



**2012/2013  
Submissions  
Fees & Charges**

**JUNE 28 2012  
MEETING  
ATTACHMENT**

## Submission

### Issue:

#### Proposed new fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

### Background:

As part of Ballina Shire Council's draft 2012/13 Operational Plan, budget and fees Council is proposing to introduce a \$1.00 per trip fee for bicycles using the Burns Point Ferry from 1 July 2012.

This fee has been proposed to assist Council in minimising the annual operating cost for the ferry, which currently costs the Ballina Shire community approximately \$200,000 per annum.

### Current Situation:

There is currently no fee charged for bicycles crossing the Richmond River on the Burns Point Ferry.

The roads south of the Burns Point Ferry are used by a very large number of cyclists for a variety of reasons. One of the major reasons is the safety of the road due to low numbers of motor vehicles compared to the Pacific Highway and other arterial roads.

Some of the cyclists travel on this road for race training but predominately for improving their health.

There are numerous cyclists that use this road to gain cycle experience as beginners due to low traffic numbers.

This ferry is the only one in New South Wales which charges motorists and now is considering charging cyclists.

### Comment:

The imposition of a \$1.00 per trip fee for bicycles will see a decline in the numbers of cyclists using the Burns Point Ferry. There are a large number of cyclists that currently use the ferry most days to ride to and from Wardell. This could equate to 14 trips per week across the ferry which could amount up to \$728.00 per year for some cyclists.

Imposing a fee would send a message to the community that the Council are either against people trying to be healthy or not a bike friendly town.

Council is very quick to make a decision to charge cyclists to use the ferry but extremely slow to construct infrastructure for cyclists to use, e.g., the walk/cycle way from Ballina to Lennox Head and even shared lanes on some roads.

This proposed fee may see an increase in the number of trips made across the Richmond River as when cyclists arrive at the barrier they must be entitled to be transported as soon as possible. It would also be prudent for cyclists to take up car spaces rather than be expected to hug the sides of the ferry as they do now.

Most cyclists are ratepayers in the area. However, there are quite a few cyclists who are pensioners and are reliant on their bicycles to carry them to locations on the opposite of the River and return.

**Recommendation:**

Ballina Shire Council looks at alternative methods to fund the ferry such as applying to the NSW Government for Roads and Maritime Services to operate the ferry under the same conditions as the nearby ferries at Ulmarra and Lawrence as well as all the other ferries in NSW.



**Duncan A Walker**

**6 Loedna Place**

**Lennox Head NSW 2478**

**29 May 2012**

**EMAILS TO:**

- 1. Ballina Shire Council**
- 2. Ballina Shire Councillors**
- 3. NSW Minister for Local Government**

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Kenny Low [kennylowau@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 May 2012 7:58 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry - letter in opposition

**From:** Dr Kenny Low (MBBS, BSc (Med), FRACS)  
4/19 Waterview Court  
Ballina 2478

**To:** Ballina council  
Cnr Cherry and Tamar Streets  
PO Box 450  
Ballina NSW 2478

**Re:** Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

Dear Ballina Council,

I strongly oppose the proposal to introduce a "New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry".

Cycling is low environmental impact recreational activity enjoyed by a small section of the community in the Northern Rivers. Council provides no "safe" areas in which to train, enjoy and teach others the fundamentals of safe, shared usage of our roads by cyclists. This proposal is a short sighted money raising activity by Council on a small group of rate payers. It will not work and will be detrimental to the overall quality of life in Ballina.

My opposition stems from the following.

Firstly, we live in a society where obesity, poor health secondary to negative lifestyle choices, falling rates of physical activity and decrease participation in social activities are major issues. In this climate, it astounds me that Ballina Council would propose measures that would discourage ANY form of physical activity. Cycling is already a costly recreational activity with costs relating to bicycle acquisition, maintenance and equipment. Another cost will discourage cycling and lead to a translocation of cycling activities from South Ballina to another part of the Ballina Shire. South Ballina is popular with cyclists only because it is an area of low traffic density. South Ballina provides one of the few "safe" areas to teach/introduce new riders to "safe" cycling practices. The Ballina BUG (Bicycle Users Group) uses South

Ballina to introduce new riders to cycling for this very reason. Similarly, many of the local bicycle stores introduce new riders on this route with store employees often "leading" such groups. Many of the junior triathletes/cyclists in the area also use South Ballina partially owing to parental concern that other roads in the region have higher traffic densities. South Ballina is relatively flat, an out and back ride is around 25kms and the residents acquainted with cyclists being in the area. All this fee will do is translocate cycling activity from a quiet and low traffic area to one of higher traffic density in the Ballina Shire. Cyclists will be in greater "physical" danger from fast moving traffic (a constant threat experienced by all regular bike riders), learners will be discouraged to cycle and there WILL be a decrease in cyclists on the roads of South Ballina.

Secondly, if a fee is proposed, I would like to see Ballina Council use part of such funds to promote cycling, improve roads used by cyclists and promote safe sharing of roads. The South Ballina road is in a suboptimal state for cycling, but is still used because of the aforementioned advantages. I think it would be only fair that if cyclists were charged for the use of an amenity that the amenity (i.e. River Drive, South Ballina) is in an optimal state.

Thirdly, a fee of \$1 for each bicycle crossing is much more expensive when compared with the yearly charges for motorbikes and cars. The current fee for a motorcycle (yearly fee) is \$110/year and that for a car is \$220/year. A cyclist, performing a round trip, would pay \$2 on each occasion with this proposal. Two round trip bicycle charges a week would amount to \$208 per year (2 trips X \$2 X 52 weeks = \$208). Three trips a week would cost \$312 per year. I am not sure that Ballina Council can justify such a cost for the service provided (when compared with other vehicle carriage charges). Cyclist take little physical space on the ferry, are far lighter in mass (used to justify differences in ferry fees when taking vehicles) and do not cause of reduction in ferry payload. The proposed fee structure is more expensive on a yearly basis when compared with motorised vehicles.

The "Proposed New Fee of Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry" is a cynical fee raising activity by Ballina Council. I am deeply disappointed that Ballina Council has tried to marginalise the cycling fraternity with such a proposal. The fee will discourage physical activity, lead to a translocation of cycling (potentially to higher traffic areas and subsequently increase potential dangers to cyclists) and is unfair when considering payload, space and impact on other users of the Burns Point Ferry.

Regards and disappointedly,

Dr Kenny Low

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Angela [angela.d@westnet.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 May 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Cc:** Kieran at work  
**Subject:** Burns Point ferry fares for cyclists

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concern at the Council's intention to charge local cyclists being rate payers with a fare to use the Burns Point ferry in which to access the safe cycling and training area.

As a cyclist I see the area of Wardell as a safe cycling haven and Council should want to encourage cyclists to use this area rather than busy roads to train at fast speeds or in groups as a safety measure within their traffic policy guidelines.

Being a triathlete I need to train regularly in a safe place and to be charge \$1 for our free sport each time I wanted to train at Wardell would make it a costly exercise over months or years and would in my view discourage cyclists to cycle there which would mean more on the busier roads. We have to pay to use pools to swim, gyms for weights and for events so to add this unnecessary cost to our agenda is hurting our pockets . WE are no different to pedestrians as we walk our bikes onto the ferry and we have no weight or traction to cause much wear and tear.

I feel this access to part of council land should be transport cost borne in part from our rates for council and I think any decision to bring in this charge may be very unpopular with the huge population of cyclists on the North coast. People less confident and learning to cycle need this area for safety and top athletes like the Aeromax coaching team need safety for their athletes for events. I have been selected to represent Australia at the World Triathlon championships in NZ in October and I need a safe place to do my sprint work without traffic being within one metre of my bike. I find Wardell to be quiet and suitable and flat ground for this.

I would ask that Council reconsider their idea to charge cyclist fares as advertised.

Please ensure my submission is considered at the Council meeting with all others.

I will be encouraging all of my Triathlete friends and cycling friends to make submissions against the move additionally.

Regards,

Angela Davie  
0417102588  
27 Alison Avenue  
Lennox Head. NSW. 2478

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** bastiaan kalisvaart [bastiaankalisvaart@yahoo.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 May 2012 9:02 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Ferry fee

Dear Sir/ Madam

I would like to explain why I oppose the new fee proposal for bicycles on Burns Point Ferry.

- It will damage Ballina Shires reputation as being a cycling friendly council.
- River Drive is a safe road, a fee would result in cyclists choosing different, more dangerous, routes.
- Businesses in South Ballina (caravan parks) would be adversely affected as cycling tourists would no longer go or stay there.
- Vast majority of cyclists who currently use the ferry are also ratepayers. They already contribute to the running costs (approximately \$200,000 per annum).

Kind regards

Bastiaan Kalisvaart

16 Central Ave

28<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Ballina Shire Council

Being an active cyclist I note with interest Council's proposed new fee for bicycles on Burns Point Ferry.

As I regularly use the ferry service on my personal training and organised group rides, I appreciate having quick and relatively safe access to Wardell and beyond via the ferry and am happy to contribute to the ferries operational costs.

While I support the proposed \$1.00 per trip fee for infrequent and once off users, I do not support it being applied to cyclists such as myself who use the service regularly to avoid having to ride on other roads that present a far greater safety risk to riders.

I would be happy to pay an annual fee of say \$50.00 - \$60.00 as I feel this would be fairer and more convenient to frequent users such as myself and would assist in avoiding the time and confusion to individually collect monies from riders, considering there can be as many as 20-30 riders using the ferry on any one crossing.

I am a member of the Ballina Bicycle Users Group as well as the recently formed Ballina Veterans Bicycle Club and I am a Ballina Shire Council ratepayer.

Thank you in advance for taking into consideration my opinion. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely  
Bill Richardson  
4/22 Norton Street  
Ballina NSW  
M 0402791558



**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Carol Brown [rcbrown@tadaust.org.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 May 2012 11:43 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Re: TRIM: Proposed new fee for bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

Dear Janeane,

My husband is at present away but I am sure would appreciate your prompt reply.

May I, as a wife and mother to cyclists add my own comments on to that which my husband has written.

I am sure you would agree, every time a family member goes off to cycle (sometimes alone) the other family members consider that of their safety. I must say I feel much more relieved to have my cyclist riding on the back roads (which include over Burns Point Ferry) then have them on major highways. My husband has already been hospitalised twice from accidents, (both on major roads). I understand there has been a lot of thought and money put into projects of cycle paths around Ballina and these are much appreciated. However these paths will never be adequate for the serious cyclist who average speeds of 30 to 40 k's an hour and travel distances of over 100 kms on any one day.

Putting a fee on the Ferry of \$1 probably means for my husband alone \$10 to \$15 per week. As we are on a Pension, I don't see how that can be added to the budget.

Please pass this message onto your finance department.

Many thanks

Carol Brown

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Clare Webber [webber\_clare@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 May 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** cyclists on the South Ballina Ferry

Dear Council,

Please don't make cyclists pay for using the ferry. South Ballina is one of the very few safe, quiet, flat areas of road we have to train on. Paying to use the ferry would make it inaccessible to us. We don't take up much space!!

Clare Webber

**Proposed new fee for bicycles on Burns Point ferry**

I am a Ballina resident retired and living at 32/1 Riverbend Drive not far from the Burns Point ferry. I was, previously, an active triathlete but with the onset of osteoarthritis the only exercise that I can do relatively free of pain is cycling. It is axiomatic that the exercise is beneficial to us all and especially to someone like myself who is nearly 73 years of age. Consequently I am an avid cyclist, cycling with the Ballina Bicycle Users Group (BBUGS) on the weekends and with a group of senior cyclists on most week days. This later group meets at the Burns Point ferry whilst the former group programs some week end rides to include crossing over on the ferry.

I am opposed to the proposed fee for many reasons.

1. It seems to me that the main purpose of the ferry is to service South Ballina residents and is probably the reason cyclists were originally not charged a fee,
2. Many ferry services e.g. Ulmarra and Lawrence, in NSW are free.
3. The Ballina Shire Council provides funding for other sports via sporting fields etc and I regard the free ferry service for cyclists as a contribution by the Council to the sport of cycling.
4. The main reason that cyclists use the ferry to ride around South Ballina, Wardell and beyond is that it is relatively free of traffic and especially trucks travelling at high speeds. Hence we regard the roads as safe to ride on.
5. The introduction of a modest fee is quite punitive on someone like myself who uses the ferry up to five times a week i.e. a cost of about \$500 per year which is probably more than what some South Ballina residents pay.
6. The effect of the introduction of the fee will force cyclists away from South Ballina and having to deal with traffic hazards south of Ballina like for example crossing the bridge over Emigrant Creek as this bridge has a very narrow shoulder. It is dangerous to cross when trucks are passing as there is no free space.
7. There are a number of administrative problems with the introduction of a fee for cyclists.
  - What happens when a large group of say 40 cyclists all wish to pay at once. I can imagine all these cyclists clambering up the steps in cycling shoes with cleats many of whom may require change. Surely this would hold up the ferry.
  - Cycles obviously have no registration so the introduction of an annual pass needs careful thought
  - An estimate of the number of cyclists using the ferry over a year would suggest that income generated from the proposed fee may not be very high and only make a minor contribution to the annual ferry operating costs.

Frederick James Alexander Neilson

(recreational cyclist)

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Kevin Durkin [bigkev.durkin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 May 2012 11:11 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Cc:** Sharon Cadwallader External; Peter Moore; Jeff Johnson  
**Subject:** Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

As a regular bike rider and user of the Burns Point Ferry, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed new fee.

Ballina Shire dose not have a great many roads that are safe and suitable for bike riding, River Drive between South Ballina and Wardell is very suitable and the fact that it dose not carry a great deal of car traffic make it an idea riding area.

The Ballina to Lennox Head Cycleway ( now shared path) has been in the pipeline for many many years and is still a long way from completion. The share path along Angels Beach drive is very often covered with debris making it dangerous for riders.

It would seem that the Council has neglected the needs of cyclist over the years when in fact it should be proactive in encouraging people to keep fit.

A good example of unsafe roads in our shire is North Creek Road between Aspects Drive and Montwood Drive, Lennox Head. The Council has allowed the vegetation to cover the curb and guttering and extend onto the road. The north bound lane is very narrow on this corner and the Lack of maintenance has made it extremely dangerous to cyclists.

Turning to the proposed fee new fee of \$1 per trip, from informed sources the very maximum number of crossing on a daily basis averaged out over 365 days would be 50 and generate gross income of \$18,250 pa (365 x \$1 x 50). \$18,250 is only 9.1% of the \$200,000 shortfall. The amount of inconvenience to both bike riders and Ferry staff this fee would course appears to be impracticable.

Collecting a cash fee would be cumbersome and if it has to proceed than some form of annual pass would be more preferable.

If the Financial brain thrust of the council could get the brains around lowering the rent on some of their holding of commercial property, then they would not have the large number of vacant properties that the Council has, that are not generating any income.

yours faithfully

Kevin Durkin  
2/3 Alison Ave  
Lennox Head 2478

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Norm Balzer [normbalzer@yahoo.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 May 2012 7:10 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Re: Burns Point Review

Dear Sir,

Cyclists should be encouraged. They the lowest impact on the environment. These are fit people out there contributing to the local economy.

It has to be penny pinching in the extreme to suggest a fee.

Regards

Norm Balzer

Dunoon

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Carol Brown [rcbrown@tadaust.org.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 27 May 2012 8:50 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Proposed new fee for bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to respond to your Council's proposed new fee for bicycles that may use the Burns Point Ferry.

As a property owner and so a rate payer within the Ballina Shire Council area, I wish to oppose the proposed fee for cyclists using the Burns Point Ferry.

I cannot see that imposing this fee on the cyclist would in any way to provide any meaningful imprint on the reduction of the operational costs of the ferry service.

I notice that my Shire Council promotes awareness of cycling through the Shire, by the way of cycle paths, signage warning that there are cyclist using roads like that on Riverside Road from the Burns Point Ferry to the southern side of the Richmond River at Wardell, also the Teven Road.

At a glance it seems that the Ballina Shire supports the safety of cyclist but by imposing the fee to use the ferry the Shire Council may be in fact force cyclist to ride on major roadways which will in crease the danger accidents on these busy roadways.

Many visitors who come the holiday in our beautiful Shire are cyclist, and that the Riverside Road which provides a large degree of safety to cyclists will be detruded not to holiday within the Shire as there if any ferry operations in NSW have a fee imposed on cyclists. Is the safety of cyclist not important to the Council. Riverside Road provides a safe road that en ables a cyclist to explore the many roads that fan out from Wardell via the ferry along Riverside Road, this proposed fee may well close off this safe vanue to riders living in the Shire and vistors alike.

I have noticed that students of secondary age use the ferry to and fro each week, that will just increases the daily living expenses for families of \$10.00 per week.

As I understand, the Ballina Shire council is the servant of the people who live within its boundaries, and provide services to the rate payers, by adding one more charge is that really going to achieve any great outcome? Where would it fee be of a service?

Perhaps next year there will be a fee for pedestrians using the ferry!

Yours faithfully,  
Rev Richard Brown.

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Vince Kelly [kellyvince1@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 May 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Burns Point Ferry - Proposed fee for bicyclists in 12/13

To Ballina Shire Council Council,  
I, Vincent James Kelly of 8 Petrel Court East Ballina wish to lodge my strong protest at the proposal by Ballina Shire Council to impose a \$1.00 fee for cyclists using the Burns Point Ferry. This is ridiculous in an age where you should be encouraging cycling rather than penny pinching to try and support a service that will never break even in costs. The ferry service is an essential service that must be supported from Rates and other Council income until a bridge is built.

Get on with building the bridge.

Vince.

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Jontom Car Sales [sales@jontom.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 May 2012 12:11 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Regarding charging Cyclists for Burns Point Ferry Use.

To the Manager,  
I would like to voice my opposition to the proposal to charge cyclists  
\$1 to use the Burns Point Ferry.

Please leave this local service free to all cyclists and pedestrians.  
Most who use the ferry are local rate payers who use it to access the safety of River Drive to Wardell.  
Have council considered the inconvenience of having groups of riders fumbling for coins each trip? Surely  
bike racks would need to be installed whilst paying and carpet layed for the steps of the on/off ramps.

Currently the free ferry trips are considered an asset to the shire and certainly not taken for granted by the  
regions cyclists.  
Ballina has a terrific network of cycleways and losing the free service would be a backward step and only  
add bike traffic to Pimlico Rd.

Regards, Wes Thompson.  
10 Kell Mather Drive  
Lennox Head  
0412 408 475  
66 874426

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77 Dawson St.  
Lismore.  
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[sales@jontom.com.au](mailto:sales@jontom.com.au)



**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** gina waters [ginawaters70@yahoo.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 May 2012 12:47 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Bike fee's for ferry.

To whom it may concern.

AT LAST!!! I have whinged about bikes being free on the ferry for the 6 years i have lived in south Ballina, and finally, someone has got with the program! The only exception to the rule, should be school kids, on the way to school, but all those other fluro wearing cyclists should definately pay.  
One thing, please ensure that, when they become paying customers, that they still keep the same rules, cars on and off first, for their safety.

A resounding YES from me.  
Gina Waters.

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** jo mclaughlin [seacastle@hotmail.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 May 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Ferry Fee

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the new fee proposed for bicycles on Burns Point Ferry.

The vast majority of cyclists who currently use the ferry are ratepayers. We already contribute to the running costs approx \$200,000 per annum.

Additionally, a fee will damage the Ballina Shires reputation as being a cycle friendly council. Don't you want to be encouraging more people to ride bikes?

River Drive is a safe road, a fee would result in cyclists choosing different more dangerous routes.

Regards

Jo McLaughlin  
4 Rous Place  
East Ballina

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Jay Ellis  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** 'Andy Selway'; Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** 2012/2013 Fees & Charges Acknowledge Submission - Bicycle Fees for Ferry - Andy Selway  
**Attachments:** 12 13606 2012 2013 Fees & Charges Acknowledge Submission - Bicycle Fee for Ferry - Andy Selway.pdf

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**From:** Andy Selway [mailto:[aselway@adenelectronics.com.au](mailto:aselway@adenelectronics.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 May 2012 5:46 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Draft fees & charges 2012/13, Burns Point Ferry

To: Ballina Shire Council

I would like to lodge my objection to the proposed \$1 charge per trip for bicycles using the Burns Point Ferry.

I believe all governments including local councils should be actively encouraging and supporting the use of bicycles for the undisputed benefits they provide, e.g.

- a) personal health and fitness (increasingly important with our sedentary lifestyles and aging population)
- b) reduced carbon emissions
- c) greatly reduced wear & tear on local roads

Regards  
Andy Selway  
[aselway@adenelectronics.com.au](mailto:aselway@adenelectronics.com.au)  
Tel. 02 6628-7966

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Anthony Davis [adavis1949@westnet.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 June 2012 5:56 PM  
**To:** Jay Ellis; 'Buster Neilson'; Ballina Shire Council  
**Cc:** Councillors; walda47@nsw.quik.com.au; 'Tanya Wells'  
**Subject:** RE: 2012/2013 Fees & Charges Acknowledge Submission - Bicycle Fee for Ferry - F Neilson

Dear all

As a member of Ballina BUG and regular cycling user of the Burns Point Ferry, I agree that the financial burden on the Council by the ferry is onerous and cyclists should contribute to the upkeep of the service.

However I am concerned that the current proposal will not achieve the goal of increasing revenue. In comparison to cars, who, through season tickets, can have unlimited trips for \$4 per week, the charge of \$1 per trip, for a cyclist is unreasonable. Even for casual use, bicycles, which weigh less than one hundredth of a car, are charged one fifth of a car. Given these relativities, and the improved roads via Pimlico, it is probable that most local regular cyclists will simply avoid the ferry, with little inconvenience to their riding, but some additional hazard to themselves. Overall, there probably be little revenue gain for the Council.

Secondly, the proposal is probably impossible to implement. It is my understanding that a cyclist, walking a bike onto the ferry, as currently required, is legally a pedestrian. A cyclist, walking their bike, has right of way on a pedestrian crossing. Trying to manage a large group of cyclists, the disagreement over their status, collecting coins and still trying to offer an efficient service to other users of the ferry will be very difficult for the ferry operators and severely test the patience of other ferry users. The level of complaints from users and staff will escalate, increasing administrative costs to the Council in dealing with disputes.

My suggestion is that the Council offers local cyclists a yearly pass, priced around \$25 ( about one tenth of a car). The cyclist be issued with an irremovable clip device which can be attached to their helmet, thus very visible to the ferry operator. For casual users, the \$1 charge could be for the whole day, or charged only in one direction. In this way, the increase in revenue is maximised, would have low implementation costs, would have minimal impact on ferry operators and is unlikely to significantly lessen the cyclists use of the ferry.

Anthony Davis  
24 Cawarra St  
BALLINA  
0402 462 442

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**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Steve Rigby [smj2@aapt.net.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 June 2012 8:30 PM  
**Subject:** Burns Point Ferry- fee for Cyclist.

Dear Sir/Madam, River Road is an ideal place for cyclist to ride, particularly for children and people with little experience, confidence or competence. Flat with very little traffic except the cane trucks during harvesting. Encourage cyclist to use River Road, extend the cycle way to the ferry. The people living on the south side are more accepting of cyclist and not in such a hurry as those in the township. They are less likely to have conflict with those car drivers who have a dislike for cyclist. The cycle path in Ballina is not suitable in places for bicycles with racing tyres. There is too much glass, too many stones and gravel which can easily cut and ruin expensive tyres. Racing cyclists want to ride faster than is applicable on the cycle way anyway. The rest of the roads in Ballina are not really suitable for cyclist. So allow them a way out of Ballina without forcing them to ride along the highway which has many semi-trailers using it in the early morning when most cyclist train. Most of the racing cyclist will not be willing to pay one or two dollars every day they ride. The small income derived from this exercise is not worth the trouble and the discontent which it will cause to admittedly a small number of citizens. Yours Truly Steve Rigby

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Graeme & Sue Fraser [graeme.fraser@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 June 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Proposed Burns Point ferry charge

Dear Sir/Madam,

I do not support the proposed introduction of a charge for bicycles to use the ferry.

The following are the grounds of my objection:

- Most bike riders stay on their bikes or support them. There are no racks where you can stand your bike while you go and pay the ferrymaster. Further, there is no place on the ferry where a rack could be installed without interfering with vehicle usage.
- Introduction of a fee is likely to lead to requests from cyclists which might lead to greater expenditure by Council than the amount recouped. My short list of facilities that could be reasonably requested:
  - Toilet at least at one end of the ferry
  - Water source at least at one end of the ferry and in town (If Lismore can provide water, why not Ballina?)
  - Water source at the park at Wardell. It disgusts me to fill my bidon at the tap in the toilet.
- Loss of goodwill. I speak to quite a few cyclists on the ferry. Many of them are tourists or from Byron Shire. They enjoy the easy ride along River Rd and the amenity of the ferry with the bonus of fish feeding. Most will subsequently support Ballina businesses, even if it is just a post ride coffee or cake. Even a \$1 charge might be seen as penny-pinching.

I hope that Coucillors will accept that not all the services that Council provides will be profit making or even be revenue neutral. Some like library services, roads, litter control and pools are provided for the well-being of the community. I put the 'free' trip on the Burns Point ferry for cyclists in the same category. Council should be doing as much as it can to encourage citizens to have a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you for seeking public submissions on this subject.

Yours sincerely

graeme fraser

--  
Graeme & Susanne Fraser  
PO Box 279  
Alstonville 2477  
Australia

<http://www.earthlyvisions.com.au>



6/44 Links Ave  
East Ballina 2478  
2nd June 2012

Ballina Shire Council

Opposition to cycle fee on ferry -

Please make note that I strongly  
oppose a fee on bicycles on the ferry -

1st Size. A yearly fee for a Large  
4WD of \$220 relates to about  
22 cents per trip. Even when the  
ferry is full of motor vehicles  
30 bicycles can fit in the gaps.

2nd Weight A yearly fee for a Large  
4WD of \$220 (22c a trip) - This vehicle  
can weigh up to 3 tonnes - it causes  
wear and tear on the ferry - ramps - cables  
surfaces. Nil by bicycles -

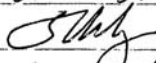
If a large 4WD cost \$220 for a yearly fee by comparison \$11 would be applicable for a bicycle would this be viable to collect.

I would be prepared to pay \$100 a year if the large 4WD pay \$1000 this would be a reasonable comparison

If you increase the 4WD to \$1000 they would drive around through Wardell and the council would have a reduction in revenue.

Cyclist use the River Drive road because of the low traffic. There is no cost to the Council by the cyclists in size or weight.

Please do not include cyclists in any fee structure

Yours sincerely  
  
Bruce SYME



Garry Fenton  
898 Teven Road  
TEVEN NSW 2477

12 June, 2012

Ballina Shire Council

Ballina Shire Council  
Draft Operational Plan 2012/2013  
Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

I oppose the introduction of a \$1.00 Fee per trip for cyclists using the Burns Point Ferry for the following reasons :-

1. Cyclists who utilise the Ferry are actually only pedestrians. It is not permissible to ride onto or off the ferry
2. Persons wheeling bicycles on or off the ferry do not cause any maintenance cost issues to the ferry. The only cost to council regarding this issue has been the initial installation of signage regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety in boarding the ferry and where they are to stand on the ferry
3. This is a public ferry. Bicycles are NOT registered vehicles and cannot be banned from being on a public road. The ferry is part of a public road
4. I have not travelled on any other ferry in NSW that charge for vehicles let alone pedestrians with or without bicycles
5. Council would be showing their discrimination and opposition to people keeping fit. Council would be penalising those exact people who they should be going out of their way to support - people exercising and not drawing on other valuable resources. These cyclists are generally in the 40 to 70+ age group
6. A large percentage of cyclists using the ferry are pensioners or school children riding to and from school. These people are least able to afford the proposed fee

The ferry crosses the river whether or not pedestrians with or without bicycles are on the ferry. **My suggestions would be :-**

- a. The ferry could wait for longer periods at the bank if there are no vehicles at either side of the river when there are only pedestrians with or without bicycles on the ferry itself
- b. If there is an organised cycling event through the Shire, a fee be charged to the organisers which could then be passed on as part of the entry fee for the event

What sort of message would this fee be to the thousands of visitors we want to attract to our beautiful area.

**Please do not take this proposal any further.**

Regards,  


Garry Fenton-

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Jay Ellis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2012 11:18 AM  
**To:** 'peterogg@internode.on.net'; Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** RE: Burns Point Ferry Cyclist Fee  
**Attachments:** 12 13073 2012 2013 Fees & Charges Acknowledge Submission - Ferry Bicycle Fee - Peter Ogg.pdf

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**From:** peterogg@internode.on.net [mailto:peterogg@internode.on.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 June 2012 12:51 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Burns Point Ferry Cyclist Fee

To The Person It May Concern

I write to express my thoughts on the proposed fee for cyclists using the Burns Point Ferry.

Whilst I understand council needs to ensure that it runs all its services within budget, I feel that imposing a \$1 fee on cyclists using this ferry service is inappropriate.

Firstly council should be promoting all forms of community physical activity, not hindering it.

If the fitness level of the community increases through cycling or other physical activities, then this will lessen the demand on services provided by the Council

At the worst I would be prepared to pay an annual levy of say \$25, but I would be very unhappy having to park my bike on the ferry and walk up those slippery steps in bike shoes to hand over my \$1 ( this year) every time I travel on the ferry, which can be 4 times on a weekend.

Yours Sincerely

Peter OGG ( Ballina BUG Member)

Unit 4 / 18 Shelly Beach Road

BALLINA NSW 2478

(H) 02 66 865538

(M) 0428 312 402

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Carole Sharrock [sharrock@westnet.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 June 2012 9:18 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** burns point ferry

16 Shearwater Close  
East Ballina  
8/6/2012

I am a regular user of the Burns Point Ferry and I am objecting against the proposed new fee for cyclists. Here are my reasons:

1. The ferry does not operate if there are only cyclists on board, it only operates when motor vehicles drive onto it.
2. Cyclists take up minimal space along -side the cars, even when the ferry is full.
3. Cyclists are light in weight, compared to heavy, fully laden tip trucks towing dog trailers; which must create more maintenance for the ferry.

I feel a better solution would be for the ferry to have a longer waiting time at both sides of the river. At present, sometimes, as soon as one car is on, the ferry takes off to the other side.

Yours truly  
Carole Sharrock

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Jack & Gwen Shields [patgwen1945@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 June 2012 4:36 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Re proposed \$1 cyclist fee on Burns Point Ferry

I am opposed to the \$1 fee on the ferry because I believe it is excessive compared to a motor vehicle in size and weight, I had 5 return trips while convalescing from an injury and over 12 months that would have been \$ 520.00 per year.

River Drive is one of the most scenic and safe roads to ride on in the Ballina Shire and imposing the fee will force cyclists out onto the Pacific Highway where it is not safe.

I am an old age pensioner and would not be able to afford the fees on a regular basis as riding keeps me out of the Doctors Surgery

However I would be agreeable to pay a yearly fee of \$20 to \$25 if that would help towards the cost of the ferry.

Hoping this will be given consideration.

Regards

Jack Shields  
21/126 Tamarind Drive  
Ballina NSW 2478

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Stuart Rachel Tarrant [twomakesfour@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 June 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Ferry Fees for Bikes

To whom it may Concern,

Hi. I would like to protest against putting a fee on taking bikes on the ferry. I enjoy riding at South Ballina at least once a week. It is a safe place to ride a bike and easy to get to. Paying a \$1 a ferry ride will cost me over \$100 dollars to ride safely for the year. I do not want to be concerned with having money to pay the ferry man. The council is encouraging the public to ride bikes as a part of good health and having a clean environment, please back this up with making it affordable, easy and safe to do.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Tarrant

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Murray & Sue EBBOTT [mebbott04@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 June 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Proposed ferry fees for bicycles

As a regular ferry user I object to a fee being charged for its use, mainly on the grounds of the inconvenience and implacability of its implementation. If for example a dozen or more cyclists arrive at the ferry, all line up to pay their fee, the only thing achieved will be to delay the ferry for very little financial gain. There is also the danger of injuries caused by walking on the slippery deck with shoes fitted with cleats, will the council cover such injuries?

The other effect will be to force cyclists to avoid the ferry, and ride to Wardell via Pimlico using the Pacific Highway with the obvious dangers that entails, particularly when crossing the bridges. As a community we should be encouraging people to exercise, not putting impediments in the way, also the majority of mid week users are retirees with fixed incomes and any extra costs have an impact.

A solution could be to instruct the ferry operator to wait at either side of the river until a vehicle arrives, that way there is no extra cost involved by having cyclists aboard. If a fee is to be charged it should be a small annual fee, thus avoiding a log-jamb at the ferry and upsetting other users.

Hoping the council make the correct decision and not implement a fee.

Yours faithfully

Murray Ebbott

(retiree & ratepayer)

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Jo Boyton [joanneboyton@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 June 2012 12:56 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Submission to council: Burns Point Ferry Submission

Submission to council: \$1.00 per trip fee for bicycles

OPPOSE: Not fair on the locals – see why!

If locals were not riding their bicycles to work or school they would probably be in a car that already has a season ticket (very few locals do not own a car); this would not add to Councils coffers. Charging locals would be an unnecessary penalty for doing the right thing health wise as well as by reducing their carbon footprint. Locals should have a council bicycle sticker free of charge. We are all aware that our council rates paid for the Missingham Bridge.

SUPPORT: On the other hand, many non-locals from bicycle clubs use the ferry at least once per week: I'm sure the ferry drivers could do a head count over a period - it would not be illogical to charge these cyclists a fee!

Warwick and Joanne Boyton

[joanneboyton@bigpond.com](mailto:joanneboyton@bigpond.com)

47 Keith Hall Lane South

Keith Hall NSW 2478

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Stephanie & Julian Lymburner [lymburners@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2012 12:32 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** RE: \$1.00 per trip fee for bicycles using the Burns Point Ferry from 1 July 2012.

Dear Councillors,

We would like to lodge a submission against the proposed introduction of a fee for cyclists on the Burns Point Ferry.

For the following reasons:

As residents of the Ballina Shire we, along with fellow retirees from adjoining shires, use the ferry on a regular basis.

As active retirees we see cycling as part of staying healthy and socialising on a regular basis. Riding to Wardell, South Wall and after our ride and return from the ferry we support one or more of the local Ballina businesses for well earned refreshments.

Whilst using the ferry we fit quite easily around the vehicles on the ferry and as such do not take up any car space.

This a regular weekly cycle that brings cyclists from adjoining council areas who support the local bike shops and other retail outlets after their ride.

Since the opening of the Ballina Bypass there has been a drop off in trade for the business community, and visitors / cyclists should be encouraged to come.

The introduction of a fee will in effect have a negative outcome and erode community goodwill from within the region.

Yours sincerely

Julian and Stephanie Lymburner

126 Coolgardie Rd.  
via Ballina 2478



Sarah Carden

**From:** Peter Hausamann [thunder.horse@live.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 June 2012 8:17 AM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry



To: Ballina Council  
Council's Civil Services Group  
council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Re: Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

Dear Ballina Council

**The Ballina Veteran Cycling Club opposes the proposal for introducing a fee for bicycles on Burns Point Ferry.** However, before embarking on the possible consequences for such a fee, I would like to remind the council of the advantages it has already gained by having a bicycle-minded community.

1. Cyclists have not deterred any motorist from using the ferry. No motorist has either refused or missed out on using the ferry due to cyclists.
2. The ferry load has never forfeited a car space due to cyclists. Riders always give way and space to vehicles.
3. Cyclists always embark and disembark last. They never hold up the traffic on or off the ferry.
4. The financial costs of running the ferry have not been increased by the ferrying of cyclists. In fact, the ferrying of cyclists has improved the running costs of the ferry. The slight delay of embarking and disembarking has saved many a motorist a waiting spell due to missing the ferry. As a consequence, the ferry transports its daily load of vehicles in less number of trips.
5. There is no such thing as a commercial bicycle, but there are commercial cars and trucks making a profit by these vehicles and using the ferry. Bicycles are only used for fitness and wellbeing of the community.
6. Cyclists do not wear and tear the ferry like motor powered vehicles. The average car weighs 2000kg; the average cyclist weighs 80kg – an insignificant load for a ferry to haul across the river.
7. River Drive is one of the safest roads for cyclists to use in the Ballina Shire. It is also the safest road to use to travel south of Ballina to Wardell and other Shire townships. Most beginner cyclists look forward to their first out of town adventure, and they usually take the River Drive route. Not only are they using the ferry, but it also becomes their first ferry trip without a car. The ferry ride becomes a Ballina experience liberated from having to pay for it.
8. The ferry, South Ballina, and the scenic River Drive has been a tourist attraction by cyclists, and the experience ought to be encouraged not discouraged.
9. Even the cyclists have become a tourist attraction. Many a time, tourists have chatted with cyclists while waiting for the ferry. They enquire about Ballina and the bicycle routes a cyclists visiting Ballina can cover.
10. For many years, Ballina Council have not been able to make a cycle-way to adjoining townships. This forces cyclists to risk the roads and highways to do so. To add insult would be to charge cyclists to continue taking those risks.

11. Cyclist groups are formed by people who promote health and wellbeing within the Ballina community. Ballina Council should reward and encourage such behaviour and not charge their promoters for it.

If Ballina Council approves the introduction of a ferry fee for bicycles, the following outcomes ought to be considered.

1. Charging cyclists \$1 per trip not only discourages cyclists from embarking the ferry but would also jeopardise all the advantages mentioned above.
2. The one dollar fee, in most cases, turns out to be a two dollar fee because most cyclists need to return to Ballina. The single dollar fee is a misconception of what it will actually cost per cyclist to use the ferry.
3. Two dollars per bicycle ride once per week costs more than \$100. Unfortunately, most cyclists use the ferry more than once per week, and an extra trip per week doubles the annual cost. If a cyclist, training for a sporting club like the Ballina Veteran Cycling Club may use the ferry up to six times per week, that would cost that cyclist \$624 per year. Veteran cyclists representing Ballina, at inter-club (State and National) events, ought to be free from any resentments, they may have of Ballina, due to the lack of township support.
4. The ferry can carry 12-15 vehicles per trip. The ferry already stalls on the river waiting to collect its fees. How much longer will it take to collect from each bicycle rider? Is Ballina Council, the ferry master, and drivers prepared to have the ferry sit, any longer, on the river waiting for their passage to commence?
5. Cyclists normally remain with their bicycles while on the ferry. Having to dismount, park the bike somewhere without it falling over, walk precariously on non-grip shoes and cleats to the steering cabin, and climb upon metal steps to pay their fare is again putting the cyclist into further risk taking.
6. Imagine 30-50 cyclists from the Institute of Sport lining up before motorists, to pay their fare. I am sure motorists will not have resentment towards the ferry master or to Ballina Council, but I am sure they will, towards the poor cyclist, who has to share the roads with them.
7. An important component about Ballina Council's proposal is the wording of "fee for bicycles on Burns Point ferry". Cyclists walking on and off the ferry are pedestrians, not bicycle riders. Charging cyclists carrying their bikes onto the ferry, and not charging pedestrians, would point to discrimination by Ballina Council.
8. If pedestrians are exempt from paying fees, cyclists will then be encouraged to walk on and off the ferry like pedestrians. Both the steep, wet concrete and metal ramps are slippery – at least riding on rubber tyres afford cyclists some grip.
9. The ferry fee would not only deter cyclists from using the ferry but also encourage them to risk more dangerous routes more often – risking injury or death needlessly. To travel south of Ballina, without using the ferry, requires cyclists to travel on busy roads and highways to reach townships like Wardell and Alstonville. Even having to cross the highway to reach Teven. Furthermore, after risking these busy carriageways to alternative routes like Pimlico Road, the cyclist then has to risk travelling on a poor surfaced and narrow road where it is often only wide enough for a single car.
10. Ballina Council is not just encouraging the 'cyclist' to choose high risks. These cyclists are among their own employees (council workers), Ballina's work force, business owners, and other professionals like doctors and lawyers. These people cycle not only for the sport, they also use cycling to stay fit and healthy. Many cyclists serve as role models for promoting community health and activity. They are not just 'cyclists'!
11. Discouraging the use of the ferry to access safer roads only aggravates cyclists to the lack of cycle-ways within the Ballina Shire. How many years have cyclists been waiting for a safer route to adjoining townships?

12. What happens to a cyclist who comes to Ballina via River Drive and has no money to board the ferry? They would have to engage in a 25km trip to Ballina via Wardell and Pimlico – a more discouraging and dangerous alternative.

13. Targeting cyclists to pay a fee is like punishing people for living in the township of Ballina. The majority of motorists using the ferry live outside of town, and they get charged for it. Nearly all the cyclists using the ferry live in town, they already spend most of their money and time within the township, and now the council wants more.

I sincerely hope that Ballina Council, and its Council's Civil Services Group will not approve a bicycle fee, and be more supportive of the community service that all cyclists undertake and promote – the health and vitality for Ballina Shire.

Respectfully

*Peter Hausamann*

[Peter Hausamann](#)

**BVCC Secretary & Public Officer**

**[thunder.horse@live.com.au](mailto:thunder.horse@live.com.au)**

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**Sarah Carden**

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**From:** David [david.and.barb@inet.net.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2012 9:16 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Submission on Proposed New Fee for Bicycles on Burns Point Ferry

We are opposed to the proposed fee for bicycles on the Burns Point ferry for the following reasons:

- The fee will discourage cyclists from using the safest route for cyclists from Ballina to Wardell and Wardell to Ballina with the alternate route via the Pacific Highway increasing the risk of incidents/accidents involving vehicles and cyclists.
- The larger experienced training bunches of cyclists would avoid using the ferry when riding the circuit from Alstonville – Wardell – Ballina – Alstonville and would use the Pacific Highway which would lead to significant conflict between vehicles and cyclists.
- The route from Ballina via the ferry to Wardell and return provides a low traffic density route for inexperienced and junior cyclists. The imposition of the fee would discourage these cyclists from using this route.
- Cyclists don't always carry their wallets or money on them when they go out for training rides.
- The fee as proposed would raise very little towards the \$200,000 cost of operating the ferry when the costs of administering the fee and ticketing are taken into account. As an example, assuming 100 cyclists use the ferry over a weekend, that would only raise approximately \$150 as not all cyclist do the return trip on the ferry. This would equate to approximately \$7,500 per year which would be less than 4% of the operating costs and probably wouldn't even cover the costs of administering the fee.
- Based on a weight per vehicle, the proposed fee is disproportionately high for bicycles compared to the \$4.40 per trip fee charged for vehicles up to 3 tonnes. An equivalent weight based fee for a bicycle (based on a maximum weight for the bicycle being 10 kg) would be \$0.015 (less than 2 cents per trip).

It would appear that this proposal is designed to discourage cycling on one of the safest on road cycling routes in the Ballina shire.

Regards,

David, Barb and Andrew Smith.

**Sarah Carden**

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**From:** Simone Bennett [s.bennett.19@student.scu.edu.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2012 7:46 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Attn Paul Hickey

Dear Paul,

I am writing to you express my opposition of the proposed cyclist fee on Burns Point Ferry. As a rate payer and recreational cyclist I feel the council should support healthy lifestyles within the community. It is my understanding that in previous years the council has supported a Cycle week with a designated cycle day in the shire, presumably with funds obtained for health promotion. Those undertaking fitness such as cycling and everyday fitness have increased health benefits which in turn save dollars within the health sector and local community . Whilst the council has been proactive in establishing cycle paths, they at many times can pose many safety risks to cyclist and residents , for example: with thin tyres and the large amount of sand regularly over the path at missingham bridge area it becomes unsafe, paths are not wide enough for a person with a dog and a cyclist, a jogger with an ipod on or the elderly in a scooter simply don't hear you coming especially at 20-30 km pr hr. The cycle path leads to kallinga street which links up with the road to the ferry. A bonus of riding over South Ballina is that it has minimal traffic and therefor much safer than the new highway and posing less risk to others. A very large number of cyclists ride over South Ballna including many retired residents and students, with the proposed fee, the \$2 return trip would simply become unaffordable and I'm sure we don't want to see everyone riding down River street on a Saturday morning dodging vehicles and pedestrians. I also would like to know what the difference is to charging a cyclist the fee versus a pedestrian. Thank you for your time in reading of my concerns.  
Simone Bennett

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Tiffany Burgess [tiff\_dan@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 June 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** Fee for bicycle riders on ferry

I oppose the decision for the fee of \$1.00 for bicycle riders to use ferry.  
When people go for a bike ride for exercise they don't think about taking money with them to pay for a ferry service, also children and people who are unable to have a car should not have to pay and be penalised for misfortune.

If this fee does happen school children should be exempt.

I also feel that this has been brought to the attention of the council to penalise bike riders due to the way they ride on the roads, which happens to be a police matter not council matter.

The ferry does not make special trips across the river without a vehicle on it, bike riders must wait for a vehicle so once again they are been penalised with this fee if introduced.

Also I feel if You are going to charge bike riders by rights , should charge pedestrians as well. I believe the fee is high enough now For vehicles to cover for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely,

Tiffany.

**Jay Ellis**

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**From:** Sunrise Cycles [bikes@sunrisecycles.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 June 2012 4:55 PM  
**To:** Ballina Shire Council  
**Subject:** 2012/2013 Fees & Charges Acknowledge Submission - Bicycle Fee for Ferry

General Manager,

The Ballina Bicycle Users Group (BBUG) have been operating as a group in the Ballina Shire area for more than 10 years. We are affiliated with Bicycle NSW and with our 65 members, The President, Secretary and Treasure have an active role in promoting safe cycling in the Northern Rivers Area. We, in partnership with the Ballina Shire Council take part in Bicycle week to encourage the community to enjoy the surroundings of Ballina on a bike. Our scheduled rides are each Saturday and Sunday 52 weeks a year. Each ride is planned and coordinated to suit all levels of cyclists. We have 12 qualified Ride Leaders rostered on for each ride to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience by all.

As a group we are regular cycling user of the Burns Point Ferry and agree that the financial burden on the Council by the ferry is onerous and cyclists should contribute to the upkeep of the service. We believe it is important to point out that a cyclist, walking a bike onto the ferry, as currently required, is legally a pedestrian. A cyclist, walking their bike, has right of way on a pedestrian crossing. Should then a cyclist walking on the Ferry be considered to be a pedestrian and it would appear the proposed fee excludes pedestrians.

Secondly, manoeuvring a large group of cyclist onto the Ferry can be challenging at the best of times. Engaging with the ramps structures and cycling shoes can at times be difficult especially in wet weather. To climb a set of stairs could be even more of a challenge as each cyclist needs to stay with their bike unless the Council intends to install bikes racks for storage. If a fee was to be introduced, perhaps a yearly pass, for individuals or community groups could be issued at a discounted rate.

We agree it is important to maintain the Ferry and the funds needs to come from a source. However we would appreciate it if you considered the above when making your decisions. We also would be open to working with the council to ensure a 'win win' results for both council and cyclists.

We thank-you for the opportunity to respond and look forward to hearing from Council in the near future.

Your sincerely

The President, Committee and Members  
Ballina Bicycle User Group (BBUG)

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