



To The

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

The following 5,448 Signatures are from People who know what it means to live in the Clarence Valley Local Government Area.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Clarence has:

Population growth ranging from negative to slow depending upon the area or town,
Progressive Increases in the Median Age which is currently 49 years,
Over a quarter of the Population is aged over 65,
Educational Attainments significantly lower than NSW Averages,
Lower average incomes and higher dependence on welfare when compared to Australia and NSW,
And
A (very) low SEIFA score (particularly evident in Grafton).

Our young people continue to leave in search of employment, higher incomes, and careers.

Of those who stay, employment in the growing aged care and support sectors is significantly above the NSW Average.

The ABS lists the following as being 'Top Responses' on Census Night 2016:

"Aged Care Residential Services = 711 People 4.1% NSW = 2%

Hospitals (except Psychiatric) = 606 People 3.5% NSW 3.5%

Local Government Administration = 486 People 2.8% NSW 1.3%

Supermarket and Grocery Stores = 482 People 2.8% NSW 2.2%

Other Social Assistance Services = 462 People 2.6% NSW 1.6%."

That's Twice the NSW Average for Aged Care,

More than Twice the NSW Average employed by Council,

And significantly Higher Employment rates in Other Social Assistance.

But, We already knew that we were living in God's Waiting Room

And Clarence Council are massively over staffed

We know that the Median Age for Iluka is 62 Years and Rising,

We know that nearly 1 in 5 Local People exist on the Age Pension,

In 2011 in the Clarence LGA:

8,210 People were in receipt of Centrelink Age Pensions.

By 2016: That number had grown to 9,577 People.

That's an Increase of 1,367 People dependent on the Aged Care Pension

During the same time period that the Clarence LGA increased by only 1,006 People.

We know the Median Weekly Household Income for People Aged Over 15 years on Census Night was \$910 in the Clarence and \$1,486 for NSW

We know the same 2016 Census shows Average People per Household in the Clarence is 2.3

We even know that Our chances of Dying from Preventable Causes is much higher than for the rest of NSW.

We have a youth suicide rate that has been reported Internationally,

And a Hospitalisation Rate for Self-Harm that is Twice the National Average.

We know we live in an Area with High rates of Domestic Violence and High Crime Rates.

We know that the most recent Data shows Unemployment in the Clarence is

Above the Australian Average, the NSW Average and Rural NSW Average

And Growing at a time when State Infrastructure Development is at an all-time high from Coffs Harbour to Ballina.

We know all that: We Live Here.

We have watched Councils Staff Numbers Increase since the Forced Amalgamation of 2004,

We have had Our Suggestions for how to Improve Councils Financial Situation

Rejected time and time again.

We have watched as Council has provided Misleading Spin rather than Genuine Consultation with regard to Councils Application for a 26% SRV Rates Rise.

We have watched as Council approved the mass distribution of a sheet showing a 10 year time line to 'explain' 3 Years of SRV increases,

We have watched as Council have partnered the Daily Examiners misleading claims that the impact of a 26% Rates Rise was 'only \$19 to \$50 per year for Residential Rates' (in 3 stories) based on the Current Financial Years Urban Residential Rates of \$1,081 (which is higher than the Residential Rates Council supplied to IPART),

We have watched as Councils Communications Co-ordinator David Bancroft approved a DEX Video claiming to 'Explain' the 26% Rates Rise but having a significant number of errors that Councils Communications Co-ordinator was aware of.

We have watched as Council continues to spend Over Half a Million Dollars per year on Advertising.

An Advertising Budget that favours the Daily Examiner over the Community Paper

And we know that David Bancroft was previously an Editor for the Daily Examiner.

In June of 2017:

We have watched as Councils Mayor told Local People at a Chamber of Commerce Meeting

That Council would Not consider Local Peoples Objections to a 26% SRV Rates Rise

And that Councils 'Consultation' was something Council:

"Needed to do that (asking for Submissions) to tell IPART we had Public Consultation."

We listened as Councillors told us that Office of Local Government Representatives at a March 2017 Meeting told them that it was either a Rates Rise or an Administrator.

Local People have overwhelmingly rejected Councils Application for this 26% SRV

Not only can't we afford it

But we realise that Councils SRV reaches its maximum Increase

At about the same time as the Fly In/Fly Out Workers employed on the Highway By-pass and New Bridges go home

And the Highway By-Pass opens.

That By-pass is one of the furthest from a town on Australia's Eastern Seaboard,

And has been the subject of NO Public Meetings.

The RMS have identified distance from a town to the By-pass and Community preparation are significant factors in determining the impacts of any By-pass.

What Council has proposed is a recipe for failure in this LGA.

Unless Council are prepared to return to their core functions, improve their management of Public Money, and decrease their huge staff numbers:

Administration is a better alternative than further taxes on an already poor population with a weak local economy.

Yours Sincerely,

Annie Dodd

WITH REGARD TO CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCILS 2017 SRV PROPOSAL

WE, the undersigned, call upon IPART to refuse the Special Rate Variation sought by Clarence Valley Council.

WE live in a low socioeconomic area and Residents and Businesses do Not have the capacity to pay for Councils Special Rates Variation

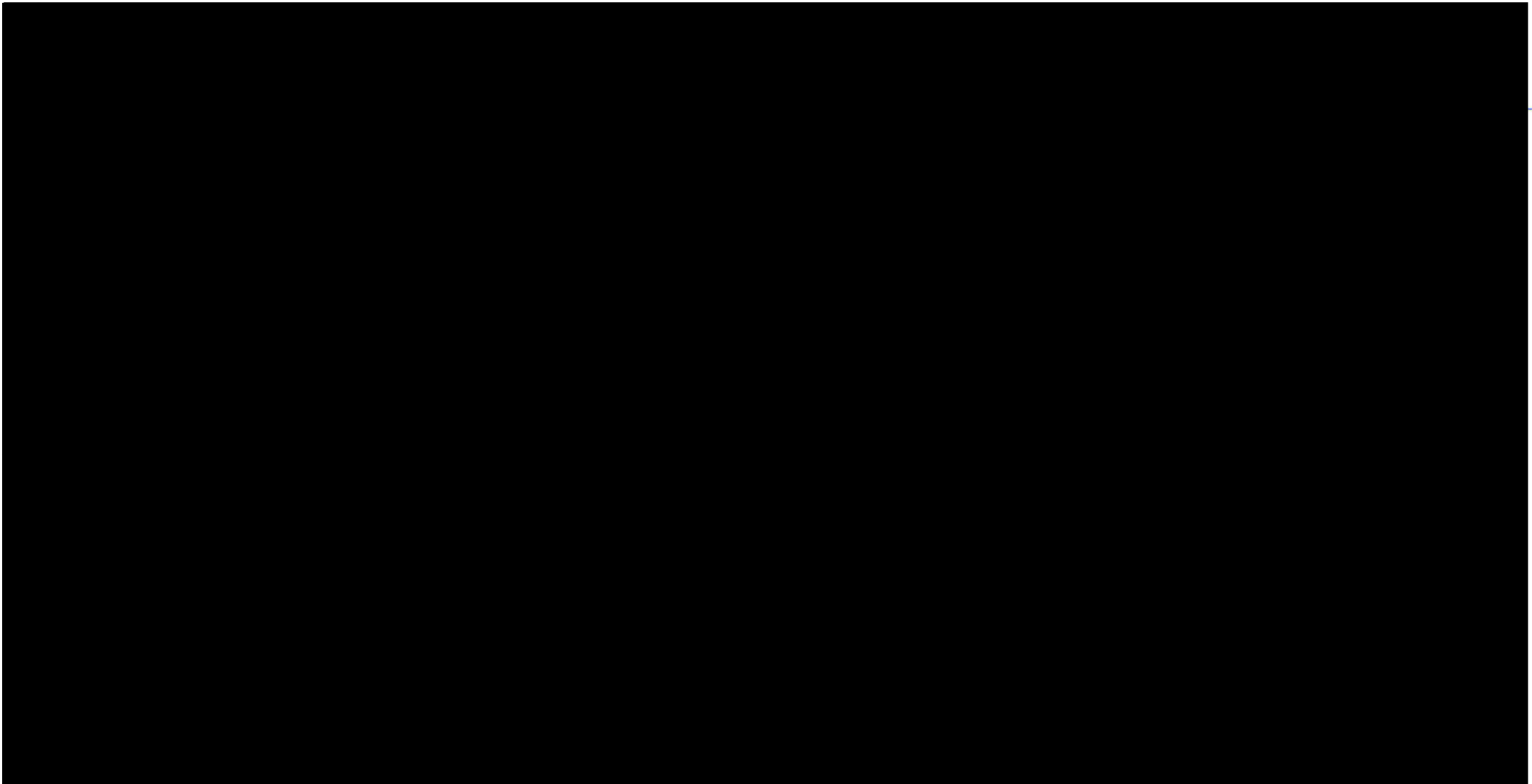
WE note that Clarence Valley Council has Rejected Alternatives to Special Rates Increases.

WE note that Clarence Valley Council has poorly explained the impact of the proposed Rates Increases on the Local Community.

NAME

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Additional signatures for the Clarence Valley No SRV Petition
Date: Sunday, March 11, 2018 8:43:26 PM
Attachments: [Scan_0001.pdf](#)

Dear IPART,

Please attach and record these additional 15 signatures to the my Petition 'With Regard To Clarence Valley Councils 2017 SRV Proposal'.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Dodd

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Please Add To Annie Dodds Petition - Clarence Valley Council SRV [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, March 09, 2018 6:01:05 PM
Attachments: [Signatures.pdf](#)

Attached please find a PDF file consisting of 4 signed pages with regard to the special rate variation sought by the CVC.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: emporium@emporium31.com.au
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Clarence Valley Council 2018 SRV Application
Date: Sunday, March 11, 2018 8:23:43 PM

Dear IPART,

I can NOT afford a 25.97% SRV Rates rise.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Dodd

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]