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Date of submission: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Submission: -----Original Message-----

From: Sharryn Usher [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 13 March 2016 4:45 PM

To: IPART Mailbox

Subject: Submission to iPart with regard to Clarence Valley Council's SRV

To Whom it may concern,

The community of the Clarence Valley CANNOT afford a 37% rates rise.

Our community is in regional NSW and represents a large percentage of people over 60 years of age and many families from the low socio - economic group.

To confirm this point, Clarence Valley has been identified as one of the poorest Local Government Areas as measured using the Australian Bureau of Statistics Socio Economic Index For Areas (SEIFA) analysis.

An increase in rates to this extent will be such a huge impost on our community members and many will struggle to meet this commitment.

Reduced spending capacity will impact on our local economy and local businesses will suffer as a result. This added stress that an increase in rates will cause will add to the already fragile mental health of many in our community.

It is my understanding our current rates are already in the top third of average Residential Rates for All of NSW.

Please consider these points raised carefully before condemning our community members to a rate rise few can afford

Yours truly

Sharryn Usher