

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Local Government Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** RE: SRV in Clarence Shire  
**Date:** Monday, 5 March 2018 3:54:09 PM

---

re SRV in Clarence Valley

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

It is good to hear that Council is striving valiantly to ensure it is Fit For The Future as they are required to do. Council members have been voted in to represent all the people living in this shire, whether they are land owners or not, business operators or otherwise.

Council tells us that they are making economies on the running of the council. They keep closing services, yet they want us to pay more. But they do not seem to cut down on staffing, cars, phones etc. . We wonder why rates are so high in such a low socio-economic area, but we cannot know what council does, because we are not told.

The age-pension is meant to keep the wolf from the door. We own a very modest house in the residential area of Yamba, yet, I find it difficult to pay the rates and all the other fees and charges that the Council demands.

IF, as you suggest, the rates go up in more than the stipulated peg-rate, then we will have yet another difficult decision to make. My husband is too old to do maintenance on the house, or to fix our old car or visit a doctor or a specialist because money does not stretch that well; and to an 80+ year old, doctors and specialists are as important as bread and butter, and cost a lot more! So, no relief for pain, so we cannot go out at all, and depression is never far away and who would blame us if we think life like this is just not worth living.

These days most of our friends are the 70, 80 and over. Believe me, the preceding paragraph describes what many of us oldies think. Unfortunately many of us have been taught to not speak of depressing subjects, but we do . . . amongst ourselves. I am hoping that you will get the benefit of an insight into what is happening to many older residents.

So please, please, understand that we cannot economise on rates like we do on other things. Many came to this beautiful place for a contented retirement, not for this frustrated living on the edge.

If our council truly cannot find ways to manage the budget, then maybe someone else can. Do the right thing by the residents and allow that to happen, work towards curbing the excess wastage we hear so much about, about working towards more jobs for young ones and living within our means as each of us has to do.

Do not punish the residents – especially the sick and the aged – for inefficiencies in the running of the council.

I can NOT pay any more on the rates or the services you provide.

Thank you for reading,

Mr & Mrs R. Micallef  
[REDACTED]