

Author name: K. Doyle

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Submission: I am a rate payer of the Clarence valley council and have recently been informed by someone other than our council that there is an intended 8% rate increase for next year.

There has been no community consultation of this, that has been sent with by mail, public announcement or media.

One would assume that any responsible council would send out info and consultation of such significant increases to rates and also outline what it is they actually plan do with the funds they collect from us.

We already have high rates for our area and most struggle to pay, as Grafton is a very low socio-economic area. Shops are regularly closing more than ones opening. Two business's just in the last week have closed, these business's had been here for decades. Rate payers and renters can not afford this increase. Please do not approve this rate increase of 8%, we can't afford it.