

Author name: W. Farlow

Date of submission: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Submission:

From:

Sent: Friday, 11 March 2016 10:19 AM

To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: CVC rate increase

I would like to state my objection to the Clarence Valley Council's proposed 37% rate increase. This is way beyond what many ratepayers in our area can afford especially as the area is a popular retirement destination. On a personal basis I am already paying \$4400 a year in rates to live in my own home. This increase would be devastating for my family. When we bought here we did so because we could not afford to buy in Yamba but soaring property values at Angourie has seen our rates escalate at unreasonable proportions and causing financial strains on my family. We built our family home here and now we are being rated out due to many city people buying up properties for holiday letting which we don't want to see happen to our home. Yah I know some say sell up and buy elsewhere but this is a totally unfair and unreasonable option as we raised our family here, this is where our family has roots and where we all come together.

In my opinion many of the CVC's financial woes began with amalgamation of the Maclean Shire Council and Grafton Council with the Maclean Council in the Black and Grafton in the red.... but that is a long story. Since this time though the Lower Clarence has been paying to the benefit of Grafton. Again only an opinion but it is apparent that an IMPROVEMENT IN COUNCIL MANAGEMENT leading to GREATER EFFICENCIES is what is required to make our council more sustainable. Surely the answer can't be to raise rates every time there is some financial problem council faces. CVC needs BETTER MANAGEMENT after all the General Manager is paid well above \$200,000 p.a. Please I beg that you may be able to have some impact on this situation for the benefit of many local citizens.

THANKYOU Wayne and Donna Farlow and KIDS