

10/03/16

Jane Beeby


To Whom it Concerns

IPART SUBMISSION RE: CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL RATE INCREASES

I live in Maclean NSW, and as a ratepayer I am very concerned about an increase of 37% by the Clarence Valley Council in our rates.

I am currently paying one thousand dollars more than a rate paying friend living in Adelaide. We as a community are already in the top 1/3rd of average Residential Rates for All of NSW, and we are in one of the poorest Local Government Areas as measured using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) analysis. Down river in Maclean we will suffer a double increase with rates and rates levelling even though most services are 43 km away in Grafton.

The capacity to pay such mammoth rate rises will certainly cost many families their homes and cause businesses to close their doors, leading to further unemployment in this area.

I would like to point out that one of the council staff in a public meeting over rate rises made a very misleading comment by referring to the rates rise as no more than the cost of a cup of coffee a week. I don't have the pleasure of being able to afford that or to eat out.

I would also like it known that the CVC seems to be wasting money like they don't have a \$150 million dollar debt. I have seen countless consultants and planners paid for McLachlan Park in Maclean alone. This was to make up for the selling off of our only open space, Cameron Park, in the centre of Maclean some years ago. Still nothing has been done. Then there is the proposed Super Depot we cannot afford, costing ratepayers approximately \$17.4 million. One of the councillors tried to sell unused assets rather than increase rates, he was voted against.

In my opinion the General Manager and council need to be investigated and sacked.

Yours sincerely

Jane Beeby