

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 14 March 2016 4:21 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: Submission to IPART with regard to Clarence Valley Council's SRV

Dear IPART

I am writing to lodge my objection to Clarence Valleys application for a ridiculous rate rise.

Since amalgamation, this incompetent council has gotten further and further into debt. I believe it is currently around \$150 million and they plan to spend another \$17million on an unwanted super depot in and unsuitable site.

Their mismanagement is clearly at fault and no amount of rate rises will fix this.

This valley is in the top 1/3 of average Residential Rates for NSW. The people in this valley cannot afford this rise.

I barely make a taxable income and already am struggling with current rates.

Council have lied to us about it only costing a cup of coffee per week in rises.

They have wasted over \$300,000 on outside consultants on a failed project for Maclean waterfront.

The Mayor, General Manager and Staff have totally disregarded what this community wants.

I also believe our Mayor has a conflict of interest, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
314 Mobile Phones that we pay for and 182 vehicles provided to staff. Is simply not affordable for the ratepayers.

The same council voted against councillor Andrew Bakers plans to sell unused assets, rather than increasing our rates.

Regards

Norman W Gray
Concerned Resident

[REDACTED]
As an absolute minimum, include our incredibly poor capacity to pay for this mammoth rates rise.

If you want to go in to more detail, include Council's misleading BS about cups of coffee a fortnight and the absence of explanation about the impact of such a tax on local People's discretionary income and the ripple or multiplier effects this causes as local shops and business have reduced sales and how this then results in higher unemployment.

You might like to mention that we are already in the top 1/3rd of average Residential Rates for All of NSW and that we are in one of the poorest Local Government Areas as measured using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) analysis.

You could add that our average Residential Rates are already over \$1040 per year and that they have been climbing for many years.

Perhaps you might like to comment on Council's insane waste. The 17.04 Million dollar funding proposed for the Depot we neither need nor can afford at the moment at a site which is simply inappropriate.

Those 314 Cell Phones We pay for and the 182 Vehicles we provide to staff (yet Council refuse to provide details of) might get a mention.

Council's \$150 Million dollars of Debt might also get a mention.

How about adding a few lines about how Council voted against supporting Andrew Baker's plans to sell unused assets rather than increasing Our rates.

You could even add a comment about how People living down river suffer the double whammy of rates rises and rates levelling.

However You want to write your letter, please do so.