

Sandra Bailey

From: Chad.Horne@essentialenergy.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, 23 September 2014 1:48 PM
Subject: Ballina / Alstonville pool upgrade
Attachments: pic10122.gif; pic06391.jpg; pic17460.jpg

I am a Ballina resident who has been swimming in both of the Ballina and Alstonville pools for the past 5 years. I think they are both great as they are and I am not willing to have my rates increased by 2.5% to fund any unnecessary upgrades.

Thanks,
Chad.

Chad Horne
Zone Substations - Lismore
Ph: 0409124135
Ph: +61 2 66234074
Fax: +61 2 66234078
Email: chad.horne@essentialenergy.com.au

(Embedded image moved to file: pic10122.gif)T: 02 6623 4074 | M: 0409 124 135 | F: 02 6623 4078 | chad.horne@essentialenergy.com.au
PO Box 5730 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 | http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=1u2g1BA5F66G6yKJHE5HmX4-J9_i6yXbmkqb1h9PBA&u=http%3a%2f%2fessentialenergy%2ecom%2eau
General enquiries: 13 23 91 | Supply interruptions (24hr): 13 20 80
Follow us (Embedded image moved to file: pic06391.jpg) (Embedded image moved to file: pic17460.jpg)

#####

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of Essential Energy.

#####

Sandra Bailey

From: monica.vomiero@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2014 2:40 PM
Subject: Re rate variation

I do not think money should be spent on these two pools as the local residents and schools cannot use them all year round ,as they do the Ballina Fair pool,this area has exercises childminding,Aqua and a gym,most towns have and indoor pool and I think Ballina should have one also

Regards

Monica Vomiero
318 River Drive
East Wardell
2477
66879620

Cheers from Monica! Sent from my iPad

Sandra Bailey

From: Teresa Heal <teresaheal@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2014 7:45 AM
Subject: NO to RATE INCREASE for POOLS

To Ballina Shire Council.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL COUNCILLORS

I am a landlady in Ballina.
INCREASE WILL HAVE to be PASSED onto TENANTS.
Poor tenants.....

- One bit of information NOT given is will the rates be "reduced" in 2017/2018.....I doubt it.
- bad management taking on such big debt.
- Better to plan & save for future...if must have "Bigger/Better" Pools.

No to Rate increase for Pools.

- Stop grandiose and expensive IMPROVEMENTS.
Why always "bigger & better"
- Aim for less costly maintenance & Renovation.
- All having to pay for Pool facilities used by minority.
- if you want multi million dollar LUXURY improvements...SAVE & reduce other expenditure.....don't borrow!

As landlady, I have annually increased costs, insurance, rates, maintenance BUT I do not increase the RENT annually.
EITHER: rents will be increased & pressure put on Tenants ...
OR I will SELL as not viable (barely is now) & invest money with no ALWAYS INCREASING COSTS.
Already rental property shortage in Ballina.

Teresa Heal

--
Teresa

Sandra Bailey

From: Anne Bigg <ennax@bigpond.com>
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2014 8:32 AM
Subject: Upgrade at Ballina pools.

I am against the proposed hike in rates to cover the upgrade of the pools.

Ballina has known for quite a few years that these pools needed work. There has been no forward planning for the proposed work. Has the Council attempted to start a special plan to progressively raise funds that would be required? Have we run any special events towards raising money?

The rates go up a bit every year. To make such large hikes will cause hardship in many homes. There was no mention of reverting to normal rates after the money is raised. How do ratepayers know that the rates will drop again?

A great deal of money was spent on the Main Street in recent years. The footpath was widened to become extreme. It was covered with TILES. . These tiles become very slippery and dangerous in wet weather. I know because we have 2 disabled in our family. Those ugly palms that were transplanted into the middle of the street don't come cheap either.

I could go on. The council needs to think of the elderly in the community on pensions. There are many families on lower wages trying to pay off a home in these hard times.

Anne and Max Bigg. (ratepayers)

Sandra Bailey

From: Michael Perin <MPerin@perinmgt.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2014 9:30 AM
Subject: Increased rates to fund upgraded pools

Mr. P Hickey re 480-03

I represent Ballarin Nominees and am **against the proposed special rate variation** to fund improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville pools. I suggest that Ballina Council controls its spending as struggling businesses across the country are forced to do in these harsh economic times. Ballina shire council should put aside funds for capital works from current rate impositions until you can afford the upgrade: A practice familiar to all businesses.

M Perin

Phone Call re Proposed Swimming Pool upgrade

Wished to remain anonymous – Pensioner – said the proposed increase in rates was ridiculous and definitely did not agree with the proposal, ratepayers pay for everything now, including taking rubbish to the tip. Thinks that the users of the facilities should pay, not every ratepayer.

Disgusted.

Sandra Bailey

26 September 2014

Sandra Bailey

From: Caroline Klose <carolinek@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 3:56 PM
Subject: Sid Lewis - Special Rate - Swimming Pools - Objection

Initially supported the idea and provided support by way of phone call, and would now like to lodge an objection.

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2014 2:31 PM
Subject: RE: Phone Message - Rate Variation

Sandra

Please register John and Sandra Botten as not supporting the proposal.

Thanks

From: Sue Boardman
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2014 2:06 PM
To: Paul Hickey
Subject: Phone Message - Rate Variation

Could you please phone Sandra – 6628 7267

Re: Special Rate Variation – she would not leave her last name

She only wants to speak to you

Sue Boardman
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



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

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.

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2014 4:35 PM
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rate Increase

Jeff Wren, 26 Valley Drive, Alstonville 662801510

Phoned to say he is definitely not in favour of proposed rate increase – he pays enough rates now

He has mown Council easement near his residence for 17 years and doesn't charge Council a cent. Has requested that Council mow the easement at the rear of his property which is now 4 ft high with grass – I have placed a CRM for this request.

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.

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 11:18 AM
Subject: FW: Phone Message

From: Paul Hickey
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 11:09 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: RE: Phone Message

Does not support

Pensioner and cannot afford further increases.

Please register.

From: Sandra Bailey
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 10:10 AM
To: Paul Hickey
Subject: FW: Phone Message

From: Sarah Carden
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 9:52 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: Phone Message

Ph Marion Wicks 6628 7818 – regarding pools rate variation.

Thanks

Sarah

Sarah Carden
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 02 6686 4444 | f: 02 6686 7035

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.

enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014



127454 018 / 5031

Mr R W Ivin
67 Burns Point Ferry Road
WEST BALLINA NSW 2478

*Mr P. Hickey
Ballina Shire Council
In regards to Councils
Rate rise to maintain
swimming pools suggestion
I vote NO*



ballina
shire council

*I am a lone pensioner
and cannot afford a
rate rise*

R W Ivin

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 SEP 2014

Doc No.....
Batch No.....

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.

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

RECORDS
SCANNED
29 SEP 2014
Doc No.....
Page No.....

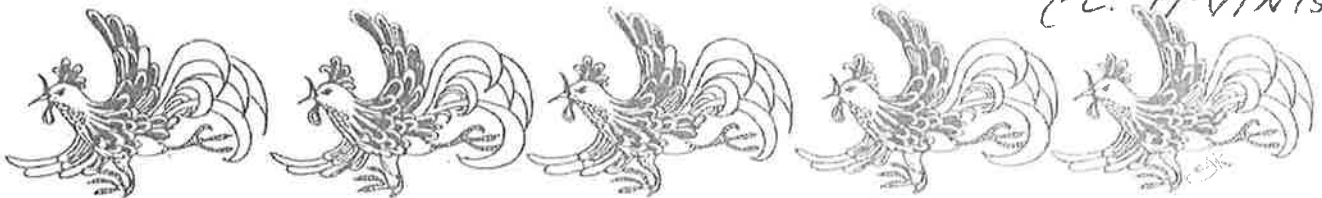
2 Kings Pk. Ct,
Wellington
2477

26th Sept, 2014.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter to rate payers dated 22 September I wish to say that apart from your Council's first proposal re the heating of Ballinas pool + improved heating of Altonville pool I disagree with the other side following proposals being an unnecessary expenditure. If the feeling of other rate payers is against your proposals I would suggest you give some thought to requiring the users of the pools to foot the bill. I am sure that a beach with flat water is the perfect place to teach children to swim. As I am a pensioner and in my years in Altonville have never taken me near a pool I feel it is completely unnecessary to ask rate payers to foot the bill for such luxuries.

Yours sincerely,
Cathy McVinish
(C. McVINISH)



enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014



272746

018 / 705

Mrs S F McHugh & G J Wong
193 Ballina Road
ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

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



Sandra Bailey

From: Bob Terrill <bob.terrill@internode.on.net>
Sent: Sunday, 28 September 2014 12:15 PM
Subject: Pools proposal

On the subject of funding, I would like to see the council take more responsibility in fund raising for the minority of users of these facilities. Obviously no sinking fund strategy was not set in place for these high maintenance facilities and now you ask of the rate payers to foot the bill. I asked my Bank for a two and a half reduction off my a bank loan for two years to off set his bungle or over site of maintenance. I won't print the out the out come of that conversation with my

[http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=ou-n1BIHvTeOFuwf0tJ62DQQA-VGRGV0-](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=ou-n1BIHvTeOFuwf0tJ62DQQA-VGRGV0-9Tg0Bj30Dg&u=http%3a%2f%2fBank%2eSo)

[9Tg0Bj30Dg&u=http%3a%2f%2fBank%2eSo](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=4991&d=ou-n1BIHvTeOFuwf0tJ62DQQA-VGRGV0-9Tg0Bj30Dg&u=http%3a%2f%2fBank%2eSo) I guess my answer me or others to pay more on our rates is NO ,we all ready have enough costs in our budgets. In stead of the easy option for you, I suggest you fund raise like having a concert Like the Country music festival, House with no steps recent fair, or other forms of entertainment in your local entertainment centres in Alstonville, Lennox Head, Ballina surf club, that I would support, so I ask you to get pro active in this area. I also wonder why \$25,000 donation was wasted to people purchasing land at Wollongbar ,Cumberland estates when they possibly can't afford the loan Repayments. Not a good look when you ask the rate payers to help. So no I do not support a Rate levy for this purpose.

Yours Bob Terrill

Sandra Bailey

From: Garry Henderson-Smith <hyphen@westnet.com.au>
Sent: Sunday, 28 September 2014 3:34 PM
Subject: pools proposal
Attachments: Garry Henderson-Smith.vcf

Categories: Red Category

Sir,
As a ratepayer in the Ballina council area, I would like to add my thoughts on the current swimming pool proposal. While I have felt compelled to contact council on several occasions over the 14 years since moving to the shire, it has only ever been to commend council on it's quality of operation, however, this time my over-riding answer to the proposal is in the negative, for the following reasons.

My first reaction is to the cost, stated at \$4 million per pool. That sum appears to be excessive to say the least. The cost seems to be estimated on a complete rebuild of both pools, not just an upgrade, and still seems to be quite expensive unless the council envisages grandiose structures to rival the best in the world.

I think there is merit in making such amenities handicapped accessible, and shade and comfort are certainly sensible requirements. I think that the council should make the ratepayers more aware of the patronage demographic and user numbers for these pools before a decision is made. I have attended the Alstonville pool on a number of occasions and, while general use can be restricted by training and individual lane closures, I believe it is generally quite adequate for its intended purpose. I don't think it is viable for every council to cater to the exact needs of every sporting body within it's shire.

Council has certain base obligations toward it's ratepayers and these obligations should be their first consideration. While council is obliged to be fiscally responsible with their income, I don't understand the need for council to be involved in commercial property, save for the availability of industrial areas to assist private developers. Perhaps the council should divest itself of it's commercial property portfolio, especially considering the spectre of amalgamation, and invest that money into local infrastructure requirements.

I assume that the idea of private enterprise, either as sole or partner investors, has been canvassed. If so, what would be the outcome? Considering Ballina's popularity as a tourist destination, could a developer be found and assisted/induced to take over and improve the Ballina pool as, perhaps, a theme park?

Finally, although only based on anecdotal evidence, I understand the Ballina shire to have a very large number of retiree/pensioner home owners, myself included, who would find this level of rate increase very onerous especially considering the Federal Government's proposal to cease funding for council rate subsidies, as announced in the recent budget. That sort of hit on any homeowner would be substantial but particularly for fixed, low income ratepayers. I recently felt the impact of the increased charges at the council waste disposal area, \$105 for a box trailer of mixed rubbish. I know we, the ratepayer, have to accept the burden of increased costs, but we all have to stay within our budget and sometimes say NO to certain luxuries. Perhaps more modern swimming facilities are in this category.

All I can do is offer an opinion and hope, while having sympathy for the council's position, that some consideration is given to the plight of the home owner.

Yours, Garry Henderson-Smith
1 Albert Street, ALSTONVILLE. 66283632

Sandra Bailey

From: susi <scody8@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 7:54 AM
Subject: comment

I have completed the online SURVEY and voted for NO rate rises.
It is the Councils job to provide infrastructure like pools, parks etc. and they should be budgeting for these expenditures, rather than investing in commercial property.
I vote yes for the pools and no for a rate increase.

best regards

Susi Cody

Ratepayer

Sandra Bailey

From: Janet Gray <jgray@ncml.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 9:09 AM
Subject: Rate increase to pay for pool improvements

To Whom It May Concern

I do not agree with the application for an increase in rates to pay for pool improvements.

Janet Gray
Executive Assistant

North Coast NSW Medicare Local | Head Office

Suite 6, 85 Tamar Street (PO BOX 957), Ballina, NSW 2478

P (02) 6618 5408 | F (02) 6618 5499

Email jgray@ncml.org.au | **Website** www.ncml.org.au

"We acknowledge the oneness and equality of the human kind in all its dimensions of race, gender, belief, preference and age. We recognise the magnificent diversity of human kind as a strength and precious gift. We see all forms of prejudice as a violation of human nobility and a barrier to building a more united society.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We respect the elders past and present and express our heartfelt apology for the injustices endured by Aboriginal people of our nation. We will continue to strive, day by day, for our thoughts and actions to reflect these truths and sentiments."



This e-mail is for the use of the intended recipient(s) only. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete it. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use, disclose or distribute this e-mail without the author's permission. We have taken precautions to minimise the risk of transmitting software viruses, but we advise you to carry out your own virus checks on any attachment to this e-mail. We cannot accept liability for any loss or damage caused by software viruses.

Sandra Bailey

From: Dirk Terrill <d.terrill@sae.edu>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 9:44 AM
Subject: Pools Proposal

I do not support the recent proposal to offset pool costs by raising rates. These facilities are used by a small minority and it appears council is taking the easy way out by simply raising all rate payers costs.

Suggestions;

- Hold fund raising events such as the Ballina Country Music Festival, the recent fair at the House With No Steps.
- Use our community facilities to bring local crowds together, raising money for infrastructure whilst simultaneously demonstrating the local councils commitment to ongoing best community service.

I am happy to support a proactive and creative local council through events such as these. The recent turn out to the House With No Steps Fair demonstrates a willingness by the whole community to do the same.

Regards,
Dirk

Sandra Bailey

From: Deon Tsanov <fnc.supervisor5@easterntrees.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 12:27 PM
Subject: Pools, No Way!

To whom it may concern,

I am a rate payer and lived in the shire for 40 years. I work full time just to survive and I know my wages will not go up 5.5% next year. I don't want to pay higher rates!

Why should a handful of people who use the pools expect all the rate payers to be charged extra 2.5%? Go to the beach and enjoy the new surf life saving club.

Regards,

Deon Tsanov
ETS Vegetation Management
0488-052-081

Sandra Bailey

From: David Holmes <davidatholmes@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 12:45 PM
Subject: Proposed rate increases to pay for pool renovations

Cr David Wright
Mayor, Ballina Council.
Dear Sir ,

I write in response to your letter of 22/9/14, reference 480-03

My name is Patricia Holmes and my mail address is 6D/1-7 George Street, Manly 2095.
My property within Ballina Shire, is Unit 3, 5 Marge Porter Place, Ballina. NSW. 2478 Assessment No 156380

I have read your letter and some relevant internet documents.

I am not convinced of the need to undertake these pool renovations, vis -a- vis the other responsibilities of Council.

If council cannot undertake these works, within its normal program of maintenance under the established 3% increase, then it should not proceed with them.

I am not in favour of the suggested additional 2.5% increase in rates in 2015/16 and 2016/17

Patricia Holmes

Sandra Bailey

From: Jeffrey Gray <jjg@graysca.com>
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2014 8:19 PM
Subject: Written Submission by JJ & LE Gray your reference 480-03

Dear Mr Hickey

Ballina Shire Council (BSC) does have a responsibility to maintain existing facilities. However, it is not entitled to keep putting its hands into the rate payers pockets.

In our view the BSC does not handle construction economically, is inept in management as has been demonstrated in recent years in cases such as the Lighthouse Beach White Elephant, the fiasco at the Pelican 181 site, the same with Shelly Beach, the Wigmore Arcade redevelopment and the general development of land in competition with private investors.

We object to the proposition that BSC should seek further additional rates to finance these specific issues and suggest that BSC gets its house in order and becomes more efficient.

Yours faithfully

Lynette Gray and Jeffrey Gray

Jeffrey Gray
Grays CA Pty Limited
P: POB 1009, Ballina NSW 2478
T: +61 2 6687 8833
M: +61 2 418 618 925

Sandra Bailey

From: sass.tupps <sass.tupps@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 7:01 AM
Subject: Possible Special Rate Variation

I object to any rate increase to improve Alstonville and Ballina pools.
My objection.

I need more information on what improvements will actually take place how the money will be spent.
Council does not say how pools will be heated eg. SOLAR.

Firstly Alstonville Pool is said to be heated and I feel it has not been so. Last season the times I attended the pool I found the pool very cold even in the heat of the day.

I have attended the Tweed open heated pool on many occasions and found the water much warmer than "supposed heated pool " in Alstonville. Tweed pool, one could swim in a lane and at end can get hot shower. Here in Alstonville children jump in front of you when swimming in lane. Seems to me its all about children and not much respect for anyone else.

Council has spent alot of money on Walk Ways etc. in Ballina and Lennox Head. We in Alstonville have to walk in dangerous conditions like walking along Gap Road.

We need Footpath Gap Road From Teven Road to Dillans Lane.

We need more information.

We need to be assured Alstonville gets its share of infrastructure from Council.

Sincerely D. Pitt

Sent from Samsung tablet

Sandra Bailey

From: Jeanette Mangleson-Henry <eaglemum1@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 10:29 AM
Subject: RATES INCREASE

I am opposed to the rate increase by 5.5% as outlined in letter received dated 22/9/14.

I would accept a rate increase of only 1%.

The reason for my opposition is that I have seen far too much of Rate Payers' money misused.

For years I have seen tourists pour into and out of our airport and head north because Council refuse to properly promote our own Shire. I have made suggestions to Council over the years but they fall on deaf ears.

I have seen inept 'experts' paid huge sums for consultancy fees out of our Rates only to see the collapse of the 'white elephant' ideas they come up with.:

Wigmore Arcade's business owners' pleas for sanity were ignored.

The wrong trees were planted then removed at pedestrian lights in River Street at weekend pay rates.

No doubt the rest of the huge trees along the footpath in River street will have the same fate one day.

One of the biggest waste of money is the new Community building near Ballina Central. It has not one big enough to replace our old Senior Citizens' hall in Crane Street. A Town Hall would have been a better use of that huge spend. Every town needs a big open indoor meeting place.

I would like to suggest that the parcel of land towards the western end of my own street (FOX) which is a normal house block but has a PLAYGROUND sign on it be sold to raise much needed funds. I have lived here for twenty-three years and never ever seen anyone at all on that block.

If there are legalities to be overcome at least the money spent will be easily recouped on the block's sale. No doubt there are similar parcels of land in the Shire which could raise funds.

Jeanette Mangleson-Henry
4/131 Fox Street
Ballina

Sandra Bailey

From: jenijohn <jenijohn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2014 1:19 PM
Subject: Community Consultation

I currently own a property in both Ballina & Alstonville, have lived in both towns and frequently use the local pool for lap swimming. I have also lived in Lismore and regularly used the Memorial Baths for this purpose.

I am not entirely opposed to the \$4 mil upgrades but do not feel that upgrading both pools to this level is entirely unnecessary. I think that some of the money could be better spent on improving or providing other sporting venues in the shire (eg request in the advocate last week for an indoor stadium) My son has played both soccer & cricket for Tintenbar/East Ballina and I remember how frequently the fields were unplayable due to drainage problems etc. I understand that everyone has different interest & needs but with the ever increasing installation of backyard swimming pools, all our local baths must be suffering in revenue.

Many people that I have been talking to have never and will never use the pool and feel that their money could also be spent better elsewhere.

Would our rates be reduced when these works are completed and loans repaid?

Jenny Johnstone
0402 0302 89

Make a note and
contact us today!
Tel 02 9427 1877



ATTENTION PAUL HICKEY.

Re your letter Rate Variation.

I think these people who sit in
offices have a gaul to expect Rate
payers to foot the bill for the swimming
pools

The rates in Ballina rise every year
by about 3% plus and now you want
them to increase again for these pools.

God our bloody rates will be about
\$3000. per year.

NOT A VERY HAPPY

RATE PAYER

AND no doubt you will go ahead
with your ideas no matter what
we say.

13 BAHAMA AVE
ALSTONVILLE 2477

MR PAUL HICKEY
40 CHERRY STREET
BALLINA NSW 2478

RECORDS
SCANNED

30 SEP 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

DEAR SIR,

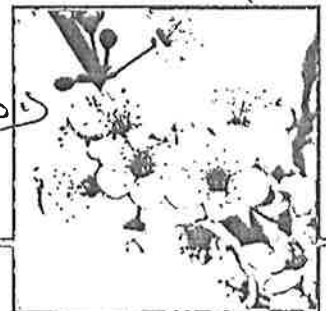
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER RE
ALSTONVILLE SWIMMING POOL UPGRAIDING.
I AM A 90 YEAR OLD RESIDENT.

I AM
VERY INDEPENDANT, AND DO NOT ASK THE
CHILDREN FOR HELP. I LIVE IN MY 5 BR
HOME, AND VERY INDEPENDANT
PAYING ALL
EXPENSES, THAT COME IN. I DO ALL MY
GARDEN WORK, GETTING MY ONE SON TO DO
THE LAWS.

I DO NOT THINK THE RESIDENCE
SHOULD PAY THE RATES FOR SWIMMING POOLS. PEOPLE
ARE STRUGGLING SO MUCH ALREADY, IF I HAD
TO PAY MORE RATES FOR POOLS, I WOULD HAVE TO
SELL MY HOME AND MOVE INTO A NURSING HOME
WHICH WOULD MAKE ME VERY UNHAPPY.
UP TILL NOW GOD HAS BEEN VERY GOOD
TO ME.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

ELSIE ELS.



enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014



289719

018 / 654

Mr LA & Mrs MA Fountain
20 Granada Parade
ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

Dear Mr Hickey
We are 2 pensioners that are
finding it hard to find the money
for the bills let alone food.

So putting up our rates
for things we wont be
using is worrying.

MR & MRS Fountain



RECORDS
SCANNED

30 SEP 2014

Doc No.....
Batch No.....

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.

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

169 Fosc Street,
Ballina. 2478

480-03

Ballina Shire Council,
P.O. Box 450,
Ballina . NSW . 2478.

Dear Mr. Hickey,

I object to your suggestion re. adding another 2. 1/2% to our rates. As a pensioner I must live on a budget. I cannot see why your Council cannot do so.

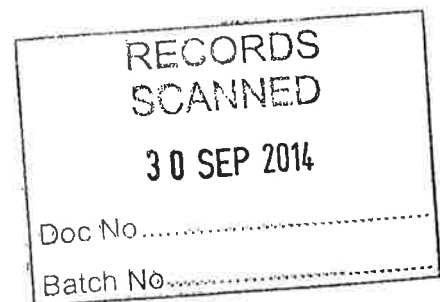
How much money has your Council lost in recent years with the closing of most of the shops in Wigmore Arcade? Yes ! You are working to restore the shops now but will business people be able to afford your rents which one hears are ridiculously high ? It is heart breaking to see so many shops closing their doors in River Street, the very heart of Ballina. Once again one hears this is because of rents being far too high.

A small suggestion. With your assets spent on Office Buildings perhaps it is about time some of these were sold ?

Yours sincerely,



(Mr.) K. Nelson.



RECORDS SCANNED
30 SEP 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

Mr. Mrs. R MORGAN
37 BENTINCK STREET
BALLINA 2478

DEAR SIR,

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER DATED 22nd
SEPTEMBER RE INCREASING THE GENERAL RATE TO
MAKE IMPROVEMENTS BALLINA ALSTONVILLE
SWIMMING POOLS

.SPEAKING AS A RATE PAYER FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS
MY ANSWER IS A DEFINITE NO I FEEL THAT OUR RATE
CHARGES ARE HIGH AS IT IS AND IT IS BECOMMING
HARDER EACH YEAR TO MEET THEM AND WE DO NOT
WANT TO BE FORCED TO HAVE TO LEAVE OUR HOME
BECAUSE WE CAN NOT PAY OUR RATES.

I KNOW THAT PUBLIC PLACES MUST BE MAINTAINED
AND UPDATED BUT SURELY THERE ARE OTHER WAYS
THROUGH THE BUDGET EITHER INCREASING FEES FOR
ENTRY OR HIRING OUT FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC FOR
USE.

ONCE AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO VOTE **NO**

THANKING YOU R AND R MORGAN

Ruby Morgan
R E Morgan

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 1 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

92 Fredericks Lane
Timber 2478
29 September '14

Er David Knight
Mayor of Ballina Shire
Ballina 2478

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter 480-03
of 28th September 2014.

As a rate payer of the
shire, I wish to express my
opposition to any proposal to spend
a large amount of money (\$8 million
over two years) on the Elstonville
and Ballina swimming pools, by
increasing the rates above the
normal increase.

There are, I'm sure you
will agree, many pensioners, above
average in fact, in the Ballina
Shire. These people, including myself,
have been finding it increasingly
difficult to manage household
expenses, including existing rates.

It seems to me rather
strange that a high income earner
in charge of swimming pools has
apparently neglected to maintain and
improve such valuable assets on a
yearly basis - 'a stitch in time
saves nine'!

Yours sincerely,
Patricia Bulmer.

RECORDS SCANNED
- 1 OCT 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

Ann & Bev Lyon
51 Burns Point Ferry Rd
Ballina 2478.
02 66 86 7019.

Mr. Paul Hickey. re 480-03,

Dear Sir,

We wish to vote against Council's proposal to spend eight million dollars on the proposed works on Ballina & Alstonville pools.

Also the application to H.S.N I. P & R. Tribunal for an additional 2.5% rate increase to fund works on pools.
Reasons.

Historically considerable over runs in estimates would prolong interest & rate charges.

No interest rate on borrowings is stated.

Council is asking rate payers for an open cheque to borrow & spend millions of dollars on works without firm plans & fixed quotations for proposed works. Is Council aware many rate payers are not computer literate & also over 60 to 80 years old, and

unable to attend a meeting commencing at 7 p.m. Surely a voting form should be posted to all rate payers with yes or no sections also a comment section.

This would give Council a true feeling of all rate payers. The public meetings would not represent a democratic vote.

Yours faithfully.

Ann Lyon
Paul Hickey

Bev Lyon
B Lyon

PH 6681558Z

RECORDS SCANNED
- 1 OCT 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

30/9/14

R.H. & J.R. Hall
4 Catherine Cr
Ballinacree

The Manager
Ballinacree Shire Council
Attention Paul Buckley 480-03
Dear Sir

We are extremely disappointed that Council is considering raising rates again. We are both over 86 years old and are self-funded retirees so are not receiving the discounts that aged persons receive.

We are presently paying \$2,739.05 per annum and any increase would be another burden on our stretched finances.

We hope you will consider the plight that older residents are in with their financial commitments before increasing rates further.

Yours faithfully
R.H. & J.R. Hall
- per R.H. Hall

74 Eyles Drive
East Gallena
29-9-14



RECORDS
SCANNED

- 1 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

The Manager
Gallena Council.
Tamar St.

Sir,
with regard to the letter I have
recently received re the Swimming
Pools, & I have to say considering
half the population of Gallena are
Pensioners & I doubt would be
interested in throwing themselves into
a pool, me included.

Therefore I don't agree to us having
to pay extra Rates for those who do.

Perhaps a rise in "User Pairs"
would be more fair

Yours
Garry Brown

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 12:22 PM
Subject: Submission - Special Rate Variation

Fyi

Judith Sweeney, Lawyer (phone 9219 7569)

The question she had was – is this increase only going to be for the two years and then reduced after that time. I advised her as per the response we had done to this question in another submission.

She believed that we should be re-sending the letter to everyone advising them of this fact as she believed that this lacked transparency and reeked of “trickery”.

She believed the two years was a sensible solution, but an ongoing increase would be prohibitive for a lot of people to afford.

She does not require a call back. I will register this email as a submission.

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.

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 1 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

PO Box 975

BALLINA NSW 2478

TEL NO: 66 86 26 79

30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Mrs Healey

RE: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION - POSSIBLE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Your letter 22/9/2014, reference 480-03.

In response to your letter to ratepayers it would appear that since the pools were built in the early 1970's Council has neglected to provide the necessary maintenance for the upkeep of the pools. If the upkeep had been maintained and plant and equipment replaced and facilities improved over the years Council would not need all this money now to cover the costs for all the work required to bring them up to today's standards.

It comes back to Councils 40 years of neglect.

Speaking to other residents they are of the same opinion and would NOT support Council's recommendation of rate increase 3% to cover costs of loans.

What percentage of Shire residents use the pool and are the costs justified. Can pensioners afford the rate increase as most are struggling now to make ends meet.

This is the same as providing regular maintenance on your house and car. If you don't provide it when required and keep putting it off the problem escalates and ends up costing you a lot more to fix.

The other section stating what rate revenue is spent on is laughable. Pet holes aren't fixed properly - soon as it rains these back bigger. Drains - the only time I have seen the one at the bus stop in front of Cedar Caravan Park cleaned out was when I put in a complaint 12 months ago. It's the same with other drains around town - clogged with overgrown weeds, bottles, leaves.

Roundabouts - lack of maintenance - full of weeds. What plants that have been used are too high and when approaching

Shows you cannot see oncoming traffic. The worst sound about is at the corner Bentinck and Cherry streets - sight very limited. Street lighting - daily you see lights on all day.

Maintenance of sporting fields and parks. - Pests on lawns - no catchers - clumps of grass everywhere and in the gutters which eventually end up in the drains when it rains.

Had Council maintained the Parks properly over the past 40 years this much money would not have been required and the rate increase you are seeking would not have been this high and residents support would have been more positive.

Current 3% increase I DO NOT SUPPORT

Kevin Armitage
8 Westland Grove Ballina

Sandra Bailey

From: Glen Wright <glen.seabreeze@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 6:41 AM
Subject: Pool Submission

Glen Wright
LLCP Pty Ltd
Trading As
Ballina Seabreeze Holiday Park
344 South Ballina Beach Road
South Ballina 2478
Phone: 02 66863900
Mobile: 0428863900
Fax: (Ring First) 02 66863900
Email: glen.seabreeze@bigpond.com
Website: www.ballinaseabreeze.com.au
ACN: 105040613
ABN: 15766176597
27 September 2014
Subject: Pool Proposal

I oppose any further increase in rates by the Council. As a business operator these increased costs can't be passed on and will be yet a further cost impost placed on this business by Council.

If Council can't afford this expenditure without further demands from rate payers then Council should either look at cutting costs by sacking staff and reduction in non essential services or not proceeding with pool upgrades beyond what is essential.

Regards,

Glen Wright

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 1 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

11/4 Fox Lane
Ballina.
Sept. 30th 14.

Re: Paul Kickey.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Firstly I would like to thank you
for sending this C. Consultation letter.
I would also have to tell you I am not able to agree
to your special Rate Variation,
I live in Strata with high fees on top of council rates
and find it impossible to pay more.

Thank you very much
Bethel Joseph.

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 12:28 PM
Subject: Submission - Proposed Special Rate Variation

Ian and Judy Sawtell, PO Box 63, Wardell

Definite NO to any further rate increases – people are struggling to pay the rates they have now.

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.

Sandra Bailey

From: Dorothy Saines <dottys.saines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 8:39 AM
Subject: POSSIBLE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

I do not agree to the proposal that Ballina Shire Council should increase our rates for the maintenance of the local pools. Our rates are climbing too much every year. Let the users pay thank you. The Council should have allowed for the maintenance in their budget. Do not hit us rate payers because you have blown your budget. We all have to live within ours, which is not always easy with everything going up in price.

Dorothy Saines
48 Dolphin Drive
West Ballina 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Jann Lelievre <jannk2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 9:15 AM
Subject: Possible special rate variation

Dear Mr Wright,

I do not use the two local pools at alstonville and ballina, preferring to use our lovely beaches instead. I would not be in favour of paying more rates for something I don't use, if it was going towards Kerb and guttering etc for instance in alstonville it would be a different matter. I believe it should be user pay. Yours sincerely Jann le lievre.

Sent from my iPhone

Sandra Bailey

From: Laurel Spuur <curtspuur@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2014 11:41 AM
Subject: pool improvements

Dear Sir/Madam,

As many others in this town we are mere pensioners who live solely on the old age pension and find it difficult to pay the present rate of rates at the present time. We would have never and will never use the pools in either Ballina or Alstonville and am very apposed to the increase in the rates.

I am aware the pools do need improving but there must be other methods of raising the monies required other than hitting the majority of people who don't use the pools. This pools will be for a small percentage of our community and the visitors.

So we are **very strongly** opposed to this method of raising the monies.

yours sincerely

Laurel & Curt Spuur

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Starkey <paul.starkey@frogleysoffshore.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 8:56 AM
Subject: Community consultation - possible Special rate variation-your ref 480-03

Dear Sir

We refer to your letter seeking input as to whether to apply for a general rate increase to pay for pool upgrades in Ballina and Alstonville.

We have received five (5) of these letters so any increase in the general rate would obviously be a large burden to pay and to seek to pass onto tenants.

Whilst we am in favour of the facilities, these facilities are for the use of a minority of ratepayers and residents of the shire. We have not been provided with numbers but would be fairly confident in saying that a large number of users are multiple users and schools.

Our society must rely upon the user pays principle when it comes to these types of assets. We have used and do use the pool in summer, the entrance fees are very modest and should be adjusted and if the adjustment does not fund the facility then one must question the value of the upgrade proposed.

We am against the special rate

Sincerely

Paul Starkey and Lesley Starkey

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 2 OCT 2014

2/17 Marina Pl

Doc No:

Ballina 2476

Batch No:

Ballina Shore Council

Paul Hickey K80-03

29. 9. 14

Dear Sir

Re your letter recently -
It is a good idea but not for me or
my support.

I am already struggling
to pay Rates etc. & am a pensioner
& have no more income to pay MORE.

We are a retirement
community & ^{many} not even able to use
the facilities - due to our health.

Appreciate your letter - its
good to be informed

Yours faithfully
Paul Hickey

a Big 'No'

Thank you

29th Sept 2014.


Ballina Shire Council
P.O. Box 450
Ballina N.S.W. 2478.



Attention Paul Hickey Ref - 480-03.
To Whom it May Concern

Thank you for your letter - Re Community
Consultation - Possible Special Rate Variation

We wish to make it known we are
against any Rate increase to Finance
improvements to the Ballina and Altonville
Swimming Pools.

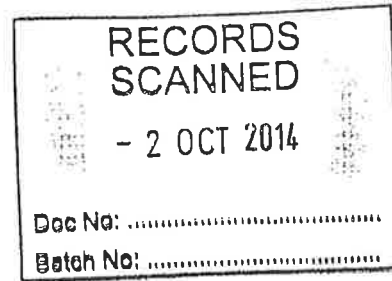
Yours Sincerely,
Adrian & Gloria Bretton
Signed  & G L Bretton

2 Bagot St
Ballina 2478
N.S.W.

30th Sept 2014.

Ballina Shire Council (Pool Proposal)
P O BOX 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Sir / Madam,



Thank you for your letter of the 22nd instant which outlines your pools proposal. I am taking this opportunity to reply to this proposal.

As we are Age Pensioners this increase in rates would cause us some extreme financial hardship to say the least. What with the

- Normal yearly rate increases
- Increasing insurance costs
- Petrol price rises
- Home maintenance costs
- Ever increasing cost of living

All of this and more make it increasingly difficult for people like us on a limited income. The Pension increase of \$8.00 per fortnight per couple is gone before we even get it. This would also apply to many other low income families who are living in rental accommodation as landlords would not absorb these proposed rate increases but simply pass them on to tenants. Low income people are all going to have to do without some basic needs.

The Strategic/Forward Planning Committee should have foreseen this need coming some decade ago and not sprung it on rate payers at the last minute. Their lack of foresight is appalling. If this need had been planned for over the last ten years there would be no need to put forward this proposal at such a late stage.

There is no evidence these improvements will result in any long term usage of the pool facilities. There may be an increase in usage initially but this will, in my opinion, drop off to present levels in the long term. I suspect that only a small percentage of Ballina Shire residents/visitors will benefit from these improvements so why should the whole community have to foot the bill.

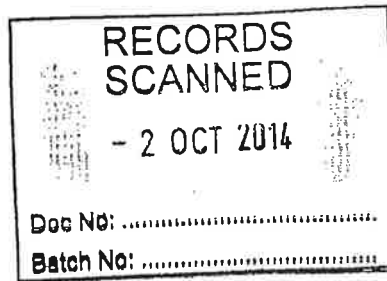
It is only left to the imagination what the Strategic/Forward Planning Committee will come up with after 2016/2017 undoubtedly they will spring another surprise on us. What of the result of this Community Consultation. There is no mention that Council will abide by the result. I suspect that they will go ahead with the proposal regardless of community responses. I suggest that it is not the case that each and every rate payer is financially well off and can afford this proposed rate increase.

Yours sincerely,

Harley Shearer
31 Lakeview Circuit
East Ballina 2478

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harley Shearer". The signature is written over a dotted line that extends to the right.

enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03



22 September 2014



243488

018 / 8932

Mr L D & Mrs W A Cannon
156 Empire Vale Road
EMPIRE VALE NSW 2478

NO

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.

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



Westbridge Properties Dojoo Pty Ltd

A.B.N. 88 887 049 208 A.C.N. 001 891 854

31 North Creek Road, Ballina NSW 2478

Phone 02 6686 8811 Mobile 0427 299 338 Fax 02 6686 9139
office@westbridgeproperties.com.au

Attention Paul Hickey,

RE: Community Consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

Dojoo Pty Ltd and Sam & Tina Pty Ltd own 16 properties within your shire (Lot 1 DP 1146004, Lot 22 DP 633733, Lot 2 DP 527953, Lot 1 DP 867162, Lot 102 DP 859973, Lot 35 Sec 2 DP 11687, Lot 23 DP 816966, Lot 5 Sec 1 DP 11687, Lot 34 Sec 2 DP 11687, Lot 24 DP 1059476, Lot 21-24 DP 712026, Lot 1 DP 122777, Lot 37 DP 260901, Lot 36 DP 260901, Lot 15 DP 790129, Lot 9 DP 554650). Most of these properties are leased to business owners with which I have been in consultation. As you are aware commercial tenants are liable for outgoings.

These small businesses are under extreme pressure in the present market and additional cost will be detrimental to their existence.

We oppose any addition rate increase to cover the swimming pool upgrades.


Regards
Santo Pennisi

Sandra Bailey

From: Alan Rich <alan@alanrich.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 4:40 PM
Subject: submission against a rate increase for pools

Dear General Manager,

This is a submission against any possible special rate variation to pay for swimming pools.

It is well known in local government that swimming pools usually operate at a loss. This has been the case in Ballina as all concerned well know. I support the state government building swimming pools in high schools. I consider this present responsibility of services to be in effect cost shifting. Primarily though I consider the cost of pools to be beyond the capacity of Ballina Shire Council to afford.

It is contradictory council policy to expect some items of council infrastructure to be 'user pays' and yet ask rate payers to foot the bill for pools which will never operate at user pays rates simply because, as you well know, people will not patronise swimming pools if the full costs were to be apportioned to the users. For example, a facility which I strongly supported, the Lennox Head community centre, has lost the Lennox Head Residents Association as a hirer because the fees for its use were too high. This is an example of trying to get money out of residents for infrastructure that should be considered part of community infrastructure, not the domain of real estate agency style management. Swimming pools should be in the same category in my view. However, if council cannot afford to budget for their building and maintenance then it is not appropriate in this circumstance to expect the shire at large to accept additional rate rises.

This is not a policy I can support because Ballina Shire Council does not have the capacity to afford it.

Furthermore, my rates are already too high due to the NSW government policy of basing them on land value. This is user pays in reverse. As a resident and property owner since the mid 1980s I have been the recipient of increasing land values for years. However, my ability to pay rates during that time has travelled in the other direction. All the more so having spent 9 years on council and receiving councillor fees that in no way reflected the responsibility of the position nor the time spent exercising those responsibilities. As a ratepayer receiving an aged pensioner's discount, my rates would still be inequitably affected by the proposed special variation. Why should I pay more than others for facilities that cannot pay for themselves and, quite arguably, should be provided by other levels of government?

The bottom line is that I will be more adversely affected than others due to the method of LG rate determination for council infrastructure that will ALWAYS operate at a loss, that the luxury of having swimming pools is beyond the means of this council to afford, and that, as a result, it is unfair and inequitable for council to ask ratepayers to reach into their pockets for subsidies.

How about just building a rock pool in front of the new surf lifesaving club at Lighthouse beach to replace the Ballina pool instead?

Yours in good government,

Alan Rich

Evelyn Rich

543 The Coast Road

Lennox Head

17 Racecourse Road
Ballina 2478

Dear Mr Wright

In reply to your letter I strongly object to my rates rising to pay for renovations to the swimming pool.

Having lived here for over 25 years I have never used the pool. My children are adults and swim in the surf and I have no grandchildren in Australia. As I am an aged pensioner the burden of fending my rate payments is difficult enough without owing to it by higher payments.

Yours Sincerely

Yvonne Williamson

RECORDS SCANNED
- 3 OCT 2014
Doc No:
Batch No:

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 3 OCT 2014

Doc No:

Page No:

42 Montwood Drive,
Lennox Head. 2478.
2 October, 2014.

The Mayor,
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Sir,

I am replying to your letter of 22 Sept. about raising rates to improve two swimming pools.

I have lived here since 2003 + my impression is that the Council does a good job in maintaining the town + providing basic services. However, rates are already high + I oppose this increase for the following reasons:

- Staff salaries are exorbitantly high
- The provision of staff cars is apparently over-lavish.
- Council should use some of the money locked up in real estate investments, eg a "steel factory" ??!
- Obviously you have made some very large mistakes, e.g. the ridiculous design of the Lennox Head Community Centre, + will probably do so again.
- As an ex-librarian, I particularly notice the over-staffing at Ballina Library, + the way it shuts for horse races! Senior library staff should be appointed for a fixed-term contract, eg 5 years, not for life. Also there should be a public investigation of the huge cost to ratepayers of providing free electricity to the hundreds of people ~~not~~ using electronic devices who use the libraries for that reason only.

So instead of raising rates, I think you should use some of the surplus funds from the unnecessary expenditure listed above.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs) Margaret Lowe.