

From: kerrie gibson
To: [Local Government Mailbox](#)
Subject: Clarence Valley Council Rate Rise
Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018 9:48:27 PM

Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal.

Dear Members,

The Clarence Valley Council has applied for a Special Rate Variation of 8% for the next three years, equaling a 26% increase.

The C.V.C. has mismanaged funds to a ridiculous level. Their cost blow outs are hard to believe.

The C.V.C. sold a prime riverfront business building for \$550,000.00 and are now spending \$900,000.00 of a Federal Government grant (to be used for a boardwalk) to beautify the area around the sold property - WHY ?

The C.V.C. decided to build a "Super Depot " next to the South Grafton High School , only to "remember", after commencement, that it was full of Asbestos. It cost a fortune of \$7.5 MILLION of tax payers money to remove 72,000 Tonnes of contaminated dirt. Why build next to a school, which will suffer long term effects of truck arrivals and departures, after the interruption to their schooling during construction, when more accessible and CLEANER sites were available ? Another waste of our rates.

The C.V.C has stated we have the ability to pay as no one has accessed the Hardship Policy. Most of the Clarence Valley residents only found out there was one in the last few weeks. We also found out it is a humiliating public exercise that even requires the names of your children. One elderly resident, who went to apply for the Hardship Policy, walked out in humiliation and tears at the way she was treated at reception.

In the 2016 Census, data shows the Household Median Income for the Clarence at \$910 and for N.S.W \$1486. The gap between the Clarence Valley and the rest of N.S.W, calculated as a percentage concerning the Median Household income is - (minus)63.3%. Using this information as a basis for the rate rise only proves we should have a rate decrease.

. The C.V.C. has more staff than any other Council in its Group. Incompetence or jobs for the boys ?

A petition, signed by local residents AGAINST the rate rise, brought in over 5,400 signatures. A clear indication that many of us DO NOT WANT and CAN NOT AFFORD this rate rise.

The C.V.C. has said "its only the price of a cup of coffee once a week", I can not afford a cup once a fortnight when I have to see my Doctor.

Can you please recommend an investigation into Councils frivolous expenditure before granting this rate rise. Assure yourselves that this rate rise is not only necessary but essential, and if you cant, please consider recommending an Administrator.

We simply can not continue to afford this Council.

Thank you in advance,

Kerrie Gibson
Resident and pensioner |
