

To IPART

With regard to Clarence Valley Councils Application for a 26% SRV

Not only can I Not afford the increase but neither can most of the other people in the Clarence Valley The new rise will apply to my home rates and my business rate .

My business is a small take away food shop, If rates rise my rent will increase and it is easy enough to say put your prices up to cover the cost , As a councilor suggested to me. But people in the valley cant afford to pay for higher food so my only option will end up being to close the shop and leave

Increased Rates would see a lot of small business in this area to closed

At present the current Business Rates Average in Grafton and South Grafton is about \$5,000 Per Year

26% above that is so over the top

During the community consultation phase of the SRV process it was became obvious to me from may 2017 that nothing the community did or said would divert council from applying for a rates rise of 26%

There were petitions, written submissions, meetings But the outcome was always the same Council even refused to adopt any of the ideas that would save money

Councils also circulated material claiming the rates rise would result in a \$19 to \$50 per year increase for residential rates As current residential urban rates are about \$1,100pa that outcome is totally impossible

Our town and surrounds are not rich, we have a large number of unemployment and homeless. If the rate raise happens a lot of people will not be able to afford to rent What happens to them, then.

Thank you for taking the time and listening

Thanks,

Teresa Eggins