

29.10.14

To BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
40 CHERRY ST
BALLINA NSW 2478

FROM. PETER YOUNG
40 GRANT ST
BALLINA

PH: 02 66865940

Dear Sir

Re rate increase for Ballina and
Mostonville swimming pools. I strongly
object to the increase.

I moved to Ballina in 1974 and have
never used facilities of Ballina pool.

Ballina Council has always been user pay.

P Young

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 10:54 AM
Subject: Phone Call - Special Rate Variation - Swimming Pool Upgrade

Barry Croft, 17 Cook Avenue, Alstonville

Definitely a NO to rate increase. As pensioners they cannot afford it.

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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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.

B. SARCHFIELD,
25 LAKESIDE VLG,
CHRISTINE PL,
BALLINA QFR

THE MAJOR,
DEAR SIR,

I DO NOT AGREE TO AN INCREASE
IN THE COUNCIL RATES TO UP GRADE
THE BALLINA AND ASTONVILLE POOLS,
SINCE ENOUGH MONEY HAS BEEN WASTED
ON A COUPLE OF PROJECTS SUCH AS THE
WALKWAY TO LENOX HEASS.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

B. Sarchfield

28. 10. 14.

R. H. & M. F. BARNES,
28 WOODLAND AVE.
LISMORE HTS.
24801

To whom it may concern.

I would like to note No. To Note
INCREASE AND POOL UP DATE

ASSESSMENT, No. 199469.
40. ALLEN'S PAD, LENNOX HEBD.

R. H. Barnes.



Ballina Council

27-10-14

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a Pensioner
and it is very hard to

live on it, I do not want

the Rate to go up,

and I don't need the pool.

And with petrol going up

and GST it will be impossible

to live.

1/136 Cherry St
Ballina 2478

BMW Woodruff

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 1:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: SUBMISSION TO RATE INCREASE FOR SWIMMING POOLS

From: margaret howes <brolgas1@bigpond.net.au>
Date: 30 October 2014 1:49:59 pm AEDT
To: Hickey Paul <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: **SUBMISSION TO RATE INCREASE FOR SWIMMING POOLS**

Please forward a copy to all councillors. thank you.

SUBMISSION TO RATE INCREASE FOR SWIMMING POOLS

The only thing Ballina Shire lacks is a Town Crier with a big bell and an even bigger voice yelling out "Oyez! Oyez! Rate rise imminent! Open your wallets to upgrade pools!"

Eva Ramsey is right. It is going to happen. It's all about "Jobs for the Boys", not about improving the Swimming Culture. There is even a Tender on the Council's website which closes 30th October and says: "Tender 781. Provision for Swimming Pool Redevelopment Advisory Services. Consultancy - Public Swimming Pools." This is a classic case of putting the cart before the horse.

Let me take you back to a conversation I had with the Ballina Council General Manager in his office some years ago. He and I were having a discussion about property development when I was a Councillor. At that time, the GM said he would love to be a property developer. A couple of Council Meetings later there was an agenda item to hire another Manager and set up the Commercial Services Department, and away it went from there. The property development balloon was rising! Afterall, if the General Manager can prove his credentials with ratepayers money, then he would have more worth in private enterprise in property development than as a lowly Council manager.

However, this property development agenda may suit the General Manager, but does it suit you and me, the Shire's ratepayers? My rates (without water and sewage) are already \$3,900 per year, and quite frankly I have had enough of rate rises.. With Mayor Wright proclaiming we are in for an 11% rate hike (and he isn't even a ratepayer, so it doesn't directly affect him). this means my rates will increase by \$429 per annum.

This 2.5% rate rise over 2 years for the swimming pools is really only a rort to keep the Commercial Services Manager in a job and satisfy the General Manager's lust for property development. The swimming pools upgrade can easily be achieved by savings on other things.

What about the proposed new road to the airport which passes Mr Gerry Harvey's shopping precinct? Why does the Council need to spend \$5 million on a new road when the existing road is quite adequate? If Mr Harvey wants a new road beside his shops to attract more customers, let him sell one of his racehorses to fund it. Why do ratepayers have to be financially squeezed to pay for the new road when we can't afford it and we could use the \$5 million better elsewhere?

2.5% a year for 2 years doesn't look much, but remember what the carbon tax did to your petrol and electricity bills? Mine went through the roof. And what about the old age pensioners and young couples who pay rent, not rates? You can bet their landlords will use the rate rise as an excuse to put the rent up.

So I say NO, NO, NO to any more rate rises. We don't need them. If only 55% of residents in Ballina have got internet, you can be assured they don't use the swimming pools either.

It is time to get rid of all this development. If the pools have to be upgraded, then do it by culling staff, not by rate rises.

Margaret Howes
320 Moylans Lane,
Empire Vale 2478.
Phone: 0428-878-505
Email: brolgas1@bigpond.net.au



Swimming Pool Redevelopment - Consultation

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

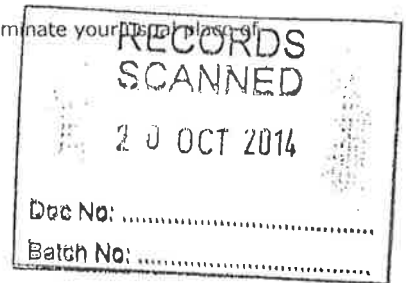
-- None --

Yes.

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

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

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



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

-- None -- No.

5. Council is examining a number of improvements to the swimming pools. What type of improvements would you would like to see. Please rank each item from one to five, with one being the lowest priority and five the highest.

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

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

Council Should Plan Ahead for these Improvements

- 7. Are you supportive of Council's proposal to apply to the NSW State Government for a 2.5% increase above the estimated rate increase of 3% for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (5.5% each year)?
 - Yes - I am supportive
 - Conditional Support - You may prefer a lower increase with a reduced works program
 - No - I am not supportive of any rate increase

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

- 9. Can you please confirm whether you are a property or business owner who would be required to pay any increase in the Council rates?
 - Yes (Property or business owner - Individually or in joint ownership)
 - No (Resident)

- 10. If you answered yes to question nine can you please clarify what type of property rates you are required to pay. The category of your rateable property is based on the dominant use of that property. The three categories of property for rating purposes are residential, business and farmland.
 - Residential (both urban and rural residential properties)
 - Business
 - Farmland
 - Combination of Properties (eg Residential and Business)

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

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

L.I. & M.H. Daley
 94 Tanameta Dr. Alstonville

Thank you for your feedback. Please click 'Done' to submit your comments.

Note: the survey can only be completed once per device (i.e. personal computer, notebook, smart phone or tablet).

Refer GM Paul Hickey ...480-03

1/69 Stewart Street
Lennox Head NSW 2478
Phone: 6687 7221

E-mail: marellelee@gmail.com
29th October 2014.

Cr David Wright
The Mayor
Ballina Shire Council
P.O. Box 450
Ballina. NSW 2785



Dear Cr Wright **Re: BALLINA'S PROPOSED RATE RISES FOR POOLS**

May I suggest an alternative method of paying for future shire residential swimming pools, which works well in San Jose (Silicon Valley) California, which is claimed to lead such planning world-wide.

My son, Bruce Peters, a Global Controller of Finances (a super accountant) and his wife Nancy Peters, and their two young children live in the San Jose suburb of Los Altos.

Before buying into that suburb of about 80 blocks, owners are required to realise they contribute an annual amount towards upkeep of their large, attractive, communal swimming pool, which includes indoor and outdoor entertaining and conference areas, outdoor showers and indoor bathing, changing facilities etc, and a block of tennis courts, all served by plentiful parking. This complex is situated far enough away from homes to prevent noise pollution.

This planning avoids:

- Wasting water from many small backyard swimming pools
- The likelihood of children drowning, or other accidents, because the communal pool is monitored by a lifesaver.

My son voluntarily appoints lifesavers and does other tasks, to help keep costs down, and other residents willingly contribute skills. The pool is used by all age groups. Other San Jose suburbs have similar sporting complexes, I was told. Also schools rent out facilities after hours, as happens in some Japanese centres.

Los Altos has single storey residences. Blocks are wide enough to avoid noise pollution, which is a problem on narrow, 55metre wide blocks at Lennox Head. Some Los Altos libraries, museums and some other communal facilities are multi-storey. Well designed business and commercial areas are close. The main San Jose CBD was renovated in the 1980s, retaining Spanish and Mexican influences. Sky-scrapers are not permitted near historic buildings, such as slab huts and Victoriana showpieces. A large central 'island' is retained in the main street for festivities.

Between Los Altos and the next suburb is a large preserve (in Australia called a reserve), which thousands of people use daily. It includes a working farm, with a variety of animals and poultry and large garden, crops, barn and outhouses, where children can watch cows and goats being milked and animals fed. Fresh eggs, fruit and vegetables are for sale. A small mountain, for climbers, long stretches of walking, cycling and horse-riding trails are permitted, but no motor vehicles except those used by maintenance staff, who are paid by the equivalent of Australia's Parks and Reserves authorities and the local council.

RATE RISE-2

So residential areas have handy access to a large country area, left largely in a natural state. Visitors are warned to beware mountain 'lions' which aren't lions. Ground and other bird life and natural trees and other locally indigenous vegetation are plentiful.

The preserve was set aside in the early 20th Century, when planners could see San Jose was on the verge of rapid expansion, rather like Ballina Shire is now. **It could be the time, while farmland is relatively cheap, for such an area to be set aside on Ballina Shire hinterland.**

Roads feed carefully into an eight lane highway connecting San Francisco with Los Angeles. Silicon Valley is about an hour south of San Francisco by road. Los Altos is considered middle class. Billionaires have large estates nearer the mountain range.

Silicon Valley has been written up as a world leader in residential planning, an example of US can-do-ism. San Jose is the 12th largest city in the US, I have read.

This letter is written without references. My son, or daughter in law, although extremely busy, could provide more details. Nancy Peters was IT manager for Channel 9 when they lived in Sydney.

PUBLIC REACTION TO BALLINA'S PROPOSED RATE RISES...

I have yet to meet any Lennox residents who approve of paying such higher, permanent rates. The consensus is that the 'user pays principle' be applied. Residents who already pay high rates to live near Seven Mile Beach and Lake Ainsworth believe tourists and other visitors should contribute more to Ballina and Alstonville pools upkeep.

(When I lived in Lismore and was a journalist/sub-editor on *The Northern Star* there was a similar outcry about upkeep/improvements to Lismore Memorial Swimming Pool.)

Personally, I swim in Lake Ainsworth and surf at Seven Mile Beach. I don't find the roofed paid-entry pool along Ross Lane pleasant. My son, as a boy, occasionally used Ballina pool. I realise such pools must be kept up to standard, but would like to see improvements and maintenance incorporated in the Council's annual budget, without high rate increases.

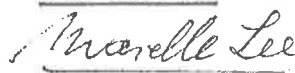
Campaigns are underway for an indoor Ballina sporting facility. Again I agree with others who cite the 'user-pays principle'.

Lennox Head was deprived of vital community recreation land as laid out in the 1922 Lennox Head Estate plan, along the south-east shore of Lake Ainsworth. The zoning was altered so that it was sold off to the NSW Government for \$1.3million, to extend Lake Ainsworth Holiday Park, ignoring strong community objections.

Now there is talk of two storey buildings on that former vacant land, which was such an asset for public recreation. Planners commented that Lennox people had the beach for recreation. That is shared with visitors. It is difficult for children to play hockey etc on the beach. Most Lennox units don't have normal backyard play space. Therefore more Lennox children now play on roads. Does Ballina Council consider that desirable?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Marelle Lee


Sandra Bailey

From: peta nesbitt <petamark1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 10:10 AM
Subject: pool

This is Mark and Peta Nesbitt we have been rate payers in Ballina for 16 years and really object to being charge extra to pay for pools

Sandra Bailey

From: peta nesbitt <petamark1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 10:07 AM
Subject: pool

My name is Allan Nesbitt I am on the old age pension and can not afford the extra rates it is hard enough to live as it is> I have lived in Ballina for over 20 years and have never frequented the pool. So I really don't feel I should be held responsible for the maintenance of the pool.

Sandra Bailey

From: June Perry <juneperry@dodo.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 10:02 AM
Subject: Rate Increase For Pools

Dear Sir/Madam.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to have my say regarding the upgrading of swimming pools at Ballina and Alstonville.

Although I never use either I believe it would benefit many people in our shire, but does it have to be at my expense?

My concern is that other issues are being put aside to cope with the above proposition.

I live beside the Alstonville bypass and at present have trees, that have been planted to help with noise reduction, being overpowered by long grass, scotch thistles and other weeds.

We have to pay for our Body Corporate lawn mowing employee to mow a sizeable strip along our fence because he has seen brown snakes in the rubbish.

I smile when I turn to enter Alstonville and I see the pristine grass and beautiful welcoming sign and the same goes for Wollongbar. They are tended with care and aesthetically are splendid gateways to our Villages.

Please can you also seek to help the rate payers, in my case, that have paid rates for 50 years.

We didn't ask for the Bypass to be raised more than 1 1/2 meters higher than it was proposed but we live with the consequences every day.

Please can the "fall out" be maintained on a regular basis to keep us oldies safe.

Thank you for reading my email.

Regards

Mrs. June M Perry
5/2 Norvell Grove,
Alstonville. 2477

Sandra Bailey

From: Annena Stewart <bengran3@bigpond.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 9:29 AM
Subject: Pool improvements

I have read information provided by Council re pool improvements at Alstonville and Ballina. I agree that improvements are necessary from time to time over the years but I do not agree that the ratepayers should have their rates increased to cover the cost. Council should budget for pool work. Pools are a fact of life and used by an assortment of people. As a senior I do not use the pools but am sure many seniors do. Anyway I just wanted to say that I do not agree with a rate increase of 5.5% (2015/16) and 5.5% (2016/17) to cover improvements to the 2 pools.



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Sandra Bailey

From: Karen <karenfwood@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 8:29 AM
Subject: Special Rate Variation

To the Council,

We are most definitely NOT in favour of the proposed rate variation to finance the upgrade of Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

As self funded retirees on a property outside of town, we would personally derive no benefit from this facility. We believe that Council rates are already disproportionate to the provision of services to rural ratepayers.

We suggest a user pays system is more appropriate and that another form of fund raising be applied.

Yours sincerely
Peter & Karen Wood

Sandra Bailey

From: Barbara Saltmarsh <taya5@aapt.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 9:21 PM
Subject: FW: Proposed Rate Increase

Edited - \$8 million not \$8 billion.

From: Barbara Saltmarsh [<mailto:taya5@aapt.net.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 9:19 PM
To: 'poolsproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: Proposed Rate Increase

Hi Ballina Shire Mayor & Councillors,

I oppose the 5.5% rate increase to 2015/16 & 2016/17 when the council take it upon themselves to remove functioning playground equipment and erect just two swings at a cost of \$15,000 each to two parks in my estate at Angels Beach, one being Jabiru Park. Then after a signed petition by many local residents and exposure in the local Advocate newspaper, the council decided to replace the climbing equipment at the cost of another \$30,000 to each park. This has not happened yet, as promised by end of September 2014. I don't understand why Ballina Shire Council waste rate payers money doing stupid unnecessary things like this. I'm not happy that Ballina Council outsourced the materials and contractors to erect the swings in Angels Beach estate from Queensland. We should be employing local contractors or using Council employees to build the playground equipment, keeping the cost down.

Monies should be set aside by the Ballina Shire Council over the years for the ongoing maintenance to the Ballina & Alstonville pools. Our council rate charges on the North Coast are much higher compared to the multimillion dollar properties of the Northern Beaches in Sydney. I have loved living in the Ballina area over the past 27 years and am very proud of what our town has to offer our residents and visitors. Maybe the council should focus on increasing entry fees to the pools which are used by many visitors to our area. I for one have not been to the Ballina pool since my now adult children were having swim lessons and attending their school swimming carnivals when they were younger. As much as I think the pool is an asset I resent having the rates increased to provide it's upgrading at the exorbitant cost of \$8,000,000 for two pools. I am assuming the pool upgrading works and materials will also be done by contracted companies outside the area or state or even the country.

Another concern of mine is what happens to our recycling wastes & green wastes disposal. After seeing a recently A Current Affair program about some councils just dumping all wastes materials together, leading the public to think the recycled products are being sorted. I take the time to wrap my food waste in newspaper and put it in the correct green waste bin, along with separating my recyclable from non-recyclable into the correct bins. Am I wasting my time!?

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have my say. I trust the council will make the right decision considering the residents and rate payers of this shire.

Regards,

Barbara Saltmarsh
4 Petrel Court
EAST BALLINA 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Bill & Shirley Malcolm <shirbill5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 5:57 PM
Subject: Rate Increase

With regard to your proposal to upgrade the Ballina & Alstonville swimming pools, my wife and I object to having to pay an increase in our rates to cover cost incurred to renew existing infrastructure of the pools.

We consider our Council rates are very costly and would not be happy to have a further increase.

Yours faithfully,
Shirley & William Malcolm
50 Dolphin Drive, Ballina 2478.

Sandra Bailey

From: Wayne lazarus <wlazarus@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 3:28 PM
Subject: Rates Levy

I wish to strongly object to the proposal of a rate levy in order to fund repairs and maintenance for pools and more particularly under the structure as described.

We pay several rates to Ballina shire and note only one vote per computer I allowed this is also unfair.

These pools are certainly a community property but are run on a commercial basis ..in normal circumstances if the business can not pay its way don't operate the business.

In 45 years in the Shire I have never used or visited either pool so why should people like us be expected to fund them .

Council are developers and quite often compete with commercial developers Council should fund the repairs and maintenance

Rates are already way out of hand as is .

Again my VOTE IS NO to the Levy

Sincerely

Wayne Lazarus

Sandra Bailey

From: Rhonda Fechtner <fechtner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 12:29 PM
Subject: consumer feedback

I do not agree with the added costs in the rates for the upgrade of the local pools .Rates are high enough as is, and really, with better planning money should have been put aside , as we, in our own households do when we need to upgrade. Besides, I think you need some more quotes, those costs seem to be over estimated. I am surprised that we are even asked our opinion. Would anyone ever agree to ever pay more for anything? R. Baird

Sandra Bailey

From: Gayle Reed <capitankringle@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 11:13 AM
Subject: Two objections to pools proposal

This is an email from my husband and I opposing the money to be spent on the pools in Ballina and Alstonville.
Peter and Gayle Reed

Sent from my iPad

Sandra Bailey

From: Bill McInerney <bill@bispng.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 9:34 AM
Subject: ballina pool upgrade objection

Dear Sir,

I totally oppose any increase in rates to pay for this when the pool user should be the one to cover these costs, not the ratepayers. If I were to use the pool as a ratepayer, then I would be prepared to pay more to enter the establishment.

The maintenance of the pool and replacement of current plant and equipment is something that ought to have been budgeted for by the council over the years as an ongoing maintenance programme.

I find the pool quite pleasant as an outdoor facility. We do not need it heated or enclosed for the small number of lap swimmers, this would not significantly increase the numbers in attendance.

Bill McInerney

Sandra Bailey

From: Col McAndrew <col_aqua@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 6:11 PM
Subject: Rate increase

We, as Proprietors of a local Pool Shop, have previously made suggestions to Council to help decrease the operating costs and improve the efficiency of the Public Pools. These suggestions have obviously not been considered. Therefore we are against this proposed increase in rates to fund pools that have deteriorated due to lack of foresight.

Col & Nancy McAndrew
1247 Wardell Rd
Meerschaum Vale.
(Aqua Solutions Pool & Spa Care)
4/1 Hogan St
Ballina

Sandra Bailey

From: C and A Sampson <alncol@dodo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 6:06 PM
Subject: Pool Proposal

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

I do not support the proposal to apply for an increase in the general rate income to finance improvement to the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

I do support a suggestion council should sell enough of the rate payers commercial real estate property stock to cover the cost of upgrading the operational equipment of the two pools. The upgrade of facilities at the pools should be paid for by the users.

Alan & Coralie Sampson
East BALLina

Sandra Bailey

From: lance.k@bigpond.com
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 3:18 PM
Subject: Swimming pools upgrade - possible special rate variation

To Whom It May Concern

As I have a pool of my own that I have maintained with no help since 1995, I don't want to have to contribute to this possible new special rate variation

I have never used either of the Council's pools and I am not likely to do so. Consequently, I oppose this proposal!

Lance Kennaugh

69 Simpson Avenue

WOLLONGBAR NSW 2477

02 6628 6224

0408 414 892

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

Sandra Bailey

From: Rikki-Lee Calnan <rik@solprom.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 9:13 AM
Subject: Feedback - Pools

We do not support a rate increase to do maintenance and upgrades to our pools.

Kind regards
Rikki-Lee & Michael Calnan

Kind regards
Rikki-Lee Calnan
Creative Director

P: 02 6686 6936
E: rik@coasterkings.com.au
A: 12 Piper Drive Ballina NSW 2478
coasterkings.com.au



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Environmental Initiatives



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Sandra Bailey

From: Todd Nichols <tnichols@nswsugar.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 8:51 AM
Subject: Pools Proposal Feedback

To whom it may concern I provide some comments about the proposed swimming pool improvements.

As a rate payer I don't support the proposal for rate increases to fund the upgrade as the proposal currently stands. This could change if some changes are made to the method of raising the required funds and details about how the facilities will be operated.

I provide the following additional comments

1. There is a significant proportion of people living in the shire that are not rate payers that should also be contributing to any upgrades.
2. It is inappropriate for non-rate paying residents to participate in feedback on a rate increase to fund the proposed upgrades.
3. If a rate increase is to be imposed, after the two years of increases the rates should be reduced equivalent to the extra two 2.5% increases and operational costs come from patronage.
4. Detailed costing and operational budgets need to be provided to show how these facilities will remain financially viable and not require further money from rate payers.
5. The hours of operation of the Ballina facility is not suitable for people to use after work. Many people commute and pool closes at 6pm in summer unless you join a swim club that costs more money on top of season passes. With patrols on beaches closed at 5pm this is very inconvenient particularly in summer and daylight saving when people want to swim.
6. The entry fees for water slides are excessive and there are no benefits for season pass holders or locals like offered by water theme parks on the Gold Coast.
7. How about attaching a gym or putting in some outdoor gym equipment.

Thank you

Todd Nichols
6 Casuarina Road
East Ballina NSW 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Russell Toovey <russelltoovey@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 8:44 AM
Subject: feedback

Russell & Margaret Toovey the owners of the property at 12 Newland Street in West Ballina.

We are both on an aged pension and disagree with the proposal.

Twelve months ago was the last time we use the facility by taking our two grandchildren to the waterslide. We found the staff rude and entry fees was to expensive

Our solution was that we could take them to Goonellabah indoor pool which incorporates waterside and other amusements for them, at a cost of \$14 for three children and two adult.

I strongly believe that the pool needs the upgrade but funded by user pay.

On the present rate instalment we would pay an extra \$27.55 for the 12 months it would be in excess of \$120.00 compounding each year.

Our income can't afford these extra expenses.

If the proposal was, that rate payers to get a concession into and the use of the pool would help people who don't use the facility a lot

Sincerely.

Russell Toovey
12 Newland Street
West Ballina
NSW 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Alan & Mary Dadd <adadd@idl.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 8:00 AM
Subject: pool proposal for upgrade

I would like to share my thoughts with you for the proposed pool upgrades.

I find it difficult to support the upgrade proposed to the council owned pools as we live in a changing society the use of council owned & maintained pools does not seem a viable proposition.

Why do we need to upgrade the existing facilities? It appears that the council may be catering for the tourist trade with the proposed improvement to Ballina pool.

The demographics are and have changed over recent times and I would like you to consider the following:

- High number of family have pools
- Teenagers do not use pools
- Families take their children to the beach, river, lake for swims & outings
- The local private pools are quite capable to provide swimming lessons
- The beaches, river & Lake Ainsworth are all readily available for all to use and easy accessed by public transport
- The council provides adequate picnic & BBQ areas near & around beaches, river & lake.
- Age care provide pools in the village
- There are private swimming pools at Ballina, Lennox Head & Goonellabah for swimming lessons, training & therapy

Heating Ballina pool, one has to ask who will benefit? And will the pools operate at a profit? What research has been conducted by council to forecast utilization?

- The tourist, well they should pay for the privilege.
- There are private pools & Alstonville for therapy & training in the cooler months.
- Children will be at school & parents at work.
- Utilization for outside pools in the cooler months will be affected by the weather
- If council believes that utilization will increase, what plans are in place for parking?

In these difficult times it does not seem commercial responsible of council asking for additional rate payer funds to "improve" existing good facilities.

If the councils feels that we must have the improvements for the community, then sell or lease the pools to private the sector to fund & run as a profitable business.

Regards,

Alan & Mary Dadd

Sandra Bailey

From: Andrew Clements <clemsemail@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 7:12 AM
Subject: Proposed rate increase for pools upgrade

My name is Andrew Clements and I live at Alstonville and am a ratepayer. I am opposed to the rate increase to finance pool upgrades. As part of council's infrastructure they should be maintained and upgraded from existing revenue. I think the pools are pretty good as is, and if some users want better, then maybe charge more for admission. Seems more like a sneaky way to get permanent rate increase above standard. If cancel mass fluoride dosing then get savings from ongoing costs.

Sandra Bailey

From: jennifer kelly <jenkel08@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 11:06 PM
Subject: objection

To whom it may concern,

I object to any further rate rises/increases.

Times have been lean in the business sector and this increase will not help those doing it tough.

Once again, I object, .

Jennifer Kelly
389 Pearces Ck Rd
Alstonville. NSW 2477

Sandra Bailey

From: Garry Tully <garrytully@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 10:24 PM
Subject: proposed rate increase to fund infrastructure.

To whom it may concern.

I am totally opposed to the proposed rate increase at this time or in the foreseeable future.

When I was in business I always had to "tighten my belt" in the tough economic times such as we are currently experiencing.

I suggest a thorough review of all unnecessary expenditure by council would be a good place to start if you want extra funds.

For example, recently a costly survey was undertaken by council which asked (broadly speaking) what we liked about living in the Fernleigh area and how we would like it maintained.

What a waste of money, ask 100 people and you will get 100 answers and some might even be similar, then at great expense some council staffer will, again at great expense, try to interpret it and overlay (perhaps inadvertently) his/her own ideas.

Eventually we will have a policy which tells the individual what house to live in and how to conduct his lifestyle and if he doesn't do it according to the policy another council staffer will, again at great expense, turn up to enforce it.

And please don't tell me that won't happen because I have seen it first hand before.

Second example, two coloured brochures sent out on this same subject (admittedly one was in with rate notices) but one cheaper black and white flyer on cheaper paper in with a rate notice would suffice, may not be a huge expenditure but ad all the little things together and you will find a significant saving, I know because that's how I stayed in business for 20 years.

Yours faithfully

Garry Tully

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul and Linda Kirkland <pandlkirkland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 9:55 PM
Subject: Feedback regarding Swimming Pools Upgrade

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to express our disapproval of the proposed rates rise to finance an upgrade to the shires two swimming pools. We suggest the entry fees charged to these venues are raised to finance the upgrades to ensure it is the users of these venues, the ones who will also benefit from the upgrade, that are the ones who fund it. This is an important point as we as a family rarely use either of these facilities and therefore are unhappy at the prospect of paying for something we do not utilise.

We would also like to provide the feedback that isn't it good business practice to save funds throughout the years of operation in preparation of future upgrades. We ask why this has not been the case in regards to this enviable upgrade to a public service.

We already pay the same rates as the rest of the shire even though we are one of the few shire residents that reside on an unsealed road. Upon inquiring why our road is not sealed we receive the answer from council that if we want the road sealed we need to raise the funds to do so ourselves. How is this same argument given by the shire council not relevant in the reverse regarding the proposal of a swimming pools upgrade.

The continued higher rates after the 2016/17 upgrades will no doubt not be used to seal our road of Shaws Lane even though businesses operate at the end of it creating unsafe traffic levels on a dirt road. I again can not see the benefit to our family to pay higher rates.

In addition, Ballina shire is one of the more unaffordable areas to live in NSW due to it's high property values. Being a young family, both working full-time with children in Child Care and having an already high cost of living, additional rate rises will increase financial stress and make property ownership more unaffordable.

Yours Sincerely,
Paul and Linda Kirkland.

Sandra Bailey

From: David French <aconelectrical@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 8:57 PM
Subject: pool proposal

To whom it may concern,

My vote would be no.

I could only agree if there was a detailed contract outlining the proposals scope of works, and accountability up to the point that the tenders are secured with the contractors.

The current estimates are likely to 'blow out' considering that the 'pool' might include a café and restaurant.

Unfortunately there is inadequate trust to simply OK additional funds.

Kind Regards.
David French

Sandra Bailey

From: radar8@westnet.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 8:44 PM
Subject: No Subject

In the light of recent explanations, Faith and Ray Darnell of 40 Montego Parade Alstonville most certainly object to the rate increase proposal. We even venture to suggest that not to drop back to the original "line" after the two year period would not stand up in court or wherever we took our complaint. We find it hard to believe that the council would have the hide to propose such a thing.

Sandra Bailey

From: daniel pearce <daniel_pearce100@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 7:22 PM
Subject: Pools Proposal Rate increase

Daniel Pearce and Barbara Satherley
Dawn Possum Pty Ltd
55 Pine Ave
East Ballina

We are writing to let Council know we object strongly to any special rate levy to fund the pool refurbishment.

Had Council decided to support the fantastic Ballina marina project, we would have been thrilled and would have gladly supported a rate increase.

Had Council taken that course of action, we would have seen a wise Council doing everything possible to help our town grow and develop and become better known. The marina proposal would have promoted Ballina beyond imagining ... it would have really put us on the map and assured our future growth and prosperity. We believe it would have transformed Ballina into an exciting destination for tourism, business, industry and new residential growth, as well as bringing many new jobs into the town, and a younger demographic.

As Council did not support such a forward thinking and innovative proposal (and set the town backwards for 10 years), we absolutely do not support the use of our rates money to fund a pool refurbishment, which will do nothing to help promote the town or region.

Sincerely

Daniel Pearce and Barbara Satherley

Sandra Bailey

From: A & A Clark <alnali@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 5:42 PM
Subject: Special Rate Variation proposal

Importance: High

Sir/Madam

The proposal of 5.5% over a two year period, and the increase remaining thereafter means an early general and overall hike on rates from hereon.

This affects not just us (residential) home owners, but it also affects those renting, as the rate increase (for those fortunate enough to be landlords) will no doubt be passed on to the tenants.

As homeowners (residents), we strongly object such proposal.

Our written submission is being delivered in person tomorrow.
Kind regards

Mr & Mrs Clark

Sandra Bailey

From: Jan Ison <janice.ison@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 4:52 PM
Subject: Pools

I feel that you should apply to the State Government for a grant to fund the pools upgrade we are charged enough for our rates which are going up all the time.

Jan Ison Ballina

Sandra Bailey

From: sharknshar@bigpond.com
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 4:15 PM
Subject: Rate proposal

Feedback regrding rate increase.

To Ballina Shire Council

We are replying to your survey regarding the proposed rate increase and we are definitely NOT in agreement to the proposal.

Whilst we understand that the rates rise every year we are more concerned with the facilities in our area that we do use.

The pools in Alstonville and Ballina should be user pay in our opinion. They should be run as a self funding business.

We are not privy to the costs of running these facilities or if they have contractors or volunteers or council paid personnel running them.

We have never been to these pools and are very unlikely to ever go to them.

We believe our rates should cover facilities we all use.

Ratepayers

Sharyn O'Kane and Peter Whale

Sandra Bailey

From: The Crumps <atthepoint1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 4:11 PM
Subject: pools

Hello,

I am against the proposal regarding a rate increase to fund improvements to these pools.

I am retired and disabled and do not use pools. Our rates are currently too high now.

I recommend , if anything is to be done, to move the Ballina pool to the rugby reserve at the end of Crane St.

Once the pool is closed and moved and the ugly fence removed, this would allow the public to have some open, free access to the river once again.

Too much of our beautiful river is not accessible to the ratepayers.

Driving through " RIVER St", one can hardly notice a river exists in Ballina.

Thankyou,

Bruce Crump

Sandra Bailey

From: Pete <dakdak@internode.on.net>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 October 2014 1:53 PM
Subject: proposal

Dear Sir or Madam

I wish to register my objection to the proposal for the following reasons,

I believe the majority of rate payers do not use these facilities.

The ballina pool is leased out to a private operator.

The rural road network is a dangerous shambles and long overdue for major repairs.

Rural rate payers are not getting the same level of spending or support as those in town.

Enormous amounts are regularly spent by council for the benefit of tourists and shop keepers. Yes I understand the needs of commerce and the benefit that flows from it, but, there is little or none if you don't live in town.

This issue should be a user pay event. Put the lease fees and admission up by all means, but please don't forget us out of towners need a bigger slice of the pie.

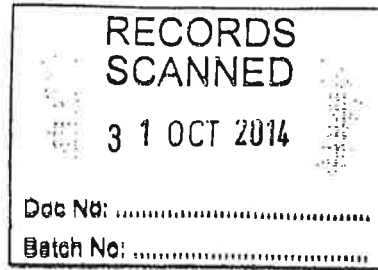
I risk my life daily just getting in and out of my property because of dangerous road conditions.

I also pay rates for premises in Russelton Estate where metric tons of recyclable cardboard boxes weekly go out in the garbage bin as there is NO recycling provided by council.

Peter MacRae
529 Houghlahans Creek Road
Pearces Creek

29 October 2014

The Manager,
Ballina Shire Council,
PO Box 450,
BALLINA. 2478



Dear Sir,

Re: Special Rate Variation

My mother and I own a house and a unit in Ballina. Our rates for the two properties this year are \$4,354.00. We also own two properties in Lismore where the rates by comparison are \$3,717.00.

We are opposed to any application by Ballina Shire Council to the State Government to obtain an increase in rates to finance improvements to swimming pools.

The Council should have for years been putting aside moneys in anticipation of the costs of improvements to these pools. It appears that for the forty years that the pools have been operating the Council has failed to have any plan to fund the required refurbishment of these pools. Now it appears in the face of that gross neglect the Council wants to just seek approval for the rate payers (not the pool users or tourists or renters or visitors to Ballina) to pay for the upgrade.

Recently there was a letter in the local paper which stated that the council had invested in an office block, a steel factory and a number of cafes and bars. Council needs to get its priorities right. There is no point buying more assets if the council has not got the money to maintain its existing assets.

Strata schemes are required by law to have 10 year plans in respect of anticipated repairs, maintenance and improvements to common property. Perhaps there should be legislation that requires councils to have similar plans over longer time frames for repairs, maintenance and improvements to council assets.

As well as rates, rate payers are being charged a waste operations charge, a domestic waste collection charge, a stormwater charge, a water access charge and wastewater charge. It has always concerned me that it appears that the Council can bill all unit owners in a strata scheme the water access charge when there are no separate meters to units. Common sense suggests that if there is one water meter at a strata scheme that the Owners Corporation of the strata scheme should be billed the water access charge. But no, Council wants to get the money out of the rate payer not the Owners Corporation and accordingly bills each owner.

Council should also have regard to endeavour to obtain funding from the other people who use community facilities in Ballina such as the facility users themselves, visitors to Ballina, tourists and people who live in Ballina but do not own property. If the swimming pools have to be upgraded increase the entry costs to obtain some of the funding. Put in parking meters to raise revenue from road users in the town.

It is very easy to spend other peoples money. It is very easy to sit back and just collect money off rate payers and spend it evidently with little accountability or responsibility. Rather than seek approval for a further rate rise Council should have a good look at its financial management.

Yours faithfully,

Kim Holwell
8 Dibbs Street,
Lismore. 2480

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Holwell', written in a cursive style.

Sandra Bailey

From: Barbara Campey <barb.arc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 8:18 AM
Subject: Pools Proposal

Barry Campey,
7 Tranquil Place,
ALSTONVILLE 2477

Dear Sir/Ms,

The suggestion to apply for a rate variation of two and a half percent in each of the next 2 years rating period appears to be a suitable way forward for the upgrading of the two swimming pools to proceed, with not too much pain caused by the rate increase.

The pools are a community asset in terms of social connection, recreation, health and fitness, town identity and pleasurable places to be enjoyed by many. They help engender social cohesion.

I think it is important fees for pool entry are not increased. The fees seem struck at a level people are comfortable to pay and thus make good use of the pools in substantial numbers. A fee increase could easily cause a drop in the use of the pools by many people.

Ideally the costs of upgrading the pools should be directly covered by all community members (where as, it could be argued that the load of costs is born by the ratepayers). If there was some way to do this without raising pool fees then I'd go for that! Some might argue that the ratepayers stand to gain on their property values or by increasing rents but this is a very indirect way to spread the load.

I give my support to Ballina Shire Council's pools proposal as per the modest list of outlined improvements.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Campey.

Sandra Bailey

From: Tracey Knowland <bangalownursery@linknet.com.au>
Sent: Sunday, 2 November 2014 3:28 PM
Subject: Re Proposed Swimming Pool Improvements
Importance: High

The General Manager,
Ballina City Council

In response to your recent correspondence regarding proposed pool improvements and funding required we would like to record our objection to the proposal, on the grounds that there are a number of ratepayers in the Ballina region, ourselves included, who still do not enjoy even the most basic of modern facilities; ie a tar-sealed road.

Rishworths Lane, Brooklet contains some of the larger agricultural businesses in the district and is regularly used by cars and trucks on a daily basis and semi- trailers on a regular basis. Non-residents vehicles regularly use the lane to access employment, farm gate sales, farm maintenance and road side stalls. Despite annual grading and maintenance, because of it's heavy use the lane soon returns to a pot-holed condition. A cloud of dust with each vehicular movement exacerbates asthmatic conditions and permeates homes and motor vehicles.

Brooklet has several untarred lanes but Rishworths Lane is arguably the longer and most heavily used. If tarring of Rishworths Lane is not already on Council's agenda then we request that Council include this 'basic 21st century necessity' on it's forward infrastructure planning agenda.

Rishworths Lane is currently in a corrugated and pot-holed condition and in urgent need of maintenance.

Yours

Tracey & Stuart Knowland
Managing Partners

BANGALOW Wholesale Nursery *"Growing Strong"*



PREMIUM LANDSCAPE TREES & SHRUBS
44 RISHWORTHS LANE BROOKLET NSW 2479
SALES: 0428 878 626 ACCTS: 02 66 879 626 (M)
bangalownursery@linknet.com.au

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www.facebook.com/pages/Bangalow.../225418684138471

28th October, 2014

THE MANAGER
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
PO BOX 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



SUBMISSION – PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE LEVY

FUNDING SWIMMING POOL IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to the possible increase to our general Rates in order to raise funds for the improvements needed for Ballina and Alstonville pools.

Council is to be commended for recognising the need for the pools to be upgraded but to burden all ratepayers with the cost is unfair. It is unfair because the pools are used by few of the people that such a revenue proposal would fall upon.

As the Commercial Rate will be included in providing funds Council must consider that a large number of Ballina's commercial properties are owned by non resident owners and Companies, who would have little use for the pool. Where a commercial property owner was a local home owner he would be paying 2 or more lots of the special levy. Not to mention of also paying "at the gate" to use the pool.

Furthermore, in Ballina today there are a considerable number of home owners with pools at their residence. Again it seems unfair that they should be further penalised having to pay an extra levy.

My concern is also for the large number of elderly rate payers who are most unlikely to use the new upgraded facility. I believe many of whom are struggling to meet everyday living costs, including current Rate charges.

The question therefore to be addressed by Council, in my opinion is why should those people who don't use the pools, or have need of such facilities have make sacrifices from their meagre retirement funds to benefit others. A fairer option would be the "user pays" method enhanced with Government funds.

Ballina leads other Councils with its recent facilities and continued vision for our future needs – sporting, recreational and cultural, but let us achieve this in an affordable manner

not drive current residents, or possible future home owners away, because we can't afford to live here.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

DAVID J. CLARK

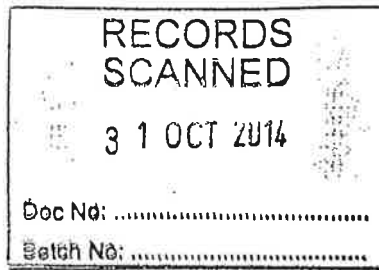
10 CENTRAL AVENUE,

EAST BALLINA NSW 2478

Mr Paul Hickey ref 480-03.

16 Spinaker Crescent
West Ballina
NSW 2478.

Cr David Wright
Ballina Mayor



Dear Mr Wright

I would like to object strongly
to the proposed Rate Increase to pay
for services to Swimming Pools.

I go to Cronley Hydrotherapy Pool twice
a week paying \$11.00 \$600 per year!!

I am a pensioner and struggle to
make ends meet as it is

I have to go to Cronley because of
my Health.

appeal Thank you for considering me

Yours Sincerely
Paul Hickey

31 OCT 2014

Doc No:
Batch No:

31 Swift St.
Ballina 2478
Oct 29, 2014

The Mayor
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Ms. Wright

I would like to object to the proposal to increase our rates above the 3% allowed.

I have read that a survey was taken of only 500 persons in a population of 4500. This is hardly a good representation. Ballina is in more need of a sports complex that could be used for more purposes like fair and concerts, as well as of course football, basketball etc. The pools should have had on-going maintenance & upkeep. I don't see the need to have these pools closed. Would it be paid for with other funds or cost ultimately changes?

I have just looked at my last rates invoice & the total for the year is \$2239 which includes sewerage, garbage, water, etc. The letter I received is quite misleading as you say that the "average residential rate" is only \$859 & that the increase for the 2014 to 15 will be only \$210 per year that doesn't include all the other extras. Surely with all the new housing & land releases at Fernvale & Ballina Shire's rates will be going up on the Island. Surely income from rates should be enough to cover



all the expenses that Councils incur.
The cyclway from the Boat ramp
to Missingham Park didn't cost too
much as it's only been a patch-up
job.

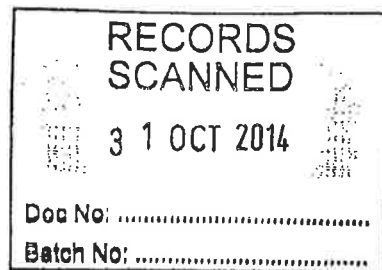
Rates aren't the only expense that
we have to pay - food, petrol,
electricity, telephone etc are all
going up. As a result I would
please on a monthly basis issue
I have to be careful of my
out-goings and therefore feel that
the increase is well warranted
and that Council should be
more efficient with the funds they
receive.

Yours truly
Diana deKauwe.



I object to paying more rates for
the upgrade of the Alstarville
swimming pool

L.S. FINLAY
6 Mellis Cct.
ASTONVILLE.
NSW 2477



RECEIVED
3:0 OCT 2014
COUNTER

HOWARD OWEN
16 PINNACLE ROW

LENNOX HEADS. 27/10/11

DEAR BAWINGA SHIRE,

I AM MOST CERTAINLY NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH OUR RATES BEING INCREASED, TO FUND THE 2 SWIMMING POOLS. WHY ON EARTH DO US RATEPAYERS HAVE TO PAY OFF SHIRE'S LOAN, WHEN THE NUMBER OF NEW RATEPAYERS INCREASES ALMOST DAILY, THROUGH NUMEROUS DEVELOPMENTS GOING ON. NEW HOUSES IN ANGELS BEACH NORTH, CUMBARUM, WOLLONGBAR, LENNOX'S PACIFIC PINES, ETC. SURELY, THESE GIVE THE SHIRE ADDED FUNDS?

IT REMINDS ME OF THE SITUATION WE RATEPAYERS FACED IN 1982. THE SEWAGE WORKS HAD BEEN CONTRACTED OUT, BUT OWING TO SOME COUNCIL MIS-INTERPRETATION OF THEIR CONTRACT, HAD TO BORROW HEAVILY AND RE-ENGAGE THE SEWER CONTRACTORS TO FINISH THE PROJECT. OUR RATES JUMPED UP A THIRD! ANOTHER CASE OF MISMANAGEMENT OUR RATES HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE LAST 5-10 YEARS.

YOURS SINCERELY

How-Owen

HOWARD OWEN
DHARMA CAMERA CO.

7 The Grove

Lennox Head 2478

29th October 2014

Re: Swimming Pools Upgrade - possible special rate variation

Dear Sir,

I am writing to oppose the rate variation to fund the pools at Bellina and Alstonville.

Our family goes to the bubble night for Halloweens annually - a very expensive family experience. Already, we make a conscious decision if we want to access the Bellina pool. We do so rarely, because of the present cost.

Our family object strongly to the taxpayers, ratepayers, to fund a facility that Council should look at more closely.

Yours faithfully
Dw Hetherington

October 31 2014

Ballina Shire Council

P O Box 450

BALLINA NSW 2478

Re pools proposal @ Ballina & Alstonville - special rate variation

I am strongly against any rates increase/variation for the above project.

I firmly believe in User Pays and also find it hard to fathom why Council has not been allocating monies for these projects for many years past knowing full well that these upgrades would one day have to be carried out. Does Council not work on Budgets to cover all aspects of works under Council's authority

Yours faithfully

Glenda Shearman



3/16 Namitjira Place

BALLINA NSW 2478

RATE ASSESSMENT NO. 161092

RECORDS SCANNED : 1 NOV 2014 Doc No..... Batch No.....
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RECEIVED
31 OCT 2014
RECEIVED
COUNTER

48 Dolphin Drive
Ballina NSW 2478
31/10/14

The General Manager,
Ballina Shire Council,
P.O. Box 450,
Ballina NSW 2478

RE – 480-03 SWIMMING POOLS UPGRADE

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above, I wish to strongly object to further Rate Rises across the whole Ballina Shire to pay for these proposed improvements.

Our rates are high enough without paying extra for pools that are used for a small percentage of the community.

We here on Ballina Quays have been paying higher rates to keep the canals dredged and maintained – supposedly every 5 years. However that maintenance does not happen as promised (in writing), so our extra rates are not going to what they were intended for.

The pools in question have been requiring regular maintenance since the late 1990's and nothing has been done. The Council have just put their head in the sand and thought the problem would go away or fix itself.

The community can only assume Ballina Shire Council are guilty of gross mismanagement of funds over several years and the feeling is why should we, the rate payers pay for your mismanagement.

Let the users of these pools pay higher admittance fees, or council work out some way to fund the upgrading. Sell property – or get some better money managers involved.

Yours Sincerely,



Dorothy Saines

