

From: John [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 March 2016 2:54 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Submission to IPART with regard to Clarence Valley Council's SRV

To IPART
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Submission to IPART with regard to Clarence Valley Council's SRV

Council's SRV is way too high. Even over 5 years, a 37% increase represents a crippling blow to a small rural area with a very low SEIFA index who already are in the 1/3rd highest of All NSW Councils when it comes to Average Residential Rates.

Most of the people pushing this huge SRV increase have annual incomes in excess of \$100,000.00 per year. In fact the Council Directors and General Manager All have incomes in excess of \$200,000.00 per year.

From their personal point of view, this probably does represent an affordable and acceptable means for balancing Council's books.

What they have little understanding of, are the difficulties of life faced by People on 15 to 30 thousand dollars a year which is the everyday reality for approximately half of the local population.

Council could have sold unused assets to make up far more money than the SRV will provide.

The former Deputy Mayor, Andrew Baker, researched such a proposal for \$40,000,000.00 of such assets late last year. Only 4 Councillors voted for it. There was Not even an adoption of an intent to further investigate the proposal.

What Council have proposed instead is the 37% Rates Rise Plus a 53.7% Increase in their Revenue from User Charges and Fees over the next 5 years, Plus a reduction in services (which they have yet to advise which ones), Plus increases in efficiencies (to quote from the GM at that Council Meeting: "Council have not previously had efficiency savings because Council has Not asked for them!!!"), Plus, at least, 5 Million Dollars in Asset Sales (with No upper limit imposed) where ALL the Proceeds will go to Council's proposed new Depot construction.

To claim that Our Council appear to have taken the easiest route and have not sufficiently explored alternatives is an understatement.

Such lazy thinking probably underscores Councils extreme \$150,000,000.00 debt and their decision to adopt 'generational' and 'interest only payment' loans.

It should also be noted that even with Council's adoption of the SRV, they would still NOT be fit for the future. This is admitted in Councils own documents and has been mentioned at Council Meetings.

Our Council needs to learn to live within its means.
Slugging local residents with ever higher taxes is ruining our local economy and encouraging Our Council to build ever more monuments that We, the People who live here, neither want or need.

Only IPART now have the ability to stop this terrible imposition on Our Local People.
Please do so.

John Hagger