



Thursday 22nd February 2017

SUBMISSION

IN OPPOSITION TO INTERGRATED PLANING AND PROPOSED 26% SRV

Whilst the Grafton Chamber of Commerce understands the need for the Clarence Valley Council to investigate ways in which it can meet the criteria for the NSW State Governments "Fit for the Future" program and to ensure the sustainability of the Council the Chamber is strongly opposed the proposal by the CVC for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 8% per year for three (3) years (including the estimated rate peg 2%) commencing 2018/19 to 2020/21 (with the cumulative increase of 25.9% to be retained permanently in Council's rate base)

The Grafton Chamber of Commerce is concerned that the proposed SRV as listed above is only a short term bandaid approach to enable the Council to meet "The Fit for the Future" requirements and will have a severe negative economic impact on businesses, ratepayers and the Valley community at large but will not form part of the need for sustainability of the LGA in the longer term.

We, the Chamber, would refer the CVC to the documentation as submitted to Council on two (2) previous occasions outlining the Council activities and the initiatives that have the potential, if explored to the fullest by Council, to achieve the outcome necessary to meet the requirements of "The Fit for the Future" program.

The Chamber is disappointed that there has been no official response received from the Council in relation to the twice submitted document.

We the Chamber would also remind many of the Councillors of their Pre Election commitments to the residents of the Valley that "they would not support any rate rises/increases".

Whilst the Chamber supports the CVC in their many of its endeavours we are very mindful that the CVC and Councillors need to be diligent and understand the ramifications of their decisions and whom they represent.

Yours sincerely

Justin James - President
Grafton Chamber of Commerce

GRAFTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE