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Submission: On 2nd July, 2005 the Mayor of Coffs Harbour, Cr. Keith Rhoades expressed in the local newspaper his disappointment at the NSW govt's decision to reject the council's request for a SRV. His reasoning was that subsequently the city's future social and cultural development would be affected including the ability to attract major sporting events. Since this article we have endured the impact of GFC and rates have been aligned with rate pegging, however, contrary to Cr. Rhoades prediction, the city has moved forward through substantial govt grants and CHCC revenue collection. We have a new hospital, a major extension to Hogbin Dr., an upgraded water supply which will cater for the city's needs for the next 50 years, a GP Super clinic, skate park, further development of the city centre mall, new retail outlets such as Bunnings, Coles, Masters, a Senior citizens centre, Jetty foreshores development as well as the continued opening of new residential areas. The list goes on. We have been home to the Wallabies, City v Country rugby league matches, NRL games, Matildas 2008 Beijing olympics qualifier, FIA World Rally Championships, one day cricket matches, National Touch Championships, Aust. Oz Tag championships, the Ella Indigenous Rugby tournament, Australian Surf Festival, Nab Challenge-Swans v Lions, Coffs Coast Festival of cycling and the FFA National Youth Championships. As well to name a few cultural events we host the Annual Busker's Festival, Collectors Fair, Coffs Coast Out, Sawtell Chilli Festival, Curry Fest, various musicals and the Coffs Harbour Racing Carnival. This cross-section does not reflect a City that is lacking the infrastructure to attract 'future major sporting events' or to be regressing socially and culturally. Coffs Harbour has high unemployment as well as being an area known for low income earners and rising pensioner numbers. The residents are already feeling the strain of increased commodity prices and essential services. A 16.5% increase on the general income component of our rates in addition to the 7.95% already approved by IPART will only add to this financial burden. In addition, the flow on effect to renters will be significant. We are already seeing increasing rates on rental properties and some residents are exploring possibilities to retain their family home. They do not want to downsize or leave the burden of a reverse mortgage to their children but as in Sawtell for example some residents are paying between \$3000.00- \$4000.00 / annum in council rates on 480.0 m2 blocks with no ocean views or curb and guttering! This SRV will affect pensioners, retirees and young families and is the real SOCIAL and CULTURAL issue that CHCC should be addressing. The council have ignored an overwhelming majority vote against the SRV in response to their Funding Our Future document, a written petition of over 1400 signatures opposing the increase, and representations through media outlets. Thank you for taking time to consider my objection and the social implications that the proposed SRV will have on Coffs Harbour.