

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 March 2016 5:21 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Rates increase

Dear sir/madam, Clarence Valley Council is one of the twelve councils across NSW to apply for a special rate variation (SRV). The independent pricing an regulatory tribunal (IPART). In mid Febuary 2016 IPART released details of the twelve councils applications to increase their general revenue above the rate peg in and or from 2016-17. The rate peg for 2016-17 is set at 1.8%. Clarence valley council has applied for a 37% cumulative increase over five years to be retained permantly in the rates base for maintence of roads an renewal of related infrastructure.

Clarence valley council has recently conducted a very expensive survey of local rate payers an it seems their only motive in doing this is to create an illusion that they are genuinely consulting with the community so that they can claim when they place their formal application for the rate increase with IPART . At a recent information session in Maclean a Mr Bill Day of Yamba spoke to a senior council member who informed Mr Day that the survey was " statistically invalid" that the results could not an would not be statistically analysed or submitted to IPART. Council staff advised that only statistical information of feed back from the community ,that CVC will furnish to IPART will be a telephone survey from 500 calls out if a population of more than 50,000 residents.

Incredibly only people who claim to have read the CVC brochure supplied as part of the CVC survey will be permitted to complete an be included in the telephone survey for statistical analysis an transmission to IPART.

The CVC hope that the local people included in IRIS research telephone survey will be influenced by claims the general manager has made as part of the councils survey that the increase will be the equivalent to a cup of coffee a fortnight or that the council staff pay rates too, failing to mention that the staff responsible for this campaign earn more than \$200,000 per year.

In his survey support documentation the general manager even calculates the potential general rate increases across all the items included in the annual rates notice which includes utility service chargers such as garbage,sewer an water.Unfortunately he fails to advise that these utility service chargers are not controlled by any rate pegging limits an rise annually at the discretion of elected councillors.There will be a council election next year an he does not know who will be elected, yet he speaks on their behalf. The CVC hope that the community of rate payers and local house renters dont care that they have not been given any background at all on the list of CVC services that the council has listed as "discretionary services" in their survey including items such as , community care services not funded by other levels of government when such local services not funded by other forms of government are fullyfunded by local users of these services.Why does CVC intend to cut a service that costs them nothing?

In our local free paper the Coastal View, friday the 4th of March 2016, it was ten years to the day the Dale James boulevard cafecomplex was engulfed in flames, in all four businesses an three residences were destroyed. This area was a big part of the old Maclean and ten years later the land remains unused despite its prime location an a number of local opportunites to put it to use.At the time of the fire Mr James was reported to sell the building for \$1.1 million but as the contract had not been exchanged the sale fell through. Ten years on Mr James said his plan to redevelop the site had been frustrated because he waited on CVC decisions on nearby supermarket an Mc Lachlan Park revamp. After years of trying to work with CVC Mr James said 'at one stage he offered to sell the land to CVC but they never got back to me.It turned out to be a complete debacle".

CVC inability to fulfill its commitment to the people of the low is a completer Clarence disgrace. The development of the non existent Maclean supermarket,the revamp of Mc Lachlan park an three differant consultants on top of the Butterworth plan.The list goes on an CVC still dont seem to be getting anywhere.Now CVC intends to manipulate an mislead its ratepayers with its current campaign to inflict a 37% general rates increase on this community.

There are many things that are inadequate with CVC an there are many holes in the councils campaign to inflict this 37% general rate increase on this community.What is very clear is that CVC cannot be trusted to convey local ratepayers opinion to the Independent Pricing an Regulatory Tribunal .This is not good enough.As Bill Day of Yamba stated in the Coastal Views 4th of March 2016 "every single person an every concerned community group must communicate their opinion direct to IPART.The only way to fight this deception is by people

power"

Douglas
Chapman

[REDACTED]
Cummins

Yours in hope Bruce

[REDACTED]
Maxwell John