

RECORDS  
SCANNED

11 NOV 2014

P.O. Box 4

Doc No.....

Alstonville, 2477.

Batch No.....

To

Ballina Shire Council  
Ballina.

In reference to the letter I received from Ballina Shire Council regarding the proposed Rate Rise for year 2014-15 and subsequent rises each year.

I wish to state my objection regarding the proposed extra rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  above the general rise of 3%.

I feel this is an unnecessary cost to ratepayers. Shire residents have to live within their means and Ballina Shire Council should do the same.

To spend \$8 million on 2 swimming pools, at ratepayers expense, is "over the top" altogether.

Signed, D.M. Crawford  
10-11-14



1 Hillcrest Drive.  
Tintenbar.  
N.S.W.  
2478.  
7-11-2014.

Mr Paul Hickey.  
Ballina Shire Council.

Re Special Rate Variation.

I am writing to express my Dis-Satisfaction on the proposed Special Rate Variation proposed by the Ballina Shire Council as these proposals don't ever seem to be reversed after the required period of time.

So i am saying NO to the increase to the rates.

Yours sincerely  
Shirley Moss.

*S Moss*

29 Coral St

Alatouville 2477

10/11/14.

Dear Sir,

I object most strongly to an increase in our general rate in order to make improvements to Ballina & Alatouville pools.

Since 2007 our rates have increased from a total of \$1084 to an estimated total of \$2316 for this financial year.

In 2007 the pensioner concession was, by my reckoning, 23%. This financial year the pensioner concession was, again by my reckoning, only 18½%. On the rate instalment due this month the water consumption charge has also risen.

Do you not think of curtailing expenses within your own organization rather than forcing wanting others to pay. Increase the entry fee for those who use the pools instead of expecting every one to pay for other people's pleasure.

Yours faithfully,  
May Heard.

10.11.2014

Dear Mr. Hickey,

We are writing with reference to your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014, regarding your proposed rate increase.

We wish to register our objection to this increase for the following reasons.

Ballina Shire has an ageing population and we, like many others, are on a fixed income. With the increases in the cost of living coming from every commodity, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to cover expenses while attempting to maintain a standard of living.

Our genuine concern is that such a high increase, which will compound, has the potential to price fixed income home owners out of the homes they have worked hard to get and are finding nearly as difficult to maintain because of soaring costs everywhere.

We feel Council should look into other areas for the millions it wants to spend on the pools – user pays perhaps and or, selling off some of their more dubious investment properties – the steel factory and the office block as examples

Yours faithfully,

Toni Houlahan, 31 Castle Drive, Lennox Head.

Mr. Mrs. Graham and Evelyn Mackney, 3/23 Stewart Street, Lennox Head.

Mr. Robert Joyce, 17 Palisade Way, Lennox Head.

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Trish Anlezark <trish8@dodo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 November 2014 1:19 PM  
**Subject:** proposal

Dear Sir,

Am against the pool proposal increase in rates.

Sincerely Yours

Richard and Trish Anlezark

308 sneaths road

Alstonvale NSW



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

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

Dear Sir,

I am not in favour of a rate rise to the extent that is being asked for by the Council. The pools are over 40 years old and you have estimated that the improvements will cost \$4 million per pool. Where did this estimated figure come from?

When one starts looking into buildings over 40 years old there would be so many hidden costs.

When I need to do maintenance on my house I have to budget and save the money to carry out the repairs,,I believe the Council should have set aside funds over many years to carry out the maintenance ,that is needed on the pools. .

When one looks at the population of the Ballina Shire there would only be a minority of local rate payers that use the pools.

Come on Ballina Shire Council build a Multi Purpose Indoor Sports Centre, that I believe would benefit a far greater number of rate payers.

The extra 2.5% each year will hurt a large number of rate payers in the Shire..

Yours Faithfully  
Fay Morris  
15 Howard Cr.  
Ballina N.S.W. 2478.

*Fay Morris*



10-11-14

Ballina Shire Council,  
Rates Dept,  
Dear Sir,

I am writing to protest  
about the proposed increase  
in rates to fund the  
heating of swimming  
pools.

Ballina Council should be  
able to apply for government  
grants. Also it should use  
interest gained from  
Councils investments in  
Real Estate ventures.

I would also like to make  
a complaint about the  
excessive charge for waste  
water of \$807.

Yours faithfully,  
M. Martell  
Shaws Bay

Ballina Shire Council

Re Com<sup>th</sup> Consultation - Possible  
Rate Variation Ref 490-03

Dear Sirs,

I regret I am unable to respond positively to your request for a rise in rates charges, for the following reasons:

I am a pensioner in my nineties. my unit at

is my only property but because I spend part of the year with my younger daughter who lives on Lord Howe Island, and use that as my address, I am obliged to pay the full amount of rates - over \$2000 annually with the recent increase.



The proposed further increase  
would take me beyond  
what is affordable on my  
present income.

yours faithfully

John

(As N. Low)

Alstonville, 24/7/77.

RECORDS  
SCANNED

12 NOV 2014

Doc No: .....

Batch No: .....

64 Rous Rd

Rous 2477

Ballina Shire Council

Ballina

Rate Variation

I wish to voice my objection  
to the increase in rates  
for the upgrade to the  
swimming pools at Abstonville  
and Ballina and other future  
projects.

Yours faithfully

Maria Hewitt

7/11/14

23 P. P. W. Road Pl.  
Coast Bellina 2478

11-11-14

Phone 66364628.

The Manager  
Bellina Shire Council  
Bellina

Subject

Rate rise of 2 1/2% for two years.

Sir,

I am against this special rate rise to upgrade the Bellina and Mertonville pool amenities for the following reasons.

- (1) I will never use these amenities
- (2) This rate rise will not be discontinued after the two year period. we will be paying these rising rate rising for ever.
- (3) They people using the amenities will not pay enough admission fee to cover the every day running cost plus depreciation and maintenance for these amenities. We do not have enough people using these facilities to <sup>cover</sup> ~~cost~~ these cost
- (4) Look at Lismore City Council they were in debt last year \$2.5 million from their Memorial Pool plus the sport centre with a heated pool at Doonellabah. Do you really think the people using the proposed amenities will pay the large entry fee to cover cost like this.

My opinion is now pay, I belong to the library, I am always saying, people should pay for the use of this amenities.

Regards B. Kennedy

**Ballina Shire Council**

**P.O. Box 450**

**Ballina NSW**

**2478**



12 November 2014

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Proposed Special Rate Increase**

I am responding to your communication reference 480-03.

I am definitely not in favour of the proposed increase .As I have to live within my means I believe that Council should do the same. There are already annual increases and the estimated present increase of 3% per annum is already above the CPI.

Ratepayers have already suffered a 7.4 % "Special Rates Variation ", on top of the annual increase, just 3 years ago. There have also been significant increases to water, sewerage and waste charges in recent years.

The swimming pool proposal, in my opinion is not a priority and does not warrant a total increase of 11.3 % over 2 years, which would be compounded over future years.

I believe that Council is taking on too many infrastructure projects within too short a time. Furthermore these projects are not being completed on budget. The latest example being the shared path west of the Coast Rd. which I understand is already 1.15 million over budget.

How much will the proposed budget of \$8 million for pool reconstruction actually increase to? Perhaps the existing pools could have been better maintained.

Ballina Shire Council should be operating much more efficiently. It should be bringing in current projects on or within budget. Alternatives within its operating budget should be made to economise, rather than yet another rates hike.

Yours Sincerely,

J.G. Dourty



17/13-23 Pinnacle Row , Lennox Head.

Mr D. Wright  
Mayor  
Ballina Shire Council  
Post Office Box 450  
Ballina 2478. N.S.W.

RECORDS  
SCANNED

13 NOV 2014

Doc No.....


Batch No.....

Dear Mr Wright

Reference : Proposed rates increase. 480 -03.

1. My Wife and I have considered the possible special rate increases proposed by Ballina Shire Council in your recent correspondence.
2. We wish to advise, we are firmly opposed to the suggested rates increase.
3. This is definately not the time to seek increases in payments from the ratepayers for the proposed possible improvements to the swimming pools. Further there are other avenues that should be looked at before requesting ratepayers to fund such improvements, many of the suggested improvements can be achieved at much less expense in any case.
4. Further, and in closing, it is anticipated that various Council's and Regions, will see significant infastructure changes in the near future, and certainly well before the proposed term of any such loan for the proposed upgrades suggested. Serious consideration in harvest of additional funds, might be applied to present Management of Council infastructures.
5. Thank-you for your correspondence.

Yours Faithfully,

  
E.R. Budd  
Ratepayer  
Ballina Shire Council.  
6 November, 2014.

1472 Tanamere Rd  
Alstonville

Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina

To whom it may concern;

PROPOSED \$800,000 EXPENDITURE  
ON THE 2 POOLS IN THE COUNCIL  
AREA: I.E. BALLINA AND ALSTONVILLE

Our family is against the  
borrowing of these monies for  
work on the respective pools,  
which should have been done  
as normal maintenance  
programme over time

There are a lot of senior  
citizens in Alstonville & Ballina  
and these people really would  
find difficulty in meeting these  
extra costs, let alone ordinary  
working people

From what we can ascertain  
the Alstonville pool no longer  
is a pool for the public (who  
pay the rates) but has become  
a pool for the swimming club  
Whilst its great to have an active  
swimming club they should not  
have a monopoly over the use  
of same.

Would the council be prepared  
to publish arrangements for this  
loan, if it is borrowed, i.e. interest  
rates, annual repayments and  
period of time before it is to be  
repayed? Also what if council  
decide to do more work on services?

2.

in the future, do we borrow more millions against our rates?

There are lots of improvements needed in our town such as air conditioning parts of the entertainment centre, where it was removed over 12 months ago. This area is used on a regular basis by both young & old.

Yours sincerely  
Graham & Judith Laney.

11-11-2014  
J. L. Hamilton  
70 Boughlahans  
Cnr Rd Leven  
2478

Dear Sir

My written submission  
to Council for a rate rise  
for my wife & I comes as  
a shock.

Being a pensioner the daily  
costs in everyday costs  
& increases, becomes a  
struggle to make ends  
meet.

We are not in favour of a  
rate increase. Also the  
possible improvements that  
are suggested are items that  
my wife and I would not use.

Yours Sincerely,  
J. L. Hamilton



Tuesday 11/11/2014.

ATTENTION PAUL HICKEY  
BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

DEAR SIR,

THIS IS MY OBJECTION TO COUNCILS  
PROPOSED "POSSIBLE SPECIAL RATE VARIATION" -  
AS A PENSIONER LIVING IN ALSTONVILLE  
WHO DOES NOT USE ALSTONVILLE POOL  
(NOR BALLINA'S POOL EITHER) BECAUSE  
THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE "DIFFICULT-  
ITIES" WHEN (OR IF) THEY WISH TO USE  
BOTH THESE POOLS. WE HAVE TO  
CONTEND WITH WATER POLO TRAINERS  
- SQUAD TRAINING, LAPPERS, AND  
SCHOOLS' SWIMMING LESSONS ETC.  
ALL THESE ABOVE USERS START  
FROM 6 AM AND USUALLY  
FINISH (ESPECIALLY SCHOOLS' SWIM-  
MING LESSONS ANYWHERE FROM 12-30 PM  
TO 1 PM) = THE HOTTEST PART OF THE DAY.  
THEN IF THE GENERAL PUBLIC / PENSIONERS  
WISH TO SWIM AFTER 3-30 PM, WE  
STILL HAVE THE SAME SITUATION AS  
THE MORNINGS - - - - -  
(PLUS ALL THE SCHOOLS SWIMMING  
CARNIVALS THAT HAPPEN)

② NOW I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST ALL THESE "ACTIVITIES" BUT WE ARE LIMITED IN POSSIBLE USAGES OF BOTH POOLS —

ALSO WHY "PENALISE" PENSIONERS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POOL OWNERS BY RAISING OUR RATES??

IF BOTH COUNCIL OWNED POOLS NEED IMPROVEMENTS — THEN LET ALL THE ORGANISATIONS ETC WHO MONOPOLISE THESE POOLS, FUND-RAISE FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS —

I'M SURE YOUR STAFF COULD FIND THE TIME TO "WEED OUT" ALL PENSIONERS AND PRIVATE POOL OWNERS (YOU HAVE LIST OF US).

WHEN MY (4) <sup>now</sup> ADULT CHILDREN WERE DOING SWIMMING LESSONS AND SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVALS ETC — WE HAD TO PAY OUR

FEES FOR SUCH "ACTIVITIES" WHEN "STRUGGLING" ON ONE WAGE, AND LIVING OUT OF TOWN = PETROL \$\$\$ ETC. AND WE (THE PARENTS) FUND-

RAISED TOO. SO RAISE THE ADMISSION FEES ETC — APPROACH ALL THE ORGANISATIONS FOR FUND-

② RAISING EVENTS (THEY DO THIS TO  
FUND TRIPS AWAY FOR COMPETITIONS  
ETC - SO THEY CAN DO MORE, TO  
FUND THE POOLS IMPROVEMENTS).  
WE OLDER RATE-PAYERS HAVE DONE  
OUR PART AS OUR CHILDREN GREW  
UP.

MOST OF THE SENIOR POPULATION  
OF BALINA SHIRE USE OUR  
BEACHES, SHAW'S BAY AND PRIVATELY  
OWN ORGANISATIONS HEATED POOLS -

AND WE PAY FOR OUR USE OF THEM.  
~~PLUS OUR PETROL \$\$\$ TOGETHER TO THEM.~~  
DO YOUR SURVEY AGAIN AND  
I'M SURE YOU WILL "WORK IT OUT"

SO IT IS A BIG NO  
FROM ME - MR. HICKEY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME  
TO READ MY OBJECTION -  
BECAUSE IT TOOK UP MY  
"VALUABLE" TIME TO WRITE  
THIS OBJECTION LETTER.

REGARDS

MS YVONNE PARTRIDGE

*Y Partridge*

ADDRESS -

19 ELLIOTT AVENUE  
ALSTONVILLE 2478 NSW

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ingeburg Schwertner <ingeburg33@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 November 2014 5:12 PM  
**Subject:** Pool Proposal and Rate Increase

Ingeburg Schwertner  
36 Valley Drive  
Alstonville NSW 2477  
Email: [ingeburg33@gmail.com.au](mailto:ingeburg33@gmail.com.au)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Objection to Pools Proposal and Rate Increase

I strongly object to the proposed rate increase`to maintain and renovate and upgrade the swimming pools in Alstonville and Ballina.

In my opinion Maintenance and Upgrade should have occurred regularly during the many years the pools have been in operation. At least money should have been set aside for such events.

When the Ballina Shire amalgamated with the Tintenbar Shire, the Alstonville swimming pool had been built already, thus Ballina Shire had not to outlay the cost of building a pool in the first place. Maybe the entry fee should have been higher to enable the cost of upgrade and maintenance.

In any case I personally or my family would not benefit of such an outly as we do not use the facility.

Yours faithfully.

Ingeburg Schwertner

13/11/2014

8/19 Namitjira Place  
Ballina 2478



1. Re: Proposed Special Rate Levy for Swimming Pools Development
2. Re: Suggestions for improvements to be funded from existing rates
3. Re: Council's main responsibility for sports and recreation facilities

Dear fellow citizens on council

I am **AGAINST** the proposed special levy for developing the swimming pools despite being a swimming enthusiast who uses both pools at times and having been a competition swimmer in past years. I don't think that projects for special interest groups (e.g. sports) should ever receive council funding from normal rates!

I am also **SHOCKED** by the apparent deception in proposing a special rate increase for 2 years that will apparently then become permanent.

**INSTEAD** I would like to see a **VARIETY of OPTIONS** on the rate notices for ratepayers to **VOLUNTARILY** pay **EXTRA** into special funds designated for specific purposes that individual ratepayers want to see implemented over and above normal maintenance and development.

Yes, that may mean waiting 10 or even 20 years to see special projects implemented but I think it would be much fairer and we all may be surprised by what people are willing to put into projects that they personally want. In addition such special project funds could be augmented by fund raising groups of people desiring the project to help raise additional funds.

**MY DESIRED SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUNDED PROJECT:**

I personally want an all year round heated public swimming pool (25m would be more than ample), in Ballina, with easy access for people without much strength in their arms to walk into and out of the pool either by a ramp or steps with a hand rail. I'd also like to see it accessible for specific sessions of hydro-therapy as well as available to the general public. However I think funding for this needs to be voluntary and I personally would be happy to contribute voluntarily each year even though the project may not be completed in my lifetime.

**OTHER SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUNDED PROJECTS** that I know some other people want:

- Sports Hall suitable for indoor basketball / netball courts
- Skate Park for West Ballina
- Extra seating and shade at various sporting venues including pools

**2. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BE FUNDED FROM EXISTING RATES:**

- All stormwater drainage should be prevented from entering Shaws Bay which should be made into a prime swimming area
- Stormwater drainage should be treated in some way before entering the creeks, the river and the ocean
- More trees, tables & seating along all the foreshores for the enjoyment of non-swimmers
- Both main pools should be retrofitted with a side access comprising a ramp or steps with a handrail for access in and out of the pools by people without much strength in their arms.
- Effective shark netting should be installed at a few strategic places on the river and creek so that swimming may be safer in some places. Some possibilities are near Missingham Bridge: across the Shaws Bay beach; at the Serpentine; on the Spit below the market area; at the end of Norton Street.

### 3. MY IDEA OF COUNCIL'S MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES:

I think that the council should be planning for well into the future when the North Coast will be a large metropolitan area.

The most important responsibility the council has is to **SECURE SUITABLE LAND NOW** for future facilities before prices absolutely skyrocket. Such land purchase is already well beyond the capacity of individual sporting and recreational groups. The development of the facilities on such land should be entirely from special voluntary funds and, in my opinion, should not be funded from normal rates.

**Can you imagine trying to buy land in Sydney now for sporting and recreation?** Areas in Sydney such as Hyde Park, Centennial Park and the various National Parks were secured long before Sydney became huge – as were Sydney's windfalls of public land through changes to army, naval & dockland requirements. This is not to mention smaller sports and park land already council owned in Sydney.

**What about selling some of the so called 'business' properties owned by the council and using this capital to secure large parcels of land for the future needs of Ballina residents and holiday makers for sports, recreation and other community activities?**

The council is not and should not be a business.

**The council is a service to provide for the residents collectively what they cannot provide for themselves individually or as individual special interest groups.**

I am not in favour of the amalgamation of councils but that is a likely scenario in the future either immediately, soon or distantly. However I am sure that – as I read in a recent letter to the editor – an amalgamated council would soon appropriate any Ballina council property for the benefit of other areas rather than Ballina.

Surely it would be better for Ballina Council to utilise these 'business' assets to secure 'community' assets for the future.

Thanking you for your service to your fellow citizens,

Special thanks for your perseverance with recreation facilities despite vandalism!

Yours faithfully



Maxine Cole

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Denis Hartley <denisshartley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 6:58 AM  
**Subject:** Rate Increase

Sir,  
As a rate payer on a commercial property in Ballina and residence at East Ballina I don't need the extra cost for something I don't use .  
Denis and Ann Hartley

15/13-23 Links Avenue  
Ballina NSW 2478  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The Rating Section  
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Sir

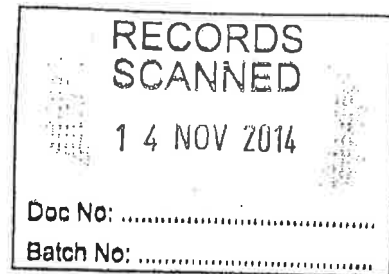
As a long time Ratepayer to Ballina Council I wish to say NO to the intended Rates rise to repair the swimming pools. I know these repairs may be necessary, however the increase in or Rates is too much. The 3% Increase is substantial enough.

As a recently widowed Pensioner I believe the added increase would create unfair hardship in my day to day living.

Yours Faithfully

E.Mara

*E. Mara.*





## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Brian Kennedy <pambrik@nor.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 1:52 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender

>  
> An attendance of 75,167 at BALLINA POOL last year represents  
> approximately  
> 2 visits per person per year from the town population of just  
>  
> over 40,000.  
>  
> I feel that the addition of an extra two lanes would be a large portion  
> of  
> the expense and have noticed that the training ,for which is supposedly  
> the reason these extra lanes are to be built ,is restricted to but a  
> short period of each day.  
> >  
> I believe that there are much more worthy causes on which such money could  
> be spent.  
> >  
>  
> PS This week I have received just on two kilograms of advertising mail in  
> my letterbox.This represents two tonnes for each 1000 homes in the towns  
> and  
> villages in the shire.  
>  
> We are paying for the disposal of this mostly unread junk mail.  
>  
> perhaps the council could find a way to charge the advertisers,for the  
> cost of recycling same,rather than charging the ratepayers  
>

46 Ross Cemetery Rd,  
Ross.  
11.11.14

Dear Ballina Shire Councilors,

RECEIVED  
14 NOV 2014  
COUNTER

This letter is in response to your request to canvass residents regarding a rates rise to facilitate the upgrade of the Ballina & Alstonville pools.

We are appreciative of the existing work Council does to provide the area with good roads, parks, sporting fields, libraries and services generally. However, it is difficult to understand why maintenance money was not built in to the many years of Council budgets, given that update and maintenance costs are inevitable. The local Alstonville community raised and provided a large amount of money in the 1970's to initiate pool building, which saved B.S.C. considerable cost, and certainly benefited the community here.

I would like to enquire regarding some existing fees in our current rates which seem to affect us and other rural residents:

1. The \$40, up from \$27 last year, of an "on site sewage management fee". After discussion with Peter Kennedy (your employee) in July, I understand the need for this. However, we do not benefit from a sewerage service, please note. Nor do we get access to town water - all tanks, septic, etc. are paid for by us, rural landholders.
2. Our rates, \$3,213.56 annually, include 2 lots of "Farmland Base Amount" of \$429.00 (total \$858) as there are 2 rates notices to this address (but only 1 dwelling). This larger figure is apparently, I'm told, greater than that ever paid by larger enterprises, which leaves us wondering about fairness, equity and value.

I appreciate that all ratepayers have access to your facilities (and non-ratepayers too), and of course not everyone uses all these facilities.

However, as our rates are already high for what we get in comparison to urban ratepayers, we request strongly that rates are NOT INCREASED for some time, and not for an update of a facility used by a minority of the population.

Yours sincerely,

Chris & Margaret Padston.

RECORDS  
SCANNED

14 NOV 2014

Doc No: .....

Batch No: .....

21 Rows Cemetery Rd.

Rows. 2477.

14th November 2014.

RECEIVED  
14 NOV 2014  
COUNTER

The President  
Ballina Water Council -  
Cherry Street.  
Ballina. 2478.

Dear Sir,

I am the Beneficiary of Paul Rogers Property  
in Rows Cemetery Rd the estate is still being  
legally addressed and Probate is not yet through  
My deceased husband Row Ball and I have been  
caught up with this property 40 years -  
I am strongly objecting to an increase in  
Rates in this economic difficult time as you  
can consider this property totally as unsewered  
by Council - i.e. No water or sewerage only a  
garbage collection

We have had to call upon you on occasion  
to unblock the drain under the road way  
We have always as neighbours maintained  
our properties along the edge of the road provided  
so I feel we have paid in advance towards  
infrastructure - for services not rendered.

Thank You  
Yours faithfully

Mark Ball for the Estate  
of Paul Harry Rogers.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Margery Fitzgerald <margeryfitzgerald@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 November 2014 4:20 PM  
**Subject:** Objection

Good Afternoon,

We write in response to Ballina Shire Councils' proposal to upgrade the public pools of Ballina and Alstonville.

We, today are lodging our objection to the proposed additional. rate increases to supply funding for this project,with no notice of when the increases would cease.

Council should be getting back to "Basics",to the Shire ratepayers.

Improved road surfaces.

Roadside house hold collections,biannually.

Free tip access.

These upgrades should have been previously been included in councils annual budget.

Like all government departments,reductions to staffing is a regular occurrence in this economic climate,to assist in expenditure.

We do not use either public pool,the user pay system would be objectionable as well.

Margery and John Fitzgerald

Industrial,Rural and residential Ratepayers.

Coral Schwertner  
10 Dillons Lane  
Alstonville NSW 2477  
Email: [corals11@iprimus.com.au](mailto:corals11@iprimus.com.au)

Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina NSW 2478

**RE: Objection to Pools Proposal and Rate increase**

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed rate increase to cover a loan that the Ballina Shire Council wishes to take out to fund Swimming Pool renovations and upgrade in both Ballina and Alstonville.

I believe that the cost of any renovations and upgrade should be funded:

- from people who actually utilise the facilities through increased entry fees, and,
- under a pay as you go renovation process.

Specifically, my objections are:

1. I most strongly object to the council taking out a loan to fund these projects. The taking out of a loan and paying extra for the project by additional interest on a loan is in my opinion a waste of money. Alternatively, I believe that the money could be set aside each year for the next few years until there is sufficient to cover the costs instead of taking out a loan.
2. I believe it should be the actual users of the pool/s who pay for these renovations/improvements. In my opinion these facilities are used by a minority group within the council area, and in many cases visitors to the area who are not even ratepayers from the local area.
3. As ratepayers, neither I, nor any of my family members get any benefit from these renovations and should not be expected to contribute to the project through a rate increase. We do not use the current facilities and do not plan to use them in the future. In fact very few people I know personally use the local pool. This is not because we don't swim, but because I have my own private pool and we also utilise the local beaches.
4. It is probable, based on other projects and general building costs, that the estimated cost of \$8 million is too low. In my experience Projects often run over budget (often 20%) so the amount will be insufficient. There is a strong probability that Ballina Shire Council will therefore need to revise the length of these rate increases past 2016/7.
5. Another way that funds could be raised to assist with the cost of these projects is to implement parking fees at the pools.

If you wish to discuss this objection, I prefer to be contacted by Email: [corals11@iprimus.com.au](mailto:corals11@iprimus.com.au) or alternatively my Home Phone: 66283648 or Mobile: 0422563611.

Kind Regards

Coral Schwertner  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2014

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Andrew Clark <ajandsmclark@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 November 2014 4:51 PM  
**Subject:** prioposed rate increase for pool maintenance alstonville and ballina

We strongly object to the proposed rate increase for the alstonville and ballina pool maintenance program. Surely the Council should have a budgetting framework in place knowing that pools, roads etc. require maintenance as a matter of course.

We always assumed the Council would have had this in place years ago knowing full well that maintenance would be required across the board.

We do not live in town, do not use any pools, do walk from the sailing club to north wall on occasions and am astounded at the footpath between the sailing club and the skateboard area – its appalling – just has paint circles where the footpath

needs maintenace. This is a high-use area. To bring in a rate rise of 11.3% over 2 years and maintain it is totally unacceptable. One budgets for maintenance etc. at the personal level and in business and the Council is no different. We have been waiting for 20 years for about 200 metres for gravel road to be tarred on alstonvale road which is very very dusty within our house,, so do not feel like paying any extra levees for swimming pools we do not use.

Andrew Clark  
Sandra Clark  
51 Alstonvale Rd  
Alstonville nsw 2477

Susan Laming (Ref 480-03)

82 Horsfield Rd,

Horsfield Bay, 2256

11.11.2014

Pools proposal

Ballina Shire Council

Dear councillors,

I read your letter regarding a proposed rise to rates for capital improvements to pools in Alstonville and Ballina with surprise and a gradual increase in feelings of annoyance and frustration. Once again the ratepayers' hip pocket suffers. Surely a RESPONSIBLE council plans for capital improvement programs in their budgets. Everyone else has to budget for big jobs..even my little complex has a sinking fund.

As it is, the rates have risen considerably (and not so steadily) over the past 14 years that I have owned my property in Alstonville. In fact, I have studied my rate notices over that period and am shocked to learn that your 3% is indeed a creative figure.(Perhaps your average goes back to the early 1900s!) You have called it an average but obviously some of us are more average than others (my apologies to 'Animal Farm')!! For example- in 2007 my increase was 10%, in 2008- 7%, in 2010-7%, in 2011-10%, in 2012- 9%, in 2013-6% and in 2014- 5.8%. When I worked these out I was amazed as you might imagine.

You may notice that the rates for 2009 are not included in the previous list. That is because in approx late 2008 I strata titled the 3 units on my property at Alstonville which cost me a LOT of money to do but for personal reasons it was necessary at the time. The council did not have to provide additional services other than a water meter, we still have no curbing or guttering and garbage collection was the same. The thing that surprised me the most was that with basically no council effort they 'won the lottery' from me because the next year in 2009 instead of 1 rate notice, I received 3- for the SAME block of land and SAME units. This was an increase of 40% on the year before and it has been increasing continuously ever since.

The main problem I have is that the rates never reduce or even stay the same. People are constantly battling in this day and age to manage to pay all these ever increasing commitments . I also have a problem with the inconsistencies of the increases and the "averages". I am obviously on the top end of the average for rate payers so I am apprehensive each year when the new ones arrive.

I have completed the online survey previously but wished to provide more detail on my feelings about the proposal. I am definitely opposed to a 5.5% increase over the next two years.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Laming.

(Property owner and ratepayer.)

## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Anita <banita@westnet.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 November 2014 4:46 PM  
**Subject:** Submission community consultation- special rate variation

To: Mr Paul Hickey  
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Mr Hickey,

Re: Submission Community Consultation – Special Rate Variation.

I object to Council's proposal to apply for a special rate variation to facilitate upgrading Alstonville and Ballina public swimming pools.

Council has a "Users Pay" policy and if demand has not been high enough to cover maintenance cost and gradual upgrade over the years the proposed \$8 million upgrading should be out of the question.

I suspect a very small percentage of the shire population are using the existing facilities, if everyone did the entry fee should cover everything and no need to borrow a large amount of money.

Expenses should be kept inside the normal rate pegging percentage and I want to remind Council about the application made 2010 for Rate Special Variation and the following was approved.

2010/11 rate increase 6.2%

2011/12 rate increase 6.1%

2012/13 rate increase 5.7%

2013/14 rate increase 6.0%

I'm fully aware of the meaning of compounded interest and is Council planning to do a new application every few years and hoping rate payers have forgotten?.

The April 2010 publication to get public support for the rate variation listed what the additional revenue would be spent on.

Roundabouts was mentioned, the traffic flow would improve a lot if Links Avenue/Angels Beach Drive and Skennars Head Road/Coast Road had been built. Nothing has been done 4 years after the rate increase started.

Council should not get in debt for two extravagant swimming pools located not far apart and both locations have Olympic sized pools and that should be enough.

Residents have for years asked to have a yearly kerb side pick-up and it would be a great benefit to all residents and something Council say it can not afford but to borrow \$8 millions for two pools is not a problem for Council but it is for me.

Very few of us have an increase in income higher than the inflation rate and and some have not even that.

Council expect me, us to pay for something having no benefits to the majority of people.



Yours sincerely

Anita Swanberg,  
21 Castle Drive  
Lennox Head

13.11.2014



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

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ray Hirst <rayhirst44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 November 2014 7:46 PM  
**Subject:** In creased rates

To Ballina shire council

Re survey

As a property owner on Ballina Island rate number 185478.

I would like to voice my opposition to a rate increase at this time for the pools up grade, as i am finding it difficult enough to pay the rates as they are now, i am providing accommodation for family members who need assistance. I must say council has done a wonderful job with the upgrade of River street, i have not been in Ballina for some time, and could not help notice how the area has been approved, you have done a wonderful job, can you find some other way to do your improvements

With a large elderly population i would imagine they too are finding it hard

Yours Sincerely

Raymond Hirst

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** shirley.parrish@bigpond.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 November 2014 8:41 PM  
**Subject:** Swimming pools upgrade

We wish to register an objection to the increase in rates to upgrade the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools. Shirley & Lindsay Parrish, 18 Mellis Circuit, Alstonville.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Brian & Marrion <elwar@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 November 2014 8:37 PM  
**Subject:** reply quote 480-03

Re: Possible Special Rate Variation.

We write in reference to your above mentioned advises and say we object to your variation proposal. As we have been a ratepayer in Ballina for near on 30 years and have never used the pools in question over that time.

Why are we as current ratepayers expected to save the Ballina council's complete incompetence for not having the future foresight in preparing for any ongoing and operating costs along with updateing and improved infrastructure as required on the Ballina and Alstonville pools.

Most home owners are completely aware once you aquire an asset it has to be looked after now and in the future, you need to be prepared for the expected ongoing costs, it looks like the council expects the easy way out is to hit the poor old ratepayers yet again.

Council seem to have very short memories as we remind them of the following;

1. 3 years ago special rate variation 7.3%.
2. Increase in water and waste charges on top of this we have two 5.5% increases over two years followed by three increases of 2.5% is an increase in excess of 19% over 5 years. On top of this if rates were to increase by say 3% after the two intended increases for the next three years it would give us an increase of 21.5% over the next 5 years plus the water and waste will also increase.

We realise that the council is running a business but would appear to have to commence to look in house and stop empire building along with stronger budget control. As the S94 development contibutions continue to increase and the funds appear not to be put towards the community facilities for upkeep.

We are both a NO to the special rate variation proposal.

Brian & Marion Rawle.

Coral Schwertner  
10 Dillons Lane  
Alstonville NSW 2477  
Email: [corals11@iprimus.com.au](mailto:corals11@iprimus.com.au)

Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina NSW 2478

**RE: Objection to Pools Proposal and Rate increase**

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed rate increase to cover a loan that the Ballina Shire Council wishes to take out to fund Swimming Pool renovations and upgrade in both Ballina and Alstonville.

I believe that the cost of any renovations and upgrade should be funded:

- from people who actually utilise the facilities through increased entry fees, and,
- under a pay as you go renovation process.

Specifically, my objections are:

1. I most strongly object to the council taking out a loan to fund these projects. The taking out of a loan and paying extra for the project by additional interest on a loan is in my opinion a waste of money. Alternatively, I believe that the money could be set aside each year for the next few years until there is sufficient to cover the costs instead of taking out a loan.
2. I believe it should be the actual users of the pool/s who pay for these renovations/improvements. In my opinion these facilities are used by a minority group within the council area, and in many cases visitors to the area who are not even ratepayers from the local area.
3. As ratepayers, neither I, nor any of my family members get any benefit from these renovations and should not be expected to contribute to the project through a rate increase. We do not use the current facilities and do not plan to use them in the future. In fact very few people I know personally use the local pool. This is not because we don't swim, but because I have my own private pool and we also utilise the local beaches.
4. It is probable, based on other projects and general building costs, that the estimated cost of \$8 million is too low. In my experience Projects often run over budget (often 20%) so the amount will be insufficient. There is a strong probability that Ballina Shire Council will therefore need to revise the length of these rate increases past 2016/7.
5. Another way that funds could be raised to assist with the cost of these projects is to implement parking fees at the pools.

If you wish to discuss this objection, I prefer to be contacted by Email: [corals11@iprimus.com.au](mailto:corals11@iprimus.com.au) or alternatively my Home Phone: 66283648 or Mobile: 0422563611.

Kind Regards

Coral Schwertner  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2014

BALLINA & DISTRICT CITIZENS & RATE PAYERS ASSOCIATION.  
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.  
LICENSE No. 9891926. !0 Daydream Ave Ballina 2478.

17 November 2014.

C.C. To all Councillors,

The General manager:-  
Mr Paul Hickey,

Dear Sir,

We have become aware that at the next Council meeting, after the above date, a report/recommendation is to be put to Council re:- the increase in rates to fund upgrades of the swimming pools at Ballina and Alstonville, to raise 8 Million dollars.

It is our understanding that Council placed a survey link on their website from around the time of the last rate notices, which expired on Friday last [14<sup>th</sup> Nov], and that the result of that survey was strongly against the rate increase. We do not know how many people responded.

It has now come to our attention that council then engaged a Melbourne based company [Memtex?] to undertake a telephone survey of the Ballina Shire, and these results favour the rate increase. We believe that only 500 people from the Ballina Shire were contacted.

We ask that **both** of these surveys be provided to the Councillors, along with the following, so that they can make an informed decision.

[a] Both surveys.

[b] advertising correspondence re: internet survey.

[c] letter of instruction to the Melbourne company

[d] detailed results of each survey.

We would also appreciate a copy of the submission to Council on the date that it is available on your website.

We advise that we will be forwarding a copy of this correspondence too each Councillor idividually.

Yours Sincerely,  
Ross. M Pickering.  
President  
B.D.C.R.A.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Sharron Short <sharronmt Tyler@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 5:24 PM  
**Subject:** Ballina Rates Rise

Dear Sir,

As a rate-payer, I am absolutely opposed to the proposed rate rise.

There have been some very informative, and informed, comments in the "Advocate" with which I agree. The following includes both suggestions and comments of mine.

1. At the recent Lennox Head meeting, the presenter (I didn't catch his name but perhaps it was Matthew Wood who has been writing in the newspaper) said that it is a recognised fact that pools run at a loss. Why on earth, therefore, do you wish to compound the budget deficit by focusing not only on maintenance but also on "improvements", such as heating Ballina pool, etc.? Surely, this is just throwing good money after bad! You will then have capital outlay as well as ongoing costs, with no guarantee of recouping either.
2. The mayor's explanation for increasing rates was that, when there is a deficit, or Council is at least seeking to increase rates to cover increasing costs, or trying to receive a government grant, you need to nominate a particular project. Perhaps you should have thought to nominate a different project which would have affected a greater number of people. Swimmers at both Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools represent only a very small proportion of your rate payers. It is most likely that many of those swimmers included in your pool attendance statistics are non-rate-paying children who frequent the pool so the statistics are even less representative of Ballina shire rate payers.
3. Why do you not employ appropriately qualified and competent people to handle departments? Why do you keep employing consultants whose fees, generally speaking, are exorbitant? During the rather brief meeting at Lennox, there was mention made of at least three recent consultants being employed for different problems. How many others have there been? Surely, frequently employing consultants is an admission that your staff is not competent? (Although I was told that a consultant could be a safety valve should there be litigation.) As well, the pool consultant you employed has given you no guarantee of his recommendations ensuring increased numbers to the pool.
4. Increase the entry fee. The mayor stated his objection to this but I think an annual fee of c. \$180 (from memory) and \$330 for a family is relatively cheap, especially if you consider membership fees for most health and sports clubs. The aquatic pool at Lennox has an annual fee of over \$400. It would be difficult to increase the entry fee dramatically but there is scope for it to be substantially higher than it is.
5. You are talking about a new sports centre in the Ballina area. Incorporate a pool into this.

6. Lease the pool out then you receive an income without the “outgo”.

7. Create a more realistic budget. Until quite recently I was paying rates to the Brisbane City Council, as well as here. Rates and water were separate but adding the two together, the total paid was just over half of what I pay in the Ballina shire. In any government system there is a great deal of waste. (“It’s okay, the government’s paying” is often heard). I have worked in the State system and in a local government system overseas and was often surprised by waste and ill-conceived plans. There have been suggestions in the “Advocate” of where some cuts could be made. (Note 5 November 2014 issue). Also, remember the old adage: look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.

8. The idea that the rate increase will remain and, of course, the fact that the increase is compounded each year, is anathema to me. Even a one-off levy, or equivalent, depending on legalities, would be more acceptable.

9. What is the point of rate rises being “officially” fixed when it is possible for constant increases beyond what is supposedly permissible? Was the original, agreed upon percentage totally unrealistic?

10. Lower the rent on some of the Council-owned shops, especially in Ballina, where many shops have remained empty for long periods of time. A lower, regular income is better than none at all. Also, the Wigmore Arcade upgrade seems to have been poorly handled. I know that the bag and accessory shop there finished trading quite some time ago, the uncertainty of when the upgrade would take place causing the owner to finish business long before necessary. The result? A popular business GONE! A regular income GONE!

Although there are more suggestions I am sure could be made, this has been written in haste so time is against me. Suffice it to say that, especially in view of the amount of money we pay now for rates, I am vehemently opposed to the suggested “rate variation”.

Thank you for your attention.

Sharron Short  
Lennox Head



Ballina Shire Council

Re:- Special Rates Variation

I would like to object to the proposed special rate variation.

Swimming pools are a luxury item and it concerns me that it appears Council has not budgeted in previous years to for maintenance works at the pools. Rates in Ballina are already high without further increases.

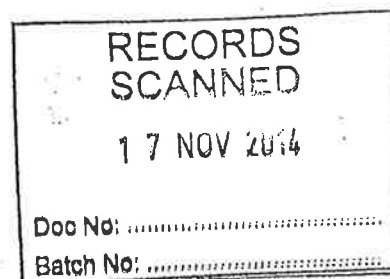
I use both Alstonville and Ballina pools, with the majority of my visits being at Ballina pool. Whilst I agree that more shade sails/areas and access for disabled people is needed I would like Council to explore grants rather than a rate increase. I would even consider a small one off increase for such items but as this has not being suggested I have to say no.

I would prefer Council install BBQ facilities along the water front and in parks rather than in pool areas. I go to the pool to swim not have BBQ's. The same could be said of improving the food premise at Ballina pool.

I have never visited the pool and thought extra lanes or a training pool was required and do not believe rate payers should pay to have a pool upgrading to competition standards unless predicted revenue would cover the cost of an upgrade.

Andy Edwards  
1/15 William Street  
Alstonville

13.11.2014



JACK Lavis & Shirley Suffolk

21 Henderson Drive

Lennox Head 2478

13/11/14

To Ballina Shire Council,

We do not support ratepayers paying for upgrading swimming pools, we are of the opinion that these costs should be paid by the users.

We have lived in the Ballina Shire since 1980 and never used public pools, we fail to see any responsibility for us paying this cost.

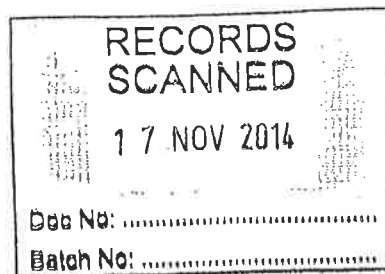
We are also of the opinion that at best it has been an oversight by past Councils to have not factored this cost on the users, (maybe this should be addressed now).

We installed a pool of our own at a large cost and fail to see why we should be responsible for public pools.

We also believe that if ratepayers are to pay for this type of cost then ratepayers have the only vote.

Jack Lavis

Shirley Suffolk



Unit 1, 35 Bayview Drive  
East Ballina NSW 2478

The Mayor & Councilors  
Ballina Shire Council  
Tamar Street  
Ballina NSW 2478

14 November 2014

Dear Sirs

**Re: Pool upgrade and proposed rate increase.**

I wish to state my opposition to the extensive upgrade proposal for the Ballina Swimming Pool and the proposed rate increase intended to fund those works. My opposition is based on the following:

1. When such a small proportion of the Shire's population actually use the Ballina Swimming Pool it is grossly unfair to expect the entire Shire's residents to pay for the pool upgrade by increasing Council rates which have already increased at an alarming rate in recent years.
2. I do not believe a heated pool is necessary given the sub-tropical Ballina climate and Ballina's proximity to the ocean which has comfortable swimming temperatures year round.
3. The proposed rate increases (which will exceed the state imposed index cap) stand to cause real and significant financial hardship to those mid to low-income residents already having great difficulty paying high Council rates.
4. If any upgrade works do proceed then these should be primarily funded **by the actual users of the swimming pool** (ie. by increasing pool entry fees) and **not** by those who do not ever use the pool (ie. the majority of the Shire residents).

I myself am a keen swimmer and a frequent user of the Ballina swimming pool and even I do not consider it fair and reasonable to expect the whole community (the bulk of which never use the pool) to pay for the proposed upgrade works and to place the bulk of the community under further financial strain at a time when the cost of living is rising at a rate that is far exceeding rises in real wages and incomes.

Please consider the points raised above as I believe my sentiments are echoed by the vast majority of the Ballina community.

Yours sincerely



Ben Donnithorne  
0423 958 910

«MATTER\_Document\_No»



16 Cedar Crescent  
Ballina NSW 2478

The Mayor & Councillors  
Ballina Shire Council  
Tamar Street  
Ballina NSW 2478

14 November 2014

Dear Sirs & Mesdames

**Pool Upgrade and proposed rate increase.**

I wish to state my opposition to the extensive upgrade proposed for Ballina Swimming Pool and the proposal to increase the rates to accommodate this for the following reasons:

1. I do not think a heated pool is required in Ballina given the sub-tropical environment we live in and the fact that our weather is warm and mild for most of the year;
2. The heating of the pool will be a continuing & expensive overhead for Council and rate payers and damaging to the environment;
3. I do not believe the re-development of the Ballina pool site should be an extensive re-development as the pool only services a small portion of the population in the shire;
4. The shire already has beaches, the Richmond River and Shaws Bay as places where people can swim free of charge so that the pool has to compete with these and be competitively priced;
5. I think that the existing site and surrounding gardens are attractive and natural and should be maintained;
6. The pool is not an essential service and I do not believe that our rates should be increased to accommodate this expense when our rates are already high;
7. I do not believe that Council should be involved in the business of operating a state of the art swimming pool complex supported by rate payers levies.
8. I believe that the users of the pool should pay for the service and not the rate payers pay for the users.

Thank you for considering my views.

Samantha McInnes

*Samantha McInnes*



## Sandra Bailey

---

**From:** Eva <p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 October 2014 10:58 PM  
**Subject:** Before pool repairs and upgrades lets build Indoor Sporting Facilities for Ballina

For all of those living in the Ballina Shire who would have received a notice from council requesting your input to raise rates to fund an \$8M swimming pool upgrade, this is your chance to make it clear to them in no uncertain terms that you understand that there are limited funds and the use of those funds needs to be prioritised so NOW is the time to recognise the the multipurpose sports center (which will house a minimum of 4 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 center 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 center to 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.  
Eva Ramsey.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Eva <p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 October 2014 11:01 PM  
**Subject:** R

For all of those living in the Ballina Shire who would have received a notice from council requesting your input to raise rates to fund an \$8M swimming pool upgrade, this is your chance to make it clear to them in no uncertain terms that you understand that there are limited funds and the use of those funds needs to be prioritised so NOW is the time to recognise the the multipurpose sports center (which will house a minimum of 4 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 center 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 center to 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

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Eva <p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 October 2014 8:08 PM  
**Attachments:** Basketball Petition Oct 2014v1 Few changes.docx

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION FOR OUR SPORTS CENTRE. – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

---

**From:** Eva [mailto:p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 October 2014 8:00 PM  
**To:** 'Ross Pickering'  
**Subject:**

Hi Rosco here is the petition link

Petition Link: [https://www.change.org/p/please-help-ballina-finally-get-a-multipurpose-indoor-sports-centre?recruiter=83965332&utm\\_campaign=mailto\\_link&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=share\\_petition](https://www.change.org/p/please-help-ballina-finally-get-a-multipurpose-indoor-sports-centre?recruiter=83965332&utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition)

Where are Ballina's indoor sporting facilities that have been promised for over two decades? The last promise came at a Council Facilities Meeting where Councillors voted that they would deliver to the people of Ballina Shire a four court Indoor Sporting Facility. But still nothing concrete had been forthcoming.

For all of those living in the Ballina Shire and surrounding areas who would have received a notice from council requesting your input to raise rates to fund an \$8M swimming pool upgrade, this is your chance to make it clear to them in no uncertain terms. You understand that there are limited funds and the use of those funds needs to be prioritised so that NOW is the time to recognise the multipurpose indoor sports centre with a minimum of four multi-purpose courts that meet International standards for tournament/championship play, these need 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. This centre would service many sports, Basketball, Netball, Futsal, Disabled sport, Lifeball, Badminton, Wheelchair sports, just to name a few, as the list is extensive and would service a much broader portion of the community. Expo's, Fairs and events that could be held there would create economic advantages to this Shire would far outweigh that of a swimming pool which we pay \$599,000 per year to service. One simple fact you are missing is the swimming already has facilities, all these other sports have nothing.

Ballina Shire Community Infrastructure rates as one of the lowest per capita in NSW.

Look at the statistics each town's facilities for the Northern Rivers:

Shire	Population	Indoor Sport Facility
Lismore Shire	44,637	Four indoor courts with access to two more
Yamba	5,514	Two indoor courts with access to one other
Maclean	2,600	One indoor courts
Grafton	17,500	Four indoor courts with access to one more
Casino	10,558	One indoor court. Tenders out for two more
Byron Bay	32,126	Two courts plus plans for extra one
<b>Ballina</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>No Indoor Sporting facilities!!!</b>
		Access to one High School court only when available

Let's get the priorities right please join our petition and make it exceedingly clear that you will not support the proposed pool upgrades until the funds have been approved and quarantined to build the far more important multipurpose sports centre, a cause worthy of a "one off" rates increase. PLEASE SHARE this petition to all who live in the Ballina Shire and let's get the priority shifted to where it bring far more benefit in both the short and long term, the construction of the long promised (and longer postponed) multipurpose sports centre.

Here is the link [https://www.change.org/p/please-help-ballina-finally-get-a-multipurpose-indoor-sports-centre?recruiter=83965332&utm\\_campaign=mailto\\_link&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=share\\_petition](https://www.change.org/p/please-help-ballina-finally-get-a-multipurpose-indoor-sports-centre?recruiter=83965332&utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition)

#### The Petition

*"That Ballina Council prioritise and set aside suitable funds to finally build the long-promised **Multi-purpose Indoor Sporting Facility** in Ballina, to allow Ballina sports people to compete locally in a purpose built facility and to attract representative teams from other shires to Ballina."*



## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Eva <p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 1:28 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Petition Swimming pools + Indoor Sports Centre  
**Attachments:** image007.emz; The Petition Preamble.pdf

Afternoon  
Please pass onto Pau Hickey and Steve Barnier  
Could you please send me notification of receiving this email.  
Eva Ramsey

**From:** Mario van Eck [<mailto:ecoqual@bigpond.net.au>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 1:04 PM  
**To:** [davidwright@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:davidwright@ballina.nsw.gov.au)  
**Cc:** [p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au](mailto:p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au); Adrian Van Eck; [robynh@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robynh@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [kenj@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kenj@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [smeehan@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:smeehan@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [crsharonc@nor.com.au](mailto:crsharonc@nor.com.au); [jeffjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jeffjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [keithw@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:keithw@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [kjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [bens@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bens@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [pworth@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pworth@ballina.nsw.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Ballina Multifunction Indoor Sports Centre Petition

Dear Mr Wright

Let me introduce myself please. I started and organised the petition that Eva presented to you and other Councillors by email today.

For the information of yourself and all Councillors, I have attached the preamble to the petition based on which Petition signatories were asked to sign the Petition.

The Petition can still be viewed at the [change.org](http://change.org) website the link is:

[Sign the Petition](#)

Clearly, you will see that the Preamble refers to the Pools issue. I therefore request that the Petition is taken into consideration when Council decides on the rate increase for pool renovation issue.

That is the reason why the Petition progress to date was presented to the Councillors today, although the Petition had only been open for two weeks.

The Petition will remain open at least until the end of November.

Thanks for your consideration.

Cheers  
Mario

Mario van Eck



3 Gardie Place  
Coolgardie NSW 2478  
Australia

0266834114

0415238965

## *The Petition*

### **That Ballina Council and New South Wales Government prioritise and set aside suitable funds to finally build the long promised Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre in Ballina.**

Where is Ballina's *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* that has been promised for over two decades?

The last promise came before the last Council elections, when Councillors indicated that they would deliver to the people of Ballina Shire a four court *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre*. But still to date nothing concrete had been forthcoming.

Recently ratepayers living in the Ballina Shire and surrounding areas received a notice from council requesting their input to raise rates to fund an \$8M swimming pool upgrades. This is your chance to make it clear to Council in no uncertain terms that you understand that there are limited funds and the use of those funds needs to be prioritised.

NOW is the time to recognise the *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* with a minimum of four multi-purpose courts, that meet International standards for tournament/championship play, needs to be given *first and highest priority*.

From both a social and economic benefit perspective the *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* is vital to the shire. Ballina and district sporting organisations that support the building of a *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* represent netball, gymnastics, futsal, basketball, disability sports, badminton, lifeball and cricket. All these sports have had their expansion plans stalled due to the lack of suitable infrastructure in Ballina.

Ballina Shire rates as one of the lowest per capita for community infrastructure in NSW.

Look at the statistics for **Northern Rivers**:

Lismore pop: 44,637 Four indoor courts with access to two more

Yamba: pop: 5,514 Two indoor courts with access to one other

Maclean: pop: 2,600 Two indoor courts

Grafton: pop: 7,500 Four indoor courts with access to one more

Casino: pop: 10,558 One indoor court. Tenders out for two more

Byron Bay: pop: 32,126 Two courts plus plans for extra one

**Ballina: pop: 45,000 No Indoor Sporting facilities!!! Access to one High School Gym when available.**

Let's get the priorities right. Please join our petition and make it exceedingly clear that you will not support the proposed pool upgrades until funds have been approved and quarantined to build the vital ***Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre***, a cause worthy of a "one off" rates increase.

PLEASE SHARE this petition to all who live in the Ballina Shire and let's get the priority shifted to community infrastructure which brings far more benefit in both the short and long term - the construction of the long promised (and longer postponed) ***Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre***.

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Eva <p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 16 November 2014 5:25 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Petitiond Swimming Pool Survey  
**Attachments:** Ballina Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre Petition.pdf

**From:** Adrian van Eck [<mailto:adrianvaneck@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 8:51 AM  
**To:** Eva Ramsay - Vice President  
**Subject:** Fwd: Petition

Morning Eva,

Find attached full petition with signatures and comments up to date as at 13/11/14.

Adrian

# Petitioning

David Wright. *Mayor of Ballina Shire*  
Don Page. *State Member for Ballina*

**That Ballina Council and the New South Wales Government prioritise and set aside suitable funds to finally build the long-promised Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre in Ballina.**

On behalf of: **Ballina Indoor Sporting Organisations and their members**

Ballina Multipurpose Sports Centre Petition Signatures as at Nov 13, 2014

## Petitioning:

David Wright. Mayor of Ballina Shire

Don Page. State Member for Ballina

That Ballina Council and New South Wales Government prioritise and set aside suitable funds to finally build the long-promised Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre in Ballina.

Name	Postcode	Signed On
Mario van Eck	2478	29/10/2014
Denise van Eck	2478	30/10/2014
Adrian van Eck	2477	30/10/2014
John Nicolson	2478	30/10/2014
Lexie Hooker	2478	30/10/2014
Vanessa Elphick	2478	30/10/2014
Shirley Mills	2478	30/10/2014
Leiya O'Connor	2486	30/10/2014
Kelly King	4220	30/10/2014
Janelle Sullivan	2478	30/10/2014
Amber-Lee Kristensen	2481	30/10/2014
Mat Fletcher	2478	30/10/2014
Liz Hollman	2477	30/10/2014
Allan Spencer	2478	30/10/2014
Eva Ramsey	2478	30/10/2014
Jacki Beer	2478	30/10/2014
brittany mcleod	4103	30/10/2014
Julie Earl	2478	30/10/2014
Robert Westworth	2478	30/10/2014
amie clarke	2478	30/10/2014
Taren lynch	2478	30/10/2014
Rachael Peters	2478	30/10/2014
Ross Pickering	2478	30/10/2014
Luke Fahey	2478	30/10/2014
Amanda Drinkwater	2478	30/10/2014
Tony Davidson	2478	30/10/2014
Amber Huett	2478	30/10/2014
Karen O'Connor	2478	30/10/2014
Kristy elvery	2478	30/10/2014
melinda lynch	2478	30/10/2014
Stephen McCarthy	2478	30/10/2014
Natasha Duda	4161	30/10/2014
Dee Vickers	2477	30/10/2014
Liz van Eck	2477	30/10/2014
Marissa tilden	4313	30/10/2014
Shelly Fletcher	2478	30/10/2014
Iesha Williams	2478	30/10/2014
Carolyn Flynn	2478	30/10/2014
Bronwyn Morris	2481	30/10/2014

Mark watkins	2558	30/10/2014
Nathan Mills	2478	30/10/2014
Daniel Mendes	2076	30/10/2014
Tom Bowers	2478	30/10/2014
Tim Legge	4207	30/10/2014
Luke Mulder	2478	31/10/2014
Kristy h	2478	31/10/2014
Angela Van Dommele	2478	31/10/2014
Nathan Wills	2478	31/10/2014
Tayla Austen	2478	31/10/2014
Michelle Ellis	2478	31/10/2014
Reece Fensom	2478	31/10/2014
trixie donald	2478	31/10/2014
Ben Mayo	2470	31/10/2014
Ryan Holm	2481	31/10/2014
Eryn Barker	4005	31/10/2014
rosemary knight	2478	31/10/2014
Kellie Coates	2478	31/10/2014
Andrew McCowan	2478	31/10/2014
Declan Flynn	2478	1/11/2014
Luke Flynn	2478	1/11/2014
Elizabeth ROberts	2478	1/11/2014
Sandon Keable	4507	1/11/2014
Penny Williams	2478	1/11/2014
Chriso Bowers	2478	1/11/2014
Bella Haycock	2478	1/11/2014
Tara Wood	2478	1/11/2014
leanne gollan	2478	1/11/2014
dan ewald	2478	2/11/2014
Tim Kelly	2478	2/11/2014
Michael Anderson	2480	2/11/2014
Karryn Gavenlock	2478	3/11/2014
Cheryl morton	2477	3/11/2014
Kathy Buckley	2478	3/11/2014
Jennifer Evans	2478	3/11/2014
Joanne Croft Smith	2478	3/11/2014
Jeannie Kuwert	2478	3/11/2014
peter kuwert	4370	3/11/2014
Jackie Birch	2478	3/11/2014
Diana Williams	2478	3/11/2014
Sarah Burke	2478	4/11/2014
Paul Whiting	2478	4/11/2014
Shane McCosker	2478	4/11/2014
Jacqui Weldon	2478	4/11/2014
Riki Wood	2478	4/11/2014
Glen Barnes	2478	4/11/2014
kahli milner	2478	5/11/2014
Andrew Cork	2478	5/11/2014
Kate Benecke	2478	5/11/2014
Matthew Harry	4113	5/11/2014

Mitchell Knight	2478	5/11/2014
Blake curtis	2478	5/11/2014
jo mackellar	2478	5/11/2014
john hale	2478	5/11/2014
Ben Veling	2478	5/11/2014
Rob McArthur	2478	5/11/2014
Ruth Huwer	2478	5/11/2014
james byrne	2478	5/11/2014
Linda Jones	2478	5/11/2014
chris crawford	4054	6/11/2014
Kerri Vagg	2478	6/11/2014
Catherine Bashforth	2480	6/11/2014
Brendan van Eck	2478	7/11/2014
Bret Madden	2481	7/11/2014
Jason Golding	2478	7/11/2014
robert STREBL	2481	7/11/2014
Yann McDermid	2481	7/11/2014
Scott Harkin	2480	7/11/2014
Matty Oh	2481	7/11/2014
Glenn O'meara	2482	7/11/2014
irvin asuncion	2483	7/11/2014
daniel northey	2481	7/11/2014
Taryn Gerada	2478	7/11/2014
Kim fisher	2478	7/11/2014
Katrina Miles	2478	7/11/2014
Nicole Bryant	2478	7/11/2014
Tracy preston	4720	7/11/2014
Danica Sattler	2478	7/11/2014
Serena Kelly	2478	7/11/2014
natalie alchin	2478	7/11/2014
Karina Harrison	2478	7/11/2014
Ange Clark	2478	7/11/2014
Helen Hanslow	2478	7/11/2014
Nerida Jones	2478	7/11/2014
Jonathon Wood	2578	7/11/2014
Riley Flick	2481	7/11/2014
Aimee Foster	2478	7/11/2014
Carla magnay	2478	7/11/2014
Lee Harley	2478	7/11/2014
Matthew Tall	2478	8/11/2014
Elizabeth Campbell	2478	8/11/2014
Linda Black	2478	8/11/2014
Jos hilyard	2478	8/11/2014
Stacey Brooks	2478	9/11/2014
Creina Preston	2478	9/11/2014
Melinda Garlinge	2447	10/11/2014
Kym Tully	2478	10/11/2014
Lynette Smee	2478	10/11/2014
Lauren Waldock	2478	10/11/2014
Caleb burke	2478	10/11/2014



Vincent Whiting	2478	10/11/2014
Natalie Elmer	2478	10/11/2014
Grace McCall	2478	10/11/2014
Paul Wujcik	2479	10/11/2014
Wendy Kisi	2478	10/11/2014
Les Harry	2517	10/11/2014
Declan Flynn	2478	10/11/2014
Marissa Tilden	4213	10/11/2014
William Oltersdorf	2480	11/11/2014
James Whitby	2480	11/11/2014
Micheal Muldoon	2480	11/11/2014
Tanya Bond	2477	11/11/2014
mitch king	2480	11/11/2014
Matt Kelso	2478	11/11/2014
David Wiseman	2479	11/11/2014
Syd Hume Hume	2480	11/11/2014
Jack Mayer	4073	11/11/2014
Kath Ellis	2478	11/11/2014
Steve Smith	2464	11/11/2014
Paul Tainsh	2478	11/11/2014
James Lloyd Mather	2478	11/11/2014
Sam Mitchell	2480	11/11/2014
Redd Williams	2480	11/11/2014
Reinhard Oltersdorf	2480	11/11/2014
ina monk	2478	11/11/2014
Morgaan Volar	3044	11/11/2014
Martyn Tilse	4068	11/11/2014
Sue Edwards	2480	11/11/2014
alan orr		11/11/2014
Zeny Takeno	2095	11/11/2014
wayne cottrill	2478	11/11/2014
Jared Seiffert	2480	11/11/2014
damion cavanagh	2480	11/11/2014
Sam Lloyd	2478	11/11/2014
Jack Power	2478	11/11/2014
Tania Teurquetil	2481	11/11/2014
James Watts	2478	11/11/2014
Cody campbell	2478	11/11/2014
Georgia Wheatland	2478	11/11/2014
Lachlan Dokter	2478	11/11/2014
Joseph Hinrichsen	2478	11/11/2014
Mya Healey	2478	11/11/2014
Kyle Kingston	2478	11/11/2014
Kye Fricker	2478	11/11/2014
Jackson Morris	2478	11/11/2014
Meleta Wood	2478	11/11/2014
Kye Cribb	2478	11/11/2014
Jeff Johnson	2478	11/11/2014
Riley Gollan	3032	11/11/2014
Jacob Kay	2474	11/11/2014

Lars Nordlander	2480	11/11/2014
Tiana Solomano	2478	11/11/2014
Claire Wood	2478	11/11/2014
Janelle Colman	2478	11/11/2014
Bobby-Lee McQuire	4701	12/11/2014
Lauren Sculley	2478	12/11/2014
brooke harwood	4214	12/11/2014
Rosina Grieves	2481	12/11/2014
Jayden hetherington	2478	12/11/2014
cheryl massey	2478	12/11/2014
Kim Kelso	2478	12/11/2014
Adam Smith	2478	12/11/2014
Nikki Foord	2481	12/11/2014
Jane Jackson	2478	12/11/2014
Steph Parsons	2233	12/11/2014
Megan McCarthy	4122	12/11/2014
christine mcombie	2478	12/11/2014
Karen Miller	2478	12/11/2014
Graeme Williams	2482	12/11/2014
Glenn miller	2478	12/11/2014
Jesse Coates	2478	12/11/2014
ruby driscoll-dyer	2478	12/11/2014
Melissa Gold	2481	13/11/2014
Sue Higgins	2477	13/11/2014

## Ballina Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre Petition Comments

### Petitioning:

David Wright. Mayor of Ballina Shire

Don Page. State Member for Ballina

That Ballina Council and New South Wales Government prioritise and set aside suitable funds to finally build the long-promised Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre in Ballina.

Name	Signed On	Comment
Lexie Hooker	30/10/2014	support local sports
Shirley Mills	30/10/2014	grand daughters all young people will need it in the future
Janelle Sullivan	30/10/2014	unquestionably needed in town.
Eva Ramsey	30/10/2014	Ballina Shire has nothing for over 19 years we have canvassed council and Don page it is time NOW
Jacki Beer	30/10/2014	I'm a professionally retired netball player originally from Melbourne. There is a need for all weather sports facilities for adults and children of our community. The pool needs an upgrade and we need a sports centre. Period. Allocate the funds. Please.
Julie Earl	30/10/2014	Long overdue and would be of great benefit to Shire
Taren Lynch	30/10/2014	Ballina needs this indoor facility. I have been playing netball in the town since I was 7- am now 30. For as long as I can remember I have always played indoor netball as well. There is now nowhere to play indoor any sports. To do this we have to commute to Alstonville presently or goonellabah... The new indoor court at Lennox head community can't even be used because of liability issues. I for one find this a hassle but do it for the love of the game. At Alstonville there is only 1 court so only a very limited number of teams can be part of the competition- gbah has only 2 courts. It would be also good for ballina to hold major events for netball particularly- currently for the higher levels such as state league we have to travel to Yamba. Also for training purposes it would benefit the town, obviously not only for netball but a lot of other sports, we would also be able to allow more teams to compete
Ross Pickering	30/10/2014	Citizens have waited long enough for a sports facility! Let the users of the pools pay at the turnstiles for the upgrade of swimming pools!
Luke Fahey	30/10/2014	Because this stadium has been promised it is well over due.
Tony Davidson	30/10/2014	This is something that Ballina really needs . There is a very large sporting community , that could be even larger if people didn't have to travel to use such facilities
Stephen McCarthy	30/10/2014	Ballina has no place for growth of infrastructure. Ballina has no duty of care for kids on the street. Ballina has no place to go for young australians indiginous teenagers. Technology is growing so fast, there is no programs for obesity or lowering criminal activity within the shire. Ballina needs this to grow as a community, especially now we have a bypass. Community's raise generations opportunity's, disciplines and opinions as much as parents today.
Natasha Duda	30/10/2014	the people of Ballina need this!
Marissa tilden	30/10/2014	ballina needs to provide an adequate sporting centre for its children to help keep them off the streets
Iesha Williams	30/10/2014	Because I believe that the youth of Ballina needs more to do in ballina
Mark watkins	30/10/2014	To grow basketball in the region
Tom Bowers	30/10/2014	This is desperately needed in the region and could be fully utilised TODAY if it were available. It needs to be escalated in priority and progressed with urgency. The social and economic benefits to the region would be far greater than any other project I have seen on the Ballina Shire's capital expenditure wish list so let's get behind it and get it done.
Nathan Wills	31/10/2014	Keen to play on professional basketball courts
Tayla Austen	31/10/2014	Too many promises, yet little action... Ballina needs a stadium!

Michelle Ellis	31/10/2014	Over the last 20 years I have played both basketball and netball in inadequate facilities. My children who are nearing their late teenage years have also play both netball & basketball. The lack of facilities impairs the growth pif the sport in this area due to inconsistent access to the only court available to play basketball, The indoor facility at lennox is not safe to use and thus travel for 1 hour to alstonville is the closest indoor facility. This Multipurpose centre is long overdue and essential for our sports loving community.
Ryan Holm	31/10/2014	I have played basketball in the area for 20years of my 29year life, the courts we got in Bryon Bay are the best thing that has happened to the area in a long time, all of ballina's courts are very old and not up to today's standards. As I played my junior rep basketball for Ballina as Byron had no regulation courts, now it is the other way around, sad to see Ballina basketball have to drop out of the top level league. It will definitely attract annual events which will bring lots of business to town. The town has produced multiple top level players, and the community should have the opportunity to produce more great players.
Kellie Coates	31/10/2014	Ballina shire must see the desperate need to provide its community with lan indoor sporting venue. A useless venue in Lennox head and one court in alstonville does and service our growing population. Ballina shire must think clearly on providing opportunities for ALL members of the community. The question on upgrading both Ballina and alstonville pools is ridiculous , the shire does not need TWO pools with play parks and heating etc, why not put some funding towards a venue that IS needed !!!!
Sandon Keable	1/11/2014	Don't let the government get their hands on something else, they own too much of us now. Get a big group of you to pool together and build one yourself. Most of these indoor sport centers are privately owned. Keep it that way for the better of us all. ☐ Indoor Cricket, Volleyball, Tennis, Badminton, Basketball, Netball, T-Ball, Fuse-ball, etc, You may create a couple jobs and some money for yourselves.
Bella Haycock	1/11/2014	It is long overdue and very necessary for those playing spots in the region.
leanne gollan	1/11/2014	because there are NO multipurpose sporting facilities on the NORTH COAST SUITABLE FOR YOUTH ADULTS. This could generate a lot of income when sporting carnivals are held for the community.
dan ewald	2/11/2014	Ballina: pop: 45,000 No Indoor Sporting facilities!!! Access to one High School Gym when available,
Tim Kelly	2/11/2014	I have children that play basketball. I never played it or even watched it. But I know how they love it and see I heaps of young people get involved in training, coaching, refereeing and playing. It is great community activity and to see the facilities at Byron and Yamba and the surge in participation that has resulted from these developments is a credit to the strategic thinking of these councils. I doubt anyone is even reading this but this is a NO BRAINER.
Karryn Gavenlock	3/11/2014	As president of the Ballina Netball Association, I am frustrated by this lack of facility. We are pushing to increase our competition, but are limited by our facilities. One of the only sports that has a team of exclusively players with disabilities, we would love to expand it to a whole competition for them, yet do not have facilities. We have been approved for northern representative events for 2015 which will bring many more to Ballinas tourist industry, yet we don't have sufficient facilities and may need to default to Casino who are having an indoor facility built as we speak. Alstonville and lennox head have an indoor facility for games such as futsal - yet the bigger hub at Ballina has nothing!!!! Come on Ballina Council - this is long overdue! I would support an extra few dollars in rates to help meet this need.
Kathy Buckley	3/11/2014	We have waited for this for many years, now my children are playing basketball and we are still waiting for it.
Jennifer Evans	3/11/2014	Support kids and other people in the community to come together and enjoy games that promote fitness
Joanne Croft Smith	3/11/2014	Council has let us down. We need this facility.
peter kuwert	3/11/2014	My Brother lives in Ballina and his kids are into sport and they need facilities like this. All communities need quality indoor facilities to stay active, keep them off the couch don't let the weather put them back on it
Paul Whiting	4/11/2014	my son plays basketball when southern cross school's court is available. Such a centre (4 court plus) will allow carnivals to be held here & bring visitors to town.
Bronwyn McCosker	4/11/2014	My daughter plays basketball. The only venue is at Southern Cross High School. The hall is often used for school functions therefore no games can be played. What a sad reflection on our council when we have to rely on a school multipurpose hall to play a local town competition. We need a multipurpose indoor sports centre !
Mitchell Knight	5/11/2014	I'm signing because this facility is LONG overdue! Growing up in Ballina with minimal facilities, most of which, in a poorly kept state was more than frustrating. It is time that more be done for the towns people!

Blake curtis	5/11/2014	this is needed after the old centre closed down, I was a member there and played most the sports available for 7 years
jo mackellar	5/11/2014	good for local sport participation, tourism and economic development thru staging events.
Rob McArthur	5/11/2014	If we want Ballina to be a first class place to live; a Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre is well overdue.
james byrne	5/11/2014	its important for the youth of ballina
Linda Jones	5/11/2014	I think its important for Ballina, will keep alot of kids of the streets to give them interests i believe.
Chrisq Crawford	6/11/2014	A new sports centre would be of huge value to the local community
Catherine Bashforth	6/11/2014	My family are active members of the northern rivers basketball community and having an indoor stadium in ballina would see great benefit to our sport. It would not only be used by ballina residence but would bring many families to town on a regular basis.
Bret Madden	7/11/2014	I have children living in the area and the centre would be a much needed boost to local sporting and cultural facilities.
Jason Golding	7/11/2014	I have been waiting for this since high school 1981
Yann McDermid	7/11/2014	Basketball
Glenn O'meara	7/11/2014	Having a sport is a great life teacher and having the stage to do it on is paramount ;)
Taryn Gerada	7/11/2014	I'm an active member of the Ballina Netball Association and we would love improved facilities to play Netball.
Tracy preston	7/11/2014	I'm signing because I grew up in the area and all my family are still in til ballina and we will hopefully move back in a few years and my children would benefit from a centre like this!
Serena Kelly	7/11/2014	It is hugely needed!
Jonathon Wood	7/11/2014	I play basketball and all my friends do
Riley Flick	7/11/2014	My friends play basketball for ballina but they have terrible courts at southern cross school.
Carla magnay	7/11/2014	Isn't it about time we get a multi purpose indoor centre, as promised? Would rather my rates get increased for this than the already existing pool.
Linda Black	8/11/2014	Our children deserve access to this type of complex.....
Jos hilyard	8/11/2014	we desperately need a multi purpose indoor sports center. I drive to alstonville twice a week for myself and my daughter to play netball. Three times a week our whole family play basketball at Southern cross school but as soon as the school needs the hall, we carnt play. It's very sad that a town the size of ballina didn't have an indoor facility. We travel to other towns for carnivals were we spend money on accomodation and food. That could be happening in Ballina to if we could host carnivals here.
Creina Preston	9/11/2014	There are no indoor facilities for our children. We are desperate for a multifunctional indoor stadium. The whole community would benefit greatly from this
Lauren Waldock	10/11/2014	I was born in Ballina and can remember from a very early age that Ballina would be getting an indoor sporting complex! that was 31 years ago! My parents took me to Lismore and Goonellabah and everywhere else that provides this essential facility for playing netball, backsetball, futsal etc... but still Ballina doesnt have one! Now I have my own children who i have to take to other places to enjoy an indoor facility! when will Ballina step up and provide its commuity with a multipurpose indoor sports centre?? I probably wont live to see it at this rate!
Vincent Whiting	10/11/2014	I have been playing basketball for 6 years now at Southern cross courts and I believe that having a stadium to go to in ballina would be super convenient and cheaper.
Les Harry	10/11/2014	Have family in area that would use it.
Declan Flynn	10/11/2014	Ballina deserves basketball
Marissa Tilden	10/11/2014	I would like to see children have somewhere to play their indoor sports
Micheal Muldoon	11/11/2014	needs to be more indoor sporting facilities in Ballina!
mitch king	11/11/2014	Ballina definitely needs its own indoor basketball stadium for the public to access
Syd Hume Hume	11/11/2014	I've been involved with basketball in the northern rivers since I was a kid and I would love to see development in our sport and especially in the community
Kath Ellis	11/11/2014	Ballina's sporting bodies deserve this facility!
Steve Smith	11/11/2014	Yamba Basketball travels to Ballina to play and the High school is now not up to the demands of a basketball tournament/carnival.
James Lloyd Mather	11/11/2014	i am signing because there is a strong basketball presence in Ballina and no facility. It's so dissappointing to see talent go to waste
Redd Williams	11/11/2014	It's important
Sue Edwards	11/11/2014	Ballina and district needs a four court Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre.
Jared Seiffert	11/11/2014	I'm a big fan of regional sport and I believe ballina has been needing this for a long time
damion cavanagh	11/11/2014	This supports and promotes important sporting development opportunities for the people of Ballina and surrounds.
Sam Lloyd	11/11/2014	Would provide much needed help with basketball and other sports

James Watts	11/11/2014	We have no courts to play on what so ever!!!!
Georgia Wheatland	11/11/2014	I am passionate about the cause
Mya Healey	11/11/2014	I'm signing because all my friends that play basketball really need an indoor court
Meleta Wood	11/11/2014	Ballina needs a indoor stadium to allow the expansion of indoor sports in the shire. The stadium will enable more people to enjoy sport. Sport img activies are important to promote health and well being and social inclusion in all age groups. Being involved in sporting activies also promotes a sense of community. If the Ballina shire had a indoor stadium large all weather sporting carnivals such as basketball and netball could be run. These carnivals eould bring many visitors to the shire which would have a follow on effect on the local economy .
Jeff Johnson	11/11/2014	there is a lack of sporting facilities in Ballina, an indoor sports centre is needed to satisfy the current and future needs of our growing community
Eva Ramsey	11/11/2014	Ballina Regional Indoor Sporting Associations recognises the important role sport plays in building communities, in achieving wider physical and mental health, and providing social and economic benefits. Sport has a significant role in shaping our nation's identity and building strong communities. Sporting culture is part of community life and the performance of our elite athletes helps to boost grassroots participation in sport.☒ ☒ Sport at a grassroots level keeps our children active and healthy. Participation in sport and active recreation also teaches important values and life skills including self- confidence, teamwork, communication, inclusion, discipline, respect and fair play.☒ Indoor sporting facilities are a LONG and MUCH waited for provision here in Ballina and it is truly time this Council fulfilled the promise it made almost twenty years to provide these facilities. What a shame this council has not given what they promised our community.☒
Riley Gollan	11/11/2014	For someone who moved away from Ballina for the purpose of pursuing to become better at basketball, coming home on holidays and not having anywhere to train and better myself unless i want to travel at least 30mins shows how underprivileged the kids of Ballina are that enjoy the sport and want to become better. Its a growing sport in the region and many players want to become better but Ballina has no opportunity for these kids and they are left having to travel long distance to become the player they want to be. After living in Melbourne for 8 months and being dedicated to basketball coming home and talking to the boys and girls who are basketballers i feel for them and understand as i also growing up in Ballina didn't have the opportunity to better myself and hang with my friends playing the sport that we love.☒ ☒ Riley
Jacob Kay	11/11/2014	My friend is real keen about basketball, so a new stadium would be superb for him!!
Tiana Solomano	11/11/2014	Go BALLINA!!!
Rosina Grieves	12/11/2014	Students that I teach in Ballina and my own child and myself would bennefit from the opportunities to be involved in much needed facilities for healthy life choices in the area.
Jayden hetherington	12/11/2014	i have played basketball at a high level in Ballina for 5 years traveling all over the state to play and to play at some fantastic stadiums then have to come home to a court in a school that we didn't always have access to was tough our training ran from 8:30 until 10:30pm several nights a week as this was the only available time we were given a lot of my teammates had small children to consider also. I think the main reason to build this facility to to support the juniors we have a large amount of talented kids coming through the ranks but we can't get more or bring out the best in the ones we have now due to having one court that is not always available. Many towns up and down the coast have built new stadiums despite the fact of being much smaller than the Ballina shire towns like Byron Bay and Yamba who had no basketball before the stadium and now 2-3 years later have teams playing in the national junior league (NJL) and are developing teams for the senior state basketball league (SBL) with our dedicated and passionate group behind the scenes I have no doubt we can produce quality australian basketballers far into the future.
Nikki Foord	12/11/2014	i think its so important to stay active and offer all ages the opprtunity to be a part of any time of sport. We are a growing community and therefore need to keep moving forward and offer our younger generations facilities that those living in cities and bigger towns have.
Jane Jackson	12/11/2014	Sports is such an integral part of a good health life for both children and adults
christine mcombie	12/11/2014	Because the area needs a good facility like a stadium for our growing community & future for indoor sports.
Karen Miller	12/11/2014	We need this facility in Ballina

Jesse Coates

12/11/2014 I have played basketball on the north coast for 26 years and understand the positive impact a multicourt stadium could have on our community. A number of sports and groups would benefit from such a facility. It's embarrassing a town of our size doesn't prioritise such a requirement.

**Sandra Bailey**

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**From:** Eva <p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 November 2014 9:42 PM  
**Subject:** FW: TRIM: FW: Petition Swimming pools + Indoor Sports Centre - Signatures sent 8:29 on 17.11.014 and two days ago  
**Attachments:** image003.emz

## **That Ballina Council and New South Wales Government prioritise and set aside suitable funds to finally build the long promised Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre in Ballina.**

Where is Ballina's *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* that has been promised for over two decades?

The last promise came before the last Council elections, when Councillors indicated that they would deliver to the people of Ballina Shire a four court *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre*. But still to date nothing concrete had been forthcoming.

Recently ratepayers living in the Ballina Shire and surrounding areas received a notice from council requesting their input to raise rates to fund an \$8M swimming pool upgrades. This is your chance to make it clear to Council in no uncertain terms that you understand that there are limited funds and the use of those funds needs to be prioritised.

NOW is the time to recognise the *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* with a minimum of four multi-purpose courts, that meet International standards for tournament/championship play, needs to be given *first and highest priority*.

From both a social and economic benefit perspective the *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* is vital to the shire. Ballina and district sporting organisations that support the building of a *Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre* represent netball, gymnastics, futsal, basketball, disability sports, badminton, lifeball and cricket. All these sports have had their expansion plans stalled due to the lack of suitable infrastructure in Ballina.

Ballina Shire rates as one of the lowest per capita for community infrastructure in NSW.

Look at the statistics for **Northern Rivers**:

Lismore pop: 44,637 Four indoor courts with access to two more

Yamba: pop: 5,514 Two indoor courts with access to one other

Maclean: pop: 2,600 Two indoor courts

Grafton: pop: 7,500 Four indoor courts with access to one more

Casino: pop: 10,558 One indoor court. Tenders out for two more

Byron Bay: pop: 32,126 Two courts plus plans for extra one

**Ballina: pop: 45,000 No Indoor Sporting facilities!!! Access to one High School Gym when available.**



Let's get the priorities right. Please join our petition and make it exceedingly clear that you will not support the proposed pool upgrades until funds have been approved and quarantined to build the vital **Multipurpose Indoor Sports Centre**, a cause worthy of a "one off" rates increase.

PLEASE SHARE this petition to all who live in the Ballina Shire and let's get the priority shifted to community infrastructure which brings far more benefit in both the short and long term - the

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**From:** Eva [mailto:p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 November 2014 5:35 PM  
**To:** 'Mario van Eck'; 'Adrian van Eck'  
**Subject:** FW: TRIM: FW: Petition Swimming pools + Indoor Sports Centre

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**From:** Janeane Burke [mailto:janeaneb@ballina.nsw.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** Ballina Shire Council  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 2:16 PM  
**To:** Eva  
**Subject:** RE: TRIM: FW: Petition Swimming pools + Indoor Sports Centre

Thank you for your submission on the proposed special rate variation to redevelop the swimming pools at Ballina and Alstonville.

All feedback received will be reported to the November 2014 Ordinary Meeting of Council. At that meeting, the elected Councillors will make a decision based on the feedback as to whether the application to the State Government for the rate increase will proceed.

Following that meeting I will provide a further response to you summarising the feedback received along with the Council resolution.

In the meantime if you require any further information please contact me on 6686 4444.

Regards

Paul Hickey  
General Manager



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[ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au) | [discoverballina.com](http://discoverballina.com)  
p: 6686 4444 | f: 6686 7035

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**From:** Eva [mailto:p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 1:28 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** TRIM: FW: Petition Swimming pools + Indoor Sports Centre

Afternoon

Please pass onto Pau Hickey and Steve Barnier

Could you please send me notification of receiving this email.

Eva Ramsey

**From:** Mario van Eck [<mailto:ecoqual@bigpond.net.au>]

**Sent:** Friday, 14 November 2014 1:04 PM

**To:** [davidwright@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:davidwright@ballina.nsw.gov.au)

**Cc:** [p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au](mailto:p.eramsey@smartchat.net.au); Adrian Van Eck; [robbynh@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robbynh@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [kenj@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kenj@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [smeehan@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:smeehan@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [crsharonc@nor.com.au](mailto:crsharonc@nor.com.au); [jeffjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jeffjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au);

[keithw@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:keithw@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [kjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kjohnson@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [bens@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bens@ballina.nsw.gov.au); [pworth@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pworth@ballina.nsw.gov.au)

**Subject:** Ballina Multifunction Indoor Sports Centre Petition

Dear Mr Wright

Let me introduce myself please. I started and organised the petition that Eva presented to you and other Councillors by email today.

For the information of yourself and all Councillors, I have attached the preamble to the petition based on which Petition signatories were asked to sign the Petition.

The Petition can still be viewed at the [change.org](http://change.org) website the link is:

[Sign the Petition](#)

Clearly, you will see that the Preamble refers to the Pools issue. I therefore request that the Petition is taken into consideration when Council decides on the rate increase for pool renovation issue.

That is the reason why the Petition progress to date was presented to the Councillors today, although the Petition had only been open for two weeks.

The Petition will remain open at least until the end of November.

Thanks for your consideration.

Cheers

Mario

**Mario van Eck**



3 Gardie Place

Coolgardie NSW 2478

Australia

☎ 0266834114

☎ 0415238965

✉ [ecoqual@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ecoqual@bigpond.net.au)

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

## Sandra Bailey

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**From:** Ron <ron.vansetten@intermobility.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 November 2014 11:35 AM  
**To:** Councillor David Wright; Pools Proposal  
**Cc:** Sandra Bailey  
**Subject:** Possible Special Rate Variation

Dear Mr Mayor,

I refer to your letter regarding community consultation on a special rate variation, which will be applied to upgrading the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

I cannot support this proposal.

I understand that Council does not have a detailed plan or costing for upgrading the pools. Therefore a budget of \$8 million on some nebulous desk top assessment without the necessary detail is unwarranted, and leads constituents to wonder how Council does business. The planning for this project seems very poor.

My second reason for rejecting this special rate variation is the way that Council seemingly carries out its infrastructure projects so inefficiently. The resurfacing of Angel's Beach Drive saw many workers seemingly standing around with nothing to do, the contractors working very short days, and the completion of the project delayed by a day.

The other project that falls into this same category is the shared pathway from Ballina to Lennox. So far it has taken six months and the pathway is still not complete. Time and again several workers were seen standing by idle, whilst one or two were actually doing the task. This happened numerous times, not just an isolated occasion. The Letter to the Editor in last week's Northern Star captured the entire situation very well. The use of so many signals men (lolly-pop men) is a huge waste of the public purse when mobile traffic lights are available.

Regrettably, constituents often see Council as being quite inefficient, and this view is strongly reinforced when we see examples as outlined above.

Before I would endorse a rate rise, I would need to see Council lift its game, become much more business orientated, and make much better use of its funding and its resources. I regret that I cannot support your proposal.

Regards,

*Ron van Setten*

Managing Director  
NR Mobility and Scooter Solutions  
Ph: 02 6686 6644  
M: 0418 964 633  
E: [ron@intermobility.com.au](mailto:ron@intermobility.com.au)



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MICHAEL ALBANY  
22 KBOGWATER COVE,  
BARRINA.

0487320876

RECEIVED  
17 NOV 2014  
RECEIVED

COUNTER

Hon. Councillors.

Re Rate Increase to pay for Pool Upgrade.

I am an member as a supporter of Bellina Shine.

The Shine does a great job in providing Road works,  
Waste Removal, Park Amenities and general maintenance.

I support the Commercial program which has, so far,  
invested Ratepayers wisely to secure a return which  
helps keep our Rates down. The Shine has obviously

been run on a sound commercial basis over many  
years; just like a Company. In that context, we see

the Ratepayers as the Shareholders, the Councillors as  
the Board Members (and Company Directors), the staff

as the employees carrying out the Board's decisions.

The Councillors have a duty to represent the Ratepayers  
who elected them. This approach, normal and correct,

seems not to have been applied, or even considered,

in this Rate Increase to pay for the repairs and

extensions to the Shen's Pools: Consider the following:-

1) Why wasn't the money for repairs included in the normal operating and maintenance budget?

2) How much are the repairs going to cost? No FIRM

QUOTES have been obtained, it is all an "estimate" by staff. Somewhere between \$4,000,000 and \$8,000,000?

3) At the public meetings, Ratepayers were advised that

(a) the Pools are visited by 165,000 people per annum.

(b) the Operating losses are currently \$500,000 "

(c) if extensions etc approved, finance costs will be \$800,000 per annum for 15 years.

Thus the Pools will run at a minimum loss of \$1,300,000 per year, over 15 years \$19,500,000.

4) No business plan was submitted for future

management, no ideas to increase revenue, reduce

costs, re-negotiate ~~the~~ leases, increase attendance

It's all too easy! Forget any management rigour,  
forget Key Performance Indicators; let's just  
get the Councillors to sign off on a Rate Increase  
, it's all TOO EASY.

The whole process just looks like a very BAD  
DEAL for the Ratepayers. Council staff just expect  
to bulldoze this through, get the money and then  
THEY, not the Councillors, not the Ratepayers,  
decide how to spend our money.

No private Company Directors could responsibly  
sign off on such a poorly managed project.

I ask the Councillors to demand :-

- 1) A more rigorous commercial investigation
- 2) A decent business plan.
- 3) An explanation as to why maintenance was not  
carried out previously

I repeat this is a BAD DEAL. It's an insult to  
the intelligence of Councillors and Ratepayers

RECORDS  
SCANNED

18 NOV 2014

Doc No: .....

Batch No: .....

480-03

Paul Hickey

16 Currawang St,  
Concord West.

2138.

8.11.14.

SUBJECT: Special rate variation to fund  
pool upgrades.

To Whom It May Concern,

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a ratepayer from Lennox Head for over 40 years and already funding rates much costlier than many suburban and coastal Councils charge, I strongly oppose the rate variation suggested. My reasons being:

1. there is no benefit to outside ratepayers & residents.
2. Lennox Head & other outside ratepayers will be subsidizing Ballina and Alstonville residents.
3. Lennox Head & other outside ratepayers would not mind paying increased pool entry should they wish to use facilities - so raise entry fee so users pay!
4. Dedicated training lanes suffice in other pools.
5. Training pools would not be in continuous use.
6. Heated pools need to be enclosed - to produce good outcomes - costwise and physically.
7. Heated pools in a mild summer climate are environmentally wasteful of resources.

Please consider the above -

Yours Sincerely,  
(Mrs) N. E. Fielding

(11 Gibbon St. Lennox Head)

P.S. I know this letter is late but have absent travelling.

Thank you. ~~100~~





347 Riverbank Rd.,

Pimlico, 2478

Ph 66 834 767

[simcech@hotmail.com.au](mailto:simcech@hotmail.com.au)

Jeff, the following is a submission to Ballina Council regarding increasing our rates to cover the cost of ongoing upkeep of the Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools.

I have never used either pools, nor have my children.

Many of the residents also have their own home pools to maintain.

I am a pensioner who until I retired from nursing worked full time to support myself and my children. Living on a pension does not allow many extras. Fortunately I do not drink or gamble.

When I go into Ballina to shop I take a thermos as I can't afford the luxury of a cappuccino, I also take a sandwich or dry biscuit with me to eat if I am hungry. I don't remember when I last went to see a movie. I also used to enjoy a day's shopping but I don't remember when I last brought a new piece of clothing.

I had a Triple Heart Bypass while I was still working (I actually went back to the Cardio Thoracic Surgical Unit at the Royal Melbourne Hospital that I used to be in charge of for my operation). I have also had a stent inserted into my Arterial Artery. So my greatest expense is my ongoing health care. This includes medications, pathology tests, monthly G.P's visits and specialist's visits. The greatest part of my pension goes towards maintaining my health.

I also have a serious spinal problem which means that I am advised not to bend or twist my spine so I will have to consider employing someone to clean my house weekly. This is due to the heavy lifting which I used to do as a nurse.

Regarding the Rates charges –

On site sewage management fee. What do the council do to warrant this fee? I have the tank pumped out when required and this year I have had the agro pipes replaced. These pipes do not go off my property.

What is the Residential Base Amount?

I do not know what the cost is for those using the pools but maybe a rise in charges may be appropriate.

Jeff, many thanks for you for taking the time to read my submission,

B.E. (Sue) Cechner – Simmonds.



**YOUR SAY**

Send your letters to [starballedit@northernstar.com.au](mailto:starballedit@northernstar.com.au)

aware that two 5.5% increases over two years followed by three increases of 2.5% is in fact an increase of 19.86% over five years.

If the rates were increased by 3% following the two intended rises for a following three years, this would mean an increase of 21.62% over the next five years.

Ratepayers should be aware that this is the effect of compound rises.

Undoubtedly there would be water and sewage and other rises to add on.

Pat Carney  
Wardell

**Increase fees**

AS a ratepayer who doesn't swim, I fail to see why I, and many others like me, are to be burdened with further rates rises to pay for a swimming pool at Alstonville which we don't use.

Alstonville is a small town with a large ageing population who have enough problems keeping up with day-to-day price increases in all the things that matter for a comfortable life. Swimming is not a priority for most of us.

I suggest that if improvements are necessary for Alstonville

swimming pool, then the time-honoured fashion is to raise entrance fees, not milk the poor ratepayer.

G.MacNiven,  
Alstonville

**Say something!**

THE Ballina council has extended an invitation to all ratepayers (property owners) for feedback and their opinion on a 'Special Rate Variation' increase of 5.5% (total) over the next two financial years to facilitate the upgrades of the Ballina and Alstonville pools.

Thankfully, the council has gracefully extended its closing date for submissions until November 14.

As a ratepayer/resident, I strongly object to this increase, particularly after the council's revelation that the increase will remain as a permanent increase to our rates after the two years.

Regardless as to whether we use the pools or not.

This means an increase in cost of accommodation for all residents in the shire: home owners as well as tenants, as no doubt landlords will only pass this increase on to them.

With last week's news of a price increase in the cost of petrol effective in just two weeks, and the current talk

and concern of the GST going up as well, this means a general increase in the cost of living altogether, with price increases in food (transport), clothing, furniture, utilities - an overall cost increase in everything.

In my opinion this will not be reflected in the usual CPI or any wage increase in the near future.

We have little or no say in the cost of petrol going up (many times we have complained to deaf ears).

We have little or no say in the possible increase of the GST (it's a long time until the next election).

We have a say in this occasion in relation to our rates and the cost of housing.

Let's make our voices heard.

As home owners or tenants, we need to voice our opinion.

We cannot afford to add this increase on top of the ones out of our hands.

We have until November 14 to tender submissions to the Ballina council.

There are many developers in the area, and a lot more trying to get into this area.

Could the council not get a contribution just from them, or pursue options

along these lines?

Why just target the rest of us, a large number of us being low income earners?

If rates go up as the result of not enough persons voicing their opinion, then we cannot complain afterwards if we have not previously voiced our objections.

Pretty much like complaining about a government if one didn't bother to vote.

A Clark,  
Cumbalum

**'Lazy' solution**

I LOVE our pools.

Both Alstonville and Ballina pools provide a great service, and they're run by some really lovely people.

I don't think there would be many in the shire that wouldn't like to see our pools improved.

Unfortunately our brains trust seems to have forgotten a few things though.

Firstly, we're not a bottomless bucket of money that you can run to every

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**



You can send your comments to:

[starballedit@northernstar.com.au](mailto:starballedit@northernstar.com.au)

**Opinion**

time you run out of ideas.

Increasing our rates is the laziest and most unimaginative way that council could possibly come up with to raise capital.

They also seem to have forgotten that just three years ago they already hit us with a 7.4% increased "Special Rates Variation" which was slapped on top of our already increasing rates.

That year they also bumped up our water, sewerage and waste charges.

Now it seems they want an additional 11.3% over and above the original "Special Variation".

Does that make this latest rates increase a "Very Special Variation, a Super Special Variation, or just a massive 17.7% slug?"

Nevertheless, we have to pay for these improvements to our pools somehow, so I would like to offer a few suggestions.

Perhaps we could have a salary review of the top band of council executives? Those guys get paid heaps. Maybe we could have a few less luxury cars masquerading as council vehicles in the parking lot?

Or here's a suggestion: Perhaps council could sell off a few of the shop fronts it mismanages in the main street?

I'm sure in the right hands these properties would have tenants in them

in no time.

Hey, even a few less Iced Vo-Vo's at the council meetings would save a few bob.

Given another 15 minutes or so, I'm sure we could come up with a dozen suggestions.

So come on Brains Trust, put your thinking caps on and come back to us with something sensible. You're being lazy.

Stephen Bocking,  
Alstonville

**No to rate rise**

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.

There is even a tender on the council's website which closes October 30 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.  
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!

Does this property development agenda suit you and me, the shire's ratepayers?

My rates (without water and sewage) are already \$3900 a year, and quite frankly I have had enough of rate rises.

With Mayor Wright proclaiming we are in for an 11% rate hike, this means my rates will increase by \$429 a year.

This 2.5% rate rise over two years for the swimming pools is really only a rofl. The swimming pools upgrade can easily be achieved by savings on other things.

What about the proposed new road to the airport which passes a shopping precinct? Why does the council need to spend \$5 million on a new road when the existing road is quite adequate?

Why do ratepayers have to be financially squeezed? The 2.5% a year for two 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. 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,  
Empire Vale

**Facility for all**

THANK you Courtney for your comments on my letter (Advocate, 29/10).

If it gave the impression I was being critical of the instructors at the pool, I'm deeply sorry.

I don't think that is what I said because I know they do a great job.

It's just that a lot of us like to exercise all year round and because I have had a melanoma, exercising in the sun isn't an option for me.

I know there are gyms, but I don't think any have child-minding. All I was suggesting was a complex run by the council that provided all the facilities for all the people in Ballina.

I was only using Ballina Fair Swim and Gym as a comparison.  
We are fearful of losing it

and the facilities it provides.

Monica Vomiero,  
Empire Vale

**Change the subject**

I AM sure most of the Advocate readers are "over" the coastal path.

The subject has been done to death.

To preserve our sanity, let us instead have some short and interesting letters on other matters.

Ailsa Barnett,  
East Ballina

**Street hoons**

PLEASE tell me how a young man, driving his car with 'P' plates, can total his car in a suburban street in the middle of the night, and apparently no charges are laid because the police didn't attend the accident?

Many people in and around this street heard the accident.

The police were called by more than one resident at the time of the accident.

The driver and his friends fled the accident in another car, not stopping to even look at the damage to his car.

Is that the behaviour of a person who is not at fault in an accident and has nothing to hide?

Many people were awake when the accident happened.

They heard the tyres screeching for half the night before he finally lost control.

The 360-degree tyre mark in the middle of the intersection, with a long mark leading to the car's final resting place tell the whole story.

This car could have gone through a house. People could have been killed.

The residents of Alstonville have had enough of the kids driving recklessly through our streets.

Haven't there been enough fatalities in the Ballina region this year?

Only recently my friend had a car crash through her house, narrowly missing hitting her whole family.

Her family is still very traumatised by this event. They always will be.

It seems outrageous that when a driver on 'P' plates crashes his car in the middle town, the police don't investigate the circumstances.

Many of the local residents are puzzled and angry.

I realise that the police have a lot to do, and this may not be a priority on a busy Friday night, but this is a serious situation.

I think it warrants further investigation.

J Pike,  
Alstonville

**Ducks safe**

I WOULD like to say thank you to all of the motorists who slowed down on the highway near the

49 Tanamere Dr  
Alstonville

3. 11. 14

Ballina Shire Council  
PO Box 450  
Ballina 2478



With reference to the proposed update of Pools in Ballina and Alstonville, my husband and I think this is very necessary. Not only for locals as this is a great holiday area and many visitors make use of these facilities. Also necessary for Schools "learn to swim".

There are a large number of people who use and used all year exercise and can only cope with aqua type sport. I travel with friends, all in our eighties, by car, to Coonellabah because we can walk into the pool through shallow water but how much longer can we do this. We cannot climb up and down ladders.

What a pity Ballina didn't build, on a smaller scale, a complex like Coonellabah.

If Council have as much money invested as written in a letter in the local paper, why do you need to increase rates? Sell some assets!

While re-developing, Ballina should have Indoor facilities for netball included in the Pool area.

Sincerely

Patricia Dawse

13 November, 2014

6 Rayner Lane,  
Lennox Head. NSW 2478

General Manager,  
Ballina Shire Council,  
PO Box 450  
Ballina. NSW 2478

Dear Mr Hickey,

Submission re Swimming Pools Proposal Special Rate Variation

I wish to **oppose** the special rate variation on a number of grounds.

- There is not sufficient evidence that the Alstonville Pool is in need of an upgrade. There seems to be grounds for an upgrade of Ballina Pool but the estimate of possible cost is not supported by substantive evidence.
- One top grade pool for the shire with Alstonville Pool as a backup is adequate especially in light of pool usage.
- Alstonville already has an adequate pool.
- The rate rise is being sought ostensibly for \$8million to be spent on specific capital works. However, the proposed rate rise will compound into the entire Shire's rate load for ever. The effect of this is that **average** rates will be 14.7% higher from 2017 onwards. In dollar terms these rises are substantial for every rate category.
- Since Lennox Head has the largest proportion of higher land valuations in the Shire it follows that there will be further inequity in the contribution of rates by this locality. In other words not only will Lennox Head ratepayers pay more than their share of the cost of the Pool upgrades but will continue to pay proportionately more in the future. (Note: This is the result of 50% of rates being based on land valuations even though services to all are the same.)
- The likelihood that estimates of the cost of Pool Upgrades will not be sufficient to complete the proposed work is also a concern. Other Council projects have been inadequately budgeted for in the past.

Yours sincerely,



Jill Goodman

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