

Author name: [REDACTED]

Date of submission: Friday, 19 February 2016

Submission:

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2016 7:16 PM

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: Submission re Clarence Valley Council SRV

My husband and I, ratepayers of Clarence Valley Council (CVC), wish to urge the rejection or significant lowering of that council's recent application for a 6.5% SRV over each of the next 5 years – a resultant increase of 37% in rates. This amount is so out of step with expected income increases within the council area, that it is laughable. In our case, being a Yamba ratepayer, our already higher valued property will result in an unserviceable rate bill, even after a modest increase. Similarly our Yamba neighbours expect to find their residency unsustainable – particularly if on low or fixed incomes.

Since amalgamation in 2004 we have been promised efficiencies of scale which have not yet been realized. In fact quite the opposite, we have seen an imbalance in service provision across the council area, unreflective of rate yield.

Council still runs, and talks of expanding, an art gallery and recently built a large Regional Library in Grafton – quite contrary to current trends in information sharing and retrieval. Perhaps more attention should have been given to 'roads and roads related infrastructure renewals and maintenance' for which the eventual 37% SRV is requested. Surely these are not unexpected council expenses – rather the core business with which they have always been tasked.

I understand that there was a submission period within the council application process – but found the notifications and choice of dates within busy or holiday parts of the calendar to be most uninviting of real community consultation. If this submission is not of a suitable format – please advise how I should resubmit.

In conclusion, continuing inconsistent work practices within the CVC indicate more scope for savings efficiencies by council better examining and getting its own house in order before increasing the rates on ours!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]