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Submission: To the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

RE:Clarence Valleys Councils Application for an SRV.

Seventy two percent of rates and charges collected go to staff- wages, super etc.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, based on 2011 Census Results, the Socio-Economic Index shows Grafton is in the bottom 8% of all of Australia.

Approximately 20% of the local population exist on the age pension. These ratepayers cannot afford to pay more rates. Many others ratepayers are from a rural workforce with limited finances.

CVC promised to listen to the community but events from April 2016 to now clearly indicate that no matter what the community did or said, Councillors were proceeding with their application for a 26% SRV.

Before any consideration is given to approving rates increases, ratepayers deserve an independent inquiry into council's ability to manage public money.

The recent waste of \$22m on councils' super depot is but one more example from an ever-growing list of poor and wasteful decisions.

CVC claim they are taking steps to reduce their expenditure. Even if councils claim of reducing full time equivalent positions by 27, was true, CVC will still has more staff now than the combined staff from all councils at the time of the forced amalgamation. Seventy two percent of rates and charges collected go to staff- wages, super etc.

CVC is selling of assets at bargain basement prices and renting them back. Money made has been spent on rent. ICAC may need to look at the business dealings of this council.

CVC area roads are a disgrace due to no real capital expenditure in many years. In CVC area we have patches on patches with potholes everywhere. Cars are damaged costing ratepayers many hundreds.

If CVC were to change habits and spend our money wisely and with benefits to the Valley, most would happily pay but this money will only prop up a top heavy, wasteful, directionless council.

I implore you to deny this SRV for CVC.