

G W LIMBERT

28 COOKE AVE ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

26/09/2014

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

PO BOX 450 BALLINA NSW 2478

Mr Paul Hickey

Hello Sir: * Re: Possible special rate variation / swimming pools improvements.

Following discussions with a small number of older rate payers, I feel compelled to make some comments on the said proposal.

(1) Whilst it may not come as a surprise to be told, that most rate payers will no doubt be opposed to parting with their money. I do feel that an extra 2.5 % (\$25-\$35 ?) is not a lot of money, but is still difficult to find, particularly for someone on a small fixed income who may never use the facility anyway. I personally would have to give up something to find this money, (*to basically subsidise someone else's pleasure.*).

(2) I acknowledge & concede that these pools are probably overdue for some maintenance. I do however have reservations on the perceived need for a number of the listed luxuries. In particular the extra swimming lanes. I believe that the User (competitor) should pay for to provide / use these lanes and some of the upgrades.

(3) Back when the Alstonville pool was built. The then Tintenbar shire council got the Alstonville pool for next to nothing. *Alas- The Tintenbar shire council & the Ballina municipality council were soon after amalgamated to form "Ballina Shire".* Please be reminded that this Alstonville pool was largely funded by private fundraising. Said fundraising so successful that the surplus monies were also handed over to the Tintenbar shire council. *(I wonder what was these \$\$\$ used FOR !! ?).*

(*) My point is, Ballina shire got the Alstonville pool from its residents, ratepayers & our friends for a song. Too be asked to pay again, particularly for capital works, for a facility which many of us have not or are ever likely to use, is in my opinion repugnant.

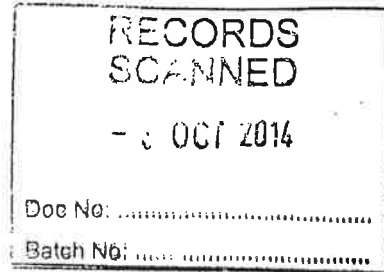
* *It is indeed, ironic that the council has elected not to participate in a ("council clean-up". Refer ". futures forum, item 3, ") One of the reasons given is cost " every person who pays, a charge to council for a service. even though they may never use it". Suggests that such a charge would be unfair.*

I agree, user should pay. -- My parallel argument, I feel that about the swimming pools.

...Should this / my objection fall into the no basket. # May I suggest; too - exempt pensioners from ALL of this possible extra charge/ impost.l.

Regards;

 1



Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2014 12:02 PM
Subject: RE: Feedback for Rate Variation

Spoke to Michelle

Her dad does not support as a pensioner – One suggestion was to make it a voluntary contribution

Brisbane Council did something similar with a hall upgrade.

Please register thanks

From: Sue Boardman
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2014 10:08 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: Feedback for Rate Variation

Could you please phone Guerroin Serrafin – 66281266

Re: He wants to leave feedback on the special rate variation

You will probably speak to his daughter Michelle, as she is the one who rang

Sue Boardman
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



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

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Recher <precher@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Saturday, 4 October 2014 6:48 AM
Subject: submission

Seeking an additional 2.5% in rates to cover pool costs underscores the inept economic management of council. Such costs are part an parcel of general revenue.

If council can not afford everything it wants to do it must cut back the size of their wanted pie and stick to budget. There are many other options from closing the pool down, to removing cars from staff and replace with salary in lieu. The fact that no staff member opts for salary instead of car proves monies can be saved by eliminating cars from staff. Reduce staff salary payload by 150,000 and there is your money to pay a loan for pool costs to charging developers appropriate fees to pay for the necessary infrastructure and maintenance.

--

GOD IS A PSYCHOPATH

Paul Recher



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Sandra Bailey

From: Nicky <nickerboker3@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 4 October 2014 9:23 PM
Subject: Pool Proposal.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Ballina rate payer I am not in favour of our rate increase to subsidise the upgrade of local pools, we have already had an increase in our rates in the last 10 years which I believe was to help pay for the new Community centre in Lennox which was so over the top and expensive, very few people use the pools so it is unfair to make rate payers contribute towards upgrades, if people want a heated pool they have the access to the privately owned pool off Ross Lane.

Regards
Nicola Baker
Front Office

Sandra Bailey

From: Gary <tis_me@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 5 October 2014 9:28 AM
Subject: No to rate increase

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am not in favour of an additional rate increase. I am a pensioner and can cope with my bills but I have to be careful.

Council needs to work within its current budget. If can't manage assets within budge, I suggest a user pays policy.

Yours sincerely,
Marjorie Baker

Sandra Bailey

From: Lyndoch on the Lake <lyndochlake@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 5 October 2014 10:06 AM
Subject: NO NO NO NO NO

THE ANSWER IS NO !!!!

Sandra Bailey

From: Yale Knudson <yale.knudson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 6 October 2014 4:31 PM
Subject: Submission To Reject Council 2.5% Pool Levy

Dear Sir/Madam

Please be aware that I overwhelmingly reject the proposal to increase council rates to support works at the Ballina and Alstonville pools.

As a ratepayer, it's concerning that the council would impose a levy given there is ample funds tied up in commercial property.

Kind regards
Yale Knudson

--

Yale Knudson
0431862944

Sandra Bailey

From: leoniepgenders@bigpond.com
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 9:43 AM
Subject: NO - Re rate increase

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you in regards to my Mother's vote, I am her Power of Attorney and as such can do this.

She is soon to be 90 and lives in a villa at 1/26 Linderman Street, Ballina.

May I just point out I live in the middle of the Gold Coast and my mother's rates are just short of what I pay in a City, and the city which is to host the next Commonwealth Games!!!

Has anyone done any studies into the number of people who visit both of these pools? And how many Olympians have come out of Ballina in the swimming field?

I believe you would do well to engage a FINANCIAL PLANNER who maybe better suited to balancing the books.

My mother at 90 should not have to suffer such a rate increase, simply to satisfy a SMALL group of people.

So, the answer is NO, to a rate increase.

Yours sincerely
Leonie Genders

Sandra Bailey

From: Wendy Peters <waywend@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2014 10:24 AM
Subject: Re: Rate increase

To whom it may concern

I think the amount quoted for repairs to Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools is excessive – to charge all ratepayers for this is unfair as only a small percentage of residents use these facilities, and it will make it extremely difficult for most aged pensioners with such an increase.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. Pamela P. Hyde
Home-Owner
165 Ballina Road,
Alstonville. NSW 2477

66 Marton Street
Ballina 2478.
2-10-14.

The Mayor
Ballina Shire Council,

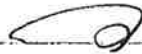
Dear Sir, re community consultation
possible special rate variation.

as a rate payer since 1954 (1951) I feel
I must write to you and strongly protest
against the proposed raise in rates to
improve Ballina & Alstonville swimming pools.

It would be disgusting to even consider
raising rates for the pools while these
are far more needy projects such as the
marine Rescue Tower, also a large
indoor youth facility - I would
be happy to pay extra rates
for these two projects to be
erected first, and then the pools.

yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Margaret L. Leadbetter



K.W& L.J.Locke,
2/4 High Street,
Alstonville 2477.

Ballina Council C.E.O.
Re -- Possible Special Rate variation.

My wife and I are against the rate increase for the repairs and alterations of the swimming pools at Alstonville and Ballina as the majority of people who live in this area do not use the pools. We suggest that it should be user pays not every rate payer.
6 years ago our Council cost dated 2008-9 was \$859-52 to day 2014-15 is \$22264-09 a rise of \$1404-57 which is a rise of 163% we do not want it to go up another rise in the next 4 years, other than the normal 3% allowed.
Council could save cost in other areas such as not installing a fluidation plant or selling off some of your Real Estate.

Yours faithfully


Kevin Locke

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 7 OCT 2014

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

212 West Ave
Alhambra
2370

2/10/14

Palline Shore Council

Dear Sir

In reply to the questionair
re the swimming pools.

My wife and I have owned a house
in Pallina since 1982 and we have
never used a swimming pool, we
have found the surf and creek quite
adequate. We feel the \$8m. improvement
under the present circumstances quite
inappropriate, I believe there is a heated
pool in Pallina and in the Pallina
climate one has to question the need
for one. We are both against the
huge expenditure and at the increase
in rates which are quite high enough
already. We feel the user should pay
on such a selective infrastructure

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- 7 OCT 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

Y
Faithfully
Jeremy Aduse
JEREMY ANDERSON

Peter & Helen Mortenson
3 Bernard Street
Ballina NSW 2478
Telephone: 02 66815724
Email: peterandhelen@live.com.au

RECORDS SCANNED - 7 OCT 2014 Doc No..... Batch No.....
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Ballina Shire Council
P O Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Re: Community Consultation - Possible Special Rate Variation.

* * *

We do not support the imposition of the proposed rate levee by Ballina Council to fund the upgrades/improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville Swimming Pools.

Our submission, in brief, is that it is demonstrably unfair for rate-payers alone to be expected to shoulder the financial burden of this proposal.

We do not object to the concept of special levees being applied to those projects and/or services which will directly benefit the **entire** community, but in our view, Council's pool facilities do not cater for the needs of a significant number of rate-payers - i.e. the elderly and those who use other swimming facilities, such as privately owned pools, etc.

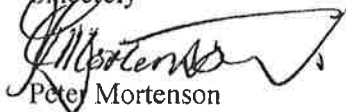
Bearing in mind local demographics, rate-paying pensioners and self-funded retirees represent a large proportion of those who will be adversely affected by this levee (many of whom currently struggle to make ends meet). Most will not use these facilities, or derive any direct benefit from this proposal. Amongst those who *would* benefit however, are tourists, caravan park dwellers, renters and other non-rate-paying residents.

Local businesses should not be excluded. They would derive financial benefit from increased visitor numbers and should also be asked to contribute.

In our view, the "fund raising" should be spread across the entire community and include a greater emphasis on the "user pays" concept, as well as exploring other possible sources of revenue.

Clearly, this proposal is an indictment of successive Councils in respect of their historical failures in the area of strategic planning and financial management. The need for these upgrades should have been patently obvious for decades and the neglect of past Councils to address these issues in a systematic and timely manner displays gross ineptness, at best.

Sincerely


Peter Mortenson


Helen Mortenson

enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014

RECEIVED
7 OCT 2014
COUNTER



109901 018 / 10713
Mrs J L Thornhill
63 Bentinck Street
BALLINA NSW 2478

*I am not agreeable to any increase in my Rates for any reasons. Am 86 yrs old & being it tough, right now. Sincerely
Jill Thornhill*

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



66 Martin Street

Ballina 2478.

2-10-14.

The Mayor
Ballina Shire Council,

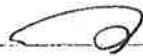
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yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Margaret L. Leadbetter



RECORDS
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- 8 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

15 Clare Street
Alstonville 2477
2nd October 2014

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

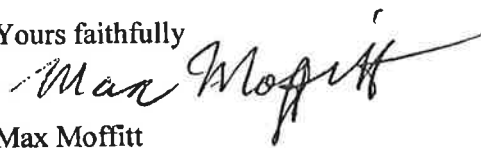
POSSIBLE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

We would like councilors to experience the sheer exasperation that pensioners feel with annual increases in council rates.

I enclose a copy of my letter dated 4th March 2013 which is always relevant,

If this special rate becomes real, people in our situation should be exempted. We are well into our eighties and would have no interest in the council swimming pools.

Yours faithfully



Max Moffitt

COPY

15 Clare Street
Alstonville 2477
4th March 2013

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

COUNCIL RATES CHARGES

In 2002 my wife and I retired to our present home. We are both in our eighties but still active. We are on full pensions. The present policy of our government is to encourage people in our situation to stay in their homes with assistance provided when the need arises. This is our intention as we have no desire to enter a retirement village.

Since our retirement, living costs have risen substantially. Pension increases have helped to partially meet these increases. Currently, electricity and insurance have had large increases but our council rates have risen from \$550 in 2002 to \$1537 in the current rate year and expected to rise further for 2013-2014. The current sewer charge is a major contribution.

Such increases make it very difficult for us to feel secure in our own home for the future, as is our wish.

It may seem trite to suggest that Ballina Council should have a social conscience in this matter but there must be many people in our position.

I do not know on what basis the pension discount is applied but an increase in that basis would help.

We have always appreciated councils efforts for the community and realize the need for more funds but do ask that due consideration be given to people in our situation.

Yours faithfully

Max Moffitt

Cc: David Wright.

RECORDS
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- 8 OCT 2014

Doc No

Batch No

30th Sept 2014

Ballina Shire Council

P.O Box 450

Ballina NSW 2478

To Whom it may concern

Thank you for your letter - Re
Community Consultation

Possible Special Rate Variation

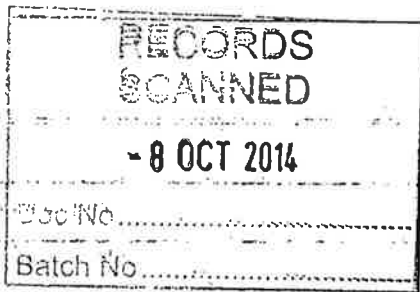
I wish to make it known I am
against any rate increase to finance
any improvements to Ballina &
Alstonville Swimming Pools.

Yours sincerely

A. Thomas

4 Bagot St

Ballina 2478



31 Panorama Dr.
Altonville 2477

7.10.14

Dear Sir, 480-03

In reply to your circular 22.9.14 regarding 'water rises', I wish to voice my opinion loud & clear. If people want heated pools let them pay for it.

Having lived in Altonville for almost 20 years, we have seen & accepted a rate rise almost every year, over the years we have also accepted the fact that we are without public transport, we are without hard rubbish collection. We pay our water, but still pay to dump rubbish.

There are streets in Altonville without kerbing & guttering.

If I use excess electricity, I pay for it, if I use excess water, I pay for it, so please let people who use the pools, pay for them.

I understand your argument, that money from our rates is allocated for general repairs & upkeep, but may I suggest you get your priorities straight, before you spend our money on things that at least 75% of our residents will never use.

Yours Sincerely
J Eastgate

Judy Browning
16 Savla St.
Ballua.

Dear Mr. Hickey,

Re: Pool Upgrade & Rate Variation.

Please don't spoil our beautiful pool with its expansive grassed areas & lovely palms.

We use the pool nearly everyday in the summer, my granddaughter does squad with Frances & I swim 3 times a week & we spend nearly every Sunday at the pool (even though I have my own pool)

My granddaughter always meets lots of children there to play with & I read a book & swim & I always love the atmosphere there. Beside the river, the sailing boats going past & the palms blowing in the wind. Lots of the kids just run around on the grass & then jump in the pool playing.

We don't need anything more, no more undercover shade buildings, more umbrellas will work.

No to undercover, No to heating it (we have alternate heated pools already)

No to more lanes & no to Bar-B-Ques (we don't need to provide those & us having to smell dead animal being cooked)

It is a fabulous pool as it is, they

even made a movie there. Lets keep it the best Retro pool around, keep it maintained & keep all that grass & open space.

Please don't turn it into a horrendous monstrosity like happened at the skate park childrens play ground. That was a lovely play space untill they built that airplane hanger over the swings. Now it is covered in shade, it is cold, the wind roars through & it is ugly. No sense of joy there any more.

Let some private developer build another pool — not up to us — we don't have to provide for everybody's whims.

I haven't even started on the increase of rates & don't want to pay extra, but my main concern is losing what we have. It's a fun, happy, beautiful place as it is.

Sincerely Judy A. Browning
66 866 593.

Dear Ballina Council,

Monday 29th of September 2014

We do NOT agree to another rate increase to pay for a upgrade to the Alstonville and Ballina swimming pools. We do not use these pools and never will. Why should we have to pay for a pool we don't use? I have lived here since 2006 and have never used these pools. I suggest that you ask the rate payers that use these pools to pay for the upgrades. Asking Rate payers to pay for something they will never use is asking too much. Where does the council think people like us come up with money to pay for higher rates? It is difficult to pay bills now, without having to worry about paying more in rates. No Thank You!

J. Irwin 5/33 Tamar Street Ballina

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- 9 OCT 2014
Doc No:
Page No:

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

29 Mellis Circuit
Alstonville NSW.2477

2 October 2014

Dear Mr Hickey,

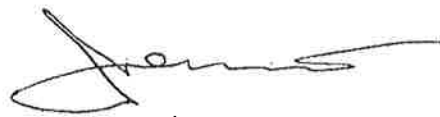
The Mayor's letter of 22 September sought comment on Council possibly applying for an increase in the general rate to finance improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

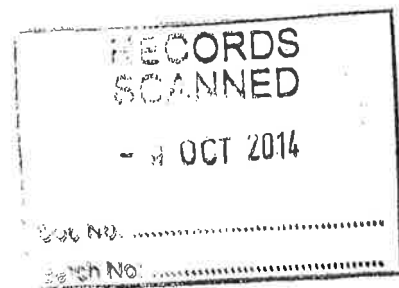
We are totally opposed to that action for the following reasons:-

- 1) The proposed special increases of 5.5% over two years are almost double the average annual rate increase which seems to be excessive.
- 2) Surely the user pay principle should be applied in this situation by increasing pool entrance rates with Council supplying any differences in the estimated costs from general revenue.
- 3) If these situations are so urgent now why wasn't provision made for these renovations in previous budgets?
- 4) Any special rate increases awarded to Council keeps compounding in the future. Rates would not proportionately decrease beyond 2016/17.
- 5) Council was recently granted approval for a special rate increase for other purposes. How many more times will Council follow this course?
- 6) We have lived in Mellis Circuit Alstonville since 1982. We understand it was previously part of the Crawford Park estate which was developed by Council. Thus Council decided not to install kerb and guttering and Council has not provided those essentials since that time. Consequently mothers/fathers with strollers and prams and other residents walking to the shopping area must walk on the road especially in wet weather which is very dangerous. Matters such as that should surely take priority over swimming pool renovations.

Yours sincerely,


Helen Johnston


Ray Johnston



2/12 Patricia Pasche

Lennox Rd 2478

7-10-14

Dear Mr Mayor,

In reply to your letter
regarding the funding of the swimming pools
as I am a non swimmer I am not in
favor of paying more rates for something
I don't use.

after the last rates rise
its not getting any easier specially with
power bills - gas bills going up.

My family don't use the
pools either they go to the lake & the Beach.

Yours Truly,

Andy Anne Tiel (Mrs)

RECORDS
SCANNED

- 5 OCT 2014

Doc NO:

Page NO:

enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014

RECORDS
SCANNED

10 OCT 2014

Doc No:

Catch No:



231677

040 / 14797

Ms J W Berry
19 Station Road
RIVERVIEW QLD 4303

ALL OF THESE PROPOSED 'IDEAS' COULD BE BUDGETTED IN COMING OR PAST YEARS. LIKE ANY HOUSEHOLD. HOWEVER YOU SEEM TO NOT BE ABLE TO DO THIS. SO YOU THINK BY SENDING THIS BEGGING LETTER
Dear Ratepayer
- YOU ARE CONSULTING WITH THE COMMUNITY.

Re: Community Consultation – Possible Rate Variation

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

These two swimming pools were built in the early 1980s. The existing infrastructure is ageing and the operating costs are continually increasing, with large bills for the replacement of the existing plant and equipment in the pools. Council is now planning to review the existing infrastructure and to determine whether the facilities available at the swimming pools should be enhanced.

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

- Improved lighting at the Alstonville pool *- NEVER USED*
- Improved play areas *- HAVE NO CHILDREN*
- Improved pools *- NEVER USED*
- Improved BBQ facilities *- NO NEED*
- Improved seating and shaded structures *- WILL NEVER USE*
- Improved disabled access and facilities *- WOULD HAVE BEEN BUDGET BALANCE*
- Additional lanes to meet competition swimming standards. *- NO INTEREST WILL NEVER USE.*

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

As many of these items require the upgrading of the existing facilities, we are now consulting the community to ask as to whether you would apply for a special variation to the rate increase we receive each year.

On average, Council rates increase 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 (and these improvements in an additional 2.5% over two years).

Under this proposed works program for 2015/16, the improvements would be funded by loans. The extra 2.5% each year in rate increase (i.e. above the 3% annual rate increase) would then finance the repayments. If this extra rate income is approved we would plan to undertake the 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
Astonville 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

AS A LOCAL COUNCIL IT SEEMS YOU
NEED TO BE ABLE TO BUDGET THE
PAYMENTS & REVENUE YOU ARE
NOW RECEIVING. I AM HAVING
DIFFICULTY KEEPING UP WITH YOUR
DEMANDS OF PAYMENT EVEN NOW
PLEASE RECONSIDER & DO BUSINESS BETTER.

Sandra Bailey

From: hans seeburg <hseeburg@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2014 2:38 PM
Subject: WRITTEN SUBMISSION

I totally oppose and disagree with the proposed application to the State Government for a general increase of council rates to finance improvements to Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

The costs for maintenance and updating/improvements should be earned by a increase of entry fees for people who use the facility, and not by normal rate payers who never use it.

Kind Regards

Hans Seeburg, 36 Grant Street, Ballina hseeburg@bigpond.com

Sandra Bailey

From: tovemast@bigpond.com
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 8:51 AM
Subject: rates levy

Attention Paul Hickey

I am amazed by the proposal. I am a resident of Tintenbar and it appears some areas of Ballina shire are more equal than other areas. Tintenbar has been promised that repairs on a building at the oval will be done, that promise was made at least 12 months ago, no action as yet. Local tradesmen even offered their services, but due to insurance regulations their help has been declined. {some of these tradesmen were involved in the initial construction of this building}

I was the chairperson of the Tintenbar Trust for many years, we handed the trustee arrangement to Ballina Shire, we were led to believe that council could access more grants for venue maintenance and improvement. It was pointed out that the oval would provide a recreational space in the Tintenbar area at little expense to the shire { council has had to build recreational spaces in other parts of the shire using developers contributions, no doubt some of that money coming from Tintenbar developments}

Residents of Tintenbar have demonstrated they are prepared to volunteer their services for many shire projects { 2 Citizens of the Year in the last 3 years reside at Tintenbar} we have this impression that because we don't complain we are forgotten. I am not anti having the pools updated, but I am annoyed that critical work in our area is continually placed on the waiting list.

My wife and I plus other local residents still spend time trying to keep the venue in order.

Urgent action is required for public safety, mowing is only being partly done This venue is used by people from throughout the shire. Evan Connick

Sandra Bailey

From: miloudamat <miloudamat@bigpond.com>
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 8:57 PM
Subject: Fw: Written Submission - Possible Special Rate Variation.

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
Ballina
NSW 2478.

Re: Proposed Special Rate Variation.

Dear Sir,

I wish to strongly object to any rate variation to finance improvements to Ballina and Alstonville Pools.

Council needs to go back to basics, roads, rates and rubbish.

All most residents want is to be able to travel around the shire and to enjoy what is on offer. The present state of some of our shire roads is appalling, let alone embarrassing, it seems the village roads are in another class compared to those around Ballina and Lennox Areas.

If one is to travel out Wardell Road to our "Tourist Attractions" that is either the Maze or Summerland House, one has to drive on a road that has more patches on it, than it does have houses adjacent to same. A quick inspection will show that the road has in actual fact failed. Yet this road was subject to a road fatality, yet nothing has been done to improve the surface. The same cannot be said for Ross Lane where the road was resurfaced, yet council did not remove the main problem on the latest fatal section, the double bend within the corner.

To travel on our poorly dilapidated roads brings with it the risk of pot holes, broken surface, poor alignment, let alone damage to tyres, rims, shocks and wheel alignment.

I have attended the gym next to the Alstonville pool for the last 5 years consistently in the early morning, and view the pool in all its glory, last Tuesday week at 7.15 am there was one person at the Pool, with several staff and one dog. There is no way the pool will ever pay its way with such attendance rates. Why has council not allocated funds in past years for such improvements, it is noted funds seem to be allocated to new council vehicles each year.

Most other sporting facilities such as Geoff Watt Oval and others, have had both financial and physical input from the sporting groups on a regular basis, with funds contributed along with many man hours of voluntary input over many years.

Council needs to look closely at its assets and make facilities like the Alstonville, Lennox Head and Ballina community centres, commercial premises to name only a few, actually run at a profit.

How much does council allocate to resurfacing gravel roads year after year after year, only to have them wash out, as recently happened in Shaw's Lane, these roads in my opinion have a higher priority than that of our pools.

Michael Hogan
Ellis Road
Alstonville.

_____ Information from ESET Smart Security, version of virus signature database 10535 (20141009)

The message was checked by ESET Smart Security.

<http://www.eset.com>

_____ Information from ESET Smart Security, version of virus signature database 10535 (20141009)

The message was checked by ESET Smart Security.

<http://www.eset.com>

Sandra Bailey

From: DOVEDALE <dovedale@iprimus.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2014 6:27 AM
Subject: Pool Proposal Rate increase

Councillors,

I am a self funded retiree and I am dead against such a related extra rate increase. As a self funded retiree we get hardly any benefit or help out of the Council, State Government or or Federal Government. From the 3 tiers of government (Local Government not being even recognised in the Real Australian Constitution) it is always gimme, gimme, gimme for ever expanding " new good smart " ideas. Some of my reasons for being dead against the increase are.

1. I simply can't afford it.
 2. It would appear there is a clique that is doing very well out of Council rates at the expense of full ratepayers.
 3. One of the things that is bankrupting the 3 tiers of Government and causing the selloff of assets is that at most levels remuneration and retirement packages of public servants (politicians and department chiefs head the list) are unaffordably high. My cousin is a lynch pin in a central western NSW Council and told me the increase in senior staff remuneration, packages, contracts over the last 30 years has been obscene and unaffordable. At a state level I know of several teachers who have substantial pensions, live in mansions/farms who own multiple rental properties and who have been retired since turning 55 - this all feeds into overall societal bankruptcy we see occurring throughout Australia today. And we haven't even talked about corruption's part.
 4. There are too many people (pensioners, aboriginals, etc) getting freebies and not paying their way. The system can no longer afford it. Some pensioners are getting away with blue murder on the public purse.
 5. In the 9 years I have lived in the Shire there has been an explosion in the workforce, consultants, contractors and new equipment. At some stage someone has to say enough is enough.
 6. The world economy is very fragile and looking like collapsing. If we get a severe extended recession (DEPRESSION) Council workers and staff will have to expect pay/remuneration cuts and redundancies. Rate payers won't have jobs or be able to afford to foot the bill of Council extravagance. The time to pull the head in is now.
 7. A lot of damage has already been done. Already too much money has been paid out to a select few, how do you undo plush contracts/packages? Why can't Ballina have a rubbish dump scheme similar to the one at Woy Woy - there is a suitable nearby (to Ballina) area. No more cheap selloff of valuable assets please.
 8. let user pays be the principle. No more freebies.
- As I said I am against any extra impost - the current rates are bad enough.
- Yours faithfully,

Max Bolte BScAgr. 5 Amber Drive, Lennox Head, ph66877418

PS I think I calculated my last years's rates increased by 5.8%

7 Harbourview Street
East Ballina NSW 2478

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
40 Cherry St
Ballina NSW 2478
poolproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

10 October 2014

Dear Sir,

RE: Swimming Pools and Special Rate Variation.

I am AGAINST any special increase in our rates for works at the swimming pools.

Council refers to the age of the pools and the infrastructure; this has been long known and should have been budgeted for by the council over the years.

The pools are more than adequate for the needs of those members of the public that wish to use the pools for sport or recreation. An enhancement of facilities should not take place if it means an increase in our rates.

Upgrades of council infrastructure are something that the council should budget for within its normal income no precedent should be set for an increase in the rates for a specific purpose because this may well become an ongoing pattern of the council.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Tredoux', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michelle Tredoux

Sandra Bailey

From: Kate Johnston <katej1960@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 12 October 2014 2:34 PM
Subject: Pools Proposal

I am writing on behalf of my mother who is an elderly resident in Wollongbar.

Dear Sir/madam,

I would like to express my objection to the rate rise on the following grounds.

I am a 76 year old single pensioner and I do not use these facilities.

I strongly believe it should be 'user pays' - there are many people in this area who rent who use these facilities but don't pay rates. Likewise many older residents who pay rates but don't use these facilities, like myself and many of my friends.

A rate rise to cover these costs would be very unfair.

Regards

Kath Johnston

for and on behalf of my mother, Shirley Carbis.

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 11:16 AM
Subject: FW: objection to special rate increase

Please register.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robyn Hordern
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2014 11:14 AM
To: Paul Hickey
Subject: objection to special rate increase

Hello there Paul

Just had a long talk with a very nice lady called Maree - she is very happy with the improvement to the pools but feels that it is unreasonable to ask for a special rate increase Her point is that she sees waste by council and unnecessary expense that if used more wisely would cover this cost She specifically mentioned the surf club and an awning muted to be being constructed at council cost for the cafe ??

The need and cost of the generator at the surf club and at Ballina Heights and their huge monthly costs ??

The lack of income for such a long time for the Wigmore Arcade - and the question of a realistic re opening date ??

The lack of community space - ie community centre The lack of parking for all day workers Robyn

Sent from my iPad

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2014 12:44 PM
Subject: Rate Proposal

Ken Frankham

Does not support rate rise – users should pay for the facility

Paul Hickey
General Manager
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 66864444 | f: 0266867035 | m: 0415683339

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Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2014 9:27 AM
Subject: Rate increase

Anonymous phone call from a ratepayer – absolutely ridiculous idea – there will be a riot if this goes ahead.

He heard the Mayor speaking at the Lennox Market yesterday – he is not in favour of what he was saying.

He suggested that if we wanted to raise money that we get rid of all the lazy employees who are continually seen sitting in trucks, eating food, scoffing cups of tea, waiting for knock off time. The ratepayers are sick to death of this.

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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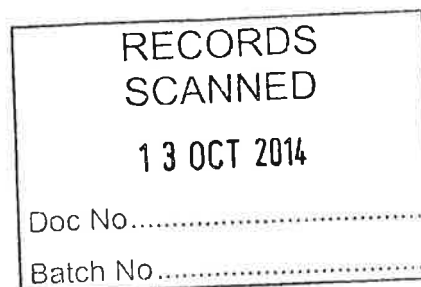
112 TANAMERA DRIVE
13th OCTOBER 2014

BALLINAH SHIRE COUNCIL,

As a rate payer am not in favour of a rate extra rate rise to pay for the up keep of swimming pools. It should be user pays. If not after 40 or more years there should be enough monies from those who have used them to pay for up keep. Why should rate payers for some thing we don't need or use. There are more thing that need fixing. Pools are for fools to use to drown kids in. So go through with this foolish endeavor

Yours
Thomas S Weab

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



To the Councillors and Shire Staff

Re : POOLS PROPOSAL

You will no doubt be aware of Lismore C.C.'s experience of up-grading their pool. Better facilities does not necessarily equate to increased use by patrons.

Ballina has the sea on the two sides of a large river estuary, which does its best to encroach into town, storm-water drains permitting. We are surrounded by sub-tropical water-ways, and recent studies of the Southern Ocean suggest that oceans presently absorb 90% of the excess heat associated with continuing global warming.

How many people do we have in the shire, 50,000 and we already have two Olympic size pools. Taryn Lynden arguably the best swimmer to come out of this shire in recent times, he did the most of his training in the ocean. People drive to Byron Bay to swim from Wattigoes or the Pass to the club house; some swim it every day of the year.

Ballina has magnificent natural water-ways like Shaws Bay, Prospect Lakes, and the river adjacent to the Serpentine or the carpark east of Missingham bridge. The shire already pays for life-saving services. It is only swim coaches and mothers wanting a cheap a child minding service that want heated pools and covered facilities. Take an umbrella, wear a hat, and make do with what you have got. If you think it is bad, have a swim in Casino's pool in October, you will get a lane to yourself, or Kyogle's pool if it has water in it.

The proposal panders to the sporting elite, who have the time to spend comparing facilities in cities with populations in the hundreds of thousands. We do not need it.

Yours faithfully



I D McCallum

18 Kyla Street
Alstonville
NSW 2477

Telephone: 02 66287044
Email: imccallumid@dodo.com.au

Sandra Bailey

From: ashroff deen <adeen@optusnet.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2014 12:19 AM
Subject: Re: possible special Rate Variation

Dear Paul Hickey and Councillors

In reference to the rate increase, I am opposed to any additional rate increases although I am a land owner, I do not generate an income from it. I purchased the land in 2008 for a sum of 180,000. Two years ago I relocated to Melbourne and since then I have had my block up for sale. I am however, in a greatly disadvantaged position with the developers due to the \$25,000 grant that makes it attractive to the home buyer. In order to compete with them, I have had to reduce the price to \$165,000, as a rate payer what compensation is the council offering me the land owner?

If you still want to pursue redeveloping the swimming pool, please advise your dam CEO to come up with a different plan, how about user pay and insist on the CEO and the councillors take a pay cut,? Show the community you genuinely care right now as many people in the community regard the councillors as parasites, here is your chance to eradicate that perception, GOOD LUCK.

Best regards,
Ashroff Deen

Sandra Bailey

From: Kevin.Schaefer@essentialenergy.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2014 8:16 AM
Subject: Possible Special Rate Variation 480-03

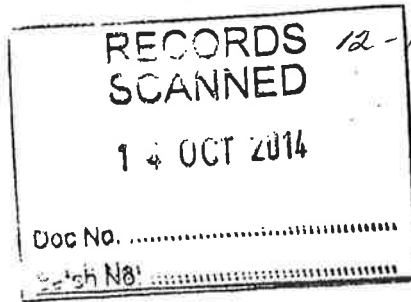
Paul Hickey

Hi I DO NOT want a rate increase to finance the pools.
Increase the entry price so the people who use them pay not the people who don't.

Regards
Kevin Schaefer

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.
#####

41 Parkland Drive
Alstonville N.S.W



The Manager
Ballina Shire Council
Mr Paul Hickey
Dear Sir

Regarding council's request for a rate rise to be able to update the two swimming pools, I am sorry but I can't agree to such a proposition. As it is, rates increase often, but income does not,

it
will be extremely hard, without an extra cost, even though there are pensioner concessions. I am sure this story would apply to many retirees in the Ballina shire, who wish to stay in their own home.

As much as I support the updating of the pools, I consider our rates to be sufficient to

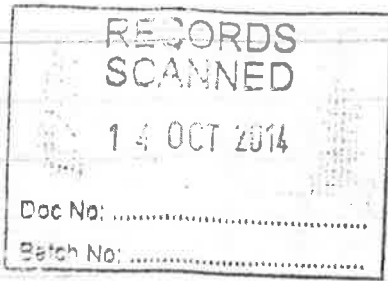
cover these costs, & the council income could often be spent in better ways.

For instance, the cost of fluoridating our water, which I, & many others are against, it being a poison, & the fact that our opinion is being sought on the rates, but never was on the fluoride. As it is, we were given no choice, & the huge amount of money spent on it could have solved many of the Shire's problems.

To stay in my own home as I age, is my desire, & to do that costs money for extra help which I am already paying with some difficulty, & any extra burden in future would be very hard.

So sorry, but this is my opinion on any rate rise above the normal rates.

Yours Faithfully
Mrs B. M. Evans



John & Wendy Wright
58 Tuttle Drive
Lennox Head.
10-10-14.

Paul Dickey.
Quote 480-03

Re Ballina / Alstonville Pools.

We are 100% Against
Ratepayers subsidising the cost
of the upgrades to these Pools.

1 Sell some of Council's ^{many} Assets
to Pay for these improvements.

2 Maybe increase Entry to
the minority of Ratepayers
who use ~~the~~ pools.

3 Everybody knows Once Rates
Rise They Never go Down.

John & Wendy
Wright

Mayor
C. David Wright
Ballina

"Palma" ["]
151 North Lakes
Kennox Road
N.S.W 2478

Dear Sir,

With regard for your
proposal for financing the
Swimming Pool proposal.

I am not in favour of
using the provision of money
for these enterprises by
raising our already high
enough Rates.

The Council may be able
to utilize the charging
of an entrance fee for the
use of these pools.

With Kind Regards
Yours Sincerely

Suzanne C. McElmyer

No 480-03 Ballina Loan Not
Afford higher rates

Dear Ratepayer

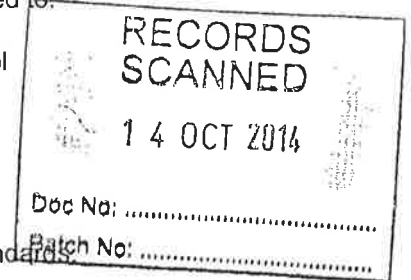
Re: Community Consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

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.

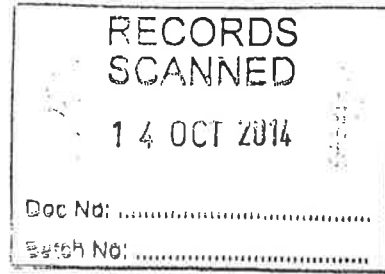
As many of these items represent an upgrade to the existing facilities, we are now seeking community feedback as to whether we should apply for a special variation to the rate income we receive each year.

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.

Ericd Noble
31 Fig Tree Hill Dr
Lennox Head. 2478.

9th Oct. 2014.



Re. Community Consultation Re Rate Variation.

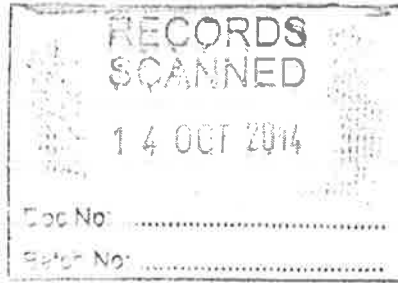
We have been asked for our opinions so I would like it known that I am not in favour of applying for this additional increase in our Rates.

At Lennox Head we have our Lake and the Ocean and I would wonder how many from here actually use the pool in Bellina or Abstonville.

Would it not be fairer to survey the actual users of the pools and ask if they would be happy to pay an increase in their entrance fees to subsidise these improvements?

Thank you for asking our opinions.

Ericd Noble.



22 TOWN RD
ALSTONVILLE
N.S.W. 2477
11-10-14

Dear Mr Wright + councilors,
In reply to your letter of 22-9-14, we wish to advise you that we do not approve of the extra rate rise as pensioners we find the rates are already too high on our fixed income.

Please note that we wish to vote against the additional rate rise to fund the swimming pools up grade.

Yours sincerely
H + M. Grosse.

WE DO NOT APPROVE OF AN ADDITIONAL RATE RISE

H. A. GROSSE

M. G. GROSSE

22 TOWN RD

ALSTONVILLE N.S.W. 2477

enquiries refer
Paul Hickey
in reply please quote
480-03

22 September 2014



161513 018 / 10093

Mrs S E Smith
2/9 Namitjira Place
BALLINA NSW 2478

No I do not think \$8 million should be spent on ~~open~~ swimming pools. What about road maintenance / other sports eg basketball stadium, skate park at West Ballina. I do not use the pools nor any of my family, we go to the beach river etc.

S E Smith

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.

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- 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.

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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

Sandra Bailey

From: Sarah Carden <sarahc@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2014 11:33 AM
Subject: Phone Message

Nicole Graham rang to respond to rate increase letter. She opposes increases but doesn't have internet to do online survey.

Ph 0419 294 561

Sarah Carden
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



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

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RECORDS
SCANNED

15 OCT 2014

Doc No:

Batch No:

14 Spinnaker Lane
West Ballina

14-10-2014

Dear Sir,

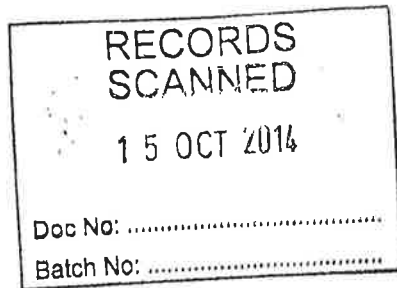
In reply to your letter regarding the Rates increase I am deffinitely against it as our rates are already too high.

My neighbour recently moved here from Byron Bay and is now paying more here than he was in Byron Bay. Also we have a son who lives in Sydney and is paying less than we are.

Rates were increased because of the "Carbon Tax", now that that tax has gone I would have thought our rates would have come down. Why not?

Council needs to find other ways to fund the projects, one cost could be lessened by turning off the street lights earlier in the morning they are quite often still on when it is daylight.

Yours faithfully
Daphne Daye.



Beverley Soul
590 Bagotville Road
Meerschaum Vale NSW 2477
Ph: 0419 227 911

13 October 2014

Cr David Wright
Mayor
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Dear David

Re: Community Consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

I was pleased to meet you following last Wednesday's meeting in Alstonville and I would like to thank you for your time. As I was sitting in the last row I didn't hear or see a much of the meeting so I appreciated talking with you afterwards.

I am strongly against the proposed rate increase for a number of reasons:

- 1 Perhaps Council could look at other possibilities to raise funds:
 - a modest increase in pool entry (entry to Southern Cross Uni pool is \$3 for members & \$4 for non members) combined with other revenue raising ideas such as creating and leasing some extra space (eg café, store, etc). This option would be a more "user pays" system and would be a fair option. I believe the Surf Lifesaving Club Café has created a "break even" situation for the Surf Club. I guess this option would be a 'maintenance only' situation once the initial upgrade is completed.
- 2 I realise that many residents of Alstonville use the pool but Ballina is only a very short drive, so I wonder if Council would be best investing in one pool rather than two.
- 3 Our rates are currently \$1,414.65 in Meerschaum Vale – our roads are dreadful, the council grass gets mowed so infrequently that we mow it ourselves and there is occasional weed control. I am unaware of any other services Council provides us in this area other than the waste and recycling services which of course we pay for within the total rate amount. At the moment we are looking at moving to Ballina Town or similar areas in the Ballina Shire and most of the rates for properties inspected vary between \$1,800 and \$3,000 approximately. I cannot see where the averages displayed at the abovementioned meeting were obtained. Perhaps they were averages excluding waste services?

.../2

- 4 Does the release of further residential land increase Council's revenue and ability to help fund projects?
- 5 The Ballina area is a beautiful location to live and has been affordable for many years but if this increase is approved it will no longer be as attractive.
- 6 As business owners in Lismore for over 14 years, we witnessed the dissatisfaction of residents, landlords and business owners with regard to rate increases.
- 7 As self funded retirees at the moment a rate increase would at present cause hardship, as I am sure it would for many others in this area.

We have very much enjoyed living and raising our children in this region after moving from Sydney 21 years ago and look forward to spending our 'senior' years here as well.

I would like to commend Ballina Shire Council for being a proactive Council and for considering the lifestyle options of its people. I do however hope that this rate increase is reconsidered.

I once again thank you and look forward to your comments.

Yours sincerely

Bev Soul
(Resident Ballina Shire)

cc Paul Hickey

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2014 5:24 PM
Subject: RE: Rate Variation Call

Completed

Does not support rate increase – believes it should be user pays – please register.

From: Sue Boardman
Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2014 3:28 PM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: Rate Variation Call
Importance: High

Could you please phone Neil Murphy

Re: He is very much against the rate rise

Sue Boardman
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 66864444 | f: 0286867035

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BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
CHERRY ST.
BALLINA 2478

RECORDS
SCANNED

17 OCT 2014

Doc No:

Batch No:

M. JAMES

3/145 CHERRY ST,
BALLINA 2478

14-10-14

DEAR MR HICKEY,

I AM NOT HAPPY ABOUT A RATE RISE. IF IT WAS GUARANTEED TO ONLY BE FOR TWO YEARS, MAYBE, BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I, ONCE AN INCREASE COMES IN IT DOESN'T GO DOWN AGAIN.

THIS SHIRE AS YOU KNOW HAS A LARGE AGED POPULATION, I CAN TELL YOU OF LATE, IT IS SO HARD TO MANAGE ON THE PENSION AND WE AREN'T THE PEOPLE WHO USE THE POOLS. MAYBE IT COULD BE LOOKED AT THAT USER PAYS, AND INCREASE THE ENTRY PRICE TO THE POOLS.

COULD I BE BOLD ENOUGH TO SUGGEST ^{SOMETHING} THAT WOULD SAVE MONEY. THE GARDENS ON THE ROUNDABOUTS THAT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO SEE ON COMING TRAFFIC COULD BE REPLACED WITH A ROCK SCULPTURE. THERE WOULD BE NO MAINTENANCE AGAIN ON THESE, AND YOU COULD CONSULT WITH OUR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, AS WE HAVE SOME GOOD ARTISTS HERE IN BALLINA. I CAN SEE LOTS OF OTHER WAYS TO SAVE MONEY, BUT I WILL LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR NOW.

I KNOW YOU WILL PASS ME OFF AS A WHINING OLD PENSIONER, BUT I AM NOT, I APPRECIATE THE WORK COUNCIL DOES AND I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE A RESIDENT OF BALLINA.

YOURS SINCERELY

M. James

Sandra Bailey

From: george & deirdre <deengee@bigpond.com>
Sent: Saturday, 18 October 2014 12:54 PM
Subject: Pool upgrade

Re: Proposed pool upgrade.

What is lacking in Ballina is a multi-purpose indoor facility which could be used by people of all ages and abilities, for various reasons, all year round and not just in summer for those who swim.

As much as a swimming pool is a necessity in summer and an asset to Ballina Shire, \$8 million seems an excessive amount to be spent on upgrades on one facility which is used for only half of the year.

An indoor area is equally important. Surely this exorbitant amount (for upgrades only) could also include a multi-purpose indoor area, either at the same site or elsewhere.

It was difficult to find a suitable venue for our Funball group (for seniors), once a privately owned venue closed. We are now in a cramped church hall using only half the space we had previously. Keeping fit is of particular importance to us and outdoor sport is not always suitable.

Deirdre Cox,
957 Fernleigh Road,
Brooklet. 2479