

Sandra Bailey

From: Yvonne Mc <yvonne.mclachlan@bigpond.com>
Sent: Sunday, 19 October 2014 11:52 AM
Subject: rate rise

1 I have been told that the proposed - what I understood to be a **temporary rate rise** - is actually going to be a permanent rate rise. In your survey I said that I would agree with a **TEMPORARY RATE RISE**. I do not agree with a permanent rate rise and would like my opinion to be recorded as such. You will need to record this **DISAGREEMENT WITH A PERMANENT RATE RISE TWICE**. Once to counteract where it appears that I have seemed to agree with a permanent rate rise; and the **SECOND TIME** so that my real opinion is actually counted in the disagreement figures.

2 I would like to know the figures on how many people would use a Ballina indoor sports facility (if built) and how many people use the Ballina pool.

Yvonne McLachlan
1 Vera Place
Ballina

To BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL.

3rd October 2014.

Submission re: Pools Proposal / Ballina Shire / Rate Increase.

Dear Ballina Shire Council,

With regard to the proposal to fund the improvements to the Alstonville and Ballina swimming pools, apart from the total for each year (e.g. 157,056 in 2013/14) there is no information about the usage patterns:

- How many Ballina Shire residents use these two pools, and how many visitors?
- How many of the residents are frequent users, and how often do they go?
- How many swimming clubs/schools/water polo clubs/learn to swim groups/etc use these facilities, and how often?
- What are the numbers for “groups”, and for “individuals”?

Simply put, it is not clear who uses what, how often, and where they live. More information is necessary to assess whether BSC is justified in spending \$8 million dollars up front, and then providing for the increased annual cost of running and maintenance.

I can't support the present Special Rate Variation without more detailed information.

BSC would probably obtain more local support for this expenditure if there were a lower rate increase rather than the proposed 2.5% for two years. To further fund the upgrade, a levy (or increase in pool entry fees) on all pool users should be considered. Local rate payers would be more sympathetic to a special levy on rates if they knew that those who were benefiting most, were additionally contributing through their use, even if their contribution only went part way to assisting with costs.

It's a fact many of the rate payers contribute through rates for facilities they never use. This is perfectly acceptable to most of us. However the proposed Special Rate Variation is a big expenditure for the benefit of, possibly, a limited number of rate payers and visitors.

There is also the dilemma if BSC proceeds with this rate rise for a “special purpose” that other community groups will seek to have their particular needs met by a “special purpose” rate rise.

Thanking you for the opportunity to make a submission.
Yours truly,

L.J.N. Leon.
16 Silver Gull Drive, East Ballina.

20-10-14

Ballina Shire Council

Paul Hickey - 480-03

My husband and I have lived in Alstonville for 28 yrs. We are Pensioners and only live on the pension, no other income. We have never used the swimming pools at any time.

We are not in agreement with the rates been made higher to upkeep them.

Next

I would also like to see a sign put up on the ~~to~~ wall for bikes to be left down off the viewing platform as sometimes you can't even walk up there because of all the bikes.

Thankyou
P. Hickey

| |
|--------------------|
| RECORDS SCANNED |
| 21 OCT 2014 |
| Doc No: |
| Batch No: |

H80-03

37 THE RIDGEWAY
EUM GALUM 2478

Dear Sirs

Received your letter about pools
suggest you fix large Pot-hole
outside the front of my house also
clear grass at side of woods, please
stop wasting letters, Postage like this do
try to clear the swamp at Dead Mans
Creek many Mossies

Yours Sincerely
Janet Bartlett



Sandra Bailey

From: Russell Mills <russellmills@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2014 7:22 PM
Subject: Ballina Council Pools Proposal Reference - Paul Hickey - 480-03
Attachments: Ballina Rates.xlsx

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in reference to the letter to ratepayers dated 22/9/14 (Ref 480-03) concerning the Ballina Pools Proposal and possible rate variation.

While the need to improve council services and assets is understood, I refute the premise of your advice on that council increases its rates by an average 3% p.a. (period unspecified).

Having paid rates in Ballina since the beginning of the 2009 rating period until the present, I have calculated that the rates we have been charged (excluding water and sewer charges) have increased by a compound rate of 105% since 1/7/2008. I attach a spreadsheet with these calculations.

On 27/4/2010 you wrote to ratepayers advising that you were applying to the NSW government to increase your general rate income by 7.4% each year for the next five financial years (i.e. until 2014/15). Between the end of the ratings period ending 30/6/10 to 30/06/11 the rates we paid (excluding water and sewer charges) increased from \$1042.76 to \$1795.14, an increase of 72%. Even allowing for an error in my calculations due to some change in the way rates and charges were broken down in this period, this is nonetheless a large increase, which it is reasonable to interpret factors in the 7.4% p.a. increase you applied for.

For reasons outlined i do not support this rate increase proposed to pay for the Ballina and Alstonville Pools improvements. The primary reason is that your suggestion that your starting point for the rate increase is an average 3% p.a. is not supported by the evidence of my records of rates paid and your own application to the NSW government to increase rates by 7.4% from 2011-2015.

I am prepared to be convinced otherwise if someone from council can explain and demonstrate that your rates have increased by an average 3% p.a. and over what period.

kind regards
Russell F Mills



P.O. Box 1326
Runaway Bay.
Phol/4216.

Dear Cr. David Wright

Re. Council Rates
increase for swimming pools at
Altonville and Ballina.

We say no to
any increasing of our rates.
We think that
all who use the pools should
be the ones to pay for
the improvements.

Thanking You
John G. Schaefer
J. Schaefer.

Sandra Bailey

From: Graham Sansom <gcpioneering@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2014 4:30 PM
Subject: User-Pays

This e-mail is to the mayor and to all the Ballina Shire counsellors.

My wife and i have spent the majority of our lives living in Perth where the local councils are fortunate to run at a surplus each year, even so there were times when we as with other rate payers had to fight for what was morally right.

I read the letter to the editor in the Advocate 8th October by B O'Keefe of Empire Vale. In his letter Mr O'Keefe informed readers that on top of their annual rates they have to pay \$250 per car per year for a ferry pass under the Ballina Shire policy of "User Pays". You know and everyone else knows that there is no such thing as user pays, i.e.. Is it only the people who use public parks and open space who pay for the up keep, is it only the people who use the public libraries that pay for them and their up keep, and is it only the people who use Alstonville and Ballina swimming facilities that pay for them and their up keep. The obvious answer is no, the facilities and their up keep come out of general revenue, as they should. The Ballina Shire council which is you are asking the rate payers that is, ALL the rate payers to chip in to fund the upgrade to the Alstonville swimming complex, and the Ballina swimming complex. Although i do not use these facilities i have no objection to a \$20 rate increase in the 2015-2016 financial year to cover the cost of upgrades, as the benefits to those who do use these facilities is huge.

The mere fact that you are asking All the rate payers to be willing to chip in proves that your policy of "user pays" is not for everyone and is used in a selective way on those that you believe you can intimidate and bully.

Not only is this unacceptable in society today, it is also morally wrong, and show lack of integrity.

If you want the rate payers to agree to the rate increase for the 2015-2016 financial year then you will need to refund the \$250 per car ferry surcharge to the rate payers concerned publicly, and with a public apology, as you cannot have your cake and eat it so to speak.

As a local council rate payers expect you to do what is morally right as well as what is financially sound.

I look forward to your response to this matter publicly and to my correspondence.

Sincerely,

Graham Sansom

QUOTE No. 480.03

J. PORRITT

15. PIP PLACE
BALLINA.

17. 10. 14

BALLINA. COUNCIL.

I do not agree with the
rate increase. It is a NO

The council has had plenty
of time to do these things, and
nothing has been done

Yours faithfully
J. Porritt

RECORDS
SCANNED

23 OCT 2014

Doc.No:

Batch No:

22/10/14

L. White

P.O. Box 1584

Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Mr. Hickay,

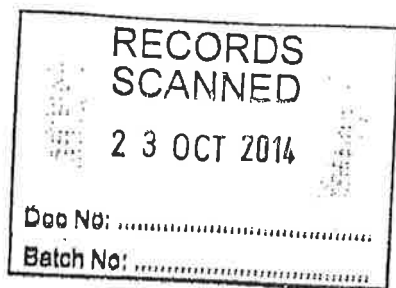
In response to your correspondence re:- raising rates to enable council to spend \$M.'s on pool repairs & or upgrades. No is my answer.

Reasoning that council if run as a business should have included the upkeep & maintenance of these assets, already. No extra but legitimate maintenance. No details re:- what in detail of work to be done entails?

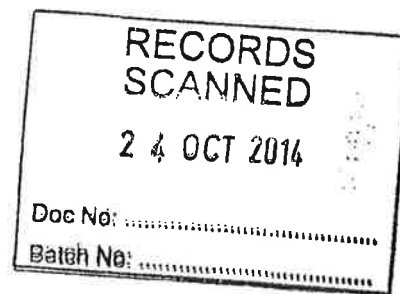
I am a ratepayer.

Ass. No. 106165

L. White



11Tuckeroo Drive
East Ballina 2478 NSW
22nd October 2014
Ballina Shire Council,
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



SUBMISSION RE POOLS PROPOSAL

I am not in favour of increasing rates at all for any reason. Given the economy of the region I believe rates are high enough and probably should be pegged at around the present level or people will be rated out of their homes.

Council has invested considerable monies in commercial real estate, this should be returning a profit for the ratepayers or should be sold and the money spent on projects more in line with the councils responsibilities.

The fluoridation of our water should be scrapped, I believe that had an honest survey of the ratepayers been taken we would not be in favour of adding this poison. (read existing research) Fluoride is expensive and will cause increasing expense in maintainance and repairs .

I am further discouraged when I read that 5 councillors voted in favour of a marina development with dredging of the river. This was a ridiculous proposal in the position suggested. Who is going to pay for the ongoing dredging. And it is not a very good location for a marina in any case. If a marina is the main aim may I suggest extending the existing trawler harbour to the west. Be sure to leave a good road access between the marina and the river, and the entrance already exists

Not forgetting that council would then be expected to provide new sporting grounds if the new proposal was to be accepted. Most of us like our town even if it is somewhat fragmented..

I do not want to deny Ballina a better pool, but I believe the outcome could be managed better, council needs to set its priorities and work within its means, I believe it is called management, Thank the lord for David Wright, at least he appears to understand his job and the rules of debate.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Purkiss

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 10:16 AM
Subject: Submission - Proposed special rate variation

Ken Pratt, 83 Catherine Crescent, Ballina

Is a pensioner and cannot afford a rate increase. Definitely not in favour. In favour of users of the pool paying.

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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24-10-14

lot 213 Pacific Hwy
KNOCKROU 2479

Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA 2478 NSW

Ref - 480-03



To Whom It May Concern,

Special Rate Variation

We would like to voice our objection to a rate increase to subsidise to upgrade swimming pools at Ballina and Alstonville, and not just because we and our extended family use neither. There are plenty of other pools for public use in a reasonably near radius - Ross Vale, Ballina Fair, Caswellach besides many have their own backyard pools - and we are a coastal Shire with plenty of beaches, rivers, creeks, suitable for swimming.

Presently our rates are high enough considering we have our own tank water, no roadside waste collection due to danger of Highway (added cost to us for time and petrol to take to Recycling Centre ourselves) and little use of parks and other public facilities due to age of family and rural address. In the Advocate one reader suggested some indoor sports space - at least Alstonville's Complex is suitable for some but the herring Head Community Centre is such a "white elephant" and the indoor sport courts it contains are apparently impractical. We would also oppose a rate increase if that was an alternative proposition.

We have a rental property in Alstonville which is in a complex of three, we note Wastewater charge of \$807.00 which seems excessive as all would be part

of some wastewater network as units are quite small, attached to each other and building overall no bigger than some of the large single houses being built these days with up to 3 bathrooms/toilets, etc (i.e. $3 \times \$807.00 = \2421 , how much is a single urban home charged?). Also splitting the "waste" fee was a very sneaky way of increasing it if payees don't do their maths. On the brochure it looked like the fee had been decreased and wonder how many people forgot to add the two together to realise it had in fact gone up.

We have also always had difficulty getting the road outside our property attended to, before the Highway upgrade it was always "someone else's responsibility", there is a huge pothole at our driveway now and despite 2 years since initial call it just gets more difficult for us - and the school bus - to dodge, as the Highway upgrade is now west of the original Highway does the road now come under the Ballina Shire Council jurisdiction?

Please register our objections to any increase in rates for whatever reason, of late recent decisions have not been so great financially in return for impracticality, even the bike track between Lennox Head to East Ballina is of advantage to a limited few of ratepayers.

Yours faithfully,
Meryl Turnbull

Sandra Bailey

From: Tracy Lister <tracyl@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 2:44 PM
Subject: Submission - Phone call - Proposed special rate variation - swimming pools upgrade - Del Robertson

Del Robertson of 24 Valley Drive Alstonville is a pensioner and phoned to object to the rate increase for the swimming pool upgrade.

Tracy Lister
Communication Liaison Officer
Strategic and Community Facilities Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 02 6686 1257 | f: 02 6686 7035 | m: 0407 418 737

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Sandra Bailey

From: Allan DRURY <allan.drury@idl.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 2:03 PM
Subject: pool and flouride

Dear Sir or Madam,

To deal with fluoride in water , the question I will ask : Is there an MSDS on the product used in this process and can it be distributed via letter box drop please ?

The other issue is as I crossed river in ferry paid my fee , and happy to do so , this should be also the case with pool , exempt pensioners and children under certain age , last rate rise, was it not the case increase was for infrastructure projects , is not the pool infrastructure , so I am puzzled as to this special levy that will be left no doubt in perpetuity. If you need more cash then ask those who take income tax off us .

As decisions are made these days on the basis of domestic economy mortgage which doesnt get included in CPI , rego for car licence rates power water education of family etc. etc. most after tax income gone on food.

Well may people chuckle how much does a meal cost if you get around in community if you check out rate payers and talk to em this is the basis of logic out there .

Have a lovely day

Allan DRURY.

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 9:22 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: TRIM: Proposed Special Rate Variation

HP TRIM Record Number: 14/75727

Lyn Allen, 95 Sartories Road, Pimlico

Phoned to say they object to special rate variation – they have their own pool – thinks users of the pool should pay

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



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p: 6686 1273

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Sandra Bailey

From: Lisa M <wildpetuniaz@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2014 10:26 AM
Subject: Rate Hike to upgrade Swimming Pools

Hello,

I am not in favour of a rate hike to upgrade the Ballina / Alstonville Pools for the following reasons:

- Contrary to Council info, I didn't think the pools are that popular - I don't know of anyone who uses the swimming pools except kids as part of their school program.
- I don't like swimming in chlorine water and people who can swim don't need to use the public pools when we have beautiful beaches and bays. I can only see the need for pools to teach swimming. Perhaps the Dept of Sport / Education could help fund an upgrade.
- I can understand funding a state-of-the-art pool facility where people don't have access to beaches but not in Ballina / Alstonville.
- When rates go up so does my rent.
- Perhaps a User Pay system could be considered: The people in Ballina or Alstonville who want the pools upgraded, could register their interest in paying an extra amount towards funding perhaps \$100 each person? And/ or raise the entry fees.
- Same would apply to basket ball courts. I think the Goonellabah sports and aquatic centre is running at a loss? People could use the basket ball courts there (20 minute drive) I don't think it's worth building Basketball courts in Ballina as well.

Thank you,

Lisa McDermott

Sandra Bailey

From: Jo Boyton <joanneboyton@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2014 3:20 PM
Subject: Submission

To: davidwright@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
robbynh@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
kenj@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
smeehan@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
crsharonc@nor.com.au,
jeffjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
keithw@ballina.nsw.gov.au,

From: Jo Boyton <joanneboyton@bigpond.com>

Subject: Submission - Pool Proposal

Cc: kjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
bens@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
pworth@ballina.nsw.gov.au,
poolproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: multipart/alternative;

boundary="====_510052476==.ALT"

Message-Id:

<20141022035607.RTKK23397.nschwmtas03p.mx.bigpond.com@nschwcmgw05p>

SUBMISSION: Pools Proposal

Subject: Community consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

To The Council Staff, The Councillors and IPART,

I live on a farm across the river accessed by the ferry. Our rates are not paid up to date because our income is not weekly, monthly, annually but 'occasionally' – such is the livestock market. But it means we are already charged extra interest.

Council wants to increase rates to pay for the Ballina pool. *We never use the Ballina pool.*

What this Pools Proposal means to us is that our rates, being extremely high because as farmers we own acreage, will be increased even more. It will be at a higher amount than people living on Ballina Island have to pay, because the proposal is a *percentage of the rates we already pay*. It would also mean our paying a lot of money for an amenity for others to use. Not fair is it? Not fair on anyone with acreage, i.e. farmers who don't usually access the pool because for obvious reasons our farmland is not close to town. We also do not benefit from the business of passing trade, i.e. I cannot sell a steer to a pool goer!

Across the river, we also have the added cost of ferry fees which increase substantially each year. I think the whole of south Ballina, Keith Hall and Empire Vale should be exempt. Even those living in Wardell can access the Woodburn Pool.

I propose that you increase the Ballina pool admission rather than rates for this amenity. Let those who use the pool pay for the improvements.

Regards

Warwick and Joanne Boyton

47 Keith Hall Lane South, Keith Hall

email: joanneboyton@bigpond.com

Sandra Bailey

From: Jennifer Corlett <jaycey7@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2014 4:48 PM
Subject: Feedback

I would like to add my feedback on the 'pools proposal' as a resident of Ballina.

I would definitely object to being charged in my rates for something that I do not and will not use as an elderly ratepayer of this shire - If on the rare occasions that I swim or paddle, I use the natural resources that we already have on hand here, the sea. I feel that those who want an extra upmarket facility like this ought to be the ones to pay for it. It would be different if we were in the dry outback, or in Brisbane where the only alternative is the muddy river.

The thing that I and other limited or wheelchair bound people would really love to enjoy - and be happy to contribute towards - would be the recreational path along the coast line - as no doubt would all the younger and more active members of this area. I cannot understand why this natural resource has suffered so much opposition for so long, it's such a simple thing to do using reasonable care. But for 30 odd years we have been waiting to be able to access one of many natural sources of enjoyment of the great Australian outdoors in safety.

The current bike/walking tracks are very popular - can we have more? I love the amount of BBQ's, picnic tables, parks and sports fields already available, and watching the children enjoying the marvellous skate park is another brilliant move! Ballina shire has done well with these successful conveniences and is known for this. What do they have in common? - they can be enjoyed by rich and poor alike and they are uniquely the current spirit of Ballina.

So to put it into a nutshell, Please consider the lovely natural resources for investment and improvements for leisure activities that benefit ALL - not just the younger ones for the pool, or the fittest of us with the current wallaby tracks along the coast.

Yours sincerely, Jennifer M Corlett

Sandra Bailey

From: jenna shelley <jennashelley@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 12:18 PM
Subject: pool proposal

My partner and I live and own property in Ballina. I am writing to say that we do NOT support rate increases in any shape or form! We have a young family and barely make ends meet with the cost of living on reduced wages. We do NOT support rate increases for pool improvements and feel insulted that the idea is even proposed. We choose not to use the pool due to the entry cost now Im certainly not happy to pay for heating at Alstonville pool, extra lanes or any other proposed idea. If Ballina is so hard up for money why would pool upgrades be a priority?

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our opinions.

Thank you
Jenna Shelley
30 grant st Ballina

Jenna Shelley @ Matilda Tribe
jennashelley@hotmail.com

Sandra Bailey

From: Bob Davey <catnbob69@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 1:34 PM
Subject: Submission

Mr. Paul Hickey,

Dear sir, My wife and I are solely reliant on the age pension for our existence. We feel the proposed rate increase to upgrade the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools is an impost on rate payers who don't use this facility. We have been Ballina Shire rate payers for 26 years, and have not once used either of these pools. Ballina enjoys the the advantage of natural swimming areas such as Shores Bay and various Richmond River sites. Council facilities such as Garbage collection, Waste Water ,and Water supply, roads/signage and foot paths etc are used by all rate payers and are therefore legitimate costs to ALL rate payers.

We are therefore ARE OPPOSED to this proposed impost ,and believe it is a user pays responsibility.

Yours Faithfully Robert and Catherine Davey

2/5 Waterview Court, West Ballina NSW.2478

Sandra Bailey

From: michael brown <82vespa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 2:59 PM
Subject: swimming pool

In regards to the rate payers footing the bill for a pool upgrade, "DON'T DO IT".

Neither me nor my family nor most people I know use this facility, however I am aware that a lot of holiday makers from around NSW and interstate use the pool, so surely if the pools are in need of these upgrades the fairest method of raising funds would be from a gate admission increase.

In other words, let the people who use them , pay for them.....

The great folk/ratepayers of Ballina have been doing it tough for a few years now (you only have to look at all the vacant shops in and around Ballina to realise that), things have recently started to pick up, so please don't go ahead with this increase.

Also, the pools in question couldn't of slipped into disrepair over night, so what are we paying the general manager for. I believe he earns big bucks, so surely he could of budgeted better over the past couple of years, "just a thought".

Yours

A resident / business owner / ratepayer and voter

Sandra Bailey

From: geoff@screengraphics.com.au
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 4:00 PM
Subject: Feedback

I am writing to you to communicate my strong opposition to both

1. A higher rate rise to fund pools
2. Upgrades to both pools.

I will not go on, but based on the communications from council so far it is very bias to the proposal. No other options are given for the pools. It has been presented as a take a rate increase or otherwise?????. Without telling people what will happen if there is no rate increase the question is very bias and does not give a complete picture to allow discussion.

On the issues I would like to raise and challenge each of you the following points.

1. What happen to the concept of user pays?? If I want 2 garbage bins, council charges me double. The council rationale for this is user pays. Why not here.?
2. Has council considered leasing the infrastructure to private enterprise and let them operate it??
3. Has council considered giving the Ballina Pool land to a developer and let them build a new public pool to be donated to council.
4. Has council reviewed the operating structure and costs of the pools?? I am sure there are savings to be made.
5. Clearly the current admission charges are not sufficient to maintain and reinvest into the infrastructure. Increase the admission charges.
6. I have to also question why we need 2 pools in the district when the majority of people in the district live within 5 kms of a beach or river. I would challenge council that of all the local governments in Australia that have beaches in their areas less then 5% have 2 or more heated swimming pools. FYI, I checked 7 LGAs backing onto beaches and none had 2 or more heated pools. I understand the need/role of infrastructure in communities, so permanently close 1 pool and improve 1 pool. There will be major synergies in both income and costs and it may become a viable proposition in the future
7. Currently there is a heated pool operated by private enterprise at Ballina Fair. Has council considered the why rate payers are subsidising a public infrastructure so it can compete against private enterprise.

Please make some hard decisions versus taking the easy decision of just increasing the rates

Geoff Barlow

Email geoff@screengraphics.com.au

Mobile 0407 440 399

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 10:55 AM
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation - Swimming Pools Upgrade

Robert and June Barton, 26 Wattle Crescent, East Ballina

Not in favour of rate increase – pensioners and cannot afford rate increase

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



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p: 6686 1273

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Sandra Bailey

From: allan stuckey <tuthmosis4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 5:29 PM
Subject: pools upgrade

Dear sir/madam,

I am not in favour of these upgrades, particularly those which tend to apply to competitive swimming facility improvement. I think these are and should be catered to by the private environment.

Also we live in a sub tropical climate and do not need heating of either pool (i understand Alstonville already has solar heating in any case, which is completely adequate for this type of facility. Ballina has an abundance of water attractions, ocean and lake (Lennox) and if people wish to train then this should be catered to by the private section. Similarly the pool would only require covered seating on rare occasions.

I do not believe these uses should be paid for by the average ratepayer

Yours sincerely,

Allan Stuckey
38 Alison Ave
Lennox Head 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Jamie Hoile <jhoile@y7mail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 6:25 PM
Subject: Rejecting Rate Increases

I wish to lodge our strong disagreement with the proposed special rate increases of 5.5% for two consecutive years.

Even the 3% suggested "average annual increase" is above current CPI figures. The proposal to impose a mandatory 2.5% *additional* increase on top of this 3% is completely unacceptable.

On our property at 10 Curlew Court this will equate to an additional \$134.12 in 2015/16, taking our rates to \$2572.71 in 2015/16.... and in 2016/17 this will increase again by \$141.50 to \$2714.21

On our place of residence at 2 Sunrise Crescent this increase will equate to an additional \$130.24 in 2015/16, taking our rates to \$2498.25 in 2015/16.... and then in 2016/17 this will increase again by \$137.40 to \$2635.65.

By 2016/17 we are paying increased combined rates totalling \$5,349.86 per year.

There is no assurance to ratepayers that these extraordinary rate increases will cease after the two years. In fact there is some ambiguous reference to making a "permanent addition" to Council's rate base with the extra income, once loans are repaid. Once a rate increase is in place it is rare for reductions of the same.

Neither I nor my family and friends avail ourselves of the amenities at either of these pool complexes.

I would suggest a "user pays" cost retrieval process be used to target pool users. Alternatively you may wish to canvas ratepayers as to whether they would wish to *volunteer* additional moneys on an elected basis, rather than the proposed "across the board mandatory rate impost". (In recognition of their generosity perhaps these ratepayers may receive some tied incentives from the pool complexes themselves, in return.)

As our family contribute two rates payments to Ballina Shire Council each year the cost impost to us is doubled.... and we do not use the pool amenities! This equates to over \$10,000 in rates to Ballina Shire Council over two years. I see little enough even now that the Council provides us in the way of existing services. We do not wish to pay even more money for still less in return.

In fact it has been argued in the media that a large portion of our *existing* rates may be required to pay the proposed questionable salary increase of our Council General Manager. Rate payers hear proposed figures of \$300,000. This is further indignity when ratepayers are being asked to pay extra out of pocket.

Again, our family rejects the proposed rate increases.
Jamie Hoile

Sandra Bailey

From: Andrew Iliffe <iliffe@dodo.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 6:54 PM
Subject: Pools

I write this as I am against increasing rates for this proposal. My family live at Wollongbar & we used to have a family pass. We used it every warm day when the kids were little and it was great. We stopped when the family pass increased in price by a large amount and the rules changed to be just for a family of 4 (there are 5 in my little family) We later put our own pool in and have never regretted it. We have never felt the urge to return to the Alstonville pool. Introduce a user pays system, wait until you have saved enough funds, tighten your belts, lease cheaper cars - find another way but please stop increasing rates. The cost of living continues to rise but my income does not.

Regards,

Andrew Iliffe,
Wollongbar

0407 285180

Email sent using Dodo Webmail

Sandra Bailey

From: Rosemary Renwick <rosemaryrenwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 7:11 PM
Subject: Proposed rate rise

I would like to register my disapproval of the proposed rise in rates to pay for pool upgrades. Many of us find our rates a struggle to make each year. Your increase and on going hike is unacceptable, with not much down to earth benefits to show for our money.

Rosemary Renwick 27/136 Cherry St Ballina 2478

Rosemary,
Sent from my iPad

Sandra Bailey

From: Emma - ZEP Finance <Emma@zepfinance.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 8:06 PM
Subject: feedback

Hi,

I DO NOT accept the proposal.

Address: 3/20 Barrett dr, lennox head, NSW

Regards,

Emma Peart



Your mortgage, your future, our help



M: 0404 078 933 F: (02) 6678 0873
4/8 Slade St, Goonellabah, NSW, 2480
PO BOX 326, Lennox Head, NSW, 2478
www.zepfinance.com.au



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ZEP Finance (Credit Representative #374069) is authorised under Australian Credit Licence Number 339323

Sandra Bailey

From: Justin & Carolyn <jibinet@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 October 2014 10:23 PM
Subject: Upgrade swimming pools

I reject your suggestion of increasing rates to pay for upgrade of the swimming pools.

The Swimming Pools as they stand are run as a business.
Why should I have to pay to prop up your business.
It would never happen in private enterprise.

What does council do with all the money it gets from admission fees and what has it been doing with all that money for years.

User pays. If you want to use the pool you should pay for it.

I have to pay for the upkeep of my own pool.

You should increase the admission fees if you want to make alterations.

As with any business plan the money from profits is usually put aside to fund future developments. This is called "foresight".

Stop wasting money on other ventures which are fruitless – like the road to no where in the Cumbalum Estate.

Paying for lights to be on for this road to nowhere.

Sandra Bailey

From: jeanetto@westnet.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 7:18 AM
Subject: increase in rates

To whom it may concern

My name is Jeanette Anne O'Connor (Jann). I own a unit at 18 / 121 Kalinga Street Ballina. I have lived in this area since 2000. This is my home and this is where my friends and activities are centred. I am a retired Senior English teacher from Emmanuel College and the retired head of English from St Marys College, Casino. I have lived at Byron Bay and Casino and now Ballina since 1988.

I am an aged pensioner who pays both Ballina Council rates and Body Corporate fees . CentreLink does not assist pensioners with Body Corporate fees. On my income, I struggle to pay these combined fees and I will have to sell up and move if the rates go up as Ballina Council proposes. I can't afford to pay towards this proposal despite its advantages.

Ballina is a family and retirement town. It is not the Gold Coast nor is it about attracting a huge influx of high paying tourists.

We are not an extension of Byron Bayplease, we have already, wonderful beaches , rivers and National parklands.

In 2011 I was awarded the NSW Senior Carer of the Year and received my awards at NSW Parliament House . This year on Friday, 31st October, the Premier of NSW will award me as one of 73 Volunteer " Treasures " in this state. The ceremony will be conducted in Lismore.

Despite struggling with a double knee replacement, I contribute every day to this community. Am I to be forced to leave it ?

What is proposed is a marvellous vision. I can't swim in the pools at the moment, because there are no rails to assist my entering and leaving despite steps. I am 77 years of age.

Please stop providing for tourists of the future. Ballina is a beautiful community as it is . Look after the special people who are established here already and work within your budget and financial means.

I CAN NOT AFFORD THIS INCREASE AND WILL HAVE TO SELL UP AND MOVE AWAY IF YOU GO AHEAD.

Sincerely,

Jeanette O'Connor (Jann O'Connor)



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

Sandra Bailey

From: Kay Tasker <kaybill1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 9:14 AM
Subject: Pools.

To whom it may concern.

We already pay rates of almost \$2,000.00 yearly now, we are pensioners so an increase in rates is not something we would look forward to. Also we do not and have not used either pool at all, I understand these pools need upgrading, however, we just cannot afford any more increases to rates. Thanking you. Bill & Kay Tasker.

The Mayor,
Ballina Shire Council,
Cherry Street,
BALLINA 2478

Dear Mayor Wright,

Swimming Pools upgrade. 480-03

In response to your request for comments regarding the proposed upgrading of the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools, at an estimated cost of \$8m (\$4m each), I submit the following.

In harmony with Advocate letters, I too **do NOT support** an expensive upgrade requiring an increase in rates to pay for any of Council plans and activities, for the following reasons:

- , This would mean that **there will be a permanent \$4m (compound) increase in rates each succeeding rate calculation**, since calculations thereafter would not be on the **current (2014) rates figure, but on the increased figure**. This is borne out by what has happened in the past. **So in this sense Council is not being fully honest in its presentation of its argument.**
- , As a recent survey showed, Ballina has a high percentage of **fixed and low income resident ratepayers**...(1 in 7 adults live below poverty) and possibly of the era that also have no superannuation or prospects of obtaining work.. I know that these people are already having to stretch each dollar to four or five, just to make ends meet. The op-shops, 'reduced for quick sale', sale items, free (only) social events, and 'going without', are their fare. As you would know, all utility costs increase each year for electricity, telephone, insurance, and rates etc. There is a limit to how impoverished folk can become.
- , You may recall that some years ago (upon the complaint of Lennox Head ocean-view ratepayers), a **new system of calculating rates was implemented**. This caused the rates of most other ratepayers, to increase substantially.
- , Then Council applied for and was granted, a rate increase well above that allowed, for a period of five years. This caused our rates **to rise far in excess of 5% at a compounded rate** over that period.
- , And the **rates still increase at an indexed % rate each year**. In my case my rates have gone from \$25 about 38 years ago, to the current charge of \$1312pa. (This is without water and sewerage charges). And **services have decreased** just as substantially, for those residents outside the 60km zone (on internal order, I'm told!)
- , The golden era of Ballina Shire was during the Peter Thorpe leadership.
- , It is noticed that the **internal staff of BSC has risen** from say about 12-15 to perhaps 30 or more as at the present. This is **overstaffing**, and the costs must be astronomical with salaries and superannuation etc. An audit should be made, and this staffing level substantially reduced.
- , **Outdoor staff:** Are 'gangs' overstaffed since 2 or 3 persons always seem to be idle when the gang is working? Why did two outdoor staff men drive onto a sporting field on 7.10.14 and talk for over an hour without even pretending to be working? etc etc etc.
- , **Wastage and/or mismanagement of ratepayers taxes.**
 - o Why is Council over-producing printing? eg: a (free) calendar? The 'Community Connect', the Wardell newsletter?

Why is Council engaging in ineffective (bullying), ¼ p adds in the Advocate?... since Council must be paying much for the weekly column in the Advocate, as well. Advise folk there, or write to ratepayers about a group of topics in one letter and place it in the rate notices when they are being posted!

- Why is Council paying astronomical 'consultant' fees for things that the internal staff could be doing for the cost of their wages? I think of the \$80,000 mentioned for the Marina project; the Wigmore Arcade upgrade; and many others such as these. Why does Council employ highly qualified staff if all they are assigned to do is clerical work? Eliminate this wastage.
- Why is Council pursuing politically-motivated policies...especially those of the Greens? Greenhouse gases causing warming is the hoax of the 21st century.
- Why the large ungoing, unnecessary wastage of Council embarking on 'forced medicating' fluoridation of the water supply, since there are unresearched questions about its effect on the elderly's bone density, and cholesterol levels in every person? What of the later consequences? How will Council pay for the inevitable class actions that will ensure from this ill-advised decision? We all know the aftermath of the asbestos and DDT consequences!
- **Postage:** Why is Council posting 'Community Connect' to residents, when they also pay for it to be placed in the Advocate, and so on?
Why doesn't Council co-ordinate its postings to residents, so the separate material could be sent in one envelope instead of each one being posted separately.
Remember postage is 60-70c each letter! Surely the report that Council has a fleet of 107 cars (that are regularly updated) cannot be true???!!!
- As for ratepayers sharing the burden for all residents, may I mention that the ONLY facility I use for my rates, is the occasional use of the Library.....and that mainly in LISMORE! As for the swimming pool, I was forced to stop using pools the moment I discovered AIDS/HIV are transmitted by body fluids.....and since infected people are not screened nor excluded, we healthy persons must be.
- I notice that the Federal Government has recently granted Ballina Shire \$2m to help with road repair and maintenance. This must relieve some pressure on BSC funds?

I suggest that Council resolve to live within its income means, just as each of the ratepayers of the Shire have to do. Council should do an efficiency examination and make the necessary changes that can save wastage.

On the positive side, I appreciate that your roundabouts are so much safer than the ones in Lismore which are raised so high in the centre one cannot see traffic that has to be given-way to. The low set roundabouts are so much less stressful and safer. I also appreciate the quick response the road repair team makes whenever they are notified of potholes etc. Thank you.

Is it possible to return to the golden days of the Thorpe era within the Ballina Shire Council? You would have more fans if you did. **Wise decision making and good economics are essential.** I hold my breath....

Yours faithfully,

M. Whitney
22/10/14



POSSIBLE BALLINA AND ALSTONVILLE POOL UPGRADES – HAVE YOUR SAY

The Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools are two of our most popular community assets, attracting more than 155,000 visits last season. The pools, which were built in the early 1970s, are showing their age and Council is now looking at refurbishing the existing facilities. In undertaking this refurbishment there is an opportunity to upgrade both pool complexes and provide an expanded range of services.

Improvements that have been identified by users of the facilities include:

- Heating of the Ballina pool and improved heating of the Alstonville pool
- Contemporary children's wet play areas
- Dedicated training or lap pools
- Improve picnic and BBQ facilities
- Covered spectator seating and increased shade structures
- Improve disabled access and amenities
- Additional lanes to ensure the 50m pools meet competitive swimming standards

The estimated cost for this upgrade program is approximately \$8million (\$4m per pool). Based on our current revenue base we cannot fund this scope of works without reductions in other services. Therefore we are now seeking community feedback to see if there is support for Council to fund these improvements by an additional rate increase of 2.5% for two years. This, combined with the typical annual rate increase set by the NSW Government of around 3%, would see rates increase by a total of 5.5% in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

If this funding was approved, the Ballina pool upgrade would be completed in 2015/16 and Alstonville in the following year.

As part of our consultation process we will be writing to all ratepayers providing detailed information on the impact of the proposed rate increases on current property rates.

If you are interested in obtaining further information on this proposal, an overview of the swimming pool redevelopment program and the special rate variation process is available on our website ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal.

We want your feedback

This is an important consultation project and we encourage feedback from all residents and property owners.

• PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

• EMAIL poolsproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

• To complete the online SURVEY visit the homepage of ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal

• Make a WRITTEN SUBMISSION to:

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

• VISIT THE WEBSITE for further details, reference documents and regular updates at ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal

• SUBMISSIONS CLOSE Friday 31 October 2014

community connect

LETTERS

Pooling resources

IN relation to the proposed rate increase to pay for the upgrade of Ballina and Alstonville pools, councillors can be accused of being, at best, unfair and, at worst, total hypocrites. We live at South Ballina, so have to pay to use the Burns Point Ferry. When fees were savagely

increased some years ago, protests were held, but we were told that council employs a user-pays policy and no help could be given. So now when we go to pay our annual rates, we also pay \$250 per car for a ferry. That's right. An extra \$500 for our two cars on top of the general rates bill. We use the ferry, we pay,

I don't use the pools, but will still be required to pay for the upgrade through a rate increase. Seems like selective application of the policy to me. (Could it be the old politician's play which goes: "There's only a few hundred voters at South Ballina, so make them pay, whereas there are many thousands

of voters in Ballina and Alstonville, so tread carefully and share the cost there."

So councillors, how about we support your rate increase and you use a tiny part of the millions raised to reduce ferry charges to residential ratepayers.

That way you could sleep easy all night and we would get a fair go. I'll keep an eye out for the flying pigs.
B O'Keefe,
Empire Vale

Your Letters

Email editor@echo.news.c
If this is what you are after
to? The right of rates in NSW

Daggy Lismore

WASTING thousands of dollars of Lismore ratepayers' money on a ridiculous sculpture is bad enough, but now the LCC wants to waste more on signage and painting the roundabout red, white and black! The current "daggy" signage represents Lismore appropriately. It is a daggy town.

The town footpaths and outdoor seating areas are positively shabby and filthy. (So too is the stairway within the library.)

The street gardens are colourless and uninspiring. Then there are the unkempt bridges which were supposed to have been repainted at least 12 months ago. Wouldn't they create a better impression if painted, than signage, which is only glimpsed as motorists flash by? And why hasn't the riverside project been completed?

Guiding, in most streets around town, simply consist of open culverts allowing water to pond, providing ideal mosquito breeding conditions, hindering street parking in narrow roads and very rarely maintained by council. They are simply Third World.

Ratepayers are pleading for their roads and verges to be maintained and kept tidy as is done in all other towns around Lismore e.g. Ballina, Casino, Tentersfield, Grafton. Incredibly, some Lismore dwellings, well over 50 years old, are still waiting for kerb and guttering and being charged for them nevertheless.

Other councils include special garbage pickups throughout the year which would be a boon to those who do not have the practical means and cannot afford to pay to have rubbish, unsuitable for the bins, to be taken away.

When complaints are made we are always fed the 'funding' excuse yet time and time again we see our money being spent or given away in areas which are state or federal responsibility. Considering our rates are among the highest in the state, we deserve better.

Lismore is an open sore within a most beautiful region

B Lawrence, Lismore

Pool Issues

I DO not agree more money should be spent on the existing swimming pool. It is not open all year for schools and residents to use, not heated, it is open to all the elements, has no gym, exercise classes, childminding or aquatic physiotherapist or qualified instructors are not available
Therese McNamee, Empire Vale

Ratepayers rate council performance

HERE we are at the halfway point of this council, which is a good time to take stock of what this council has delivered and what the council candidates (many of whom were elected) said prior to the election.

I note with interest Eva Ramsey's letter (Advocate, 24/9) concerning the lack of progress on the Indoor Sports Centre.

Before the last council election, I chaired a meet-the-candidates forum where many of the current councillors made it quite clear that fixing up our public pools and delivering the long-awaited indoor sports centre was a priority for them.

It appears that nothing has changed with the current crop and the delivery of the sports centre appears to have slipped off the agenda.

On top of that, now they are telling the ratepayers that if we want our pools upgraded, we will have to pay more rates.

As a long-time ratepayer, I've noticed the rates and other charges have more than doubled in the last 5/10 years. *Cherry Green*

However, council still tells

the public it has no money. Cr. Jeff Johnson is spot on when he asks the question 'what is more important to our community, a steel factory or an indoor sports centre?' (Advocate, 24/9).

Cr. Johnson has consistently advocated for a reallocation of council's property portfolio to deliver community facilities but is unable to convince the deal makers who control council's agenda.

As a ratepayer and president of the Ballina Ratepayers Association, I agree it's time the council got back to basics and focused on delivering infrastructure rather than treating ratepayers' money like their own private supermarket.

The way we are going, many in our community won't be around long enough to watch their children or grandchildren benefiting from these facilities.

Ross Pickering,
President,
Ballina Ratepayers
Association

Pool pool planning

I SUPPORT maintaining and upgrading the pool, however I do not support being slugged a rates increase for the work.

The pool has been in

Ballina since the early 1970s.

Did the council believe the pool would never age? The council should have developed a realistic improvement plan with appropriate timeframes and budget to carry out improvements years ago.

Many of the proposed improvements could have already been implemented individually over time and within existing budgets from existing ratepayer and pool-user fees.

This appears to be another example where the council's failure to plan and budget will generate yet another rates increase for the residents.

Rai Kalms,
Ballina

Survey shock

I RECENTLY sat in at one of the ratpayers' meetings held at the Ballina Council Chambers and was shocked to find that this council has based the spending of \$8 million on a one-off survey of only 500 residents.

I was extremely surprised to find that Ballina Shire rates are on average \$656 per residence (figures presented by the council). I personally do not know of anyone who pays that rate for rates here in Ballina Shire.

The general manager apparently stated that a survey of 500 people was taken. This is not a solid representation of the Ballina population, which is approximately 45,000 (and as such this is not seen as a real indication in the eyes of many).

I am sure that 500 people

do not give any true indication of a cross-section of our shire or where they would like these funds distributed.

Based on the findings of this survey, it is expected that council will spend \$4 million on the Ballina Swimming Pool, which apparently rated highest over the 500 surveyed, and \$4 million on Altonville Pool, which was shown to rate as the very lowest.

Now I have every concern for the swimmers of our community and I believe strongly that the Ballina pool required maintenance (this has to be done), but this should have been budgeted for within the council's maintenance plan.

It should have been set in place long ago as that is how most managed businesses operate. It

prolongs and loses after the life of their valuable assets.

I would like to ask why Altonville Pool is budgeted to have \$4 million spent on it, when it rated as the lowest council option, states there are no great concerns with the Altonville pool just needing a revamp with slides, shelters and play areas etc.

We have no indoor sports centre in the shire and this council thus far has not made any major attempt to provide one, after 18 years of lobbying.

I ask why is \$4 million of this rate rise being earmarked for Altonville Pool at all? This \$4 million should be earmarked towards helping to provide a indoor sports centre for the community, not the upgrade of Altonville Pool.

Ballina Shire Council, come on, consider the wider community and the greater numbers who would benefit from an indoor sporting facility! This rate rise should be divided equally between Ballina pool and the provision of the indoor sports centre.

It is time this council took a real look at what this shire lacks. The CEO and the mayor also openly admit that our council rates in the lowest percentile in NSW in the delivery of community infrastructure.

Believe it or not, we will not stop this rate rise as council are just locking the boxes, but we can give it equity between two major, essential community EVA RAMSEY, Lennox Head

Contributions can only be published if they are accompanied by the writer's given name and surname and contact details (address, phone, e-mail, fax, mobile, etc.) and a daytime telephone number. Letters are usually prepared, typed, printed and published in the order received. Letters are subject to editing and may be shortened for space. Contributors are asked to keep their letters concise and to the point. The council is not responsible for the return of letters. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, Northern Star, Locked Mail Bag 957, Newcastle NSW 2300.



David Phylard

What do you like about living in Ballina Shire?

The weather is pretty good and I also like the quiet and peaceful lifestyle.

What can Council do to improve the lifestyle you have in Ballina Shire?

I live on a rural property and I don't enjoy getting my rates notice. We pay nearly \$2,000 a year for services we don't use; we have our own tank water, septic system and my rates keep going up. So really all I'm paying for is to have my rubbish collected,

Council's Response

Councils provide a wide range of services and ultimately the benefit anyone receives depends on their own situation. ~~Once per week~~

For example, it is difficult to measure how much a person uses the Council roads, with your property rates funding road maintenance and construction works, along with the footpaths, street lighting, signage and stormwater drainage.

Similarly other council services such as parks and reserves, sporting fields, surf lifesaving, swimming pools, libraries, town planning, rural fire service, public health programs, environmental programs, the ~~community gallery and community centres~~ are all funded by rate income and used to differing degrees by our residents.

Occasionally. Weekly in LISMORE. Council pursues too many GREEN policies and favours Aborigines over white herding quite often

Every day we are all accessing Council services; so even though property rates, which are based on the land value of the property, may have no direct link to the services used on a property, the overall benefit will depend on your own lifestyle, along with that of your family. Also the services provided by a council help to define the type of community we live in.

Finally our rating structure recognises that farms are often larger and have higher land values than residential properties. Therefore all properties, which have a dominant use as farmland, receive approximately a 20% discount as compared to residential properties. ~~but residential are rated~~

*1/2
URBAN areas use more
URBAN services*

Assets at risk with merger fears

THE proposed changes to the Local Government Act are a blueprint for forced amalgamations of councils throughout NSW.

While there is limited funding available to councils that wish to merge, the reality is that councils

have now been instructed to present a 'fit for the future' plan to the NSW Government by June.

Premier Mike Baird has made it clear that he believes there are too many councils in NSW and that mergers are on the agenda.

Mr Baird has repeatedly refused to rule out any forced mergers but is on the record saying that 'there are too many councils in NSW'.

Furthermore, during a recent press conference, he made the point that if councils don't merge, then 'we will have to look at other options'.

Labor's shadow local government minister, Sophie Collins, told the FT for the Future policy was 'nothing more than forcing the amalgamation of councils across NSW by stealth'.

The biggest concern for the Ballina Shire is its stable commercial property holdings.

Currently this portfolio is valued at over \$30 million and would be an easy target for a regional council that would be under pressure to deliver much-needed community infrastructure. The point being that a

merged council would be able to sell Ballina ratepayers' assets and spend the money on roads and community facilities outside the existing Ballina LGA.

Ballina council also has a large community infrastructure backlog that needs to be addressed.

Continuing to invest in commercial property is not only a risky practice, but in the event of a merger, these assets will be the first to be sold.

Ballina ratepayers have been lobbying the council to improve our public swimming pools and to build an indoor sports centre for over a decade.

During that same period, Ballina council has invested in an office block, a steel factory and a number of cafes/bars.

Furthermore, council is currently engaged in a community consultation process with the intention of applying for yet another special rate variation to pay off a loan to redevelop our public pools (Ballina and Alstonville).

With the threat of forced amalgamations in the Northern Rivers, I believe that council should look to reallocate some of the \$30 million that it has in commercial property to fund essential community infrastructure projects to meet the needs of our

growing community. What's more important for our community, a steel factory or an indoor sports centre? It's become increasingly obvious to me that we can't have both. 2/1/21/4 Cr Jeff Johnson, ANNOUET@a Letnox Head

Adv

From P6

point, not quibbling about dollar figures and average subsidies.

As we said to the minister just a few weeks ago, it's fine to build great infrastructure, but if you don't have the resources or the staff to make it work, then it is a pointless exercise.

The Library Act, which reaches its 75th anniversary in three weeks' time, always pronounced a partnership between local government and the state of NSW in the provision of public library services.

Local government has done the heavy lifting for the past decade and more, and now has to make hard decisions about the level of service that can be provided.

If opening hours are reduced, branches closed, or mobile library stops removed, it will be because funding pressures on councils have become too great. For a modest increase in recurrent funding, the minister can prevent this. More than 60 000 NSW residents have signed in support of this proposition. Minister Grant must listen to the community - library lovers unite too!

Councillor Graham Smith
Councillor Veronique Marchandreau
Joint presidents, NSW Public Libraries Association

Indoor sports
FOR all those living in the Ballina Shire who would have received a notice from the council requesting your input to fund an \$8 million swimming pool upgrade, this is your chance to make it clear to them in no uncertain terms that you understand there are limited funds and the use of those funds needs to be prioritised, so now is the time to recognise the multi-purpose sports centre (which will house a

minimum of four basketball courts suitable for tournament play) needs to be given priority over the pool upgrades.

From both a social and economic benefit perspective, the sports centre is far more important to the shire. If we can ask the ratepayers to approve \$8m for pool upgrades, we certainly should be able to request the far more beneficial sports centre be approved for about the same cost.

With no disrespect intended to the pool users, they have facilities that are far more accommodating to them than the shire sports participants have. Let's get the priorities right. With more than 2000 users waiting to utilise these facilities on a year-round basis once built, there would be many more prospective users, as Ballina does not provide for any indoor sports. Not to mention sport tourism benefits.

Eva Ramsey
Lennox Head

Coastal path

IN RELATION to the debate surrounding the coastal recreation path, I would firstly like to acknowledge Shirley White's contribution to restoring the dunes in East Ballina to enable the survival of

important coastal littoral rainforest. Not only does it provide habitat for threatened species but also assists in the stabilisation of the coastal dune system.

Secondly, I suggest councillors who supported Paul Worth's motion to place the path to the east of Plat Rock (not park) take a walk along the path leading from Missingham Bridge to the swimming pool. While taking this walk, it is important to note the amount of sand that regularly (thanks to the south-east winds) covers sections of this shared

pathway. This is a result of building through fragile and without consideration of long-term costs, environmental or financial.

The council pay for advice to map long-term, cost-effective environmentally friendly route that would be most enjoyable and recreational experience. We should use experts.

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Moving to new 21 Kailings Street West Ballina site in January 2015



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Advertisement for beer products including HAHN SuperDry 3.5, CLARO STIRRIES, and NZ PURE LAGER. Includes prices like \$39.99 CTN and \$38.99 CTN.

24/9/16 Adv

Opinion

Send your letters to starballedit@n

LETTERS

BALLINA Shire voters went to the elections two years ago to vote for councillors who would deliver to us, the people of Ballina Shire, a four-court indoor sporting facility.

At a council facilities meeting nine months later, it was passed we would have a four-court facility and again confirmed at the following general council meeting with our mayor casting the deciding vote that a four-court facility was what Ballina Shire would acquire.

Two years since being elected on September 14, 2012, and three unproductive studies along the way with a large amount of ratepayers' money in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, we still don't have a permanently allocated site allocation for facilities.

Still no plans delivered, still no grants been applied for by the council and still no action that can be deemed as positive toward these facilities.

What is happening?

Did we elect the wrong people for the job?

Do the mayor the councillors and the general manager take Ballina's sporting infrastructure seriously?

Have we a progressive or regressive council?

Do they or have they ever really listened to what the shire residents voted for? Do they have the people of the shire at heart?

All relevant questions when we go to vote again in the near future.

Did you know Ballina Shire rates as one of the lowest % per capita for community infrastructure in NSW? *1/5 to 4/10*

Fact: Northern Rivers indoor sporting facilities:

■ Lismore population 44,637 residents: four indoor courts with access to a further two courts;

■ Yamba population 5514 residents: two indoor courts and access to one other court

■ Maclean population 2600 residents: two indoor courts;

■ Grafton population 17,500 residents: four indoor courts and access to one other court;

■ Casino population 10,558: one indoor court and just put tenders out to build a two-court indoor facility;

■ Byron Bay population 32,126: two courts and access to one other and plans in progress for the third court.

■ Ballina Shire population 42,000: no indoor sporting facility in Ballina, access to one high school court when not being used by the school.

How does our council

stack up?

24 (a) 4

Eva Ramsay,
Lennox Head

other group needs funding

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

CJ booms into campaign

FORMER Australian representative basketballer CJ Bruton has weighed in on the campaign for an indoor sporting facility in Ballina.

Calvin "CJ" Bruton junior moved to Ballina to live five months ago and hasn't officially hung up his professional basketball boots yet, but fears other up and comers in Ballina might not get the chance to lace theirs up at all.

Bruton "had some great battles" with former Ballina basketballer Nathan Crosswell during his National Basketball League career.

But he said there was every chance other talented players were not being nurtured because Ballina did not have an indoor facility.

"I think it's something that every town should have," he said of an indoor stadium.

"Ballina has a lot of playing fields but nothing indoors."

"You've got to cater for everybody - you need to cater for the indoor sports."

He said he had seen indoor stadiums which not only allowed for sports like soccer, netball, basketball,



BLOOMER IN BALLINA: Former Australian representative basketball player CJ Bruton shares tips with young players at clinic in Ballina last week. PHOTO: CRAIG

Wildcats, Brisbane Bullets, Wollongong Hawks, Canberra Cannons, Sydney Kings and New Zealand Breakers.

In 2008, he was selected to play for the national squad, the Boomers, at the Beijing Olympics.

And in 2013, he was named in the Sydney Kings during his career. Perth

Antiprimary Team.

He moved to Ballina as he has family in-laws living locally.

Last week he ran for the second time a school holiday coaching clinic at Southern Cross School R-12, which was hosted by the Ballina Breakers Basketball Association.

Ballina Shit resolved not to

immediate ac choosing a pr Ballina as the

Government Crown Lands potential site sporting land Crown Land.

Other ways to get funding:-
 • Federal Govt grant for road works
 • Library grants - local apply for grants
 (inroads? hold council, eliminate wages etc)
 This would free up other council money
 which then can be applied to the road work
 (emphasize prioritised based on realism NOT
 glorified idealism)

Federal money starts to flow for



Kevin Hogan
NSW Minister for Arts and Heritage

FEDERAL money is starting to flow to Lismore City Council to improve our local roads.

The government announced last week that this year Lismore would receive \$882,603 from our Roads to Recovery Program, and a total of \$5,265,617 over the next five years.

The Roads to Recovery Program was launched by the then Nationals Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson and continues to play a crucial role in maintaining and repairing our local roads.

Please note re grant Library funding 2014-15

THE Minister for Arts has written to many newspapers across NSW in recent days about the library funding campaign being co-ordinated by our association.

We acknowledge the additional capital funding provided by the NSW Government in the 2014-15 Budget, and for coming years.

What needs to be made clear is that the funding under this increase is available by application to the grant program and is not universally spread across the state.

While this funding will provide enhanced facilities for those councils which are successful, other issues remain. *15/10/14, 14/10/14, 14/10/14*

*There are many grants available
This is one example - for events*

News

Event funding could be yours

NATIONALS Member for Lismore Thomas George is encouraging event organisers to lodge expressions of interest for grants now open under the Government's 2013 NSW Regional Flagship Events Program.

The Program, administered by the state's tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, provides one-year grants of \$10,000 and three-year grants totalling \$80,000 to support the marketing and

advertising of regional events and festivals to outside visitors.

Last year Regional NSW delivered an impressive 74 million nights of accommodation and \$9.8 billion in visitor expenditure and regional events play an important role in helping us achieve these results," Mr George said.

Since March 2011, the NSW Government has provided more than \$1.5 million in direct funding to

126 events under the Regional Flagship Events program. Expressions of interest for the 2015 Regional Flagship Events Program are open until September 1, and successful applicants will be invited to make full submissions later in the year.

Successful applicants to be advised in December 2014.

For further information, or to lodge an expression of interest, visit the Destination NSW website.

ways to save money which can then be applied to the (revised) Pool plan

- Substantial fees for consultants
- Better Council grants to C&G
- Saving
- Unnecessary and literal advertising
- Printing (studying) project to central council
- Stop pursuing green, for political reasons
- Stop pursuing green, for political reasons

On example of waste... 26 Nov

ELIMINATE WASTE? S

glass) isn't depressing enough, the process of conveying this cargo of rent-seekers the short 2km to the parliamentary precinct is the coup de grace. Unhindered commuters might be looked that the nice staff from Canberra Elie Taxis, a local monopoly, were launching together passengers holding in the same building in the same cab to save everyone time.

But no, they soon discover that a system has emerged whereby each individual passenger pays the full fare. With four passengers, the 10-minute cab ride costs at most \$80. Three passengers, \$60; in Sydney or Melbourne, say. Every day perhaps tens of thousands of mainly taxpayer dollars are frittered away.

That no bus had been commissioned by the government to ferry the routine arrival of hundreds of people at a fraction of the cost is remarkable given the supposed budget crisis. But it is a good example of how anti-competition, wasteful arrangements often to the benefit of one or two well-connected companies — are able to

The competition review shows how to improve services

ADAM CREIGHTON



ARRIVING at Canberra Airport on a Monday morning at the beginning of a parliamentary sitting fortnight is a depressing spectacle for anyone even remotely averse to waste. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of bureaucrats, political staffers, corporate rent-seekers and politicians descend on the nation's capital at huge cost to people who have no idea they are paying. If the immense cost of flying them all there (often business

fourish to the detriment of the wider public.

The interim report of the government's competition inquiry, released this week, provides a timely and important set of recommendations that call for ending more government services and practices to competition. Proposals to deregulate retail trading hours, end absurd pharmacy ownership restrictions and remove regulations effectively preventing the importation of cheaper books and second-hand cars would grab the headlines.

But the more formative and potentially beneficial recommendations relate to ways to improve government efficiency. Government may quite reasonably want to engineer a particular social outcome, for instance ensuring children are educated to age 16 to a particular standard. They may require ambulances attend crash sites in less than 15 minutes or hospitals to meet certain efficiency and service standards. But there is no reason why government itself must ensure such outcomes, as the Harper Review suggests.

The Australian

Jobs

Government & Defence



Don't miss your chance to change your lifestyle. This is your opportunity to live and work in a vibrant community that enjoys a great coastal environment.

COORDINATOR CONSTRUCTION

To coordinate, monitor and review road construction programs to ensure they are consistent with Council's vision and mission, and meet the objectives of Council's management plan.

TEAM LEADER ROAD CONSTRUCTION

To supervise Council's road construction teams to ensure efficient completion of road construction programs.

HEAVY PLANT MECHANIC / FITTER MACHINIST

To work with Council's workshop team to provide high level maintenance and repair to a variety of heavy and light plant and machinery items.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE CARPENTER

To undertake construction, maintenance and inspection of Council owned buildings and facilities.

Applications close: Friday, 31 October 2014

Information Package: Available from Council's website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au or Human Resources Department 02 8686 1443.



New positions?

3/1/10
"I love the fact that he doesn't recycle or use his organic bin, it's a real turn on"

SAID NO WOMAN, EVER.

If you want to woo the ladies visit

www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/urban3binsystem

ballina shire council

Eliminate these waste-money adds on as they are used & they're better

According to the United Nations

- 33% of all food produced is wasted at an annual cost of \$850 billion
- The greenhouse gases that come from this rotting food make up 10% of total greenhouse gases
- The water used to grow these crops would meet the needs of 9 million people daily
- There are 9 million people in the world in chronic hunger

If you are going to do the immoral thing and waste food, at least put it in the organic bin so you're not polluting at the same time.

For more information visit: www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/urban3binsystem

ballina shire council

Eliminate these ineffective money creating ads

*1/10/14
Add*

ARTICLES FOR YOUR INFORMATION
 • Global Warming' 9/14/14 Australian
 • Maria feed back comments Adv. 10/10/14
 • Faces day
 • Council members

Numbers say more than words

head of PM Tony Abbott's contribution to human-caused greenhouse gases is below two per cent. The ABC and Fairfax can complain all they like about alleged Australian inaction, but even if we closed every one of our industries our role in climate change would still be minimal.

The Daily Telegraph, printed and published by the proprietor, Nationwide News Pty Ltd, A.C.N. 605438828 of 2, Holt St, Sydney Hills, NSW 2010. A. No. 152,232, issued to Jimmy, Chiltons. Responsibility for election comment is taken by the Editor, Paul Whittaker.

13/6/14 Daily Telegraph
 Global Warming

daily to process from the ABC, that was NO mention of climate scientists think is being caused in large part by human action (Letters, 8/10). This is a misuse of the survey published in the proceedings of the US National Academies of Sciences in 2010. The report makes no linkage to the alarmist notion of crisis. It draws on 308 researchers whose expertise is assumed through publication by each in at least 20 climate-related publications. It found that anthropogenic greenhouse gases have been responsible for most of the unequivocal warming of the Earth's average temperature over the second half of the 20th century. This is a position that many of those climate scientists who are sceptics might also embrace. The survey does not measure views as to whether warming will on balance be good or bad.

A political campaign to establish mining in a dry, volcanic region.

indicates that most climate scientists agree there has been some human contribution to warming, not that they believe that there is a potential catastrophe. He would also know that all the temperature data sets used by climate scientists show there has been no warming this century. And he would know that even if warming might resume and might be harmful that does not of itself justify extremely costly emissions reduction policies that will have a negligible impact on any further warming.

Michael Cunningham, West End, Qld

No need for alarm

ROBERT MANNE refers to the impending climate crisis that 97 per cent of the world's scientists believe is inevitable.

ROBERT MANNE should know that science relies on evidence, not consensus. And if he followed the global warming debate he would know that the alleged 97 per cent consensus is based on discredited studies and only 97 per cent of the world's scientists.

Barry York, Lyncham, ACT

Rubbish on roads

RECENTLY, my family and I had long-time friends and their family arrive from Canada.

We were able to take them to various and enjoyable places, mostly within the Ballina Shire. They were all impressed with what they saw and would have returned to Canada to tell their friends of what a natural and wonderful area we have.

On their journey home we drove them out to Ballina Byron Airport.

Yes, of. Expect of Gap Rd. At St. - Brisbane due to one ratemyer who daily removes rubbish at some weeks (Council keeps spreading it - Made them spread the rubbish properly)

A comment was made by a teenage daughter of our guests that the road to the airport had a lot of garbage beside it. Immediately after she made these remarks, the wife stated she had noticed the unkindness when they first arrived and, as she was closer to the road driving to the airport, it was much more apparent.

When it was brought to my notice, and coming from a visitor, we were rather embarrassed when we had been singing the praises of our beautiful region. Having thought about this and the impression it made upon

our visitors, it was felt we should try to rectify the situation so that others coming in and out of Ballina would not observe the same.

We consider the Ballina Shire Council staff could take note and attend to this problem that no doubt would be obvious to tourists and others travelling to the airport along the Southern Cross Dr.

This road also services the garbage depot and most of the rubbish viable would have come from vehicles travelling directly to this facility. Some of the rubbish would appear to be sheets of

plastic, bins and other material, making this road unsightly.

The council should regularly tidy up this road and it would be of good presentation if the side of this road had some trees to make it more presentable to our visitors.

We know the staff do a fabulous job elsewhere and would like to think this problem could be easily and quickly rectified.

Adrian Wilson
Lennox Head

Clean-up day

TO ALL members of Ballina council, please give us in 2015 a yearly household clean-up.

Not everybody in this shire has a ute or trailer and things are piling up in backyards to an unhealthy state.

Monica Shippinger
Ballina
Yes please!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

e You can send your comments to: submit@wfbusiness.com.au

YOUR SAY

onthermstar.com.au

other people who feel much the same way. I sincerely hope I can make you remember well the neat and inviting layout of that particular part of Ballina.

M Pickles,
Ballina

Marina issues

It is difficult to dispute that a safe bar and the development of marina facilities would provide benefits to our community.

However it is imperative that Ballina Shire Council does not approve either of those initiatives without first ensuring that current community facilities and spaces are not compromised in the process.

The problem with the recent proposal for a marina is that it would eventually result in a massive transfer of public lands and facilities to the property developers.

The result of this will be the development of high priced apartment blocks that are affordable for the few at the expense of the community facilities that currently benefit the many.

These facilities include the public pool, skate park, the museum, the amphitheatre and the shared pathway.

Sue Page,
East Ballina

(The recent proposal for a marina in the Kingsford Smith Precinct has already been knocked back by council - Graham Broadhead, Journalist-in-charge)

Maintain the character

HOLA and hello! Stephen (Advocate, 177). I do not know how long you have been away from this area, but let me explain to you that having a marina like the one proposed in Ballina is bad for several reasons.

For one thing, the roads would not be able to swallow the traffic that undoubtedly would increase too much, would it not?

That area where some people have indicated a marina would be appropriate is already fully utilised by the community with the skate park, the market every Sunday morning and the rugby league football ground so well attended each week.

That's just to mention a few of the various activities that take place there.

I do not know how long you have been away, but I see all those things happening regularly as features of our beloved Ballina which should be left in peace.

My partner and myself do not see any advantage disrupting the character of this town which we fell in love with when we moved here in May last year.

18/9/08
ADV

With this amount of astonishing progress happening around the town, I suspect that I will hardly recognise Ballina by the time I return home.

From the air I imagine the town will look like a giant vacuum-sealed pickle jar with a prawn on top.

It's just a shame that nothing living is ever found in a pickle jar.
Stephen Bocking,
Aldertonville

Well done...?

HOLA (hello) from Bilbao, Spain everyone.

I'm about as far away as a person can get from Ballina and still be on the planet, and yet I heard all about the marina development that our brains trust bravely knocked back.

I'd like to congratulate our council and especially our Mayor for his amazing vision and foresight.

The last thing the people of Ballina need at this moment is millions of dollars worth of building works followed by potentially hundreds of jobs stemming from a much-needed piece of maritime infrastructure in our town.

And I totally agree with the logic that says that any development that didn't come from the brilliant minds of our council engineers can't be worthy of consideration.

After all, we all remember what a brilliant job they did with the Lennox Head community nuclear site. Not to mention the sun deck on the new Ballina Surf Lifesaving club - oh that's right, there isn't one.

Good, but the scope for flexibility in workloads is alarming. Have you left the floor things - for their respect

YOUR SAY

Send your letters to starballinaedit@northernstar.com.au.

degrees. Result? Dead soil. The majority of rainfall is captured and stored in either tanks or nutrient-retention dams. Farmers are not allowed to catch this amount of rainfall (harvesting) - they have to allow most of the runoff to go into the aquifers or streams for others to share. Irrigation (in my major case study) is applied at a rate of about 7ml to 10ml per night up to 300 nights a

year. (It rains other nights, so this adds about 2400 ml (89-plus inches) extra per year to flush out leachate potting mix, nutrients (slow-release fertilisers), farm chemicals etc into holding tanks or dams. Ballina Shire Council supplies some of these nurseries with recycled sewage water. Ballina Shire Council approved one of these huge nurseries 800m from a Public Water Catchment (intensive agriculture is not allowed in water catchment zones).

When the sun heats up the six million litre wastewater storage dam (particularly in summer) the waste nutrients encourage algal blooms (like Lake Araworth) and in storms these dams overflow into our property 40m and then 800m to the public water supply. Chemicals have to be used to kill the blooms and this causes toxins dangerous to marine life and humans.

I have asked the council in the past 10 years for guarantees on the quality and quantity of the runoff - they will not guarantee what enters my property. Bats died earlier this year on my property when they swam upstream from the public water supply weir. I advised the council of this fact and left the eels health and regulatory services to collect for testing, but no action was taken to test the eels.

I advise the council of each dam overflowing and request I be advised of council testing times so I can watch from a public road (10m away) the samples being taken and I have asked for a sample for my own independent testing - no reply to this request. I have written to the mayor at least four times this year but he says it is the general manager's problem. Neither party will answer any questions and

at 40 overflows in the past 10 years.

That equates to approximately 1 billion litres (yes, with a B) wastewater (most on film) released into the environment, but we receive waste from the council as answers.

There are no nutrient-stripping facilities on some of these nurseries, so it is a case of 'hoping' the rain dilutes their wastewater.

The only information available on these types of polluting industries appears to be 'spin' from the nursery association, who don't reply to correspondence either.

How is it possible for a council to give permission for a DA in a water catchment then be expected to monitor the same project for pollution under the POEO Act?

If the development is found to be polluting, then surely the developer can take action against the council for approving the DA in the first place?

This system is a total joke on the environment and we will all suffer the consequences in years to come if action is not taken. We have to protect our water catchments and prime agricultural land for future generations - we have no choice.

Clive Quick Alstonville

Southern potential

AS A relative newbie, it is apparent a plan for the development of Ballina is overdue.

My observation is that Ballina South appears to have been largely ignored in the past and I consider it a perfect location for marjilla, resorts etc, with the sacrifice of a very small percentage of the nature reserve.

Advantages would be: the current shoreline of Ballina itself would not be compromised;

a bridge should be part of the development so there may be minimal cost to the

having a bridge would open up Ballina South for further development. Ray Sporne, Alstonville

Fix existing path

BEFORE Ballina council spends any money on new cycle/walkways, they should replace the existing cycle/walkway between the sailing club and the parking area at Missingham Bridge, as not only is it a disgrace, it is downright dangerous.

It is no good just painting white lines around the damaged areas as this does not allow people to pass, as the walkway is too narrow. Tony Le Questor, Ballina

The minister fails to acknowledge that NSW Government's recruitment funding to support the public library network is the lowest percentage of total budget of any state, and about half of that provided in Victoria and Queensland, the two most comparable networks. This is the important

Continued P7

WHAT DO YOU THINK? You can send your comments to: [email icon]

A Monday holiday for Ballina races was on fortunate - a bad idea. Perhaps the races would change their day to one that ALREADY attracts a holiday - such as long weekend in October. Or else combine with another event. Such as country music weekend. Similar country theme? Reserve special holiday granting to days/events involving the interests of most residents.
 * Do not put races on Sunday. Keep one day sacred.
 Wednesday, September 24, 2004

News



THURSDAY BETTER: Ballina trainer Ki holiday retained.

should take the day off work.
 After all, that's exactly what paid days off are meant for.

Shutting down the town for the benefit of 5% of the population to have fun at a horse race makes about as much sense as declaring a holiday when surf conditions are good so that surfers can take the day off, or declaring a holiday on a nice mild summer afternoon so that cyclists can go for a bike ride.

Nothing against the surfers or cyclists here either.

But it's clear that few Ballina residents actually use the day to attend the race.

In the end, it's more of an inconvenience to the other 95% of Ballina's residents who have to pay extra penalty rates to employees to keep their businesses open, or take time off work in a neighbouring town because their kids need to be picked up from school in the middle of the day, or have to go back to the Medicare office or Post Office again another day because they find the office is shut so that workers can

... on the race - which

If organisers want more people to attend the Ballina Cup, there's nothing wrong with moving it to the weekend.

After all, there are plenty of other very successful annual events in the Ballina area - the Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival, Prawns Festival, Ballina Fine Wine and Food Festival to name a few - that take place on the weekend and get plenty of attendance.

They don't require a special holiday just to get the public to turn out, so why should the Ballina Cup?

Australia already has a race that stops the nation. It doesn't need another race that stops a small Northern Rivers town, too. That's just a little bit of overkill.

So, thank you to Mayor Wright for showing a little common sense on this.

Uffle
 Adelaide
 Stuart Cohen, East Ballina



Day event with the public
 DTG: GRAHAM BROADHEAD

Try Victorian model

It is not surprising that Sydney councils have said no to mergers ("Councils slam doors on mergers", October 5). As with many corporate mergers, the alleged financial gains may well be illusory, but there would be a loss of well-paid jobs among council management and also a reduction in the numbers of politically ambitious councillors who see themselves destined for higher office and neither group wants to see the turkey that votes for Christmas.

Few think councils are efficient. Improvements are needed to overcome the arrogance that comes from councils having a near monopoly over the approval of development in their area. Because NSW does not have a cost-effective way to resolve disputed council decisions (and many councils spend freely at the Land and Environment Court), councils can rigge roughshod over applicants.

By all means amalgamate councils, but also ensure proper performance standards for councils and that ratepayers have an affordable option to dispute their decisions. Something along the lines of Victoria's Civil and Administrative Tribunal would be a giant step forward.

Maurice Critchley Kenthurst
9/10/14, 3:01 PM

Twitter: @smh
 Discussion on Facebook: facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald
 Email: smh@smh.com.au

Regional bodies are the missing link in council mergers

Amalgamation of local councils is a concept that rolls smoothly off the tongue of state government politicians, but achieving it is far more complex.

While there is a widespread perception that opposition rests solely with local councillors and those who oppose any form of change, achieving true reform of local government will require a much more comprehensive approach.

There is no doubt that local government is seen by some councillors and residents as their own personal fiefdom, or as a stepping stone to a career in politics. But down at the coalface, it is councils that build communities, keep the streets clean, provide parks and recreation areas and give a strong voice to residents in creating and preserving the identity of their neighbourhoods.

It was this complexity that prompted the NSW government to appoint an independent panel to undertake a three-year consultation about how best to achieve a genuine partnership between the two levels of government - state and local - a process that was strongly supported by councils.

The panel's report outlined a range of options to achieve reform - of which amalgamation of councils in the Sydney metropolitan area was just one. Others included establishing so-called "joint organisations" - regional groupings of councils that would advocate and plan strategically at a regional level as well as promote shared services and opportunities to achieve efficiencies and cost savings through closer collaboration.

Nearly every council in NSW participates voluntarily in a "regional organisation of councils" - set up by councils to achieve exactly these outcomes.

So for the state government to decide that amalgamation is the sole option for metropolitan councils fails to look at alternatives that may achieve stronger, more effective and responsive local governments.

Some councillors say they can see a role for working more closely with neighbouring councils, not only to keep rates and other charges in check, but for better planning and development outcomes for their part of the city. Yet, perhaps unsurprisingly, the notion of geographically based council amalgamations is being resisted, since the number of councils in Sydney that support the move can be counted on one hand.

The potential benefits of merging two underperforming councils simply because they are neighbours are doubtful and there is the real risk that the end result is simply one large underperforming council.

If the NSW government is serious about creating a more sustainable partnership between state and local government - and a more efficient and collaborative local government sector - then perhaps it should look to the structure of the existing regional

Tony Hadchiti



organisations of councils as another way forward to achieve the increased economies of scale they seek.

And in rural and regional areas they are. Regional "ROCs" have been invited to enter talks with the government around developing and increasing their capacity for regional representation and co-ordination.

What is perplexing, however, is the decision to exclude their metropolitan equivalent "ROCs" from being the vehicle for these so-called "joint organisations" that the government's reform panel seeks.

Sydney has five of these regional organisations of councils, which represent almost all of the 43 councils, grouped around regions in the west, south, north and northern beaches and the Macarthur region.

These groupings are well established bodies that carry out the roles proposed for the "joint organisations" put forward by the reform panel - with all the benefits of service collaboration (the potential for joint procurement and shared services for example) that the state government hopes to achieve through amalgamations.

The Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils was established more than 40 years ago to advocate on behalf of councils on regional issues, to assist state and federal governments in co-ordinating regional planning and to provide a strong regional representation at the higher levels of government.

Joint procurement allows member councils to take advantage of volume rebates and manages contracts worth more than \$30 million, which saves our councils about \$3 million a year. It also runs a number of regionally funded programs on behalf of state and federal governments, which allow councils to co-operate in the delivery of environmental and service improvements in areas such as waste management and street lighting.

And internally the body provides a forum for councils to share services, programs and identify opportunities for collaboration across a range of areas, from planning to sustainability, arts and cultural programs, economic development and marketing.

Others among the city's regional organisations of councils have put priority on achieving joint procurement savings, while others see them as having a greater role in working on policy issues affecting their region.

Either way, they provide the state government with a well-established vehicle to pursue the next level of local government reform, which begs the question: why isn't this option on the table for debate?

Tony Hadchiti is president of the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC).

Sandra Bailey

From: Bettina Mahon <bjmahon@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 11:43 AM
Subject: Possible Special Rate Variation

Dear Mr Paul Hickey and Cr David Wright,

As Ballina Shire Council ratepayers we are sending this email to formally lodge our rejection of Ballina Council's proposal for a 'Special Rate Variation'.

We do not support a special rate variation in order to fund the pools or any other work programme.

In the current financial climate it is irresponsible of Ballina Shire Council to further financially burden ratepayers with an additional increase in rates. All other sectors of the community have to budget and plan for future expenditures. Ballina Shire Council's planning appears to entail simply asking ratepayers for more money. This is not acceptable management of the finances of the Ballina Shire community.

We have completed the online survey, however we noted that there was no identification required to verify ratepayer status. We therefore consider that the online survey could easily be manipulated by those with a vested interest in the rate increase. We have included our rate notice assessment number on this email so that we are identifiable as ratepayers of the shire.

We trust our objection will be duly noted and accepted.

Regards,

Mr J and Mrs BR Mahon
P.O. Box 252
Lennox Head
NSW 2478
Rate Assessment No. 196330

WE THE RESIDENCE OF 3 FOSTER ST
LENNOX HEAD DO NOT WANT TO PAY
EXTRA RATES TO THE BALLINA SHIMMS
COUNCIL FOR THE BALLINA OR ALSTONVILLE
SWIMMING POOLS

THESE POOLS
BUDGETED FOR

RECORDS
SCANNED
SHOULD HAVE BEEN
OVER 28 OCT 2014
DOC NO.....

AS A RATE PAYER ~~RESIDENT~~ LENNOX HEAD
WE PAY MORE THAN ENOUGH AS IT IS
WE PAY \$3,748.24 A YEAR AND WE
DO NOT EVEN HAVE CURB OR GUTTERING
IN OUR STREET.

I FEEL THE MAJORITY OF POOL USERS
ARE NOT EVEN RATE PAYERS.

FOR OUR AREA WE HAVE THE BEACH &
LAKE, IN LOYLAN OF LIVENA IN THE AREA
WE HAVE NEVER USED THE POOLS.

AND WE FEEL FOR THE AMOUNT OF RATES
LENNOX HEAD PAYS THERE SHOULD BE MORE
DONE IN OUR AREA (RESIDENCE OF 3 FOSTER ST,
LENNOX HEAD.

27 Ocean View Drive

Alstonville 2477

27 October 2014

The Mayor

Ballina Shire Council

P.O. Box 450

Ballina 2478

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

Sir,

We write to lodge our objection to the possible rate variation referred to in your letter of 22 September 2014.

We have not used either of the two shire pools in the twenty years we have resided in the shire, nor are we likely to do so in the future.

We learn to the notion of "user-pays" and suggest Council consider that principle to fund the proposed pools works. The expedient of increasing the rates of all to fund works benefitting a particular section of the community (rather than taking positive steps to curb and restrict the inefficiencies evident in most Council undertakings), is one with which we totally disagree.

The advantages of Council mergers are becoming more apparent.

Sincerely, Alan & Joan Smith

3 RIVERVIEW AVE

BALLINA 2478

RECORDED 28.10.2014
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

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

MR PAUL HICKEY
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
PO BOX 450
BALLINA 2478

Dear Sir : re Ballina/Kilstonville Swimming
Pools upgrade.

I wholeheartedly agree that these
pools do need an upgrade but NOT at
the expense of every ratepayer.

Like a lot of other people in
the shire, I do not use this facility &
never have done. Why can't this be done
on a user pays system?

I for one do not want to be
paying the extra rate percentage for
something I have no interest in.

Sincerely
Mrs Jeannette Kennedy
Mr Patrick Kennedy.

10/28/2014

Mrs M. Cobb,
47 Street,
BALLINA, N.S.W.

Cr David Wright,
Mayor,
PO Box 450
BALLINA, N.S.W. 2478

Dear Sir,

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – POSSIBLE RATE VARIATION

I wish to object to the proposes increase from 3% to 5.5% to our rates to cover upgrading
The Alstonville and Ballina swimming pools.

May I suggest you increase the entrance fee and also obtain a grant from the Australian
Government to cover the upgrading of the competition requirement as the Government
seems to be able to acquire funds form all sorts of things when found necessary.
Another suggestion is to obtain permission to run a raffle like they did for the Opera
House.

Yours faithfully,



Maureen Cobb

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

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| |
|--------------------|
| RECORDS SCANNED |
| 28 OCT 2014 |
| Doc No..... |
| Batch No..... |

ROY BAIRD

16 ASHLAND ST

ALSTONVILLE

27-10-14

Dear Mr Hickey,

re road upgrade rate increase.
As the roads are council owned they should
have been budgeted for upgrade & improvement
as any other business would do for their upgrade.

Is this rate increase to set a precedence
for any other council infrastructure upgrade in
future which is not in the budget.

R Baird

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

46 Survey Street

Lennox Head 2478

27 October 2014

Dear Ballina Shire Council,

In regard to the proposed rate increase to fund an upgrade of the Ballina and Alstonville pools I have the following comments to make.

Like any major council infrastructure such as roads, buildings or sporting ovals, the swimming pools are a council responsibility to maintain. If the pools are indeed some 40 years old it is amazing just how many years usage the community has had from these facilities, so vital with our summer climate. Many visitors, in the case of Ballina at least, would also visit the area because we have such facilities. I know that when I have visitors over Xmas the pool and water slide are always on the must-do list.

The council must have known for the last 40 years that one day a major upgrade would be required and should have set aside monies for that over time. Given that the council has let the community down by apparently not doing so then the question needs to be asked just what work is now being planned. I do use the private heated pools at Ballina and Lennox Head in the winter season (mid May to mid October) and am quite happy to pay on average \$5 a visit. These pools do seem able to survive on such business.

The council should accept its responsibility for the pools without increasing the rates, which are already outrageous. My suggestion would be to ensure they are structurally safe in their current locations and not heat them. I'm not familiar with the Alstonville pool but to heat a 50 metre outdoor pool at Ballina would be very expensive for the council, particularly if we get another Labor / Green government and resultant increased power costs. If the heating goes ahead it should be on a user pays basis, preferably run by a private concern. Ballina Council's major responsibility needs to be to ensure unheated pools are available for the community (and our visitors) in the October to May period. That is when the vast majority of people want to use them.

Another option, given that a Santa Claus Green's candidate for the next state election is somehow promising an \$18 million indoor basketball court for Ballina, is to hit up the state government for some of the money.

I DO NOT support the increased rate levy.

Yours Sincerely,



Phillip Bradley (ratepayer for over 15 years)

| |
|--------------------|
| RECORDS SCANNED |
| 29 OCT 2014 |
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4 Rainforest Way
Lennox Head.

29/10/14

Mr. Paul Hickey
Ballina Shire Council
Ballina.

480-03

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter regarding increase of 2.5% for rates for repairs on swimming pools.

I am a pensioner and I am registering my objection to this proposal. I never use the pool and never will.

You say the increase will be for 2 years rate then it will revert back from 5.5% back to 3% but to quote your letter:

"increase from 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 will remain permanent increase to your rates"

I consider 3% rate fees for every year more than adequate.

Just what is your position what do we take notice of - permanent or reversal.

Sincerely
Judith Lohan

27th October 2014

Ballina Shire Council

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Possible Rate increase,

I am on a very low income and don't receive any rate discounts, so any more increases in rates will cause me great hard-ship. Eg: cutting back on food. I'm sure there are a lot of other aged people in Ballina in my situation so please think of us when making your decisions concerning the possibility of even higher rates.

Thanking You
Phillipa Waters.
10 Carroll Ave
Lennox Heads.

P.S. User pays would be a good idea, to rise the entry fee to the pools!

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

3 WATERFORD PARADE
SKENNERS HEAD.

28-10-14.

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL.

REF: 480-03

I STRONGLY OBJECT FOR ANY INCREASE FOR ANY
REASON.

IN MY OPINION, IT SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM

"USER PAYS" SYSTEM.

BEEN A RATE PAYER SINCE 1996, RATES HAVE

REASON EVER SINCE, AND WE DO NOT USE, EITHER

POOL OR ITS FACILITIES.

SAM PRASAD

Alf & Jill Lock
563 Pimlico Road
PIMLICO NSW 2478

28/10/2014

Ballina Shire Council

Po Box 450

BALLINA NSW 2478

Re: Rate Variation for Pool Upgrades.

Dear Sir/Madam

We would like to object in the strongest manner possible to having our rates increased to pay for the pool upgrades. There are a number of questions that come to mind that need answering.

These are:

1. What percentage of the rate paying residents of Ballina Shire utilise the pool facilities?
2. Are the pools deemed an essential service?
3. Are the essential services supplied by Ballina Council (roads, water & sewerage) up-to-date?

The answer to the last question is a very definite NO. One has only to drive the length of Pimlico Road, Riverbank Road & Herman's Lane in our area alone to realise that the answer is no.

The economy is changing quite rapidly to a user pay system. Let the users of the pools contribute to the upgrades and if there is to be a rise in the rates please get the essential infrastructure to a passable standard, before you start handing out fringe benefits for the minority of the community to use.

Yours sincerely


.....

Alf Lock


.....

Jill Lock

| |
|---|
| RECORDS SCANNED 29 OCT 2014 Doc No..... Batch No..... |
|---|

Lot 118 Surfers Waters
40 Cotlew St. East
Southport QLD 4215

Ph(07) 55103022
Fax(07) 55103154

26 October 2014

Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Sir

Re: Possible Special Rate Variation

I am against the proposal for Special Rate Variation for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 period.

My rates for the 2012/13 to 2013/14 increased by approximately 9% then by 7% the following year.

A further increase of 5.5% for the next two years is not supported.

Large increases in water and waste rates have been incurred during the above periods.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Seib
Mang. Director
Panette Pty Ltd

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....



rates & charges 2012/13 notice

30 cherry street, p.o. box 450, ballina nsw 2478
 rating team ph - 02 6686 1299
 ph 02 6686 4444 fax - 02 6686 7035
 email council@ballina.nsw.gov.au abn 53 929 887 369
 website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

Notice is given that the below mentioned instalment is due and payable as shown hereunder by virtue of S562(5) of the Local Government Act 1993.


 Paul Hickey
 General Manager



Panette Pty Ltd
 Lot 118 The Point - Surfers Waters
 40 Cotlew Street East
 SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| assessment number | 173162 |
| issue date | 13/07/12 |
| rating category | Business |
| valuation amount | \$712,000 |
| DUPLICATE | 31/08/12 |
| instalment amount due | \$1,633.35 |

| property details | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 156 River Street BALLINA NSW 2478 Lot 1-2 DP 218399, Lot 20 DP 233389 | area 663.9000 Square Metres |

| interest rates | | billing details | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Interest rate on overdue rates & charges 10% per annum | Business Rate | Rateable Value | Rates in \$ or Charge | Amount |
| Deduct payments since 06/07/2012 | Business Base Amount | 712000.00 | 0.00539356 | \$3840.21 |
| New 2011 base date land valuations used from 2012/13 | Non Domestic Waste Charge | 1.00 | 398.00 | \$398.00 |
| | Water Consumption Charges | 3.00 | 292.00 | \$876.00 |
| | Water Access Charges | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$36.74 |
| | Sewer Usage Non Residential | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$99.50 |
| | Sewer Access Non Residential | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$33.44 |
| | Stormwater Charge Business | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$176.46 |
| | | 1.00 | 25.00 | \$25.00 |

instalments 2, 3 & 4 do NOT include future water based charges

| first | second | third | fourth | total |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 31/08/12 \$1,633.35 | 30/11/12 \$1,284.00 | 28/02/13 \$1,284.00 | 31/05/13 \$1,284.00 | \$5,485.35 |

2013/14 \$ 5960.79
 2014/15 \$ 6370.89

4036534-Tumb-AS-A501-014310

Lot 118 Surfers Waters
40 Cotlew St. East
Southport QLD 4215

Ph(07) 55103022
Fax(07) 55103154

RECORDS
SCANNED

29 OCT 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

26 October 2014

Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Dear Sir

Re: Possible Special Rate Variation

I am against the proposal for Special Rate Variation for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 period.

My rates for the 2012/13 to 2013/14 increased by over 29% and over 3% the following year.

A further increase of 5.5% for the next Two(2) years is not supported.

Large increases in water rates have been incurred during the above periods.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Seib
Mang. Director
Metoka Pty Ltd



rates & charges 2012/13 notice

38 cherry street, p.o. box 450, ballina nsw 2478
 rating team ph 02 6686 1299
 ph 02 6686 4444 fax 02 6686 7035
 email council@ballina.nsw.gov.au abn 53 929 887 369
 website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

Notice is given that the below mentioned instalment is due and payable as shown hereunder by virtue of S562(5) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Paul Hickey
 Paul Hickey
 General Manager



Metoka Pty Ltd
 Lot 118 The Point - Surfers Waters
 40 Cotlew Street East
 SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| assessment number | 174930 |
| issue date | 13/07/12 |
| rating category | Business |
| valuation amount | \$222,000 |
| DUE DATE | 31/08/12 |
| first instalment amount | \$655.26 |

| property details | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 55 River Street BALLINA NSW 2478 Lot 1 DP 514582 | area 467.9000 Square Metres |

| messages | | billing details | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Interest rate on overdue rates & charges 10% per annum | Business Rate | Rateable Value | Rates in \$ or Charge | Amount |
| | Business Base Amount: | 222000.00 | 0.00539356 | \$1197.37 |
| | Non Domestic Waste Charge | 1.00 | 398.00 | \$398.00 |
| | Water Consumption Charges | 1.00 | 292.00 | \$292.00 |
| | Water Access Charges | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$10.02 |
| | Sewer Usage Non Residential | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$39.00 |
| | Sewer Access Non Residential | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$9.12 |
| | Stormwater Charge Business | 0.00 | 0.00 | \$118.75 |
| Deduct payments since 06/07/2012 | | 1.00 | 25.00 | \$25.00 |
| New 2011 base date land valuations used from 2012/13 | | | | |

instalments 2, 3 & 4 do NOT include future water based charges

| first | second | third | fourth | total |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 31/08/12 \$655.26 | 30/11/12 \$478.00 | 28/02/13 \$478.00 | 31/05/13 \$478.00 | \$2,089.26 |

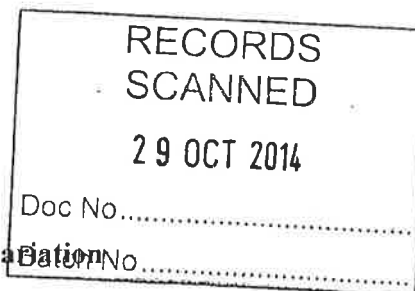
2013/14 — \$ 2699.30
 2014/2015 — \$ 2790.72

4035634-Rate-ASAC01-014308

PO Box 34
BALLINA NSW 2478

28 October, 2014

Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear Sir,

Re: Submission: Pool Proposal - Special Rate Variation

We write in response to your invitation for Community response to Council's suggestion of a Possible Special Rate Variation to finance and facilitate the pool maintenance and infrastructure at both Ballina and Alstonville Swimming pools.

Having participated in your Telephone Survey and reviewed the Website questionnaire pertaining to this, it is contemptible that your questions were phrased to ensure that you receive the answers you want to hear and community support to ensure that you get the green light to proceed.

However, we write to advise that our response, at this time is an unequivocal No!

In this regard we make the following comments:

Of course these facilities are important and we would like to see them maintained and upgraded where possible. However the Ballina Council just like any other business or family has to work within it's budget.

Not every ratepayer is a swimming pool user. Indeed what percentage of the rate-paying public actually use the pools?

Business owners particularly in the central CBD have endured a great deal in the last several years:

- The River Street Upgrade – how long, how successful and at what expense?
- Now the Wigmore Arcade Upgrade – it is to be hoped it will be worth the wait, again at what expense – under or over budget! And the business-owners who once had businesses in that precinct, but have now closed down – what do they think?

Are there efficiencies to be gained in other areas of operations to provide budget savings and efficiencies instead of relying on the ratepayers pockets?

- How efficient/costly are the Waste Management Operations?
 - Was development of the Bio-Char Operations a 'Priority' or a 'Prowess' achievement? Again, at what cost?
 - How well spent were the funds required for the upgrade of the Surf Club?
- Impressive for the moment (perhaps) but is it a white elephant of high maintenance for the future?

- Our Ballina Byron Airport seems to be more lucrative for the Byron Shire's tourism and economy than Ballina.
- We note that the Northern Star 24 October, 2014 headline reported on page six "*Coastal path over budget \$1.15m meeting told*"

Could both pools be adequately upgraded within existing budget constraints if undertaken consecutively and if other projects were undertaken with efficiency?

Similar to the "Triage Approach" of an Emergency Department, can, already planned non-urgent projects be deferred until later?

- How urgent is the Lake Ainsworth Project?

Like all households there are always "Wish lists" but responsible budget management demands some things have to wait, some are more urgent than others!

If the community does give you the positive response you seek, how can we be assured that you will not come back at the end of 2017 telling us there were unexpected delays, complications, ...by any other name, "cost blow-outs", and over budget by \$??M. Will the Ratepayers be expected to pick up the tab and wear the "2.5% Rate Variation" in perpetuity?

We note your correspondence of 22 September, 2014 states "*It is estimated that these improvements will cost around \$4 million per pool or \$8 million on total.*" This would suggest that the actual cost may be well in excess of the estimate stated and that Council does not really know what the ballpark cost is, just like the Coastal Path.

We dare say that many ratepayers living on Ballina island may see drainage as a more urgent and life threatening issue to be addressed.

In essence:

- reassess your operating costs,
- cut the wastage,
- re-visit the "wish list"
- defer the non-urgent,
- prioritise and
- work within your existing budget.

Better still, sell some investments that continue to tie up Council's working capital. Alternatively, if these capital investments are so lucrative, justified and necessary, as some councillors suggest, then the return on those investments should well cover the costs of the pool upgrades and more!

Again we reiterate, No, we do not agree with your proposed Special Variation of Rates.

Your faithfully,



BA & M Flood

47 Canal Rd
Bellona

PR 6865346

As an pensioner (full with -reduced)
son to support in his Dental School
he is 50 yrs old & has to have -fard help
to travel home.

POSTCODE

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

do Not Airport increase in Rates
Weston

Sandra Bailey

From: Sue Boardman <suem@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 10:06 AM
Subject: Phone Message - Rate Variation

Marlene Davey – 47 Panorama Drive, Alstonville

NO to the rate increase

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.

AAD

Allan, Alexandra and Daniel Clark

~ 18 Cullen Ct~ Cumbalum NSW 2478 ~ Australia ~ E: alnah@live.com ~
~ Ph: 02 5611 5030 ~ Mob: 0412 188 917 (Allan) ~ Mob: 0412 188 254 (Alexandra)~

28 October 2014

MAYOR Cr D WRIGHT
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
P O BOX 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Dear Sir

Re: Community Consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

We refer to your letter dated 22 September last I this matter and advise that after further information received from the council, as well as current news today, we can **strongly object** to the proposal.

Today's news of a petrol price increase has us very concerned, as we all know that the price of petrol has a domino effect on everything else. Everything here in Ballina is subject to high delivery fees as it is. The closes place things come from is Brisbane. Food, clothing, furniture, everything will see an increase as is.

There is also the current concern of the GST going up – a further added cost on everything (except for most foods) and all services.

In other words, the cost of living alone is due to increase more than the usual CPI, making it very difficult for the middle class and lower income people in general.

There are a lot of developers trying to get into the Ballina area – why not target them instead?

By your own admission, the 5.5% total increase is to remain after the two year period. If this was not the case, our opinion would perhaps differ from where it currently stands. This would of course mean a rate reduction after the two years, and we could not see the Council doing that.

As much as we would like to see improvements at the local pools and shire, we cannot back or support a proposition such as yours.

Kind regards



Allan J Clark



Alexandra M Clark (Mrs)

CC Hon Don Page

Ballina Shire Council

P.O. Box 450

Ballina NSW

2478

361 Gap Road

Alstonville

28/10/14

Dear Sir

To ratepayers of our properties
at Alstonville & Cumbalum we wish to
advise that we are against the 2.5%
Rates increase to fund renovations to the
Ballina & Alstonville swimming pools.

Even though we do not use the pools
ourselves we know that there are many
people that do use them. However property
rates are increasing enough without
burdening the ratepayers with another 2.5%
rise from 3% to 5.5% of UCV.

This is too much of an increase.

Yours sincerely

John J. CAVANAGH

J. Cavanagh J. Cavanagh