

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

9th March 2018

IPART

PO Box K35

Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240



Objection to Clarence Valley Council for Special Rate Variation

This letter confirms my email objection dated 6th March 2018.

As part owner of property [REDACTED] (Property Identification Number [REDACTED]) I, John Bliss Miller hereby lodge my strong objection to Clarence Valley Council's application for consideration of Section 508A SRV 8% over 3 years for the following reasons:-

1. Council has one of the highest debt to revenue ratios in the state and has not demonstrated any attempt to curb spending or pay down debt. It has continually looked for rate increases to support its inefficiencies and careless spending regimes. Witness its Grafton Central Depot fiasco which has so far cost millions of dollars of waste on an absurd and poorly researched investment. Our Angourie rates have increased by 30.54% from 2012 to 2017.
2. Council's plant and machinery inventory is inefficiently utilised (Approx 60 to 70% I estimate) and is unnecessarily costly when private enterprise contracted plant and machinery (approx. 85 to 90% estimated) should be utilised for better efficiency and cost effectiveness.
3. With a heavily unionised and bloated workforce council boasts its pride in being the region's largest employer at an exorbitant cost to ratepayers. I strongly object to its complement of arrogant, overpaid and inept administrative council officers who appear to override the elected councillors at every turn, which councillors appear to slavishly enact the officers' slightest whims.
4. It is recognised that IPART does not have authority to hire and fire, but a recommendation from IPART to the appropriate minister to sack council and appoint an administrator in view of obvious inefficiencies, ineptitude and irresponsible spending would carry a lot of weight.
5. A fundamental business requirement is to operate within available revenue resources. Council has repeatedly failed to achieve this but has continually sought rate increases to support its inefficiencies.
6. I trust this objection will be numbered in your consideration to decline council's application.

[REDACTED]

John B Miller