

I do not support Clarence Valley Councils (CVC) application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV). I believe that savings can be made within the current organization through a critical analysis of day to day operations aimed at creating a more efficient workforce. I suggest that there is a disconnect between management and staff and that this has perpetuated a non-accountable culture within council staff, creating a workforce dominated by low morale and a lack of pride in providing service to ratepayers. CVC needs to focus on developing the true values of the Clarence Valley and step away from its hierarchical, non-progressive approach to managing the shire. By true values of Clarence Valley, I mean its environment, its culture, its proximity to SE QLD as a tourist destination and its lifestyle potential. Creating an innovative, forward thinking shire open to change and new ideas should create a sense of stewardship to not only ratepayers, but staff as well. My greatest fear is that an SRV is granted, promoting inefficiency and allowing the CVC to wallow in another bail out. CVC should look within its own organisation to solve problems because it is not fair to expect ratepayers to bear the brunt of poor financial management.