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Submission: I am a 72 year old pensioner and find it hard even now to make ends meet and put food on the table. The Clarence Valley is full of people like me with others even more worse off. My husband and I have been quite ill for the past 7 years so between doctors, specialists, medication and many surgeries life just gets more difficult each day. Sometimes I would just love to have a decent meal or go out for one on my birthday instead of making meals last 2 days or just feeding my husband the little meat that we can afford and me just having a piece of fruit. The last time I went out for my birthday was my 60th, 12 years ago. I live out of town and off road and have few services and no water so the extra rates council want are not going to benefit us at all. I don't use the services there are now so will not notice if any of them will have to go. For the past 8 months I have been mostly housebound as for much of this time I have been unable to walk. I hope you will consider what I am trying to say and help us Pensioners have a life as we are a large part of the low socioeconomic population that encompasses the Clarence Valley and this rate rise will make life impossible for so many. I moved here to escape Domestic Violence after being at home raising my kids for 27 years. After a while I found a casual job that turned to part time but only working for 11 years gave me very little Super to retire on at age 67. Council continues to waste money and create debt and I have seen very few changes in the 22 years I have lived here apart from amalgamations, having been under 3 different councils here. If these rate rises keep on going up, honestly I don't know what I will do as I won't lose my pride, which is all I have left by declaring hardship to this council. I am late paying my quarterly rates again because of other bills that had to be paid. Please help us by rejecting Councils SRV application as I am saying NO to it. I told them that in their survey too.