

TO BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL, IN REGARD

TO THE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN COUNCIL RATES IN REGARD TO THE TWO SWIMMING POOLS IE, BALLINA AND ALSTONVILLE, SOME OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS ARE NO DOUBT NEEDED BUT FROM MY POINT OF VIEW BEING A PENSIONER AND PAYING THE EVER INCREASING RATES I AM FINDING IT HARD TO PAY.

I REALISE RATES WILL RISE FOR THE COST OF MAINTENANCE THROUGHT THE SHIRE WILL CONTINUE TO RISE.

RECORDS
SCANNED

: 1 NOV 2014

Doc.No.....

Batch No.....

YOURS: DON LEWIS

17 HENDERSON PL.
LENNOX HEAD
2478.

27th Oct.
2014

DIANA S. HALL,
16 PARK AVENUE,
ASTONVILLE, NSW 2477.

No, I do not think the rates should be increased from 3% p.a. to 5.5% in order to pay for work on the swimming pools. The cost of living for ^{minimum} essentials is quite high enough: no more unnecessary increases. JSH

31st October, 2014.

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

MR. PAUL HICKEY

H. 80-03

Naturally I do not agree with the proposed RATE INCREASE, but guess it is inevitable.

I think the money raised could be more wisely spent on the maintenance & surveillance of all existing facilities - unfortunately some are subverted by vandals rendering the money spent being wasted.

Regarding the Swimming Pools up-grade, perhaps a user pays system - disabled persons being an exception.

I thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion by "mail", as I do not have a computer.

Beverley Ingram

43 RIVER DRIVE

EAST WARDELL. 2477

RECORDS
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1 NOV 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey
Sent: Monday, 3 November 2014 2:49 PM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: Proposed Special Rate Variation - Swimming Pool Upgrade

Holly English phoned – not in favour of rate increase

Feels it is not necessary – pays enough rates now

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



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 6686 1273

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October 31 2014

Ballina Shire Council

P O Box 450

BALLINA NSW 2478

Re pools proposal @ Ballina & Alstonville – special rate variation

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

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

Yours faithfully

Glenda Shearman



3/16 Namitjira Place

BALLINA NSW 2478

RATE ASSESSMENT NO. 161092

RECORDS SCANNED
1 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

RECEIVED
31 OCT 2014
COUNTER

Sandra Bailey

From: Pat <greyforever@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 11:47 AM
Subject: DO NOT SUPPORT

I have already put my point on this subject, but it does need more.

It was interesting to note that there was no indication in the early stages how this increase would compound over the years if you did get approval. This would mean that what we do now would carry on for years to come and the people that follow us would wonder what clown let them in for the debt.

If you are hell bent on carrying through with this proposal then let the people who use the pool pay for in the price you charge for entry. It would be interesting to see if the attendance stayed the way it is.

As we live and pay rates in the Wollongbar area we see no reason to subsidise other parts of the shire. As you are aware even though we are privileged to house the Mayer we have little or no council provided fertilities.

We are the aged who came to the area for what it offered. Then there was no Pools and we were quite happy. Since then the council debt has increased and there is very little that we can see that has improved for us.

We could go on with so many things that council has done in the past with nil results other than increase our rates. It would be nice to hear of a rate reduction.

Thank you M.C. Pellatt.

Friday, 31 October 2014

Ballina Shire Council

PO Box 450 Ballina NSW 2478

Re: Local swimming pool improvements

To whom it may concern

For Council to be considering an inflated rate increase on the pocket books of Ballina's residents at this time is frankly just not cricket from where I sit, particularly within the present political climate in NSW proper, and for that matter Australia full stop. As it stands, the government of the day has yet to finalise their increases within a tax rising regime, where a promise to put higher taxes on the back burner is all but cooked.

As responsibly minded community leaders we must invariably consider the possible negative impact of such fund raising activities at the personal "service levels" of Ballina's resident's full stop. What with the crippling increases in buying power for all Australians by virtue of rising insurance premiums, weekly food costs, fuel increases and a possibly GST to name a few, many residents are finding it ever more difficult to balance their budgets and plan ahead. The luxury of Government fund raising avenues does not apply to the peasantry when considering the costs of maintaining and upgrading their properties, so why should a council be any different. Get your own house in order first.

As you have also skilfully noted, if this proposal is given the thumbs down by the community, only essential maintenance will be undertaken at pool sights such as the replacement of plant and equipment that is nearing the end of its usefulness. Personally I would support the maintenance angle, and keep the water running before rushing ahead on a multimillion dollar project as proposed, particularly when there are plenty of other concerns around town that are in need of attention.

Why not set your sights on prioritising some of the urgent needs within our suburbs affecting residents daily, such as our parks becoming breeding ground for mosquitos, and occupants living with the stench every time it floods. As any senior resident will attest, Ballina is a wet town at the best of times and for residents such as the poor unfortunates adjacent to the Athletics Oval in West Ballina, life can become nightmare. It's a no brainer that further stress fronts up for these residents when one tries to "encourage" council to stop ignoring their justification for assistance.

I am also curious as to the take on the rumour about town in relation to the Fishery Creek Bridge project undertaken by council? Apparently huge overrunning costs incurred at this

sight through poor management, and obviously questionable decision making at varying levels. OK, I suppose the question being could be, does the disaster as rumoured at project Fishery Creek Bridge "ring true", and if so, how many other work sites have been contaminated over time. Point in question, can we expect professionalism required on a community project worth \$8 million dollars? How can we be guaranteed there will no cost overrun here?

As indicated within your spin, the Council is not in the position to finance loan payments from existing revenue sources for a project of this magnitude, and that a reduction in other services to offset loan repayments would surely have a "significant negative impact on existing service levels". Point taken, which leaves me little choice but to accept the obvious, and feel your main objective at this stage should be to tightening your boot straps, and throw out the anchor on the big dollar projects for a while.

It is my decision at this stage to vote in negative.

Kind Regards

W S Palmer

4/14 Camoola Ave

Ballina Nsw 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: Stephen Bocking <stephenbocking66@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 3:04 PM
Subject: Comment

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 3 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.

Love

Stephen Bocking

Sandra Bailey

From: Andrew McAuley <pvcacademic@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 4:28 PM
Subject: Consultation re Rate Variation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Times are tough for many individuals and organisations as they try to meet budget demands. It does mean that choices have to be made and priorities set. This in turn can delay projects and push them out into future years. We already have enough examples in Australia of different levels of Government coming back to the citizen and extracting more money through short terms levies and taxes. That really is no way to seek a long term solution and in fact, I would argue, it is counterproductive. The more money taken from people's pockets results in less money being spent in local shops; so the cycle of potential decline and hardship is simply fueled. Retail is tough enough at present but I feel the cumulative impact of your proposal would add further pressure to these local businesses.

I do not support the proposal.

Andrew McAuley

Sandra Bailey

From: John Cooper <xcdv66j4@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, 1 November 2014 12:40 PM
Subject: Pool levy

I find it annoying enough that you cannot implement a plan/loan using existing funds for the Ballina, Alstonville pools. Obviously the council has been swanning along not keeping a close eye on upcoming maintenance projects and when confronted at the last moment, take the easy way out with a levy.

Two problems emerge

1. Bad enough paying a levy for incompetence but to leave the 5% levy as part of rates once loan is repaid is a hike by deception and duplicitous to say the least.
2. Opens the way for future levies when confronted by a problem.

Our rates are high enough now thank you.

John Cooper
East Ballina

Sent from my iPad

Sandra Bailey

From: Peter Spill <spilpeter@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, 31 October 2014 4:31 PM
Subject: 4/11 Green St, Alstonville

I would like to express my strong objection to the proposed rate rises to pay for swimming pool upgrades. My husband who on a few occasions has used the Alstonville pool tells me that it is a great facility and any upkeep costs should be available from general funds. As with any business you should look at ways of charging to provide better services. Why not increase fees, enforce a special levy for non residents, look at ways to reduce costs or provide special fund raising events for those who want to contribute to improved facilities. None of the residents in our block of 6 units can afford the indulgence of paying extra rates so that the Council can raise more loans. Why can't we live within our means? Seems to me that we need to encourage a few business people to get elected so that we can enjoy the benefits of astute management.

Sincerely

Marlena Spill

BALLINA COUNCIL.

~~P. M. Bayly-Jones~~
14 Claremont Place
Lennox Head
N.S.W. 2478

OCT. 30.

Dear Sir,

In response to your second letter regarding the possible improvements to the Ballina and Astonville Swimming Pools -

I do not support the proposed increases in Rates. A Lennox Head address attracts a high level of rates and the increases in 2015/16 and 2016/17, remaining as a permanent increase in the following years, is not acceptable to me.

With the cumulative percentage increase as high as 11.3% is too much for people on a fixed income.

It does appear that there has been a lack of good forward, long term, planning for the repairs and maintenance to present Community projects i.e. Swimming Pools. Whilst I appreciate what Council do, and enjoy the enlarged parking area behind Wigmore Arcade, the large amount of money spent on beautifying River Street, seemed more like chasing Tourist Dollars with other more vital issues to be a priority as ongoing benefit to the Community.

Yours sincerely,

P. M. Bayly-Jones.

RECORDS SCANNED
4 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

Sunday 2nd
November
2014

RECORDS SCANNED : 4 NOV 2014 Doc No..... Batch No.....
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MRS C. Saye
11 Trevally Place
Ballina
NSW 2478

To whom it may concern

I don't agree on the rate rise to upgrade both Ballina & Alsterville pools. Heating the Ballina pool would be an absolute waste of energy and money as it is out in the open.

I already feel our rates are way to high considering places like Sydney Kyogle and Wallongong rates are less then ours that's unfair.

^{pools} I would have throught the money they make from people going, they would have saved enough to have these upgrades done. I do understand they have out laying cost: food drinks electricity water and up keep of the grounds & wages but serly there would have been a profit.

I/my family don't use the pool here so what benefit will I receive if these upgrades go ahead
NOT A THING.

Thank you for taking the time to

read my letter it is much appreciated

yours Sincerely

Cf Saye

MRS Saye.

P.S. About the rate difference between us + the other places I've mentioned they do offer a lot more to their rate payers than you do. We pay so much more and get a lot less.

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

C Beedoes
PO Box 706
Ballina NSW 2478
28/10/14

Dear Sir

Re: Special Rate Increase

Having been to a meeting and read the paperwork supplied I wish to vote NO to the increase

My concern is that at present we as the rate payers cover a shunt bill of over \$450,000 a year there is no guarantee that the improvements won't mean that we will be paying less and in fact may mean we are paying more.

Whilst we have 40k plus rate payers I would question the exact number that use the pools as 20 people that I spoke to none have used the pool in over 5 years.

Perhaps a smaller, user pays, improvements may be the way to go

Thanks for the information

Beedoes

RECORDS
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4 NOV 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

28 MONTWOOD DRIVE

LENNOX HEAD 2478

MR. PAUL HICKEY

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

3/11/14

P.O. Box 450, BALLINA NSW. 480-03

RE: RATE INCREASE TO FINANCE SWIMMING POOL IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform Council that I am strongly opposed to an increase in rates to "upgrade" both Ballina and Alstonville pools. I agree that both these pools are excellent facilities for the enjoyment of all rate payers. However in our subtropical climate heating of these pools is completely unnecessary. Having experienced the heating of Cowra pool - my former place of residence prior to moving here in 2007 - it was very apparent that only the very few die-hard fitness residents extended their swimming routines. After much expense it did not seem to increase usage of the pool - and that being in a much colder autumn/winter location than beautiful Ballina.

We already have the luxury of 2 heated pools in ~~our~~ our shire, at Ballina Fair and the other at Newbar Swamp Rd. Lennox Head. These are both very well run private enterprise pools already providing a service to rate payers who require all year round swim training. Also it is a user pay system i.e. those who want to swim in a heated pool pay at the entrance. I really don't want to subsidise the few people who prefer heated pools through an expensive rate increase.

You mentioned in your letter that the existing infrastructure of both pools, Ballina & Alstonville -

is ageing and that operating costs are rapidly increasing. Surely Council, when preparing yearly budgets, would take this into account and budget for the ongoing maintenance of all infrastructure.

I am surprised that council has let the amenities run down to such a degree that council is now asking for huge amounts of money to repair what should be routine yearly maintenance.

I really don't think that a slice of our population needs any of the possible improvements that is mentioned in the newsletter. Sure, fix the existing problems using funds that are already there for infrastructure maintenance but please don't add things such as heating - which also requires money to run it and maintain it into the future.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given rate payers/residents to comment on these proposals. It is much appreciated to know we can have a say in major expenditures as those floated in the newsletter.

Thanks again, but please record me as a very firm NO to any special rate increase.

Yours Faithfully



Colin K. HARPER

RECORDS
SCANNED

4 NOV 2014

Ballina Shire Council Doc No.....
PO Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478 Batch No.....

2/13 Jarrett St
Ballina NSW 2478

22/10/14

RE SWIMMING POOL RATE VRIATION

I am not in favour of increasing the rates

Ballina has a lot of elderly & poor people - many of these use rental accomodation. A major rate increase will be passed down in the form of rental increases - it becomes more difficult to absorb rate increases without increasing rents

Some years ago the Council applied a major rate increase
I think the rates are at a suitable level & Council should work within the current financial framework - obviously the existing infrastructure needs to be renewed but extra facilities should be funded some other way

To expect a limited number of ratepayers in a small country town to come up with \$8 million dollars is a big ask

If there are people wanting extra facilities maybe they should become involved in fundraising

If Council must increase rates it should be put on as a special levy which is removed when the funds are raised

I AM TOTALLY OPPOSED TO COUNCIL INCREASING THE RATES & LEAVING EXTRA RATE INCREASE THERE FOR RATEPAYERS TO PAY ENDLESSLY INTO THE FUTURE

Regards



Robyn Wagner
Owner
2/13 Jarrett St
Ballina

RE SWIMMING POOL UPGRADE

31. 10 2014

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN


I AM A PENSIONER AND LOOKING AT THE PROPOSAL FROM A LOW INCOME PROSPECTIVE.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE ENDS MEET NOW AND ANY RATE RISE ABOVE ALLOWABLE 3% I FIND ALARMING.

I DON'T HAVE AN EXTRAVAGANT LIFE STYLE AND HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL WITH DISPOSABLE INCOME

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THAT PENSION RISES WILL BE TIED TO THE CPI IN 2017 WHICH MEANS PENSION INCREASES WILL BE LESS THAN THEY ARE NOW.

I AM WORRIED THAT IN NOT TO MANY YEARS RATES WILL BE UNAFFORDABLE TO MANY PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES

YOURS
FAITHFULLY

DAVID COWLES

UNIT 4 - 3-13 SUNSET AVE
WEST BALLINA 2478
NSW.

RECORDS
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: 4 NOV 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

96 Old Byron Bay Road
Newrybar 2479.
2nd Nov. 19

Ballina Shire Council.

We don't support the increase
of rates for the Alstonville + Ballina
poets.

J. M. Hamblly.

H. W. L. Hamblly

L. M. Hamblly.

RECORDS SCANNED
• 5 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

P.S. make ~~use~~ pay.

RECORDS
SCANNED

30-10-14

: 5 NOV 2014

78. Whites Lane

Doc No.....

Alstowville.

Batch No.....

Attention Mr Paul Healey.

Dear Sir.

I am writing regarding rate rise to
cover pool costs.

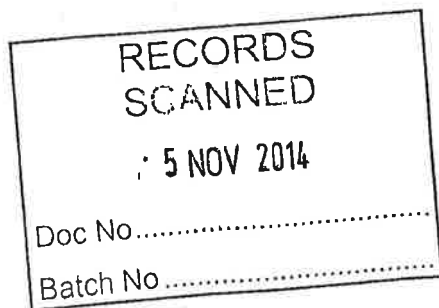
Firstly I oppose the rate rise.

When we haven't got enough money we go without
or save till we can afford it. The council has to
live within its means. We can't say to council that
we want to fix the shed, so you send us the
money to fix it.

I am against an increase in our rates. Council
should have saved up for it as we have to
post management.

Awaiting your reply.

Eltan White.



2/13 Beachfront Pde
East Ballina 2478

29 October 2014

Mr David Wright
Ballina Shire Council
Cherry Street
Ballina 2478

Dear Sir:

re: Proposed special Rate Variation

I strongly object to the above.

Sincerely

Robyn Dunsell (Ms)

Sandra Bailey

From: Lee-Ann Bailey <leeann.bailey@inet.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2014 4:20 PM
Subject: Pool Proposal - Rate increase

I do not support the proposed rate increase to undertake improvements/maintenance of either community swimming pool.

While I accept both swimming pools, as with any community project or infrastructure requires maintenance and repairs, my understanding and expectation of the Ballina Shire Council is that these projects are managed well within an appropriate time frame taking into account the costs associated with owning, managing and providing such facilities. This is no different to how residents of Ballina have to manage their own homes, pools and properties generally.

It is an act of ignorance and poor business practice to propose that issues of eventual maintenance, repair and improvement were not known to the council at the outset of construction. Therefore it is clearly an issue of mismanagement and a clear disregard for adherence to a budget and planning structure that needs to be addressed.

Yours faithfully
Lee-Ann Bailey

Sandra Bailey

From: Reitsma, Damian SSQLDR <damian.reitsma@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2014 8:56 AM
Subject: FW: Feedback regrading proposal to increase rates to cover pool repair/upgrades [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

To Whom it may concern,

I do not agree with the proposal to increase rates to cover the foreseeable repairs/upkeep and upgrade of the pools. This expenditure should be an easily predicted routine activity that the council should have factored in to annual budgets. Furthermore, with so many swimming opportunities in the council areas such as the beaches and river, I do not support such a significant cost being incurred.

Perhaps the council can find the funding by tightening up on the seemingly in ordinate expense that must be incurred when very small sections of road works such as that done on Rivers St in the past year can take so long whilst in other areas roads are dug up and resurfaced in very short order. I cannot fathom how the River St Road works took so long to complete and that it must have cost us the Ratepayers significantly more than it should. Furthermore, Perhaps council could consider better management of our (the ratepayers) assets, such as the two cafes - eg. Cafe at the Wharf which lost it's roof was out of service for what must be close to two years. It is ridiculous that it took this long for the repairs to our asset to be carried out.

Damian Reitsma
58 Riverside Drive
Ballina

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From: jim [mailto:jimnval@optusnet.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2014 10:21 AM
Subject: Heated pools

Ballina Council,

Having given a great deal of thought to the idea of heating pools just for the benefit of the few who use them in the Winter, we feel the rate rises for this is an impost on those of we Pensioners and Retirees who can find better things to do with our money than pander to the few. Rates are High enough now without Council gouging more from us and heated pools should be a classic case of " User Pays"

Jim and Val Kean

McKinnon St E/ Ballina

_5

Garry Fuller
1/64 Mellis Circuit
Alstonville NSW 2477
Email: gazza.fuller@bigpond.com

Ballina Shire Council
poolsproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

RE: improvements to Alstonville Swimming Pool

I would like to ask Council as to why it has not foreseen that this major expense for infrastructure was inevitable and it has not taken any attempt to have funds set aside over past years to compensate to these improvements to Alstonville Swimming Pool. Surely it must have been aware that current plant and equipment was not going to last for ever and that repairs, replacement to this would need major improvements at some stage.

As is the case that whenever any major improvements are required to be undertaken then the Rate Payers are the ones to be slogged to provide the funds every time.

It is to be noted that 'Consultants' were engaged to examine the pool and the \$4million is there estimate to upgrade the pool at Alstonville.

Here we are once again where Council is spending funds to 'Consultants' to tell it how to carry out these improvements, like every other undertakings that Council considers and pays thousands of dollars to consultants to tell them what to do.

Does council not have the personal within its administration who can carry out these undertakings that are to be undertaken. Does it not have a 'Planning Department' who should be most capable of giving an approximate figure as to costs for such undertakings, instead of having consultants to do it for them.

What does these persons do in administration that they cannot carry out these implementations that council undertakes to give an estimate of costs for such issues.

Is all this \$4million for Alstonville Pool improvements to be spent on this entirely OR is it to be used for other facilities that council may have in mind.

Possible improvements identified Alstonville Pool

Why does it required to be 'Heated' is it that there is insufficient sunlight to heat the water during the day, how much time is it used after sunlight that requires water to have added heating.

Should the pool be completely covered over than yes, heating would be an advantage, but this pool is in the open and heat from the sunlight (now with daylight saving) it should retain this heat for a longer period, does the covers that are put over the water keep this water to retain its heat morev than sufficient.

Dedicated training pools – where are these going to be put?. Is it intended to take away a majority of the grass area for these to be put in and as to how big are these going to be , full size or what?.

Who is to use picnic and BBQ facilities, the public will not be able to use these unless they are in the pool area, if not they will have to pay to get into the pool and I don't think they would do this just to have a picnic and or a BBQ. It would only be the users using the pool who may consider to use these facilities.

Yes there should be more covered areas and seating to prevent spectators from being in hot sun for long periods and to the persons using pool when not swimming.

Is it not a council requirement that the disabled access and amenities are at the required standard, why has this NOT being undertaken before to be up to the acceptable standards if the present facilities are NOT at this level.

To have an additional lane added to meet competition standards, why is this necessary as the pool has been used for competition over since its inception (1970) and this has never mentioned for not meeting such standards.

Can it not continued to be used as it is at present, how many times is there 'Competition' that the pool is used for such standards to have another lane added.

Does the pool operations make a profit or a loss, if it is the latter how will council change this or does it just cover this loss by other means.

Should it run at a loss each year council should be looking at this very seriously and looking to rectify this problem.

It may require that the opening season should be from the beginning of September and to close after the Easter break and not to have the extended opening and closing period as it is at present this may ease expenses.

Regards

Garry Fuller

Garry Fuller
1/64 Mellis Circuit
Alstonville NSW 2477
Email: gazza.fuller@bigpond.com

Ballina Shire Council
poolproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Re: Improvements to Alstonville Swimming Pool

In respect to my previous submission to this dated 7 October, 2014 and to the information received from Council since by means of the notice forwarded with the second rate instalment and water charges.

To clarify this information can Council give the residence a guarantee that this 2.5% on top of the normal 3% to total 5.5% for rates in 2015/16 and for 2016/17 will only be these two years or is it to be 'Permanent' from then onwards.

What are Council's intentions if should this rate increase be approved and for these proposed improvements, and if these improvements are to go over budget as has many other undertakings done by Council, how are they going to cover this extra expense, increase the rates once again!

Upon speaking to and with residence in Alstonville and what has been published in newspapers there is an opinion that this rate increase will continue on for each year past 2016/17.

If this is the objective of Ballina Shire Council then why were the residence NOT informed of this when they were attending the Public Meetings held for this and not to find out later.

I and many other residence are very concerned with Council by this 'Sneaky' way that you have gone about to increase the rates by not giving the full reasons at the Public Meetings.

A reminder to the Ballina Shire Council Mayor and the Councillors that the Local Government Elections are to be held in 2015 and if they intend to increase the rates in such a manner as they wish the residence do not forget, so they may better be prepared from being not elected again.

I inform Ballina Shire Council that of this proposed rate increase I am NOT in favour of it.

Yours faithfully
Garry Fuller

Sandra Bailey

From: Brian McDougall <bmcDoug@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 9 November 2014 2:55 PM
Subject: proposed rate rise.

GENERAL MANAGER BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL and Councillors,

Mr Paul Hickey, 9th November, 2014

REFERENCE: reply to proposed rate rise.

Dear Paul,

A personal opinion.

Nothing I say today is going to change the way this Shire is implementing this rate rise. It's done and dusted, as they say. Why? because of what Council has done to date and it's past record on these matters. It is now showing us the truth that little or insufficient maintenance allowance or pre-planning has been carried out since the last rate rise request back in 2010.

I was hoping after the last election that we the people had elected councillors and bureaucrats who were well informed thinkers capable of individual free thought, but alas some leave all the thinking to others and are followers and not capable to think and lead in a deep constructive way.

I will not be making any further counter claims and arguments on this, accept to repeat that old idiom 'Ye reap what you sow'

It is my Will that council approach this short fall in a manner of *thinking outside of the box*, and by not borrowing and writing a cheque.

Thank you for the moment to comment, and I thank you in advance for a positive outcome on what is a serious issue for the community.

Regards

Ratepayer BMcDougall

Rodgers Place Wardell

0266 879697.

OCTOBER 2014

FINAL DAYS TO HAVE YOUR SAY...

swimming pools upgrade - possible special rate variation

RECEIVED
6 NOV 2014
COUNTER

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

These two swimming pools were built in the early 1970s. The existing infrastructure is ageing and the operating costs are rapidly increasing, with large parts of the existing plant and equipment in need of replacement. Council is now planning to renew the existing infrastructure and we are considering whether the range of facilities available at the swimming pools should be enhanced.

Possible improvements:

- not needed → • heating of the Ballina pool and improved heating at the Alstonville pool
- ✓ • children's wet play areas
- no • dedicated training pools
- no • improved picnic and BBQ facilities
- no • covered spectator seating and more shade structures *for once a year events use sunscreen.*
- ✓ • improved disabled access and amenities
- no • additional lanes to ensure 50m pools meet competitive swimming standards
- no • possible enclosure of training pools.

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

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

On average, Council rates increase around 3% per annum. We are interested to know if the community supports increased rates of 5.5% in 2015/16 and 5.5% in 2016/17 to fund these improvements.

Under this proposal the works program for the pools would be funded by loans. The extra 2.5% each year in rate income (i.e. above the 3% annual rate increase) would then finance the loan repayments. Once the loans are repaid, the extra income would become a permanent addition to Council's rate base.

If this extra rate income is approved we would plan to undertake the Ballina pool redevelopment in 2015/16 and the Alstonville pool redevelopment in 2016/17.

How to provide feedback?

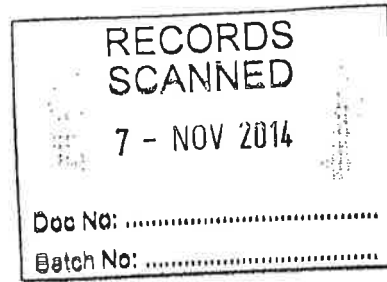
This is an important consultation project and we encourage feedback from all property owners and residents:

- **EMAIL** poolsproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au
- Complete the online **SURVEY** at ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal
- Make a **WRITTEN SUBMISSION** to Ballina Shire Council, PO Box 450, Ballina NSW 2478
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION** telephone our Customer Service Centre on 6686 4444 or visit ballina.nsw.gov.au/poolsproposal

The closing date for submissions has been extended to Friday 14 November 2014.

- ① Our strata 14184 does not think pool upgrades are necessary and maintenance should be covered by normal rates.
- ② So after "increase" for pools then council will have extra \$8mill every 2 years. - Again we vote NO

ballina shire council 



Deanne Bugden
5 Whipps Ave
Alstonville, NSW 2477
02 66281454
November 4, 2014

Paul Hickey
480-03
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina, NSW 2478

Dear Paul Hickey:

I am a long time resident of the Ballina Shire and I am writing to you about my concerns of the increase of the rates. I do not feel the increase is necessary of the council's proposal on how to use the extra funds they are getting from rate payers like myself.

I am a pensioner and getting through each week with my finances is a struggle enough. I feel with the increase of the rates I simply could not live each week.

Heating in the public pools I feel is unhygienic and will make the pool contain a lot more bacteria resulting in a lot of people getting sick.

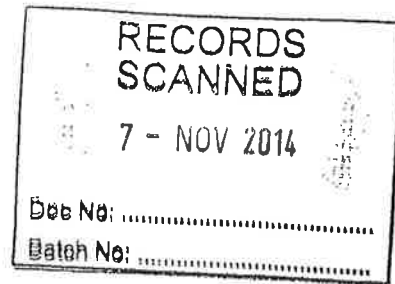
What is another concern is that not only are you putting the rates up to fund the remodel the pools but they are staying at that price. It's a sneaky way of putting up the rates which is completely unnecessary.

Over all I think the council needs to rethink the way in they spend their yearly budget and include these upgrades to the pools in that budget without increasing the rates.

Sincerely,

Deanne Bugden

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Bugden".



Anne Smith
7 Palermo Place
Alstonville, NSW 2477
02 66281454
November 4, 2014

Paul Hickey
480-03
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina, NSW 2478

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Over all I think the council needs to rethink the way in they spend their yearly budget and include these upgrades to the pools in that budget without increasing the rates.

Sincerely,

A. E. Smith

Anne Smith

REF. NO. 480-03

Mr Lionel Millard
14 Pacific Heights Dr
CUMBALUM NSW 2478



The Manager
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Sir,

RE - RATE increase for Swimming Pool

My answer is NO

Our area here, Koellner Rd + Pacific HTS. DP,

NEED STREET LIGHTS.

SEWERAGE AND TOWN WATER

Re the Pool - There's a lovely Ocean Water just
around the corner, so to speak.

RE - PUBLIC Holiday for Ballina Cup DAY

My answer is NO.

In both cases, LET THE USER PAY

Regards

L Millard

Sandra Bailey

From: Dorothy Percival <dorothypercival@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2014 9:01 AM
Subject: Increase in rates for pool reconstruction

Dear Sir

10th November 2014

I do not agree on this pool reconstruction at the expense of our Ballina community. The RATES IN BALLINA HAVE DOUBLED since we moved here to enjoy and support this beautiful Town.

I have spoken with a lot of the residents and they have also brought the subject about the Pool and your intentions to me ,and they are not happy about , all of these residents are people who will not put pen to paper or do not use a computer, their are thousands in this town who will be silent and your intentions have made a lot of unhappy residents.

We as house holders have to manage our purse strings and be accountable and so should the management of the pool, not asking for outside help.

I would appreciate a reply

Regards Dorothy Percival

Sent from my iPad

Dorothy Percival

Sandra Bailey

From: John Percival <percivaljohn85@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2014 8:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: rates increase

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Percival** <percivaljohn85@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 10, 2014 at 8:48 AM
Subject: rates increase
To: poolproposal@ballina.nsw.gov.au

we are definetely against the proposed rate increase for pool heating by the ballina council and we do not know any body who agreeswhen so many other important things need attention valda & john percival 6 peppercorne place east ballina

Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey <Sandrab@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2014 9:15 AM
Subject: Phone Call - Special Rate Variation - Swimming Pool upgrades

Shirley Penman – definitely opposed to any proposed rate increase .

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



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 6686 1273

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Opinions, conclusions and other information contained within this message that do not relate to official Council business are those of the individual sender, and shall be understood as being neither given nor endorsed by the Ballina Shire Council.

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2014 1:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: Special Variation Rate Rise

From: Jay Ellis <jaye@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7 November 2014 12:27:21 pm AEDT
To: Paul Hickey <phickey@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Special Variation Rate Rise

Name: Elizabeth Reed
Address: 15 Seahorse Place, Ballina
VOTE: NO
Reason: happy for the pools to be upgraded however concerned about the ongoing rate rise as she is a pensioner...

Jay Ellis
Administration Officer
General Manager's Group



ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com
p: 66861228 | f: 0266867035

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Sandra Bailey

From: Sue Boardman <suem@ballina.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2014 9:02 AM
Subject: Phone Message - Rate Variation

June Glanville – 66287195

NO to the rate variation

Sue Boardman
Switchboard/Admin Assistant
General Manager's Group



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

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Sandra Bailey

From: Fiona Wilson-Jones <fwjones@wires.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2014 5:42 AM
Subject: Community consultation re Special rates

Dear Sir/Madam

I am opposed to a special rate levy to fund the upgrade of the Ballina and Alstonville pools. The amount of funds required for the up-grade is excessive for facilities that are only open for part of the year and the amount of the proposed levy to residents is both unacceptable and unaffordable. Funds should have been put aside for ongoing maintenance and refurbishment in annual budgets and projects in the Shire prioritised to ensure the greatest benefit for ratepayers. More modest funds need to be secured from other sources including Grants or the disposal of some of Council's portfolio of investment property for a more appropriate maintenance up-grade.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Wilson-Jones
49 Burns Point Ferry Road
Ballina NSW 2478

Sandra Bailey

From: paula williams <paulawilliams@fastmail.com.au>
Sent: Sunday, 9 November 2014 12:15 PM
Subject: opposition to rate increase

Please note my opposition to increase Ballina Shire rates to fund loan repayments for the upgrade of Ballina and Alstonville pools.

Regards,
Paula Williams

--

paula williams
paulawilliams@fastmail.com.au

Sandra Bailey

From: Ballina Golf & Sports Administration <admin@ballinagolfclub.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 7 November 2014 3:23 PM
Subject: Community Consultation - Possible Special Rate Variation

To Whom It May Concern

Your correspondence regarding a proposed *special rate variation*, dated 22nd September 2014 was tabled at the Board Meeting of the Ballina Golf & Sports Club on 30th October 2014.

As I am sure you are aware the vast majority of the Club's membership are Shire rate payers and while fully understanding and appreciating Councils need to raise funds to improve facilities for the community, it is the feeling of the Board that by collecting an increased levy from our Club, Council is in effect collecting this levy twice from our members.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Kind Regards,

Mark Whiting
General Manager



Phone (02) 6686 2766
Fax (02) 6686 3744
Email admin@ballinagolfclub.com.au
Website www.ballinagolfclub.com.au

Re: Community Consultation – Possible Special Rate Variation

This is to advise the Council that we **vigorously oppose** the proposed rate rise to pay for swimming pool upgrades at both Ballina and Alstonville. My husband and I are both Aged Pensioners and ratepayers who live in Ballina and who have never used either the Ballina or Alstonville Pools. We are both in our 70's and I would suggest to you that there are many in Ballina who fit into this category. According to the Ballina Shire Council web site, in the 2011 census, there were 11,300 people resident in Ballina who are between the ages of 60 and 85+ out of a total population of 39,273. That is 29% of the population. There were 13,480 people who receive a low income of between \$200 and \$600 per week.

We understand the need to upgrade the pool facilities particularly in Ballina but suggest that there are other funding options open to the Council to achieve this, rather than yet another Special Rate Variation. Your letter to Ratepayers states that this rate increase will be a 'permanent increase to your rates' and therefore rates will compound over future years. Such an impost will be ongoing and come in addition to the many other increasing costs of living recently announced by the Government and seen every day at the supermarket. This is a universal rate increase imposed on all ratepayers whether they use the pool or not.

So we ask these questions –

- Has the Council carried out a survey, or even given consideration to the effect this ongoing rate increase will have on low income people in our community? Consider the impact on Aged Pensioners, both those who own property and those who rent, and who already live with stretched budgets.
- Has the Council explored other means of funding these Pool upgrades such as application to the Government for say \$ for\$ funding or a Government Grant, selling some Council owned assets or even re-prioritising budgeted major expenditure.
- Has the Council projected the likely increase of patronage at the pool if this upgrade goes ahead, and the likely increase in revenue that this would produce? Is it the Council's intention to increase pool entry fees and would this be sufficient to fund loan repayments?
- Has the Council considered whether pool upgrades could be prioritised and staged over future years to mitigate this huge immediate and ongoing rate increase, or that there might be scope for some savings in the cost estimates?
- Is the Council prepared for possible rate defaults over coming years if the rates become unaffordable to some property owners?

Yours sincerely,

Don and Gail Petty

8 Jamie Place, Ballina

Wednesday, 5 November 2014

Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Robert Neal
1/31 Deegan Drive
ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

3rd November 2014

RE: Proposed 5.5% Rates Increase.

ATTN: Community Consultation Team; The Chief Executive Officer; & Council

Dear Sirs & Madams

Firstly, I request that this submission in its entirety is presented to the Community Consultation Team, the Chief Executive Officer, and Council for their information and consideration. I would appreciate any thoughts, feedback or considerations these Bodies may provide, mindful that some parts of this submission and excursus are held under Copyright (© R Neal 2014).

I refer to Councils recent invitation for Community Consultation with respect to a proposed 5.5% Rate Increase to undertake maintenance and upgrades of the Ballina and Alstonville Swimming Pools.

**I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED RATE CHANGES,
&
ASK THAT COUNCIL NOT PROCEED WITH THIS MATTER.**

1. The proposed Rate Rise **would impose a severe financial impost** on the Ratepayers, and especially severe on the low income and welfare dependant Ratepayers who form a significant demographic of the Shire.
2. The proposed Rate Rise is a superfluous and erroneous strategy to address a **normal and essential Council function**. Council should have foreseen and prepared for this exigency over the last 40 years; and Council should already have, or have access to, adequate funding for the maintenance and upgrade of the Swimming Pool infrastructures.
3. **The current proposal for the upgrade of the Swimming Pools lacks vision, enterprise and entrepreneurial consideration**. It fails to take into consideration the future needs and opportunities for the Shire, Council, the Ratepayers, Residents and Visitors. A more visionary approach should consider Councils' long-term strategic and financial position within, say, a 50-100 year time frame. For example, one may envisage a World Class Aquatic and Hydrotherapy Centre¹ meeting the needs, aims, goals and aspirations of present and future generations; and providing a sound economic development and opportunity for the Shire.

¹ © Robert Neal 2014 claims, holds and asserts the Intellectual Property Rights with respect to this or similar proposals.

Discussion:

A significant proportion of Ballina Shire Ratepayers live on fixed or limited incomes and already live at or below the poverty line. The Shire has a large population of Retirees, Single Parents, people living with Disabilities, and the Unemployed whose sole source of income is Commonwealth Centrelink Payments, widely known and freely acknowledged to be significantly below the Australian poverty line. Any additional financial impost by Council should not be countenanced.²

Sound financial management by Council is an essential requirement and a more than reasonable Community expectation. Has Council met these requirements and expectations? The swimming pools were constructed in the mid-1970s. Is it not reasonable for Council to have planned for essential management, maintenance and upgrade of the swimming pools? And is it not appropriate for Council to have made appropriate financial arrangements for these obvious eventualities during the course of the last 40 years?

Council is responsible for sound management of the Communities' infrastructure, land and financial assets. The proposal to upgrade the Alstonville Swimming Pool, in particular, refocuses Councils historic activities and land management of Crawford Park, which, I have been informed by some, was errant and reprehensible. I have been informed, and please correct me if I have been misinformed, that Council disregarded the stated "Public Use" of Crawford Park in accordance with the original bequest in order to establish 1½ soccer grounds³. Similarly, the establishment of the Soccer Club building on these "Public Use" lands. Similarly again, Councils decision to assist development of a Children's Preschool on these "Public Use Lands" - and again, in opposition to the wishes of the broader Alstonville Community and the local residents & ratepayers.

Rather, it appears, Council has made an extraordinary decision to provide Crawford Park land in an extremely beneficial arrangement for a very small fraction of the community, and I am told, a very small interest group of current users of the Children's Preschool - about 25 families or less - 50% of whom are NOT RESIDENTS or RATEPAYERS of Ballina Shire! (Please advise me if I have been misinformed of these details.)

I have also been informed that Council plays a significant role in its investment in the Ballina Shire Property Market and as a Project Developer. Some bids for land, I have been informed, were at a multi-million dollar scale. It would seem, therefore, that

² Indeed, it would be more beneficial and appropriate for Council to increase its assistance to this section of the community by more and better support for existing community welfare organizations.

³ FYI, I once attended an Alstonville Soccer Club function where the history of the acquisition of the Crawford Park lands by the Soccer Club was detailed and gloated over. I was appalled! I was amazed that someone from Council didn't face criminal investigation for that.

Council either has, or has access, to funds sufficient to meet the needs of the Swimming Pool maintenance and upgrades.

Another socio-economic consideration these days, is the principal of "User Pays." The upgrades, redevelopments and developments stated in Councils' flier refer to infrastructure that would be more appropriately funded on a "User Pays" basis, such as the provision of shaded grandstands, pool widening & lengthening (sic?), children's wading pool facilities and shaded picnic tables. Those folk who use Council Swimming Pools are a small part of the Community demographic. Is it not appropriate for those who benefit most and most often from the improved infrastructure and facilities shoulder a significant part of the economic burden? Perhaps those who use the Swimming Pools could be asked to voluntarily increase their rate contribution on an individual basis.

Any proposed upgrade of the Alstonville Swimming Pool would be greatly enhanced by additional infrastructure such as the provision of a modern Hydrotherapy Treatment Facility that is desperately needed by the local Community - and especially by the local aging population. Such infrastructure would also have provided a potentially ongoing source of income to Council and greatly improve the asset value of Councils facility.

A developer on the Gold Coast attempted at one stage to develop a modern Hydrotherapy Treatment Facility with Heated Exercise Pools, Exercise Facilities, Spa Baths, Mud Baths, Therapeutic Massage, Physiotherapy and other treatment facilities. He thought that this would be an excellent economic opportunity for himself and for the Gold Coast community and yet another tourist attraction to the Gold Coast. I think that he was correct in that assumption. Facilities such as these DO NOT EXIST in the DISTRICT and are only available in part at St Vincent's Hospital in Lismore. There was a great opportunity here, which has been squandered. OR HAS IT?

Suitable land adjacent the pool has been sequestered for the development of the Childrens Preschool. Perhaps that decision could be rescinded.

Council has made a wonderful commitment to sport with the development of the Combined Sports Ground at Wollongbar. Please consider furthering this concept with the addition of soccer fields, adequate parking, adequate bus parking, and the addition of a Hydrotheraphy Treatment Center; a new public Swimming Pool Facility which meets current and anticipated future needs; and a generously sized multipurpose kiosk, restaurant, wine bar, Community Center available for lease.

These considerations draw attention to other areas of Councils responsibilities which appear to be minimal or lacking. For example, a simple and inexpensive bench seat OUTSIDE the Alstonville Community Centre would improve the amenity of the place and provide a welcome alternative to sitting on the bindi-eye & grass verges. A rubbish and cigarette butt disposal unit OUTSIDE the Community Centre would help the grounds & gardens cleaner and litter and butt free.

Similarly, **IF** Ballina Shire Council has a Botanical Garden, an Arboretum⁴, a Community Garden, or a tenant garden **I am yet to find them!** There are large areas of Public Open Space, but the choice of “Slash Pine & Palms” leaves a lot to be desired. What improved amenity, public interests and economic benefits would accrue if Council focused on plantings of Endemic Species, and Local, National and International Rare & Endangered species? Such would provide a good excuse for residents and travelers alike to spend more time in the further enjoyment of Ballinas’ attractions; and at very little upfront costs. As the current tree plantings in particular appear to be reaching maturity or over-maturity, it would be timely to reconsider Councils strategic goals with regard to its Open Space Vegetation & Plantings Policy.

Thank you for your attention and **PLEASE DO NOT INCREASE THE RATES.**

Yours sincerely

Robert Neal

⁴ FYI the land-struck and heavily urbanized Redcliffe City Council in Queensland has both an Arboretum and a very successful Community Garden. The Arboretum is older than the large areas of Open Public Space that the RCC created along the foreshore over the last 20 years. The Arboretum, Community Garden and large areas of Open Space have greatly enhanced the beauty and amenity of the place for locals & visitors alike.

Sandra Bailey

From: Peter Salgram <monikapete@optusnet.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 6 November 2014 3:35 PM
Subject: rate rise for pool upgrade.

No No No. As a couple living only on the Gov pension we cannot afford this rate increase.

Peter & Monika Salgram.

Sandra Bailey

From: Maureen Baker <maureenpbaker@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2014 3:32 PM
Subject: rate rise.

Dear Sir/Madam, My husband and I are definitely against paying extra rates for huge improvements to the Ballina and Alstonville pools. We believe that the Council should have set funds aside for this some time ago and be using their own funds (raised through pool admission/ rates/ etc.) to pay for any costs. Also costs seem prohibitive. Perhaps the improvements could be limited somewhat. With thanks. Maureen and Dennis Baker, 34 Stoneyhurst Drive, Lennox Head. NSW. 2478. 0266877543.

4-11-2014.

Re: Correspondence 21-10-2014

To: Ballina Shire Council.

Proposal to increase rates, for the purpose of up-grading Ballina/Alstonville swimming pools

Both pools should be repaired, put in good order, maintained up to safety standards each year. These were built for the use of residents/visitors in 1970's.

Council should have budgeted for this expenditure over the last 40 years

As a Rate payer for the last 28 years I am not in favour of the Proposal by Council spending \$8,000,000 for the up-grading to the pools

I have to budget each fortnight from a fixed income, putting in place all my expenditures which ~~is~~ includes my rates, my rates keep rising all time. I.E. 4 years ago I attended a special council meeting where council suggested asked rate payers for a percentage rateage above the usual average rate. I was not in favour of this extra rate. Council went ahead & applied this impost on to rate payments causing our rates to rise dramatically over the last 4 years.

I do not want the impost for up grading of

the swimming pools on top of my ever
increasing Land rates water rates +
garbage rates. I do not use the swimming
pools, I'm surrounded by beautiful
beaches + adequate picnic spots that
do not cost \$8,000,000.

Thank you

n. Drury -

RECORDS
SCANNED

1 0 NOV 2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

9/10/14

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ballina Council

Rates for Swimming Pools x 2.

We both object to more rates for the
2 swimming pools.

As far as we are concerned its user pays.

We pay our Ferry Fees which are
getting bigger + bigger every year, we are
less so we pay.

I don't understand how Ballina Council
can let bike riders across the Ferry
for NOTHING.

Where else do you get Free Sport?

Is there a Tourism Deal for Bike Riders?

We would also appreciate a FREE Zip
Day.

Yours sincerely
Aethel + Catherine
Avery

Sandra Bailey

From: George Young <gyo19449@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2014 11:11 AM
Subject: Swimming Pools

FINANCING OF CAPITAL WORKS - SWIMMING POOLS.

In 1977 Tintenbar Shire and Ballina Municipal Council were amalgamated by the State Government.

Tintenbar Shire came into the marriage in a strong financial position and brought with it considerable reserve funds for future funding of capital works and replacements.

Some of these reserves were :-

- 1 Plant Replacement Reserve.
- 2 Long Service Leave Reserve.
- 3 Water Supply Reserve.
- 4 Sewerage Reserve.
- 5 Land Development Reserve (Considerable because of Councils Land development policy)

Ballina Municipal Council on the other hand had a large number of outstanding loans, and no reserves for capital replacements.

In preparing estimates for the amalgamated Council, I was advised by a local Alderman who was a local accountant, that the establishment of reserve funding was wrong and existing reserves should be brought to revenue and not continued.

His theory was that Capital Works were to benefit not only existing ratepayers, but future ratepayers as the Shire expanded. It was unfair for the present ratepayers to have to contribute to expansion of up graded facilities for future residents, and loan repayments spread over a long term, ensured that all ratepayers paid their way.

In increasing the rates over the next few years to cover Capital expenditure on the local pools, are we now saying "Let the present ratepayers, pay for the pools"
"The loss on these two pools is considerable and will increase as additional amenities are introduced, unless the "User Pay" charges are introduced. But this of course will result in further losses to be funded from Council rates revenue which have already been fully exploited.

Has a study been done of the losses of hot pools in Ballina , some of which are only available with a doctors certificate. Those that come to mind are :-

Crowley , who charge \$5.50 per hour , limited to six users. Must be running at a Hugh loss , but covered by Nursing Home Funding.

Biala , whose charges are in the vicinity of \$13 per hour , similar size to Crowley , must be maintained at a Hugh loss , and funded from Biala Grants.

Ballina Square , I don't know the charges , but the pool is open to the public and is larger than the other pools but not as hot , with no ramp for disabled people. It is understood is has been listed for closing ?

If Government funding is provided for two of these pools , why shouldn't it be available to provide therapy at the Ballina and Alstonville Pools , if they were classified as therapeutic pools , open to the public ?

Have the nursing homes without facilities in Ballina and Alstonville , been canvassed to asses the needs for these pools , to assess any contributions they may be able to make for capital or ongoing expenditure of these new pools ?

Is Council in a position where they have taken up their full allocation of loan funding ?

Will the ratepayers in the future be asked by Council to fund replacement of Burns Point Ferry from rate funding ? That is besides carrying it's large losses from rates income on an annual basis.

Accommodation at the Council Chambers is getting tight . How long will it be before an expansion is necessary ?

If we set this precedence of raising the rates every time we need capital replacement of our assets , I believe the Council has a big battle on it's hands to convince ratepayers .

Council having set the level of its anticipated Income , they are setting the level of their available expenditure , if they wish to remain a viable entity.

George Young ,

"A" Ward Committee Member.

10.11.14

SWIMMING POOL UPGRADE

10.11.2014

RE RATES INCREASE TO FINANCE POOLS IMPROVEMENTS.

WE ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS PROPOSAL A PROPERLY MANAGED COUNCIL MAKES PROVISION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE OVER PAST PERIODS OF TIME.

WE WOULD SUGGEST A TOTAL COUNCIL RESTRUCTURE WOULD BE IN ORDER AND WOULD MORE THAN FINANCE THIS PROPOSAL.

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11 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

Yours Sincerely
R. K. Perwaiz
36 SILVER GULL DRIVE

A. Gregori
J. A. Gregori
34 SILVER GULL DRIVE

MR & MRS D.C. Lynch

7-11-2014.

67 PLATYPUS DOE UROLBA. 2477

* We wish to object to the proposed rate rise.

① as we have never used either pool.

② What about user fees?

③ The council must have been aware of the maintenance of the Pools for some time, and should have made provision for the improvements it now seeks to make.

④ Because of our age (80 & 77) we are now in the process of trying to sell our acreage property so as to move to a smaller house in Ballina.!

⑤ Would this mean as we at present own 2 properties we would have to pay 2 lots of levies? (NOT FAIR).

⑥ So would all non rate payers using the pool, I.E. (RENTERS & VISITORS) not have to contribute to these improvements?!

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11 NOV 2014
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Batch No.....

Yours -
Doris & Barbara Lynch

From: Bruce Wilson
9 McDougall Street
East Ballina NSW 2478
brucewilson3@westnet.com.au

RECORDS SCANNED
11 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

6 November, 2014

To: Mr Paul Hickey
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Mr Hickey,

Re: Submission Community Consultation — Possible Rate Variation 480-03

I have to hand your letter of October 2014, and would like to respond as follows:

- While I understand the need to refurbish existing pool facilities at Ballina and Alstonville, I was frankly astonished to see a cost estimate of \$8m being proposed for the two centres. Restoration to the former good order ought to be enough. One Council, two towns. The merging of councils ought to be leading to economies.
- Ballina is surrounded by water. Much of the riverside has existing playground, BBQ and natural swimming areas. I am thinking of the recent upgrade around the Missingham Bridge. Behind the bridge, lots of sandy shallows for children to paddle swim and frolic. Why incorporate new expensive "splash" areas in the two public pool facilities?
- Lismore must also cater for swimmers with their own pool, and I know there is an ocean-side pool in Byron Bay. Four pools within a 40km radius.
- We live in an era where the rule is "user pays". Is the existing fee structure insufficient to allow for maintenance? Obviously not. What about usage? How many potential Olympians are we proposing to train? Should that be an expense for ratepayers? I understand the pools are or were already Olympic standard. Is it absolutely necessary to be able to have enough lanes for international competition? I also question the use of heating for pools, in this subtropical climate.
- I understand that the proposed variation is not the first of such changes, and that once passed, they are forever incorporated into the fees structure. The percentages compound in the future, a permanent increase in the rate. I think *in principle* Council should abide by the cost-of-living adjustments, just as *I as an age pensioner must*. I acknowledge gratefully the assistance I get as such from governments at all levels. However, payment of rates and taxes is not a *discretionary* expense, and there are hints from Federal government that my personal budget may be under more pressure in the future.

Thankyou for this opportunity to "have my say". I await your final decision with interest.

Sincerely yours



Bruce Wilson

Dear Sir/Madam

As a Ballina Shire rate payer (assessment no. 224599) I wish to register a vote of NO to the proposed extra rate increase for the years 2015/16 and 2016/17 for the Ballina and Alstonville pools which is then going to be kept in perpetual. I am not a cash cow for the Ballina council!

Regards

G. Giles

RECORDS SCANNED
11 NOV 2014
Doc No.....
Batch No.....

4/6 John Sharpe St,
Ballina 2478

5-11-14

Ballina Shire Council,
40 Cherry Street
Ballina.

Dear Counsellors,

My wife and I are age pensioners who live in a complex. We own our villa and are subject to body corporate fees as well as paying rates. Our superannuation has completely run out and we are finding it hard to make ends meet with increased costs of electricity, petrol, water and sundries.

Because of our age, we do not use the town baths nor do our considerably sized family attend this facility when they stay with us on holidays. Ballina has lovely beaches which cater for large groups of people.

We are very grateful that the

Council gives us a discount on our rates but
feel that an increase of 11.3% on rates over
two years to update two swimming pools that
are used by the minority of rate payers is
excessive. Perhaps with the usual increase
of 3% the suggested improvements could be
incrementally provided over the ensuing years.

We respect what the Council
does in this shire and we are proud to
show off our town to our visitors but we
feel we cannot support the increase necessary
to fully update the two pools in the two
years suggested.

Yours faithfully,
Graham Somerfield

RECORDS
SCANNED

1.1.NOV.2014

Doc No.....

Batch No.....

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
Ken Moss.

Ken Moss