured. Not because of the excellent aquatic facilities but because of the attraction of the waterslide and the location. Ballina is a major tourist destination.

From Newcastle to Tweed Heads every pool has been redeveloped or new facilities built with provision for heated pools. Ballina pool would be patronised much more if a heated pool was available throughout the year. It is worth noting that over 20 learn to swim days have already been cancelled this season because of the temperature of the water. The lack of heating disadvantages all patrons of the pool and reduces income. I myself can testify to that as a regular swimmer who is reluctant to enter a pool when the water temperature is below 20 degrees.

Economically the shire would benefit if the upgrade to the Ballina pool is done as a matter of urgency. The out-dated coping and skim gutters need to be replaced with a wet deck for safety and health reasons. The toddler pool is totally inadequate for little ones who I have observed can barely climb over the coping to enter the pool which is too deep for those under two years of age. A graduated entry area and wet play area which is heated and attractive would encourage parents to bring their little ones to the pool to socialize and gain water confidence, plus encouraging parents to participate in social interaction and activities.

Ballina Shire Council has commissioned two extensive reports in 2006 and 2011 regarding the works necessary to bring Ballina pool up to modern standards so I will not again go over what has already been identified as all councillors have access to these reports.

Ballina is a major tourist destination and the pool is situated ideally in the centre of the tourist attractions next to the visitor information centre. Going east along the river from the pool the attractions are the yacht club netball, hockey football fields, a skate park, sound shell and recreation areas along the river. The economic benefits of having a modern aquatic facility cannot be ignored. With the Commonwealth Games proposed for the Gold Coast in 2018 Ballina is ideally situated for the use of its sporting facilities for training.

Funding is available through the "Regional Development Australia Fund" for redevelopment of public swimming pools. I know Noel Warr contacted Mr Paul Hickey and Mr Craig Brown regarding this source of funding.

The relatively small community of Wauchope has committed five million this year to upgrade their 30 year old swimming pool. The Ballina Shire of 400000 people are disadvantaged by not having a modern swimming centre. I visit many pools in Queensland NSW and Victoria and envy the populations who enjoy all year round swimming in modern heated pools. I urge the councillors to support the urgent need for swimming pool upgrades in this shire so that your citizens can also have the same advantages as those in other communities who have modern swimming precincts.

Anne marchment

Email: lfamarch@nsw.quik.com.au

conquillies refer
John Truman
in reply please quote

Ballina Swimming Pool, Doc No. 1769549

19 April 2011

Ms Anne Marchment
56 Summerhill Crescent
CUMBALUM NSW 2478



Dear Ms Marchment

Re: Ballina Swimming Pool

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your documentation, including petition, that was provided by you to the Council at its Finance Committee meeting held 7 April 2011.

The Committee accepted the staff recommendation made in the report.

Accordingly, public comment will shortly be sought regarding the discussion paper.

Yours faithfully



John Truman
Group Manager
Civil Services

Petition plus 2 Consultants
reports presented at above
meeting.

Anne Marchment

From: Peter Moore <Peter.Moore@lwb.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 11 April 2011 5:09 PM
To: Anne Marchment
Subject: RE: Swimming Pools -Strategic Plan Discussion Paper- Meeting Thursday 7th April 4.00pm

Thanks Anne
I have recieved read and noted your email. This is a worthy lobby for you to take up

regards

Cr. Peter Moore

Lennox Head NSW 2478
0427592004

From: Anne Marchment [mailto:lfamarch@nsw.quik.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 11 April 2011 11:36 AM
To: Alan Brown; Benjamin Smith; David Wright; Jeffrey Johnson; Keigh johnson; Peter Moore; Phillip Sivler; Robyn Horden; Sharon Caldwellader; Sue Meehan
Subject: Swimming Pools -Strategic Plan Discussion Paper- Meeting Thursday 7th April 4.00pm

To all Ballina Shire Councillors

I would like to thank each of you for bringing forward the Aquatic facilities Strategic Financial plan for infrastructure replacement for Shire pools. As you were aware my focus was on the Ballina Pool upgrade and I welcomed the opportunity to lead a deputation at the meeting last Thursday. Ballina is the growth area of the Shire and the swimming pool is an important public facility servicing all members of the community. The pool is particularly important for families who do not have the advantage of a backyard pool. The Ballina community swimming pool is where over the past 30 years thousands of children have been taught swimming and lifesaving skills through learn to swim campaigns and through their individual school programs. The swimming pool is where parents know their children are in a safe supervised environment, unlike the river or the beach. Swimming pools have never been about making profits and even if it meant increasing rates to provide improvements it is not about today but for the benefit of future generations of users, just as it was 30 years ago when Ballina pool was opened and the old facility in the river at Shaws Bay was abandoned. I hope that each one of you will read the 2007 report "Planning Options for the Ballina War Memorial Olympic Pool" which I tabled at the meeting. The serious shortfalls in the Ballina Pool were identified then, but as one Councillor said it is about priorities and beautifying the main street/ the community centre and many other projects which have been prioritised have allowed the Ballina Pool upgrade to slip to the bottom of the queue. Murwillumbah, Goonellabah, Lismore, Evans head, Port Macquarie, Taree have all completed modern aquatic facilities or upgrades since that report and now Wauchope has commenced a major upgrade. May I suggest that the upgrade of the Ballina Pool be completed in stages so that it is not a lump sum burden on Councils finances and I know that federal and state grants can be resourced to assist with the project. I commend each of you for your comments at the meeting I felt that it was perhaps the beginning of a positive outcome for the pools. Community consultation has taken place to some degree as over 700 people have signed the petition that I tabled and discussed the issue with me and other members of the deputation. Each person was unanimous in supporting the upgrade particularly the heating issue so that the pool can be used more extensively. I am available to discuss matters raised with any one of you and hope each one of you will familiarize yourselves with the material I tabled. I wish you all well in your deliberations as I realize that there are many issues to consider.

Regards Anne marchment

The environment thanks you for not printing this message ...

(8)

Letter to Northern
Star
+ Advocate

Ballina Council has asked residents to complete a survey on swimming facilities. Why? A public swimming facility should be an assumed responsibility of our council. Do we need surveys to say we want our roads, library, garbage collection or sporting facilities maintained to modern standards?

There has been plenty of community feedback. Only last year council received a petition with over 700 signatures along with practical suggestions for the future development of the Ballina pool. They have also received numerous letters from individuals and groups. Such discussions have continued for at least 16 years.

The pool season is now in its third week and yet today (4/10) the water temperature was 15 degrees, which is too cold for even hardy swimmers. It was certainly too cold for the lady who on doctors recommendations was trying to use the water for therapy. The council readily charges season pass holders from mid September even though it is too cold to use the facility. Alstonville on the other hand has had heating for 12 years, yet Alstonville patrons still feel dissatisfied with their pool conditions. Ballina has had no help to counter the temperature issue. In a few days the Ballina Memorial Swimming Club will start training in the early mornings and afternoons. Such cold conditions will discourage our young people.

A swimming pool facility is a genuine non-discriminating service. It caters for every age, ability and socio-economic group. The pool is where we teach our children to be safe in the water, where people rehabilitate from injuries, where sporting groups can train, or individuals maintain their health and fitness. In today's society the benefits of swimming do not need to be reinforced. The schools use the pool for PE lessons, water polo, carnivals and diving instruction. The general population can use the pool and its surrounds as a social and picnic venue.

The irony is that the Ballina pool has a unique location, which is the envy of other towns. It sits alongside the Richmond River yet it is central and easily accessed. Visitors to the Tourist Information next door or driving to the beach areas readily see it. The council should be capitalising on the location but the reality is that as residents we seem to be struggling just to maintain the facility. Why? What is the council's true agenda to justify such long-term neglect? The current survey can only be another excuse to delay taking responsibility for such neglect.

The emphasis on costs is not a valid one. A pool facility should not be regarded as a moneymaking entity for the council, just as the skate park, the sports grounds, garbage collections or roads do not pay their way. A community pool facility is a service that should be acknowledged for the health and wellbeing benefits it offers to all.

Pauline Doe
8 Douglas Street
BALLINA
66866108

56 Summerhill Crescent
Cumbalum NSW 2478

18th November 2009

The Manager
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

Dear Mr Hickey

It is with some concern that I read in the Northern Star (Saturday November 14th) the proposed \$8 million upgrade for River Street. I fully support the enhancement of the CBD but what concerns me is the proposition for a Water Park feature for Captain Cook Park.

Ballina Shire Council already owns and operates a "Water Park", namely the public Swimming pool in River Street. This must be one of the most beautiful sites for a public recreation facility in Australia. Thanks to the foresight of previous Ballina Shire Councils it was constructed in 1975, but apart from some cosmetic additions the three pools have not been upgraded since.

The \$6000 to be spent on a "concept design" for Captain Cook Park would go a long way to improve the toddler pool at a water complex that the Shire Council already owns and operates, and where youngsters are properly supervised by competent managers. How will the proposed water park be supervised, cleaned and kept free of vandals?

Last March in a feature in "The Advocate" (March 12th 2009) I identified serious shortcomings in the pool complex regarding safety issues and what was needed to bring the pools up to acceptable 21st Century standards. All of the issues I raised were supported by the users of the pool complex.

I subsequently received a reply from the Council stating that there were no funds allocated to the Ballina Swimming Pool upgrade for 2009/10.

I am aware that in the future there may be a recreation complex including a pool built at Gallans Road, but that is a long way into the future. It would be tragic if an upgrade of the Ballina Pool complex was put on hold or worse still if the present site was one day abandoned because of a future prospect of a new pool at Gallans Road.

As you are aware there is a "baby boom" and as I am a regular user of the pool I have observed over the past two or three years the increase in mothers with their babies and toddlers using the toddler areas at the Ballina pool.

The toddler's pool is totally unsuitable for toddlers. Yes, signs have been painted around the pool stating "shallow water danger" (great for toddlers) and a yellow line marking the ledge that many of them trip over when leaving the pool. The fact that a toddler has difficulty climbing into the pool with its high ledge and there is an unhealthy filtration

drain under the tiled edge I find totally unacceptable for a toddler pool in this day and age. I visit many pools and nowhere today have I seen a less attractive environment for little ones to enjoy.

Surely the Council could consider upgrading the toddler area to having a wade in area and some water features. Please note the picture of the Casino pool with the water features installed. It is time for Ballina youngsters have a similar upgrade for our toddlers.

It would be beneficial if councilors visited the pool on one of the hot days to see for themselves the necessity and importance of the Ballina Swimming Pool to the community where supervised, safe access to water activities is for everybody.

Please consider making at least the upgrade of the toddler pool a priority.

Yours sincerely

Anne Marchment

cc. The Advocate
All Councillors

56 Summerhill Crescent 17/3/2009
Cumbalum 2478
Tel 66869079

Attention: Ballina Shire Councilors

Time for an Overhaul

I have been a regular user of the Ballina Swimming pool for the past 15 years. Apart from few cosmetic improvements such as the very necessary shade areas installed and an upgrade to the filtration system there is little evidence of any change to the pool and surroundings since the pool was built 30 years ago.

I believe that it is a miracle and largely thanks to the dedication of the managers Lee and Vicki Fitzgerald that serious accidents have not occurred at the pool.

Now that infrastructure funds seems to be available as part of the stimulus package from the Federal Government I appeal to the Ballina Shire Council to urgently consider to rectify the following dangerous hazards at the Ballina Swimming pool before a tragic accident does occur:

- The entrance and foyer tiles are totally unsuitable for a pool as they are extremely slippery when wet. Wearing thongs on wet days in that area is almost lethal. I notice too that the tiles are also very difficult to clean because dirt gets ingrained in the surface.
- The toddler surrounds are hazardous as there is a lip adjoining the tiled area which toddlers trip over. I have witnessed mothers comforting toddlers who have tripped over which sometimes required first aid from the manager. It is about time the toddler pool was upgraded with a walk in area and water features installed so that this area is attractive and not just an oversized bathtub.
- Because the pool grounds are on two levels with a meter high retaining wall it staggers me to think that there is not a safety fence installed along the wall. With a concrete gutter at the base of the wall it is a serious accident waiting to happen. Why hasn't the council corrected this before a brain or spinal injury occurs?

- Modern community pools have the water level overlapping the edge of the pool with the overflow drain outside the pool edge. When I swim and observe the ancient repaired tiles and the overflow drain under the lip of the pool I find it hard to believe that Ballina still has this type of overflow system dating back to when the pool was first constructed and still in use. There are some areas in the overflow drain that cannot be filtered or cleaned and a black sludge has adhered to these areas. Thanks to the managers conscientious efforts the pool water quality is kept in excellent condition to prevent infections occurring in spite of this hazard.
- The Ballina Swimming Pool is the only venue for the public when the river is polluted (as was the case last year), or when the beaches are closed or dangerous. It is a major tourist attraction because of the water slide and an important facility for Ballina residents and visitors.
- The pool is well patronized by all the Ballina Shire community members. It is a vital community asset for health and fitness, for families, swimmers and an important school sports venue.
- I congratulate Lee and Vicki for the excellent way they manage to maintain the pool complex. But, look at the new swimming complexes at Goonellabah and Murwillumbah. It's time Ballina Shire upgraded the Ballina Pool complex to bring it into line with modern pool standards.
- There is no public swimming facility for Ballina residents from April to October. It is feasible to enlarge the intermediate pool to 25 meters and have it heated and enclosed with a marquee so that water activities can take place at the pool complex all year round. I have seen this in several public pool complexes I have visited.
- **I appeal to all the Ballina councilors to support an upgrade to the Ballina pool.** It is valuable town asset that is long overdue for a renovation to bring it in line with modern public pool standards. The elimination of the dangerous hazards that have been identified is essential to make the pool a safe place for all users.

1

Last Sunday when I was at the pool I witnessed another small child tripping on the lip that is next to the toddler pool. She suffered a bad graze on her head. It could have resulted in concussion. Her grandmother nursed her for half an hour to comfort her before she fell asleep. The little girl could have been a member of your or my family. So many of these accidents are not reported, but I took her grandmother's name and telephone number. This unnecessary pain and suffering will continue unless this problem is rectified. Six persons have left the pool on a stretcher board this season. How long will it be before the council is involved in litigation because of an identified hazard that has caused lifelong injuries to someone if these hazards are not rectified?

Anne Marchment
Cumbalum

Opinion

contribution to all those amenities by being a ratepayer.

What a negative point of view if we as ratepayers take the attitude that if we don't use facilities why should "we" pay for them (Advocate, 13/8).

Ballina probably has the one of the cheapest residential rates in New South Wales.

Maintaining the Ballina Shire infrastructure costs an enormous amount.

I often compare what we have in this shire with neighbouring shires and I think that we get good value for our rates.

Regarding the proposed rate variation to upgrade the swimming pools, it will be money well spent.

No public swimming pool survives on a user-pays basis.

They are public amenities, necessary for the health and wellbeing of the citizens.

How many thousands of children have learnt to swim in the Ballina and Alstonville pools since they were built more than 30 years ago?

Consequently, probably many lives may have been saved.

Almost every town I visit has upgraded its swimming pools to meet modern standards with appropriate toddler pools, wet decks

(instead of scum gutters) and, most importantly, to a facility that can be used all year round.

I congratulate the Ballina Shire councillors for putting the upgrade of the swimming pools high on their agenda.

Councils must have a vision for the future and, fortunately, more than 30 years ago they did, and the two pools were built. Now it is time to again take that vision into the future for the benefit of our citizens and expanding community by upgrading the pools to meet the modern standards that exist in community aquatic centres.

Anne Marchment,
Cumbalum

Happy to contribute

I DON'T use the skate park or play football, netball or hockey.

I do appreciate the Ballina public spaces, complete with picnic facilities, the wide footpaths in River St, the enhanced river frontage and walkways.

I do use the library and in season I enjoy the swimming pool and am happy to make my

NEWS

Filming prompts another call to heat Ballina pool

LAST week's announcement that the Ballina waterslides will be the set of a film later this month because of its 1980s look has reignited the campaign for an upgrade to the adjacent Ballina Memorial Pool, opened in 1975.

Further fuelling the debate is the promise that the waterslide will be heated as part of the film deal.

Regular pool users Anne Marchment and Dr Estelle Myers have been leading the charge for an upgrade of the pool facilities.

This year they presented a petition with 800 signatures to Ballina Shire Council calling for the upgrade, including a wet deck filtration system, the addition of an extra lane and heating of the 50m pool.

Mrs Marchment said that as a minimum, the intermediate pool should be extended to

25m, be sheltered from the wind and be heated.

A regular traveller to Noosa and other areas, she said she always feels disappointed when she comes back to Ballina to see the public pool in Ballina compared with what other councils have done.

"In just over a month the Ballina public pool will reopen for the 2011/12 season. Once again only the brave will dive into the freezing water, and the learn-to-swim groups will once again don their wetsuits to survive the cold water," she said.

"I travelled north and visited the newly renovated Noosa Aquatic Centre where the Noosa citizens of all ages enjoy the benefits of a modern aquatic centre through the winter months.

"Babies to elderly have no qualms entering a pool where the

temperature was 30.5 degrees, or the 10-lane lap pool which has a temperature of 28.5 degrees.

"The Noosa council has now provided protection at the aquatic centre from all types of weather across the café, learn-to-swim pool, crèche and amenity areas.

"I envied those citizens of Noosa Shire and wished that the Ballina Shire citizens could enjoy a similar pool. Our pool desperately needs to be upgraded."

Ballina Shire Council earlier this year launched its Aquatic Facilities Strategic Financial Plan discussion paper.

It states that repairs totalling more than \$4 million could be on the agenda in the short to medium term.

Upgrades worth \$7 million have been also outlined in the paper.

14 OPINIONS

Northern Star
7/10/2011

Heat in Ballina pool debate

IS there a hidden agenda stopping our council from redeveloping our local swimming pool?

I am a devoted swimmer at the Ballina War Memorial Pool. I swim on the first day, the last day and days in between, regardless of the weather.

At the moment, though, it is hard to disregard the water temperature – an icy 15 degrees on Wednesday morning. I visited my old home town of Inverell over the long weekend. This is a town half the size of Ballina, yet 12 years ago redeveloped its 50-metre war memorial pool so it could be converted into a heated 25-metre pool for the cooler months.

I came back to Ballina to find the water temperature had dropped eight degrees in the time I was away. Eight degrees!

Over 10 years ago there is rumoured to have been a council-authored strategic plan for the redevelopment of Ballina War Memorial Pool. Not only has nothing happened, but now there is the proposed greenfield build of another pool in Gallans Rd.

Ballina already has a pool, with water cleanliness at least the equal of any pool in Australia. Can council not see it is also the most scenically located pool in Australia? Stop fussing around with new pool complexes and surveys. Stop wasting time. Get on with redeveloping the pool we already have, as should have happened long before this ... or let us in on what the council really wants the present pool site for.

**Bob Moore,
Cumbalum.**

Pool promise

THERE is justifiable community concern that Ballina may lose its only indoor heated swimming pool.

This situation highlights the need for Ballina Shire Council to invest in the redevelopment of our public pools.

Continued P8

From P7

A report to council in 2011 identified a range of measures to improve the safety and functionality of the public pool complexes at Ballina and Alstonville.

These included the construction of an indoor heated pool that could be used not only for swimming, but for various rehabilitation and exercise classes.

In 2010, a number of Ballina councillors attended a tour of similar facilities in the Tweed and Lismore local government areas which had facilities far superior to ours.

Despite this, only \$20,000 of funding has been allocated in the council's Delivery Program over the next four years towards the pools.

That amount won't even cover basic maintenance, let alone a much-needed upgrade.

If elected mayor, my focus will be on the delivery of community infrastructure projects.

The redevelopment of the public pools needs a higher priority given the important community service they provide.

This will only increase as our

LETTERS

population not only grows, but ages.

Demand for rehabilitation and other water-based exercise classes will increase.

It's therefore essential that the next council recognise the importance of our public pools and allocates sufficient resources to ensure they are safe and meeting the communities expectations.

Cr Jeff Johnson,
Lennox Head

enquiries refer

John Truman
in reply please quote

Ballina Swimming Pool, Doc No. 1843198

19 September 2011

Ms Anne Marchment
56 Summerhill Crescent
CUMBERLAND NSW 2478



Dear Mrs Marchment

Re: Ballina Swimming Pool Upgrade

Thank you for your email dated 27 July 2011. Council welcomes your continued interest in this facility. Please accept my apology for the delay in response.

As you are aware, Council has recently resolved to seek comments from the community in respect of the document entitled "Ballina Shire Council Aquatic Facilities Strategic Financial Plan Discussion Paper". As you may be aware Council has recently advertised the public exhibition and is seeking comments and survey responses. It is intended for this process to confirm the Council's aspirations in respect of the potential future redevelopment and upgrade of the facility.

Your email refers to the opening of the Ballina pool season for 2011. By way of clarification, I advise that Council's budget for 2011/2012 has been adopted. The services and infrastructure that will be delivered for the pools from that program will be essentially the same as last year. The purpose in seeking public comment on the discussion paper now is to enable that process to be completed in 2011 and then be used to inform Council's future budget and program deliberations.

I trust this information assists you.

Yours faithfully

John Truman
Group Manager
Civil Services

OPINION

Your Voice

➤ Send your letters to starballedit@northernstr

➤ LETTERS

No more 'excuses'

BALLINA council has asked residents to complete a survey on swimming facilities.

Why? A public swimming facility should be an assumed responsibility of our council.

Do we need surveys to say we want our roads, library, garbage collection or sporting facilities maintained to modern standards?

There has been plenty of community feedback. Only last year council received a petition with more than 700 signatures, along with practical suggestions for the future development of the Ballina pool.

They have also received numerous letters from individuals and groups. Such discussions have continued for at least 16 years.

The pool season is now in its third week and yet today (4/10) the water temperature was 15 degrees, which is too cold for even hardy swimmers.

It was certainly too cold for the lady who, on doctors' recommendations, was trying to use the water for therapy.

The council readily charges season pass-holders from mid-September even though it is too cold to use the facility.

Alstonville, on the other hand, has had heating for 12 years, yet Alstonville patrons still feel dissatisfied with their pool conditions. Ballina has had no help to counter the temperature issue. This week the Ballina Memorial Swimming Club will start training in the early mornings and afternoons. Such cold conditions will discourage our young people. A swimming pool facility is a genuine non-discriminating service. It caters for every age, ability and socio-economic group. The pool is where we teach our children to be safe in the water, where people rehabilitate from injuries, where sporting groups can train, or individuals



Pauline Doe,
Ballina

A swimming pool facility is a genuine non-discriminating service.

maintain their health and fitness. In today's society, the benefits of swimming do not need to be reinforced. The schools use the pool for PE lessons, water polo, carnivals and diving instruction. The general population can use the pool and its surrounds as a social and picnic venue. The irony is that the Ballina pool has a unique location, which is the envy of other towns. It sits alongside the Richmond River yet it is central and easily accessed. Visitors to the tourist information office next door or driving to the beach areas readily see it. The council should be capitalising on the location but the reality is that, as residents, we seem to be

Thursday March 19th, 2009

Upgrade call supported

THE Ballina Memorial Club totally agrees with Anne Marchment's comments in last week's *Advocate*.

The club has grown considerably over the last couple of years and has 145 children using the pool on a regular basis during the summer months.

On many afternoons there can be up to 50 kids at squad training under the guidance of coach and mentor Francis Quinn.

Each Wednesday night during the season we have a Race Night where kids test their swimming skills, compete against their own time and get practice for the many carnivals they compete in.

On these nights there may be up to 40 swimming races held, with a barbecue dinner to follow.

During the summer months many of the 90 families whose kids belong to the club 'live' at the pool.

There are many families whose children attend learn-to-swim classes as well as an adult swim squad that will often have up to 35 adults training in the pool two nights a week.

All these groups would use the pool all year if they had a heated facility.

The club would love to have the pool complex upgraded and modernised.

The committee have viewed the report prepared for the council and are disappointed that nothing has been done and would agree that the pool upgrade needs to get on the council's agenda.

We believe that the Ballina Memorial Pool is a vitally important community asset that has been overlooked by the council in its pursuit of other endeavours.

All the safety issues mentioned in last week's article need to be addressed, as well as issues pertaining to our club.

Current convention for competition dictates that the pool should have at least eight lanes.

With a depth of only 1m at the western end of the pool, it makes it difficult to perform accurate tumble turns in distance events.

Updated starting blocks would also be a huge benefit to kids competing and would enable the club to hold inter-club carnivals at the pool.

All these and many more recommendations have been made by Pool Link Pty Ltd in a very detailed report to the council in May 2007.

And what has the council done for all those using the pool? Increased our entry and season pass fees by 40 per cent for the 2008-2009 season!

Ballina Memorial Swimming Club Committee



POOL UPGRADE: Anne Marchment's call in last week's *Advocate* for an upgrade of the Ballina pool has been supported by the Ballina Memorial Swimming Club committee.



BALLINA SHIRE

Advocate

Ballina Shire's Own Community Newspaper

22 — Classifieds: 1300 136181

www.Ballinaadvocate.com.au

Thursday, March 12, 2009

FREE

Pool upgrade needed

Regular user says safety is an issue

IT'S time for Ballina Memorial Pool to have a makeover — and it's all about safety.

Regular user Anne Marchment, from Cumbalum, has called on Ballina Shire Council to make major changes at the 35-year-old pool complex, which she says needs to be done urgently to improve safety.

The 69-year-old swims at the pool four or five times a week, and has done so for the past 15 years.

She also once managed a pool in the Riverina area of New South Wales for five years.

She said council needed to 'rectify the dangerous hazards at the Ballina pool before a tragic accident does occur', and she has the backing of other regular pool users.

"I believe it is a miracle — and largely thanks to the dedication of the managers — that serious accidents have not occurred at the pool," she said.

Her complaints start at the entrance to the pool complex, saying the foyer tiles are 'extremely slippery when wet'.

She pointed out the lip where the tiled area around the toddlers' pool meets the grassed area which she says creates a trip hazard, and the lack of a walk-in ramp at the toddlers' pool.

"It is about time the toddlers' pool was upgraded and water features installed so that this area is attractive and not just an oversized bathtub," Anne said. She also noted the lack of a safety fence on the top level of the metre-high retaining wall which separates the two levels of the pool's grounds.

She said the main 50m pool had a minimum depth of 1m at the western end, while a minimum depth of 1.35m is required for diving, so school children in particular are prevented from diving



TIME FOR A MAKEOVER: Cumbalum woman and regular swimmer Anne Marchment is calling on Ballina Shire Council to upgrade the Ballina Memorial Pool complex.

at the shallow end during 50m relay races.

She also said the water collection gutters in the 50m pool should be replaced with 'wet deck gutters', which are stainless steel grates outside the pool built at the same level as the water to allow the water to overlap the gutters.

In doing so, she said, the depth of the pool could be increased so the minimum depth reaches 1.35m.

She also called for the current 12m pool to be extended to 25m and heated during the cool months to allow swim-

mers to use the pool all year round.

"The pool is well-patronised by the Ballina community," she said.

"It is a vital community asset for health and fitness, for families, swimmers and an important school sports venue. It's time Ballina Shire Council upgraded the Ballina pool complex to bring it into line with modern pool standards.

"Council should have had this upgrade on the agenda by now."

From her days managing a community pool, Anne estimates it would cost around \$5 million to completely

revamp the pool complex.

Ballina Shire Council received a report on planning options for the pool back in 2007, but Anne said nothing has been done at the complex since.

The consultant outlined similar issues and noted that many of the recommendations from a Pool Link Pty Ltd report tabled at the February 2006 meeting of council had not been acted upon.

Ballina's mayor, Cr Phillip Silver, said he would bring the issue up during discussions for the 2009/2010 budget.

Residents call for Ballina pool refit

Petition launched as fears mount council is planning on relocating facility to Gallans Road

By ALEX EASTON
Chief Reporter

A GROUP of Ballina residents has called on the Ballina Shire Council to modernise the town's public swimming pool.

A petition calling for the makeover was launched by residents Anne and Laurie Marchment and Dr Estelle Myers on Wednesday, and by yesterday morning had already gathered more than 150 signatures.

The call comes as a hedge to

what the residents fear are quiet steps by Ballina Shire Council towards shutting down the pool complex in River Street and replacing it with a new pool at Gallans Road, fuelled in part by the council's failure to update the 1970s era facility.

However, council civil services group manager John Truman ruled out any plans to close the pool, saying the pools planned as part of a Gallans Road sports complex were up to 20 years away and were intended to acc-

ommodate increased demand from a growing population.

Mr Truman said the council wanted to update the River Street facility, but was limited in the money it could spend.

"Council has therefore resolved for staff to prepare a forward financial plan for infrastructure replacement and upgrade at both the Ballina and Alstonville pools," he said.

Mrs Marchment's petition calls for:

- The main pool to be upgraded

- To a 'wet deck', which has the water level with the ground and drains around the edges;

- The main pool to be brought to Olympic-competition standard;

- The toddler's pool to be heated, ledges removed and play equipment installed;

- The intermediate pool to be enlarged to 25 metres, heated and covered with a marquee in winter.

The petition can be signed at the Ballina pool.

alex.easton@northernstar.com.au



Petition
Presented at
Council Meeting
December 2011

Mar/April 2011 (20)

Thursday
April 7th 2011

 **Advocate**

The code governing telecommunications recommends co-location. Council recommended Optus co-locate with other successful, existing infrastructure in Lennox Head, away from residential homes.

Sue Hetherington,
for Whaat! (Worried
householders action
against tower),
Lennox Head

Heat the pool 1

Having moved to Ballina some nine years ago now, I made a lifestyle choice like many other young families to bring up my children in a pristine environment such as Ballina.

I am proud to be involved with a few of the junior sporting clubs in our area.

However, at the top of my list is my involvement as a parent with the Ballina Memorial Swimming Club, run by Francis Quinn, Mark Whitney and a host of other VIPs.

These people put so much positive energy into our children, and to see the health benefits of a water-based lifestyle is a blessing not only for our children but for people of all ages.

For those who have not done so in a while, challenge yourself and take the plunge - the health benefits are blatantly obvious!

While in the pool, experience just how freezing cold this amazing swimming pool is, without heating.

It is such a waste of a resource when it can't be used by all, all the time.

Please heat the pool!

So many people love it in our community and would support it if it was heated.

Come on Ballina, take

the plunge, heat the pool.
James Maguire,
Angels Beach

Heat the pool 2

In support of D Christie (Advocate 31/3) regarding heating the Ballina municipal pool: I strongly agree that this would greatly improve the facilities here in Ballina.

I moved here from Sydney four years ago and as a result of surgery I am now a paraplegic.

I greatly appreciate the disabled facilities that are available to me at the pool.

Swimming and surfing have always been my passion, so having the 50m pool is a great asset to those of us who like to swim daily.

Presently the pool closes during the winter months, but by heating all three pools, it would be a wonderful all-year-round facility.

Many of our local schools have talented young swimmers who would appreciate the opportunity to continue training in a 50m heated pool.

Coaching, water safety and pool fitness programs could all continue year round.

The pool management have expressed their desire to have the pool heated during the winter months.

Think outside the square, Ballina Council: consider giving us a year-round facility to be used and enjoyed by all in this area.

N Warr, Ballina

And one that is...

Dear D Christie (Advocate, 31/3): While you are

waiting years for a heated pool in Ballina, why not use the heated pool in Lennox Head.

It is heated to 28 degrees and also has a child's "starter pool" and separate gym.

You have to pay, but you save on petrol to Ballina, anyway.

I constantly use it for rehab and have no complaints.

It is called Lennox Aquatic Centre, phone 6687 8800.

This is not an ad.

Gerry Percy,
Lennox Head

Heat the pool

Since moving to this pristine region three years ago from Melbourne, my two small children have been taking swimming lessons with Swim with Frances at the outdoor pool in Ballina.

March
31st 2011

We felt it was essential that living in this climate, learning to swim was an integral part of the Northern Rivers lifestyle.

The outdoor pool in Ballina is a credit to the community here and is a pleasure to visit for lessons for the children.

What a fabulous opportunity the council has to do something truly fabulous with this site.

Primarily, heating the pool is part of an urgent upgrade required.

The small children trying to learn to swim are blue by the end of the lesson, and the water temperature is a distraction.

If only council could take a long-term approach and see that the investment made to upgrade this site would have far-reaching benefits for the community and its health.

Being in the water and swimming for fun or fitness is something that does not discriminate between age, ability or disability.

So come on Ballina council, do the right thing.

Heat the pool.

Use your imagination and make this good public asset a fabulous one.

D Christie,
Lennox Head

Sandra Bailey

From: Kaye Crethar <gkcrethar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 9:21 PM
Subject: Ballina Pool

We are in favour of upgrading the Ballina Pool to a heated facility as long as the entrance fee is not too high as well as raising our rates. Prepared to pay a small increase in rates to fund this upgrade.
Regards George and Kaye Crethar 13 Ross Street Lennox Head.

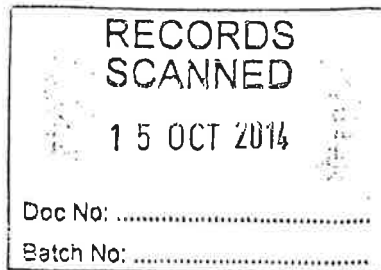
enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014



198934 020 / 14385

Mr B R Mutton
1 Waverly Drive
DUBBO NSW 2830



ballina
shire council

See reverse

Dear Ratepayer

Re: Community Consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

Council is currently consulting with the community to determine whether we should apply to the State Government for an increase in our general rate income, to finance improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

These two swimming pools were built in the early 1970s. The existing infrastructure is ageing and the operating costs are rapidly increasing, with large parts of the existing plant and equipment in need of replacement. Council is now planning to renew the existing infrastructure and we are considering whether the range of facilities available at the swimming pools should be enhanced.

Possible improvements that have been identified include, but are not limited to:

- Heating of the Ballina pool and improved heating at the Alstonville pool
- Children's wet play areas
- Dedicated training pools
- Improved picnic and BBQ facilities
- Covered spectator seating and increased shade structures
- Improved disabled access and amenities
- Additional lanes to ensure 50m pools meet competition swimming standards.

It is estimated that these improvements will cost around \$4 million per pool or \$8 million in total.

As many of these items represent an upgrade to the existing facilities, we are now seeking community feedback as to whether we should apply for a special variation to the rate income we receive each year.

On average, Council rates increase around 3% per annum. We are interested to know if the community supports increased rates of 5.5% in 2015/16 and 5.5% in 2016/17 to fund these improvements (i.e. an additional 2.5% for these two years).

Under this proposal the works program for the pools would be funded by loans. The extra 2.5% each year in rate income (i.e. above the 3% annual rate increase) would then finance the loan repayments. If this extra rate income is approved we would plan to undertake the Ballina pool redevelopment in 2015/16 and the Alstonville pool redevelopment in 2016/17.

40 cherry street, po box 450, ballina nsw 2478

t 02 6686 4444 • f 02 6686 7035 • e council@ballina.nsw.gov.au • w www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

Please note that when we talk about rates we do not mean increases to your water, wastewater (sewer) and domestic waste collection charges. These items are separate charges and apply only to properties that receive, or can receive those services. Revenue collected from water, wastewater and domestic waste collection charges must be spent on the provision of those services.

Rates revenue is spent on the many other Council services such as roads and bridges, footpaths, foreshore and canal maintenance, street signage, street lighting, parks and playground equipment, stormwater drainage, swimming pools, libraries, sporting fields, public amenities, surf lifesaving, environmental projects, tourism, economic development and strategic planning. Rate revenue is a critical part of any council's income.

For Council to increase rates by 5.5% in 2015/16 and 5.5% in 2016/17 we will need to apply to the NSW Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The current consultation process will allow Council to decide, based on community feedback, whether or not we should apply to IPART for a special rate variation.

Prior to making this decision, which will be made at the 27 November 2014 Council meeting, we are seeking feedback from residents and ratepayers. This letter has been sent to all ratepayers so that the people who are liable for any rate increase are aware of the consultation process and have a chance to provide their feedback.

If you are interested in this proposal we encourage you to visit Council's website at ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal, for further details and supporting documents.

Ideally we would like to see as much feedback as possible and this can be provided in the following ways:

- Complete the online **SURVEY** at our website ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal – This is the easiest and quickest way to provide feedback.
- Make a **WRITTEN SUBMISSION** and post to Ballina Shire Council, PO Box 450, Ballina NSW 2478 or email poolsproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au
- Attend a **PUBLIC MEETING**:

Tuesday 7 October – 7 pm

Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre (Meeting Rooms 1 and 2)

Wednesday 8 October – 7 pm

Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre

Thursday 9 October – 7 pm

Ballina Shire Council Chambers

Submissions close Friday 31 October 2014.

Please take the time to provide your feedback. If you wish to discuss this further you can contact Council staff on 6686 4444 or your local Councillor. Councillor contact details can be found at ballina.nsw.gov.au/councillors.

Yours sincerely



Cr David Wright
Mayor

Postal address
as per front of letter

Please acknowledge that we are in favour of the rate rise for the refurbishment of the Ballina & Alstonville pools
BRV & BT MUTTON 1/16 Allison Ave
Lennox Hd

RECORDS
SCANNED

15 OCT 2014

Doc No:

Batch No:

SUBMISSION FOR BALLINA POOL PROPOSALS

From J.and S.Lymburner
126 Coolgardie Rd.,
Via Ballina NSW 2478

13:10:14

Dear General Manager and Councillors,
Having attended the Ballina public meeting in regard to the proposals, we would like to make a submission for consideration on this matter.

Both of us are regular Ballina pool users and infrequent Alstonville pool users.

In attending the meeting we became conscious of a degree of resistance for the upgrades from some members of the broader community, we have taken these into consideration in compiling this submission.

Some of the benefits that heated and non-heated pools represent:

For older members of the community they include an improvement in health, increased mobility, a sense of general well being and provides social contact with other like minded people, locals and visitors alike.

For the younger members of the community and given that Ballina has been identified as a 'black spot' for accidents in the water, the pool is essential for children and young adults learning how to swim competently.

It is impossible to teach people how to swim in the ocean.

Suggestions we would like to make for consideration are:

Ballina:

The construction of a covered heated indoor 25m. swimming pool built as a dedicated training pool (on the site where the wading pool is at the western end of the main pool).

*This facility could be used by schools running learn to swim campaigns year-round.

*Year-round training facilities for swim and triathlete clubs.

*Year round aquarobics classes.

*A safe environment for the elderly and people requiring rehabilitation to improve their mobility and recovery in a warm protected environment.

For the 50 m pool –

*Widening to 8 lanes to meet competition standards, and creation of an access ramp.

*Explore the feasibility of solar heating to extend the season for the outdoor pool.

- *Creation of a contemporary children's wet play area.
- *Improvements to the covered seating area are necessary.
- * Improved fencing along the southern side of the pool to allay the wind tunnel effect.

Alstonville:

- *Widening of the pool to meet competitive swimming standards.
- *Replacement of the fencing and covered spectator seating.
- *Upgrading of the children's play area to incorporate a wet play area.
- *Improved barbeque and picnic areas.

Both pools as great assets in our Shire as they are well managed and maintained to a high degree, we get many positive comments from visitors and local pool users alike.

We are both in favour of the proposed upgrades.

Yours Sincerely



Stephanie Lymburner



Julian Lymburner

House in 2 Dolie Pl.
East Ballina
Temp. 180 Windsor
St.

Paddington
2021

Dear Sir, I've
mislaid your letter
which was to increase
Rates to pay for work
on Ballina Pool &
Alstonville Pools -

My answer is
Yes if Council
will heat both pools
with sun, solar power
Yes.

Yours Faithfully
Guy R. Moon.

19-10-14

Sandra Bailey

From: walter.sr@bigpond.com
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2014 6:22 PM
Subject: pools

480-3

Walter F & Johanna E Lampe, of 4 Elliott Ave , Alstonville 2477, support this proposal.

Sandra Bailey

From: reddoorstudio <reddoorstudio@bigpond.com>
Sent: Sunday, 26 October 2014 4:56 PM
Subject: Ballina and Alstonville Pool upgrades

Dear Sir/Madam

Ballina and Alstonville swimming Pools are a great asset to our community. Both from a public health and safety view point and in providing a fantastic space for community and family activity.

Every one, from any age group should have affordable access to these facilities, providing confidence and ability in the water.

Our region is surrounded by water. We have open dams on farms, back yard pools, rivers and creeks and beaches. We have fantastic Surf Clubs - all members of these need to be competent swimmers - and these members all train in our local Ballina and Alstonville pools.

I use the Ballina Pool everyday, the Alstonville Pool once the Ballina Pool closes and then in Winter either Southern Cross University Pool or the Lennox Aquatic Center.

I was in Lismore Swimming Club as a child and Ballina Surf Club.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity as a child to learn to swim and train in these facilities - giving me confidence and discipline in the water and life.

The water quality and temperatures are fantastic in both.

Ballina Pool would benefit having a 25mtr indoor pool open year round for learning to swim and as a therapy pool. Along with widening the pool, a grandstand and disabled access.

Alstonville would benefit from widening the pool and disabled access and keep/upgrade the heating.

The pools are a community asset - it would be wonderful if the community recognises this valuable asset. A well functioning pool for training and learning to swim programs, for therapy and health and for community and family enjoyment.

Kind regards,
Brooke Clunie.

Sandra Bailey

From: Ola Backstrom <olabm1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 8:01 PM
Subject: Swimming pools upgrade - Ballina Shire Council Rates

To whom it may concern,

This is to advise my support for your increase in Council rates from 3% pa to 5.5% pa.

The upgrade would give me opportunity to swim 12 month pa in a modern facility, which I used to enjoy five to six days per week at the North Sydney Olympic pool whilst living in Sydney.

The proposed upgrade can only create positives for the Ballina Shire citizens.

I presume that you have tried for a significant grant / contribution from the Federal and / or NSW governments.

Trust you will find success with the upgrade.

Best Rgds
Ola Backstrom
125 Broken Head Road
Newrybar NSW 2479

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 12:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: srv letter
Attachments: image001.gif

Paul Hickey

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jay Ellis <jaye@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 28 October 2014 12:53:15 pm AEDT
To: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: srv letter

Hi Paul just passing message on - a man phoned from Katherine and said he thought the letter was very well set out and explained what the increase was for and he was very happy to agree (just didn't leave his name)

Jay Ellis
Administration Officer
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 66861228 | f: 0266867035

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Opinions, conclusions and other information contained within this message that do not relate to official Council business are those of the individual sender, and shall be understood as being neither given nor endorsed by the Ballina Shire Council.

298 River St
BALLINA 2478.

Dear Sir

I'm pleased to have
the pool in town improved,
& happy to pay the
increased Rates.

Thank you.
J. Butcher



85 Martin St.
Ballina 2478
27/10/14

Ballina Shire Council
P.O. Box 450

Ballina
N. S.W. 2478

Paul Hickey.
480-03

Dear Sirs.

Re Community Consultation

Possible Special Rate Variation

I wish to vote for the special
rate variation Table Two:-

Revised rate increase based on
5.5% in 2015/16 and 2016/17

I have not voted previously on
this matter

Yours faithfully
(Mrs) June Stone

RECORDS
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29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

From: Eoin Johnston <eoinj@bigpond.com>
Subject: Fwd: Submission Re: Pool upgrades
Date: 27 October 2014 8:24:46 PM
To: poolsproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

RECORDS
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29 OCT 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

27 October 2014

The General Manager,
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Sir

RE : POSSIBLE RATE VARIATION TO FUND UPGRADES AT THE BALLINA AND ALSTONVILLE POOLS

I am in support of the mooted rate variation to upgrade the Ballina and Alstonville Olympic pools. They are valuable community assets and have been an integral part of the social fabric of both towns since 1975.

To ignore the need for upgrading, no matter what the response to the community survey indicates, would be detrimental to pool users and to the community at large.

I have been a regular user of the Alstonville pool since it opened and I was the Vice-President of the original Alstonville Swimming Club committee in 1975. I was the founding President of both the Far North Coast Water Polo Association and the Alstonville Water Polo Club in 1978-79. I am a Life Member of both bodies. My three children learnt to swim in the pool and they enjoyed and benefited from their progress through the swimming and water polo clubs. Their schools regularly used the pool for swimming lessons and carnivals. I contributed a chapter on the evolution of the Alstonville pool to a publication "Milestones and Memories" which is a collection of insights into the history of Alstonville. I am still a regular user of the pool and I swim there most mornings. I know the pool managers well and I have the utmost respect for their professional and sensible approach to running the facility over the last 21 years.

I submit the above information so that you may accept that my observations should carry more weight than those of a casual observer.

I suggest that the following items are important and should be considered:

1. Widening and waterproofing of the main pool should be a priority. It could be widened to 25 metres and this would allow for water polo to be played at the southern end across the pool while still allowing lap swimmers and recreational users to enjoy at least 25 metre lanes at the shallow end. Concentrating on one good multi purpose pool eliminates the need for a second 25 metre training pool. If this is done, flat deck edges to the sides of the pool should be incorporated and removable starting blocks should be considered. It would be helpful and a safety enhancement if the shallow end could be

deepened to allow safe diving starts in competition relay races.

2. Provision of disabled access could be embraced in one corner of the shallow end.

3. The existing wading and toddlers' pools should be retained and spruced up possibly with increased shade areas and a simple water feature or fountain.

4. Permanent undercover areas are desperately needed. It is a high rainfall subtropical area and the only cover overlooking the pool is the small shed that was built with a "Sport and Rec" grant 30 years ago. Areas where patrons can leave clothing and property out of the weather are needed. Clearly a grandstand with a roof is vital to protect against the sun and the rain. The position for such a stand would be better on the western side but that will depend on what area is available after and if the pool is widened.

5. Administrative areas and change rooms are adequate and do not, in my view, require attention. They were revamped 20 years ago but I understand the pump room requires urgent attention and the pool heating system would need to be upgraded to cater for the increased load if the pool is extended.

6. While not a priority, a permanent covered barbecue would be an inexpensive asset and add to the family friendly ambience that is a feature of the pool.

It is my view that the most valuable input you will get will be from the pool managers and regular users. The proposal to engage consultants is fraught with problems. From my observations Consultants and Architects, by their nature, need to "make a statement" with their endeavors. The changes needed at Alstonville are not complex and, I suspect, there is nothing in the design phase that can't be done with the existing council staff.

Economy, practicality and vision for the future are the principles that should guide this exercise. The citizens who oppose the proposal expect, at the very least, value for money but they should understand that certain public facilities will never pay their way. The pools, the surf clubs, the sports fields, the airport, the roads, the parks etc never have and never will break even. But they are vital for the health and welfare of a balanced and functioning community.

I will provide a signed and dated copy of this document to your office.

Yours Faithfully



Eoin J Johnston

369 Rous Road
Alstonville 2477

0416295344

Sandra Bailey

From: Sue Boardman
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 9:52 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: Phone Message - Special Rate Variation

Evelyn Hillier rang (Assessment No for property is 138358)

She said that she is happy to have the increase

Sue Boardman
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 66864444 | f: 0266867035

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Sandra Bailey

From: Jillian Pratten <jillianpratten@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 8:42 PM
Subject: Proposed Rate rise

please note that the online survey would not allow two people from the same household web address to complete the questionnaire.

1 yes

2 yes happy with info

3 Lennox head

4 yes

5

additional lanes 3

disabled access 3

heating ballina 5

chid play area 3

dedicated training pools 5

barbecue 3

covered seating 4

enclosed facility 5

fence 3

improved amenities 3

expand kiosk 3

6 25 m heated pool essential in Ballina

7 Yes supportive

8 No

9 resident

11 no

cheers

Sandra Bailey

From: tessimon davis <simontessa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 11:31 AM
Subject: up grade of rates re pools

I support the proposed up grade to Ballina pool and the rate increase.

regards simon davis.

3 king lane Ballina

phone 0411824515

simontessa@hotmail.com

29 th October 2014

Sandra Bailey

From: Carol Laskey <cazzalasky@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 8:07 AM
Subject: Upgrade of swimming pool

I am a regular user of the Alstonville Pool. Firstly I would like to put on record the fabulous job that Greg and Kelly do in providing a wonderful amenity to the community.

The pool is a terrific place as it is, but of course it needs upgrading.

I would ask that the family/sport orientated use of the pool be maintained, and that it not turn into a play centre only.

We older users could well do with a ramp and easy access lane, this would be of great benefit to those folk who need wheelchair access. It would be good if such a lane (perhaps double in size) could be designated to less able swimmers and, perhaps, Mothers/Fathers and babies.

The grass surrounding the pool is lovely and conducive to people relaxing and enjoying the peaceful atmosphere.

It would be great to have a longer period of use of the pool if this is financially viable.

I am willing to pay the extra rate required to maintain this iconic amenity in Alstonville.

My experience of Ballina Pool is limited and so I do not feel able to comment.

Carol Laskey

--
Aging is just our immortal genes doing their thing

Sandra Bailey

From: natalie carter <natalie.carter63@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 7:30 PM
Subject: pools proposal

As a season ticket holder at Ballina pool I fully endorse the proposed changes for the pools but particularly Ballina. It would increase the usage of the pool to year round and make it a destination for family's with young kids

thanks



RECORDS
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3 1 OCT 2014
Doc No:
Batch No:

Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation

1. Do you feel you have a reasonable understanding of this proposal based on the information provided by Council, including the information sheet on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au?

2. If you have any suggestions on how the information could be improved, please provide your comments below.

3. To better understand the interest in this proposal across the Ballina Shire please nominate your usual place of residence.

- Ballina
- Alstonville
- Wollongbar
- Lennox Head
- Wardell
- Other (eg. rural)

4. Do you consider yourself a user (no matter how frequent) or potential user of the Ballina or Alstonville swimming pools?

5. Council is examining a number of improvements to the swimming pools. What type of improvements would you would like to see.

Please rank each item from one to five, with one being the lowest priority and five the highest.

	1	2	3	4	5
Additional lanes to meet competition standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved disabled access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heating for the Ballina pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's wet play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated training pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved picnic and BBQ facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Covered spectator seating and shade structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enclosed facility to provide all weather access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Replace fencing at Ballina to improve river views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved amenities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expanded kiosk and refreshment facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please provide details in the next text box)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation Survey

6. If you wish to provide comments on your ideas for improvements to the swimming pools please provide your comments in the following text box.
For example you may have suggestions for additional works or comments particular to either the Alstonville Pool or Ballina Pool.

Alstonville Pool - provision for water polo training and lap swimmers at same time. eg pool width 25 metres so lap swimmers can also train across pool.

7. Are you supportive of Council's proposal to apply to the NSW State Government for a 2.5% increase above the estimated rate increase of 3% for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (5.5% each year)?

- Yes - I am supportive
 Conditional Support - You may prefer a lower increase with a reduced works program
 No - I am not supportive of any rate increase

8. Do you have any other comments in respect to the proposed special rate variation?
For example you may have a different rating structure or increase that you would like Council to consider.

9. Can you please confirm whether you are a property or business owner who would be required to pay any increase in the Council rates?

- Yes (Property or business owner - Individually or in joint ownership)
 No (Resident)

10. If you answered yes to question nine can you please clarify what type of property rates you are required to pay. The category of your rateable property is based on the dominant use of that property. The three categories of property for rating purposes are residential, business and farmland.

- Residential (both urban and rural residential properties)
 Business
 Farmland
 Combination of Properties (eg Residential and Business)

11. Do you have any other feedback in respect to this consultation process?

Need for promotion of team water sports, as well as individual lap swimmers. Youth need to be encouraged.

12. Your name and address (email or post) (this information is optional)

Only provide your contact details if you wish to receive a written response on the outcomes from Council's consultation. Council will be notifying all residents of our decision to proceed or not proceed, with an application to the NSW State Government, through our normal communication channels such as the Ballina Shire Advocate and our Community Connect magazine.

Mark Edwards - janiceandmark@bigpond.com
Free Water Polo Life Member.
North Coast / State / Australian Schools Water Polo Coach.

Sandra Bailey

From: ANDREW DOSTINE <andrewdostine@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 3:36 PM
Subject: Ballina shire pools proposal submission

Importance: High

Dear Ballina Shire Council,

Firstly, I apologise for the lateness of this brief submission regarding the redevelopment of the Alstonville and Ballina public pools. My family and I have only recently returned from a lengthy overseas holiday, but I'm very keen to offer my support for the proposed redevelopment of both of the Shire's principal pools.

As a recent former president of the Alstonville Amateur Swimming Club I have enjoyed a very close and productive relationship with the pool management at both facilities, as well as the Council in general. On a personal level I am very supportive of Council's suggestion to introduce a special levy in order to fund the redevelopment of both facilities.

As the attendance figures on your website demonstrate both pools attract significant numbers of users – the Alstonville pool in particular becomes a real social and community hub for much of the year. Alstonville is a small community, but as a result of the facilities and the professionalism of Greg and Kelly Fettell we have been able to produce many fine swimmers, waterpolo players, and athletes who all help to portray the town and wider area in an enormously positive light. Alstonville is recognised nationally and internationally as producing consistently competitive and successful waterpolo players and triathletes in particular. This is in no small part to the current pool complex and management.

Despite these successes, though, and despite the pool's enormous popularity it is showing signs of age and wear. Without being fully aware of exactly what has been proposed and what sort of redevelopment Council is considering I would wholeheartedly support and advocate for the following initiatives:

- Expansion of the pool to an eight-lane complex – this would enhance the attractiveness of the pool as a competitive regional facility and assist in speeding the conduct of swimming carnivals
- Construction of a wet edge
- Installation of new starting blocks
- Improved heating to provide year-round use and training
- Construction of covered marshalling and starting areas at the western end of the pool
- Improved seating/stands
- Construction of a separate indoor 25metre pool complex suitable for year-round hydro-therapy and aged care services – currently, the pool is a very popular and extremely valuable venue for these types of services. With it's aging population and growing range of aged care and health care services the present proposal offers perhaps a once-in-a-generation opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art facility to service not just the Alstonville community, but also the broader community and Shire.

Once again, apologies for the lateness of this submission. I congratulate the Council on the determination and courage it is showing in seeking to undertake such a forward thinking and much needed set of capital developments. Importantly, though, I am convinced that *both* redevelopments must proceed if the Shire is to truly benefit from such a wonderful initiative.

Sincerely,

Andrew Dostine

Andrew Dostine
Chief Executive Officer
curricula: *education solutions*
02 6628 7320
0409 984 607
www.curricula.com.au

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Sandra Bailey

From: Michelle Bourke <michelle.ballina@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 4:22 PM
Subject: Vote for upgrade!

SUBMISSION

I am very keen to see the pools upgraded.

I went along to the meeting with the public at the Ballina Council chambers and was disappointed that the "pro-basketball" people seemed to hijack the meeting when the meeting was not about whether to fund a basketball stadium!

The Council has an asset which they cannot turn their back on. We also have an obligation as a community to teach our children to swim especially as we live in a coastal town..
(They do not need to learn to play basketball.)

We also need to provide somewhere for our elderly population to exercise and to receive therapy. This is a vital service that the Council could help provide.

I think the council has an obligation to upkeep its assets. The pools are such a vital part of our community, that we need to ensure that they are upgraded.

It is time for some strong leadership on this matter.

regards

Michelle Bourke
56 Shelly Beach Rd
Ballina

ph:0409712688

Sandra Bailey

From: regvaljohns@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, 2 November 2014 8:07 AM
Subject: Special Rate Variation

Re property owners RR & VJ Johns
2/58 Bayview Drive, East Ballina
Strata Title 30602
Assessment No. 107292

We are in agreement with the 2.5% Special Rate Variation as proposed by the Ballina Council as set out in their correspondence for swimming pool upgrades at both Ballina and Alstonville.

If it is necessary for our agreement to be recorded in a different manner please advise by email.

Thank you

Reginald and Valerie Johns
(Tairua, New Zealand)

Sent from Windows Mail

Sandra Bailey

From: Heike Mebold <hmebold@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 November 2014 1:05 PM
Subject: pool upgrade

Hi,

As a childless middle aged woman who likes to keep fit and enjoys lap swimming, I am in favour of the pool upgrade including rates rise provided that the following improvements are included:

- 1) most importantly - heating for the Ballina pool at a consistent temperature!!!
- 2) sufficient pool and lane space for regular lap swimmers to be able to swim laps without interference and overcrowding.
- 3) more shade
- 4) opening hours to suit full time workers, to keep pool open until 7 in daylight saving months.

Thanks for your consideration.

Heike Mebold

(rate payer and Ballina Shire resident)



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 : 5 NOV 2014
 Doc No.....
 Batch No.....

Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation

1. Do you feel you have a reasonable understanding of this proposal based on the information provided by Council, including the information sheet on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au?

YES

2. If you have any suggestions on how the information could be improved, please provide your comments below.

Draft proposals for upgrades

3. To better understand the interest in this proposal across the Ballina Shire please nominate your usual place of residence.

- Ballina
- Alstonville
- Wollongbar
- Lennox Head
- Wardell
- Other (eg. rural)

4. Do you consider yourself a user (no matter how frequent) or potential user of the Ballina or Alstonville swimming pools?

YES

5. Council is examining a number of improvements to the swimming pools. What type of improvements would you would like to see.

Please rank each item from one to five, with one being the lowest priority and five the highest.

	1	2	3	4	5
Additional lanes to meet competition standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved disabled access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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Expanded kiosk and refreshment facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please provide details in the next text box)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation Survey

6. If you wish to provide comments on your ideas for improvements to the swimming pools please provide your comments in the following text box.

For example you may have suggestions for additional works or comments particular to either the Aistonville Pool or Ballina Pool.

7. Are you supportive of Council's proposal to apply to the NSW State Government for a 2.5% increase above the estimated rate increase of 3% for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (5.5% each year)?

- Yes - I am supportive
- Conditional Support - You may prefer a lower increase with a reduced works program
- No - I am not supportive of any rate increase

8. Do you have any other comments in respect to the proposed special rate variation?

For example you may have a different rating structure or increase that you would like Council to consider.

9. Can you please confirm whether you are a property or business owner who would be required to pay any increase in the Council rates?

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10. If you answered yes to question nine can you please clarify what type of property rates you are required to pay. The category of your rateable property is based on the dominant use of that property. The three categories of property for rating purposes are residential, business and farmland.

- Residential (both urban and rural residential properties)
- Business
- Farmland
- Combination of Properties (eg Residential and Business)

11. Do you have any other feedback in respect to this consultation process?

12. Your name and address (email or post) (this information is optional)

Only provide your contact details if you wish to receive a written response on the outcomes from Council's consultation. Council will be notifying all residents of our decision to proceed or not proceed, with an application to the NSW State Government, through our normal communication channels such as the Ballina Shire Advocate and our Community Connect magazine.



Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation

1. Do you feel you have a reasonable understanding of this proposal based on the information provided by Council, including the information sheet on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au?

2. If you have any suggestions on how the information could be improved, please provide your comments below.

3. To better understand the interest in this proposal across the Ballina Shire please nominate your usual place of residence.

- Ballina
- Alstonville
- Wollongbar
- Lennox Head
- Wardell
- Other (eg. rural)

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11 NOV 2014

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4. Do you consider yourself a user (no matter how frequent) or potential user of the Ballina or Alstonville swimming pools?

5. Council is examining a number of improvements to the swimming pools. What type of improvements would you would like to see.

Please rank each item from one to five, with one being the lowest priority and five the highest.

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Heating for the Ballina pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's wet play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Dedicated training pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved picnic and BBQ facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Covered spectator seating and shade structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enclosed facility to provide all weather access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Replace fencing at Ballina to improve river views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved amenities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Expanded kiosk and refreshment facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please provide details in the next text box)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation Survey

6. If you wish to provide comments on your ideas for improvements to the swimming pools please provide your comments in the following text box.
For example you may have suggestions for additional works or comments particular to either the Alstonville Pool or Ballina Pool,

Only increase one pool to competition standards.
Really important to do childrens wet areas.
and really, really need disabled access for older
& disabled users.

7. Are you supportive of Council's proposal to apply to the NSW State Government for a 2.5% increase above the estimated rate increase of 3% for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (5.5% each year)?

- Yes - I am supportive
 Conditional Support - You may prefer a lower increase with a reduced works program
 No - I am not supportive of any rate increase

8. Do you have any other comments in respect to the proposed special rate variation?
For example you may have a different rating structure or increase that you would like Council to consider.

Council rates have risen and maintenance of these important facilities should be an ongoing item & not left until we need major rebuild + development requiring increased rates.

9. Can you please confirm whether you are a property or business owner who would be required to pay any increase in the Council rates?

- Yes (Property or business owner - Individually or in joint ownership)
 No (Resident)

10. If you answered yes to question nine can you please clarify what type of property rates you are required to pay.
The category of your rateable property is based on the dominant use of that property. The three categories of property for rating purposes are residential, business and farmland.

- Residential (both urban and rural residential properties)
 Business
 Farmland
 Combination of Properties (eg Residential and Business)

11. Do you have any other feedback in respect to this consultation process?

We need these important facilities for health, education & recreation. Thousands of children learn to swim with school programs & on site lessons, not to mention the rehabilitation for people post surgery with knee & back injury. Hydrotherapy schools from the region all attend A'ville pool.
Need to get people off the couch and out doors to save money on the ever growing health budget.

12. Your name and address (email or post) (this information is optional)
Only provide your contact details if you wish to receive a written response on the outcomes from Council's consultation. Council will be notifying all residents of our decision to proceed or not proceed, with an application to the NSW State Government, through our normal communication channels such as the Ballina Shire Advocate and our Community Connect magazine.

Ann Kelly
PO Box 263
Alstonville

Pool needs to be heated & operational for whole year -
Also a family entry fee should cover the whole family as one regardless of children. ie 3, 4, 5. It is an issue for large families.



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11 NOV 2014
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Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation

1. Do you feel you have a reasonable understanding of this proposal based on the information provided by Council, including the information sheet on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au?

2. If you have any suggestions on how the information could be improved, please provide your comments below.

3. To better understand the interest in this proposal across the Ballina Shire please nominate your usual place of residence.

- Ballina
- Alstonville
- Wollongbar
- Lennox Head
- Wardell
- Other (eg. rural)

4. Do you consider yourself a user (no matter how frequent) or potential user of the Ballina or Alstonville swimming pools?

5. Council is examining a number of improvements to the swimming pools. What type of improvements would you would like to see.

Please rank each item from one to five, with one being the lowest priority and five the highest.

	1	2	3	4	5
Additional lanes to meet competition standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved disabled access	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heating for the Ballina pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's wet play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedicated training pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved picnic and BBQ facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Covered spectator seating and shade structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Enclosed facility to provide all weather access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Replace fencing at Ballina to improve river views	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Improved amenities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Expanded kiosk and refreshment facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please provide details in the next text box)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation Survey

6. If you wish to provide comments on your ideas for improvements to the swimming pools please provide your comments in the following text box.
For example you may have suggestions for additional works or comments particular to either the Alstonville Pool or Ballina Pool.

Dedicated Competition pools of Water polo, Underwater Hockey.
Year Round Access. Multiple use Ability.

7. Are you supportive of Council's proposal to apply to the NSW State Government for a 2.5% increase above the estimated rate increase of 3% for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (5.5% each year)?

- Yes - I am supportive
 Conditional Support - You may prefer a lower increase with a reduced works program
 No - I am not supportive of any rate increase

8. Do you have any other comments in respect to the proposed special rate variation?
For example you may have a different rating structure or increase that you would like Council to consider.

9. Can you please confirm whether you are a property or business owner who would be required to pay any increase in the Council rates?

- Yes (Property or business owner - Individually or in joint ownership)
 No (Resident)

10. If you answered yes to question nine can you please clarify what type of property rates you are required to pay. The category of your rateable property is based on the dominant use of that property. The three categories of property for rating purposes are residential, business and farmland.

- Residential (both urban and rural residential properties)
 Business
 Farmland
 Combination of Properties (eg Residential and Business)

11. Do you have any other feedback in respect to this consultation process?

Highly Beneficial. For children to be in structured sport + Exercise programs.

12. Your name and address (email or post) (this information is optional)

Only provide your contact details if you wish to receive a written response on the outcomes from Council's consultation. Council will be notifying all residents of our decision to proceed or not proceed, with an application to the NSW State Government, through our normal communication channels such as the Ballina Shire Advocate and our Community Connect magazine.

Michael Raymond.
Michael.Realood@bigpond.com

Sandra Bailey

From: Andrew McGinley <andrew@amcginley.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2014 2:38 PM
Subject: RE: Community consultation - Possible Special Rate Variation

Dear Ballina Shire Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposal. As the President of the **Ballina RSL Summer Swimming Club**, our members requested that I respond on behalf of the Club. The Club has used and continues to use the Ballina pool, for some 40 years. This is our 40th year anniversary season.

The Ballina pool is a very good facility. The Club previously wrote to Council to suggest that justification for renovations at the Ballina pool are available based on the changes to the standards required for pools to be used for competition.

Our Club participates in regular competitions; the Zone carnival and the Intrazone carnival every season. The carnivals rotate through a hosting roster. Ballina will host this season's Zone carnival on 15 November 2014. At this carnival upwards of 100 swimmers will attend along with their families.

Ballina will host the Intrazone carnival in February 2016. At that carnival upwards of 150 swimmers will attend along with their families.

It is conceivable that the annual Australian Infantry Forces (AIF) national carnival could be hosted at Ballina when renovated. At that carnival upwards of 400 - 800 swimmers attend along with their families. Recently these AIF carnivals have gone to other venues – Nelson Bay NSW, Wangaratta VIC, Perth, Sydney and soon to Southport.

However, the Club does not apply to host the AIF carnival and is now reluctant to host other carnivals because the current Ballina pool is considered below grade. Specifically, the Ballina pool is shallow relative to the now current standards for the depth required. The limitation is that swimmers may not be allowed to dive into the pool from the shallow end. I personally recognise that the depth has not been an issue for decades, but times change and expectations change and most importantly standards change. It is not clear to visiting clubs whether the Ballina pool is safe for diving from the shallow end or not relative to the new standards.

As an illustration of the standards issue, and Council is better equipped to investigate the requirements:

- From page 11 of 16 of the http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/4256/1_Aquatic_Guidelines_Safe_Water_Entry_for_Compétitions_Compétitive_Dive_Starts.pdf:

APPENDIX 2 – SHALLOW WATER DIVING INFORMATION & RISK ASSESSMENT (SAMPLE)

ATTENTION: Principal and Aquatic Carnival Coordinator

Please ensure you read and understand all PARTS to this document prior to signing and agreeing to terms and conditions.

PART 1 – WATER DEPTH

After consultation with Royal Life Saving NSW, the Aquatic and Recreation Institute and the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) it has been deemed important that WARINGAH AQUATIC CENTRE provide you with information on shallow water diving. This is particularly pertinent to relay events or other activities where diving in shallow water may be a scheduled carnival event or activity.

CARNIVAL POOL –			
DEEP END DEPTH (or location)	1.8 Metres	SHALLOW END DEPTH (or location)	1.01 Metres
Concourse / Starting Block height above water	750 mm	Concourse / Starting Block height above water	300 mm
OTHER INFORMATION	If boom is to be utilised for entry please consult with Lifeguard staff		

SUGGESTED SAFE WATER ENTRY TECHNIQUE

....

- From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swimming_pool

Competition pools

A simplified diagram of the FINA long course swimming pool standard, used at the World Championships and Summer Olympics

See: #Dimensions (above) and Swimming (sport)#Competition pools

The Fédération Internationale de la Natation (FINA, International Swimming Federation) sets standards for competition pools: 25 or 50 m (82 or 164 ft) long and at least 1.35 m (4.4 ft) deep. Competition pools are generally indoors and heated to enable their use all year round, and to more easily comply with the regulations regarding temperature, lighting, and automatic officiating equipment.

An Olympic-size swimming pool (first used at the 1924 Olympics) is a pool that meets FINA's additional standards for the Olympic Games and for world championship events. It must be 50 m (160 ft) in length by 25 m (82 ft) wide, divided into eight lanes of 2.5 m (8.2 ft) each plus two areas of 2.5 m (8.2 ft) at each side of the pool.^[21] The water must be kept at 25–28 °C (77–82 °F) and the lighting level at greater than 1500 lux. Depth must be at least 2 m (6.6 ft), and there are also regulations for color of lane rope, positioning of backstroke flags (5 metres from each wall), and so on. Pools claimed to be "Olympic pools" do not always meet these regulations, as FINA cannot police use of the term. Touchpads are mounted on both walls for long course meets and each end for short course.

In my opinion, these standards are written for countries that do not enjoy Ballina's climate and Australia's swimming history and traditions. Australian pools are designed to allow swimmers to both dive in and stand up. Small children will not be able to stand in a deeper pool. But the hazard of diving and the associated liability is diminished. Nevertheless, based on the information available to me, a shallow end depth increase to 1.35m to 1.8m may be the appropriate standard.

So, our Club favours an upgrade to the Ballina pool such that it comply with the now current depth standards, at both ends.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew McGinley

President,

Ballina RSL Summer Swimming Club

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey
Sent: Wednesday, 12 November 2014 2:34 PM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: TRIM: Proposed Special Rate Variation

HP TRIM Record Number: 14/80795

Phone Call – Hazel Bridgett, Rous Mill – phoned to say she was in favour of a rate increase to upgrade the two swimming pools

Sandra Bailey
PA to the General Manager & Mayor
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 6686 1273

The environment thanks you for not printing this message. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please pass it on to the intended recipient in its original form, or contact the Ballina Shire Council.

Opinions, conclusions and other information contained within this message that do not relate to official Council business are those of the individual sender, and shall be understood as being neither given nor endorsed by the Ballina Shire Council.

'Howlong'

Carrathool 2711

8/11/14

As the ratepayer for 1265 Eltham Rd
Alstonvale 2477 I have no objection for the
proposal to increase the rates for the upgrade
of the Ballina and Alstonville pools.

Good facilities are needed for the
wellbeing and safety of all residents and
visitors to the area.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Henwood

Alice B. Henwood

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13 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

Re: Proposal for a special rate variation allowing upgrade of the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

Dear Mr Hickey

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I strongly support the upgrades of Ballina and Alstonville pools proceeding as soon as possible using funding generated by the special rate variation detailed in Council's explanatory publications. The following key factors form the basis of my position:

- Both pools have effectively reached the end of their designed life and unless they are upgraded soon then the financial cost of maintaining the facilities to an acceptable standard will be unacceptably high.
- "Doing nothing" is not an option. Allowing the pools to continue to run down in condition without additional expenditure would expose the Council to liabilities and force eventual premature closure of the pools.
- The pools must be upgraded as soon as possible to meet modern safety standards. Presently both pools have at least three major safety issues to be rectified. First is the way that the gutter drain design impairs visual surveillance of the pool by parents and lifeguards. Second is the diving hazard posed by the insufficient shallow-end depth. Third is the way that the gutter-drain design and lack of stair or ramp access impedes the safe evacuation of swimmers requiring rescue unless at least three strong adults are immediately available and in present in the pool to assist.
- The pools do not currently provide sufficient accessibility for the aged and disabled. For these swimmers entry into and exit from the water is difficult or impossible because of the lack of ramp or stair access. With the rapid ageing of the population the demand for improved accessibility is growing fast. Because the present pools are both very deficient with respect to access it is likely they have been greatly underutilized over their lifetime.
- Ballina Shire Council's current financial position is very favorable as evidenced by comparison with the position of nearby councils.
- Although representing considerable expenditure, the pool upgrades stand to boost expansion of the Shire's economy particularly through domestic tourism. This in turn increases the prosperity of the community boosting the capacity of the community to afford a rate increase and eventually stimulates the income received by Council.
- The Council has a strong recent track record of successful infrastructure development as evidenced by the benefits to ratepayers arising from the Hill Street upgrade, redevelopment of the River Street precinct and economically vital improvement of facilities at the Ballina Airport.

- Recreational water activities are an outstanding characteristic of the culture of Ballina Shire. Local government has a core responsibility for ensuring the safety at popular recreation environments. In Ballina Shire this is a daunting task given the number and diversity of locations. A strategy that is based on generating a broad level of water competence and a core group of fit and able lifesavers is a necessary step. The Ballina and Alstonville pool upgrades are the catalysts needed to achieve this.
- There have been a number of tragic drownings in the Shire in recent years. These incidents are widely publicized and, regardless of the cause, reflect poorly on the Shire as a tourist destination. Ensuring there is a choice of access to safe and quality swimming facilities for all visitors and residents is a sensible and proven approach to prevention. Moreover, providing the facilities for the local population to engage in learn to swim, swimming fitness and lifesaver training provides some level of safeguard at all those dozens of venues throughout Ballina Shire where water safety is a constant threat.
- It should be self-evident from the above that many people who do not use either the Ballina or Alstonville pools are indirect beneficiaries of these facilities.

Once more thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very worthwhile proposal representing strong value for Ballina ratepayers. It is a decision that must be made and I strongly urge all our elected councilors to take the long-term view in supporting this initiative.

Sincerely,

David Jordan
67 Silver Gull Drive
Ballina, 2478
dcjordan@exemail.com.au
Mobile: 0402467035

13 November 2014

Mr Tom Silver
Alstonville Waterpolo Club Inc.
PO Box 308
ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



To The General Manager

Re: Swimming pools upgrade: possible special rate variation

Alstonville Waterpolo Club Inc. would like to express our support for the proposed rate variation in order to achieve improved aquatic facilities at the Alstonville pool.

Alstonville Waterpolo Club Inc was founded in 1979. Our club currently has 60 members and has had 260 past members since 2005, an estimate of total members since the club's inception would be over 1,000. We are the largest waterpolo club in the Far North Coast competition with five teams competing in games held weekly at Alstonville pool. Our membership represents men and women from the Alstonville community aged 13-63. The sport encourages fitness, discipline, skill and teamwork.

Many of our members have risen through the ranks of the Alstonville junior waterpolo club, likewise many of our members have competed in school, region, state and Australian representative teams. This includes Alstonville players going on to train with Queensland Institute of Sport, NSW Institute of Sport and the Australian Institute of Sport.

The point is, waterpolo is the sport that Alstonville has become famous for. This has occurred through tireless commitment by many individuals, including the current management of Alstonville pool whose passion and hard work have contributed greatly to our success. The other contributing factor is the pool itself, and though it has served us well for the past 35 years, we believe Alstonville pool requires an injection of funds to bring it up to current standards.

Through consultation with our members and other waterpolo committed pool users, we request the facilities at Alstonville pool be upgraded to include:

- A widened Olympic pool to 25 m so that waterpolo games can be held concurrently whilst people swim laps or play in the shallow end. Due to limited 'out of hours' pool availability, our club regularly trains during the day when other users attend the pool. A widened pool would allow us to co-exist with these users safely. In the case of waterpolo tournaments, a 25 m wide pool would also allow concurrent games to be played.
- Incorporating wet deck and water proofing into the pool widening.
- Grandstands/ tiered seating around the south-western and western edges of the Olympic pool. This does not have to be the MCG, but simply to supply an all-weather spectator vantage point

and an area to officiate waterpolo games from. Roofing to supply protection from wind and rain would also be required.

- A lockable, weatherproof storage area to store goals, caps, markers, timing equipment etc. Currently, the club stores equipment in a shipping container donated by a past club member. A new storage area could possibly be housed, beneath the new grandstands.
- Improved disabled access we believe is important.

Many of our members are adults of young children and are season pass holders who would also appreciate improved aquatic entertainment areas for children. This should include, an expanded wading pool to include a 'beach', style entry, better shade protection and a babies/ toddler water park.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit on this proposal. In our opinion, pools are an essential council service to the community. Please contact me if you wish to discuss the Alstonville Waterpolo Club's, requirements or thoughts on the proposed upgrade.

Yours faithfully

Tom Silver

President

Alstonville Waterpolo Club Inc.

0402 017 239



Ballina Memorial Swimming Club

President: Marcus Dorsman

Coach: Francis Quinn

20 October 2014

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Mr Hickey

RE: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

On behalf of the members of the Ballina Memorial Swimming Club, I offer you this feedback on the proposed Special Rate Variation to increase funds to finance improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville Swimming pools.

The Ballina Memorial Swimming Club supports the proposed rate increase of 5.5% (including rate pegging) for two years to allow the Ballina Council to generate funds for the much needed redevelopment of the shire's two 50m swimming pools.

The pools are much-loved community assets but they are both in need of an upgrade. The priority for the Ballina Memorial Swimming Club is to have a heated pool to allow swimmers to train in cooler weather. Whilst the current pool is beautiful to swim in when it is warm, inclement weather including wind and rain, make it very uncomfortable particularly for young children. This also has an impact on learn-to-swim classes. Young children are not keen to swim outdoors in cold and windy weather and this could have a significant effect on their willingness to learn how to swim.

Swimming is a great sport and activity that can be undertaken by people of all ages. Learning to swim is a skill children will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Investing in the redevelopment of the Alstonville and Ballina pools is also supporting the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Yours faithfully

Annie Lewis
Secretary



13th November 2014

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
P.O. Box 450
BALLINA, NSW 2478

Alstonville Amateur Swimming Club
PO Box 127
Alstonville NSW 2477

Re- Swimming Pool Upgrades

Dear Paul

The Alstonville Amateur Swimming Club (AASC) committee and members thank you for consulting stakeholders and being given the opportunity to provide Ballina Shire Council with feedback regarding the proposed upgrade of both Council pools.

As a regular user of the Alstonville Swimming Pool myself and as the President of the AASC, I recognise what a fantastic facility that our local communities on the plateau have and appreciate the efforts of the local community and Council in the past for its establishment and maintenance.

During the consultation period I have watched and read with interest our local papers and the thoughts and concerns of members of our Shire. To invest considerable funds in upgrading the pools is an investment in the future of both these facilities and an investment in the local and wider community. The construction of a multi-sport all weather complex would also be a fantastic and well overdue facility for our local area. How important infrastructure projects such as these are financed and the desire of most ratepayers to have the services they believe are beneficial but do not wish to be burdened with the expense of their existence will indeed be hurdles for the Council to overcome.

As the representative for the AASC I will only be providing feedback on what the committee sees as important considerations if the proposal to upgrade the pools was to proceed, not how those upgrades should be funded. While I am sure that Ballina Swimming Pool would have its loyal supporters who swim for health, fitness or fun, I am only in a position to provide comment on the Alstonville complex.

AASC again thanks Council for the opportunity to be involved in what may be the initial stages of consultation for the proposed pool upgrades and would appreciate the opportunity to continue this process of consultation if the upgrade of the Alstonville Swimming Pool is given further consideration.

Regards,

Greg Kershaw
AASC President
6628 7103



Alstonville Swimming Pool Upgrade

What we would like to see stay the same

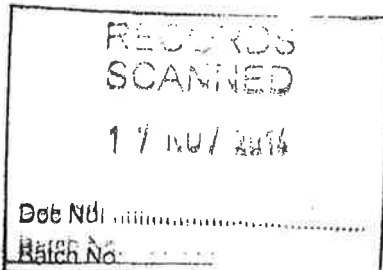
- Existing relaxed feel which is achieved by the correct mix of hard and soft landscaping features and both fixed and portable structures/equipment
- Maintain/enhance existing grassed area on western side. I have lost count of the number of times that first time visitors to Alstonville Pool have commented on how nice and relaxing this particular area or outlook is.
- Existing level/ability to passively observe older children who possess good swimming skills from almost anywhere on the grounds. That is, it is not desirable that the swimming complex be segregated into individual areas limiting adult observation of children
- Maintain/enhance Alstonville Amateur Swimming Clubs' and Alstonville Water Polo Club's existing meeting room, storage and facilities

What we consider essential

- New and compliant access options to the main pool including a combination of access ramp suitable for wheelchair/walk-in users and stairs
- Additional covered seating/grandstand on eastern side with sufficient overhang to provide protection to concourse at the same time shading from the western sun
- Covered area to the south, behind the starting blocks, offering all weather access/protection
- Necessary repairs to the existing pool structure and its services

What we would like to see happen to set the pool facility up for the next 40+ years

- Minimum of 1 additional lane so as to make the pool an 8 lane pool with each lane being 2.5m wide, total width 20mtrs
- Installation of 'wet-edge' pool deck and modern non-slip starting blocks
- Sufficient depth at shallow end to allow for competition 'dive starts' for relay events
- Consideration of the options to be able to provide designated training/lap swimming lanes. Currently the pool facility is being reconfigured several times each week to cater to a variety of patrons such as recreational users, therapeutic users, lap swimmers, amateur and professional athletes, water polo clubs, swim clubs, school groups etc. Any long term upgrade planning needs to consider the ability to develop the site into a multi-use facility, where the main pool can be utilised by those wishing to participate in activities such as water polo and any of the other listed user activities above at the same time
- Permanent outdoor kitchen/BBQ area for patron usage
- Elevated pool observation tower to be considered with any upgrade of eastern grandstand.
- If grandstand was of solid construction with its underside enclosed then this area could be considered for secured storage of pool assets/sporting clubs equipment
- Any proposal requiring the relocation and refurbishment of the pools water treatment plant/equipment and buildings provides the opportunity to consolidate these services along with proposed new services such as pool backwash tanks in the south-eastern corner where they can be screened/softened by suitable soft and hard landscaping features. This would then also provide the opportunity to expand pool services/facilities or enhance existing sun/shade seating area between the existing 'junior' pool and plant room building (north-eastern side of site)



Greg and Kelly Fettell
6 Alston Avenue
Alstonville NSW 2477

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina shire Council
P.O. Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

14 November, 2014

Dear Mr Hickey,

Re: Submission regarding proposed redevelopment of the Alstonville/Ballina pool facilities

As professionals with twenty-five years experience in the operation and management of pool facilities and community programs we welcome the opportunity to provide the following comments and observations regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Alstonville and Ballina public pools.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate Council on its decision to embark on this project and to engage in a lengthy period of public consultation. We very much believe that this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to listen to community needs and concerns and to give them their due consideration and weight when deciding on the nature of any pool redevelopment using public monies. In producing this proposal, therefore, we have consulted widely with all our key stakeholders and local community groups.

To begin with, we would make the initial observation that as different communities with different populations with different needs we would strongly encourage Council not to simply reproduce the same facilities at both Alstonville and Ballina. Both sites should be developed to give consideration to the nature of the populations that use them, the level of usage, and future population or community projections. As Council's own data indicates, for example, the Alstonville facility receives greater numbers of visitors each year so we would hope that this level of usage would be reflected in both the dollar spend and extent of the redevelopment at this site.

As operators of the Alstonville aquatic centre for many years now we know that our community-based programs are our strength. These are demonstrated through the high level of community use and engagements in organised pool activities, including:

- Support for community lap swimmers
- Aqua exercise for community members, especially the elderly
- School swimming programs
- Learn-to-swim training and programs
- Waterpolo
- Swimming Club
- Triathlon training

Specific elements of our proposed Alstonville pool redevelopment plan

As you will see from the attached plan, we have taken the time to propose a series of developments and modifications to the Alstonville pool that would specifically enhance and extend the community-based program referred to above.

Key elements of this proposal are:

- **Modifications to the main pool.** These include
 - Extension to create a 10 lane pool, 50 metres long and 25 metres wide. This would allow the pool to be reorientated as a multi-function facility where water polo can be played and lap swimmers can swim (across the pool as a 25metre pool) at the same time.
 - Installation of ramps to ensure that elderly, disabled, and less-abled swimmers and pool patrons can enter the pool in a safe and dignified way.
 - Installation of new starting blocks and pool wet deck
 - Resurfacing using a low-maintenance surface in order to reduce and minimise cost and upkeep
 - Replacement and/or upgrade of delivery and return systems in order to reduce water loss and reduce costs and environmental impact
- **Construction/Installation of improved and enhanced grandstands and seating.** We propose the construction of improved, covered seating to cater for 300 spectators in new grandstands on three sides at the southern end of the pool. Such a wet-weather option would represent a considerable draw card to the facility as a venue for swimming, waterpolo, and school-based competition. We also envisage that solar panels would be roof-mounted in order reduce heating and electricity costs.
- **Expansion of community recreation elements of the site.** The Alstonville pool facility is very popular as a safe and family friendly facility which allows patrons to enjoy a fun environment free from anti-social behaviour. Key proposals to enhance this feature include:
 - Development of the current 'medium' pool as a 0-1metre children's pool with an associated small water slide
 - The construction of a 'spray park' in the southern right-hand corner. This feature would not hold water so would require minimum supervision.
 - Installation of new seating and public BBQ facilities to be enjoying by the entire community and visiting groups
- **Construction of a small indoor hydrotherapy and teaching facility.** The Alstonville pool already has a history of offering well patronised, targeted, hydrotherapy-based programs to benefit the elderly, the disabled, and those recovering from illness or injury. We propose the construction of a small indoor facility to build upon this practice. There is currently nothing like this in the shire and with an aging population it would represent a timely and highly desirable feature of the pool facility. It could also be used as a teaching and public education space offering associated programs.

The Alstonville Aquatic Centre is already a popular facility. It attracts the largest numbers of swimmers and pool users in the shire as a result of the quality and range of its community programs. It has affordable season passes, a long season, and is heated. The proposed redevelopments described above would ensure that it is able to consolidate its position and reputation and help establish it as a showcase in the region.

The present redevelopment project and consultations afford Council the chance to lead the way in this important regional project.

Should you wish to discuss any aspects of this proposal please don't hesitate to contact us on....

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg and Kelly Fettell'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Greg and Kelly Fettell

ph. 66280826

mob 0412429909

RECORDS
SCANNED

4 NOV 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

11 Pinehurst Court,

Alstonville, 2477

3rd November, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a user of the Alstonville Olympic Pool and rate payer for more than 30 years, I would like to submit the following proposals. The pool has been a focal point for the Alstonville community for more than 40 years and any development should ensure it caters for the needs of all the community for the next 40 years.

1. Current main pool be widened to a 25 metre (10 lane) pool:

The main pool as it stands is essentially a "one activity at a time" pool. At 25m wide, water polo, lap swimming and recreational use could occur simultaneously, making more water space available to a wider range of interests. A 10 lane (50m x 25m) pool would be of a high enough standard to attract future competitive regional and State swimming and water polo events for many years to come. A ramp for disabled access also needs to be included. Dedicated, single use training pools should be avoided.

2. Learn to Swim and Elderly needs:

The facility needs to have a water space that is the correct depth and has warm water and wind protection to enable the younger members of the community to learn to swim and older members to enjoy low impact exercise in comfortable conditions. The Alstonville /Wollongbar population is growing in both age groups and healthy exercise should be catered for and encouraged.

3. Youth and Family needs:

The facility needs to become a "destination" for any member of the community to come and enjoy a range of activities suitable for all ages, abilities and interests. A **water park** (not necessarily heated) as well the above proposals would attract large patronage and provide the youth of Alstonville with a sort after, safe and healthy venue.

4 Further points to consider:

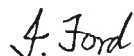
- * An outstanding feature of the current Alstonville complex is the extensive lawn and garden areas. This **parklike setting** should be maintained in the development.
- * **Covered spectator stands** need to be erected to compliment the main pool. These should also have facilities to allow officials to run and adjudicate events.
- * **Discrete and handy storage** needs to be provided for the pool manager, swimming and waterpolo clubs equipment.

Final Word:

The Alstonville pool should not be considered a typical small town pool as unlike other country town pools, it has produced more than 140 children who can boast being State Champions, National Champions or have competed overseas in International events. It also hosts State Waterpolo Carnivals on a regular basis. Alstonville is reknowned for its success in water sports and the **pools value in promoting the Alstonville area cannot be underestimated.**

As the Alstonville Pool was built largely by community clubs and volunteers, and heated by funds raised by the community, it would be appropriate for the Council to acknowledge this work and further foster the unique community spirit that exists in Alstonville by upgrading the facility to a standard that would continue to cater for the needs of all for many years to come. The proposed rate increase to cover the upgrade of this valueable community asset is an **excellent investment.**

Yours sincerely,



Ian Ford

representing three generations of current pool users,
waterpolo coach, High School Teacher (retired)