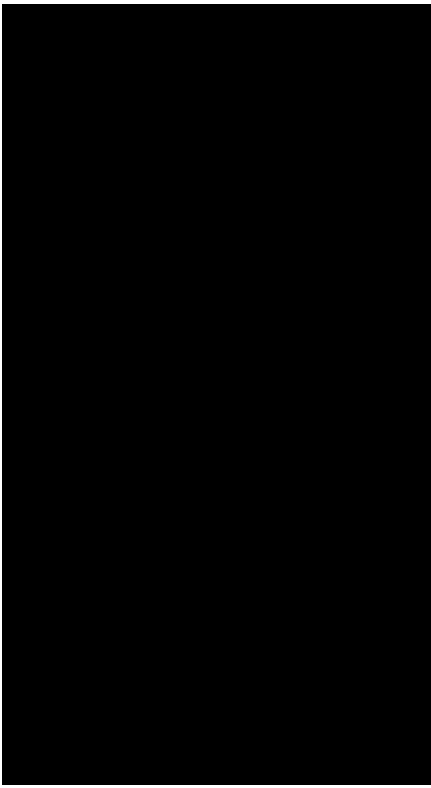


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Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 January 2018 1:55 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

To- General Manager Clarence Valley Council.

I would prefer that the \$176 000 mentioned as the difference between a 2.3% and 2.5% Rate Peg maximum at Councils December Ordinary meeting.
Not be included as part of Councils SRV 26% Rate Rise Application to Ipart.

To ensure there is NO misunderstanding re my submission, Please note;- I strongly oppose this SRV rise.

[REDACTED].

Rate rises between \$19 and \$50 per year increase I do not believe this [REDACTED]

The new councillors have let the C/V residents down.

IMO, I would like to see an administrator come in and clean up councils mess. Things could not get any worse for people of the valley.
Services being cut, while council continue with the so called super depot we did not want, and could not afford.

Regards
[REDACTED].

Sent from my iPad

Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 January 2018 1:16 PM
To: _Councillors; Andrew Baker; Council Email
Subject: Special Rate Variation

I would like to express again my utter disdain to the proposed Special Rate Variation by the Clarence Valley Council.

In 2017 I met at some Councillors and the Mayor at the street meeting in Maclean.

I approached [REDACTED] and told him about our high rates on a regular sized residential block near the main beach in Yamba.

I said that with the Special Rate Variation our rates would be \$10 451 and his reaction was that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and he would have to check!!!!

We currently pay \$8800 and with the increase it will certainly be \$10451 before other rates are added such as water.

Our property number is [REDACTED] so you may like to use your rate calculator to check to see that this is correct.

This means that we will be paying well over \$200 per week just to live in our house. Why should I pay CVC this amount???

We have been retired for almost 7 years.

Could Clarence Valley Councillors please tell us how we will be able to still stay in our home?

It is morally wrong that we currently pay 4X more in rates than properties with an UCV higher than here, in Harbourside properties in Sydney. If you would like proof of this I can certainly provide figures and places. There are certainly 9 houses close by which would be similar to us in Yamba.

What will you do to assist people like us?

Will you put a cap on the rates?

How would you feel if your elderly parents were in this situation?

I also object very strongly to the false articles in the DEX regarding the rate rise and the interview whereby it was said that the rise would be minimal and gave the figures for the maximum rise....clearly misinforming the public.

I would certainly not be able to sleep at night if I was a Councillor and knew about the impact that this action will have on ordinary people.

We have had this property in the family for 85 years and I have lived in all the 3 houses which have been on the same block and sadly this situation seems unlikely to continue.

Please reconsider the SRV...this increase will not fix your problems..only increase the wrath and contempt of the public.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 January 2018 11:02 AM
To: Council Email
Subject: Special Rate Variation

To Whom it May Concern...

I would like to once again submit my very strong objection to the proposed SRV.

Using the Council supplied rates estimator my property - No. [REDACTED] shows that my general rates will increase by \$1505 by the end of the 3 year period if the SRV is approved.

I would urge you to see for yourself my property figures as some Councillors do not believe this to be the case and [REDACTED] has accused me of "fudging my figures".

Having retired 6 years ago this amount of money is totally unacceptable.

When the additional council charges are then added, my total charges will be \$10451 as can be seen on the rates estimator....and this is before water use charges, which are billed separately.

This equates to over \$200 per week.

The UCV of our regular sized residential block is high being beachside but people like myself cannot keep paying these exorbitant amounts.

I also object to Council trying to claim an additional \$176 000 above the Rate Peg for the purpose of surfacing unsealed roads. (2.3% increased to the 2.5% maximum), as part of Council's SRV rates rise.

The current estimate of \$600 000 per kilometre equates to only 290 metres of road which would be surfaced!

This should not be added to the IPART submission!

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Submission Integrated Planning and Reporting documents

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 January 2018 8:13 AM
To: Council Email
Subject: Submission Integrated Planning and Reporting documents

To
General Manager, Clarence Valley Council
council@clarence.nsw.gov.au

Submission Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents
Including Councils Special Rates Variation.

Please Attach The Following 3 Items To My Submission (below):

1. COUNCILLORS CLAIMS REGARDING 290 METRES OF ROAD ARE DISINGENUOUS

It is difficult to conclude that Councils December 12th Claim,
That Council Needs to make a SRV claim for the \$176,000 difference between a Rate Peg of 2.5% and 2.3%,
Is anything more than a money grab.
Councillors' Unanimous Endorsement of SRV Item 15.241/17
States that the \$176,000 is to be used for "Road Pavements and Surfacing".
Adopting Councils surfacing of unsealed roads cost estimates from Page 170 of Councils November Ordinary Minutes:
"current estimate of \$600,000 per kilometre"
Suggests Councillors Unanimous December Endorsement of using \$176,000 from Councillors application for a 26% SRV Rates Rise
Yields a Total of 290 metres of road!!!
Councillor's Unanimous Decision to Include the SRV Motion at Decembers Ordinary Meeting with Councillors Block Motions further
weakens any claims by Council that this is a genuine need.

2. COUNCILS ROLE IN MISLEADING CLAIMS?

As mentioned in the main section of this Submission,
[REDACTED]
Resulted in The Daily Examiner Publishing Three (3) Flawed Stories which included Claims that a 26% SRV would result in \$19 to \$50
Increases in Residential Rates.
This time around, Council Approved a Video Published by The Daily Examiner, which purported to 'Explain the Rates Rise'.
To state that the Video was flawed is an understatement.
[REDACTED] approved the Video in his role as Councils Communications Manager.
What Economic, Financial, and Rate Related, qualifications does Councils Communications Manager, and Former Editor of The Daily
Examiner, have to make such determinations on the part of Council?
And: Who authorised [REDACTED] to exercise such a role?
[REDACTED] admits the Video had flaws but approved it anyway.
If Residents Complain to the Australian Press Council about any of the above:
The Daily Examiner simply notes Clarence Councils Approval.
Upon receipt of a complaint to Council about The Daily Examiners Inaccuracies accompanying the Reporting of Bakers Technicolour
Sheet:
Council replied with:
"The article in the DEX (of which we had no knowledge prior to publication) was wrong, however I understand they made a
correction the next day."
The correction Council refers to did NOT address the Impossibility of a 26% Rates Rise resulting in Increases of \$19 to \$50 when
Average Residential Rates in the Clarence are \$1,081 for the current Financial Year.
Complaints to Council about the Misleading Video produced by The Daily Examiner:
Resulted in NO Reply from Council.
It is difficult Not to wonder if Councils Huge Advertising Budget
Has resulted in Advertorials masquerading as genuine NEWS.
November Councils Financial Report (Item 13.074/17) notes that Councils Actual 2016/17 Advertising Budget:

Increased from \$454,000 for Actual 2016,
To \$561,000 for Actual 2017.

A Huge Amount of Money for a Rural Council's Advertising

And clearly a budget with possible savings if Councillors were genuine about their urgent need to seal a few hundred metres of road.

Councils refusal to name the Organisations in receipt of Councils More than Half a Million Dollars a Year for Council Advertising further adds to the suspicion and mistrust that surrounds this issue.

3. COUNCILS ONGOING FAILURE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SRV AND RATES, AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDS.

Councils General Manager Publicly Promised, in June 2017, to make Publicly Available a List of Councils Un-Used Properties. This has Not occurred.

Questions to Councils Finance and Rates Sections about the impact of the Special Rates Variations on Local Rates have also remained unanswered for many months.

Primary Submission Follows.

Many Thanks,

SUBMISSION – COUNCILS IP&R Documents and 26% SRV

To Clarence Valley Council

council@clarence.nsw.gov.au

To ensure that there is No Misunderstanding of my Submission

Please note: I Am Opposed To:

*ANY Special Rates Variation (SRV)

*Some of the proposed Service Cuts and Council overlooking other savings.

*[REDACTED], and apparently supported by other Councillors (with the support of the acting GM and Council), which was then propagated in the Daily Examiner with a claim that Residential Rate Increases as a result of the 26% SRV will be between \$19 and \$50 per year.

*Council's incorporation of a \$13M+ loan in to their IP&R documents.

Rather than the inclusion of the proposed \$13M+ Loan:

I recommend a moratorium on All Loans from All Council Funds until 2025.

WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED 26% SRV:

Local People simply can't afford it.

In case you suffer from the same apparent unawareness of Local Peoples inability to pay significant Rates increases that appears to have afflicted Councillor Baker in his recent claim to Residents that:

"I'm unaware of any census demographic information that proves anything about people's ability to afford anything."

Might I suggest you avail yourselves of Councils own reports, which clearly show:

An analysis of Local Peoples relatively low incomes in comparison with the NSW average,

The shape of the local age pyramid which clearly shows an above NSW average number of Local People are over the age of 60,

Local Peoples dependency on Pensions and other Government Benefits,

Our Valleys low SEIFA scores etc.

If the figures in those reports are insufficient to convince you of the relative poverty in Our Valley:

Might I suggest that All Senior Staff and Councillors Try and Exist for a Month on the Base Rate provided by the Australian Age Pension while remembering that many People in the Valley actually get by on Less than the Pension provides.

As some of you are aware:

The negative impacts of increased taxes such as SRV's and the other cost increases being proposed by Council multiplies in their negative effects throughout the local economy.

Many local business owners and operators are already suffering from the cumulative effects of running a business in a poor local economy with relatively low discretionary spending ability.

Councils proposed 26% SRV reaches its maximum impact just after the bridge and highway workers from other areas have left the Clarence.

This also coincides with the impact of the highway bypass on the area and the subsequent decrease in passing trade, which will be particularly significant in upper river areas such as Grafton and South.

As a result:

The increased user fees and charges,

The 26% SRV,

The loss of the current workers from other places and

The loss of passing trade

Will All result in negative impacts on the Valley's economy at approximately the same time.

We already have too many closed and empty shops in the CBD's of our main towns.

Councils 26% SRV and other tax increases will make this worse.

SOME OF THE PROPOSED SERVICE CUTS AND COUNCIL OVERLOOKING OTHER SAVINGS:

Council's proposals to increase DA and associated costs such as the massive 67.60% in DMU charges will further disadvantage the local economy.

The proposed increases to Cemetery charges and the removal of Local Peoples ability to pay Councils bills through their local Post Office or agency is nothing short of a cruel and horrendous assault on many of our elderly residents.

To increase many of the Cemetery charges by over 50% in an area where many families already crowd source to pay for funerals is beyond comprehension and shows a total lack of awareness and compassion for Local People.

The original proposals to close the Iluka Library and significantly reduce funding for the Regional Gallery also showed a lack of basic comprehension of what makes a healthy Community.

The decision to reduce support for Tourism, which is one of the few growth industries remaining in the Valley, shows a lack of understanding of the need to grow the Valleys economy.

Councils Draft 2017/18 Budget shows the following changes from the original 2016/17 Budget:

User Charges have increased by approximately \$4.7M from the previous year

(\$10.5M to \$15.2M)

Statutory and Regulatory Charges have increased by approximately \$0.6M from the previous year

(\$1.4M to \$2M)

And General User Fees have increased by approximately \$1.5M from the previous year.

(\$16.8M to \$18.3M).

These are significant changes and their impact on the local economy is negative.

What is Conspicuously Absent from Councils attempts at expenditure reductions is:

Further analysis of Councils massive workforce.

CVC currently have one of the highest Full Time Equivalent employment numbers of All Councils in NSW.

The Most Recent Office of Local Government Council Comparison Data For 2014/15 Ranks Clarence Valley Councils Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff Numbers At Rank 134!!!

Of ALL 153 Councils Surveyed Only 20 Councils, In All Of NSW in 2014/15, Have Staffing Levels Higher than Ours.

Councils response to this obvious concern appears to be the initially claimed reduction of 24.5 FTE positions has since been increased to 27 FTE.

Since release of those initial claims, we have been told that 16 of those FTE's are already vacant

And

Another 5 are coming from the Mythical Super Depot of Eternal Promise in Tyson Street.

Councils draft budget for 2017/18 shows the following Increases from 2016/17:

Salaries, Wages & Oncosts have increased from \$38M to \$39.98M

And

Other Employee Costs have increased from \$817,574 to \$902,031

The expenditure of approximately \$41M per year on maintaining Councils current workforce represents a huge burden on the Local People who pays those bills.

Councils draft budget for 2017/18 also shows increases from the original 2016/17 budget for:

Contracts: which have increased from 15,211,986 to \$15,324,307.

Councils 2016/17 budget also shows a massive blowout for Contracts to \$18,108,771.

How much of that money for the current year, and next, is intended for employment for Council work?

Council currently have a workforce of 600 people.

How many extra employees are concealed under the Contracts budget?

As Council have consistently refused to provide details of the Awards and Classifications and the numbers employed in those categories:

It is Not possible for the Community to know how their \$41M and their \$15M are being spent.

It remains obvious that Council could significantly reduce costs in this area.

Council exists to serve the Local Community.

It is Not the Local Communities role to support Councils bloated workforce.

Council could also make savings through reductions in:

Councils near half a million dollars a year expenditure on Advertising

Councils provision of over 300 mobile phones and 180 motor cars.

The Fleet Review (which included the cars) was completed in 2015.

Since that time Council have had 3 or 4 Meetings to discuss the Reports implementation.

There is a willingness on the part of the Local Community to work with Council to find savings.

It has been proposed that a member of Councils senior staff meet with members of the Community, once a month between now and next year's budget cycle, to examine possible savings and for any savings found to be deducted from the proposed SRV.

Council have Refused this Invitation to work with the Community.

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] which has been handed out by Councillors across the Valley and used at Councils SRV Meetings to 'show' the impact of the SRV:

It is obvious that the use of the 10-year time line for the 3 years of the SRV Rates Rises results in a reduced amount per year when divided by those 10 years.

This is skewed even further by the underlying assumptions of Only a 2% Rate Peg after the 3 SRV years (an assumption which is clearly Not supported by the available evidence) and a magical belief that there will be No other changes over those 10 years that will impact Councils performance.

[REDACTED] made it on to the pages of the Daily Examiner in two separate articles, which told Local People that:

"His figures, which match those of the council's planners, show the SRV would cost an extra \$19 a year for the Valley's lowest paying ratepayer, to \$191 for the highest."

This claim was then corrected to:

"His figures, which match those of the council's planners, show the SRV would cost an extra \$19 a year cumulatively over 10 years or the Valley's lowest paying ratepayer, to \$50 a year for the highest in the residential categories. *"

And is still available on line at: <https://www.dailyexaminer.com.au/.../srv-on-base-rat.../3183276/>

Another Daily Examiner article titled "Ratepayers happy to pay once figures explained"

Has the following claims referenced to Councillor Baker:

"He researched the figures and came armed with a spreadsheet that show the highest SRV increase would be \$50 a year in the Yamba residential C category and dropped as low as \$19 a year."

That article (complete with pictures of Councillors Clancy and Toms) is also still available on line at:

<https://www.dailyexaminer.com.au/.../ratepayers-happ.../3183370/>

[REDACTED] assured People at the South Grafton SRV Meeting, in front of Council's Acting GM, that his Sheet had the support of Council.

Council do Not appear to have contacted the Daily Examiner and asked for a correction to the false and misleading impressions being created across the Valley through their use of the Council endorsed Sheet.

What is claimed in both articles are outright lies and Council appears to have made No effort to inform the Community, through the Daily Examiner, of the misleading statements or to supply the correct costs to ratepayers.

It was obvious at Councils SRV Meeting in South Grafton that Councils proposed SRV was Not supported by the members of the public who attended.

It is equally obvious from the following account, posted in The Clarence Forum, of Councils SRV Meeting in Yamba that such Public rejection of Councils SRV was Not isolated to South Grafton:

"I did not hear any one agreeing to, let alone applauding the 26% rate rise.

But then we all knew that the meeting was about the council trying to convince us that it is a sensible measure that is necessary to make council 'fit for the future', because failing that we will be at the mercy of an Administrator and that is likely to be much worse for us.

From where I was sitting I heard at least 4 people, apart from me that were critical of the fact that Council had mismanaged the finances and are now expecting us ratepayers to fill in the shortfall.

Nobody I could hear was showing any willingness to pay more than the rate peg as it is stipulated."

Council needs to Work With the Community to explore ways to grow the local economy.

Without such measures, future SRV's, more tax increases, and an even poorer local Community are inevitable outcomes.

Misleading claims and increasing taxes are steps in the wrong direction that will eventually lead to the 'slash and burn Administrator' Councillors have encouraged us to fear.

[REDACTED] immediately Before the Last Council Election:

"The stupid thing about the excessive rate increases is they will not fix the problem we face.

Even the experts agree."

Quoted from: <http://northcoastvoices.blogspot.com.au/.../policy-platforms-...>

Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED] <
Sent: Tuesday, 23 January 2018 4:43 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: Integrated Planning and Reporting documents

To the General Manager

Just so that we can be clear from the out set

I AM OPOSED TO ANY SRV RISE when there are so many things that our council could be doing to save the people of the valley from having to pay more for their rates

I really don't understand how this has been allowed to happen :-

1. COUNCILLORS CLAIMS REGARDING 290 METRES OF ROAD ARE DISINGENUOUS

It is difficult to conclude that Councils December 12th Claim, That Council Needs to make a SRV claim for the \$176,000 difference between a Rate Peg of 2.5% and 2.3%, Is anything more than a money grab.

Councillors' Unanimous Endorsement of SRV Item 15.241/17 States that the \$176,000 is to be used for "Road Pavements and Surfacing".

Adopting Councils surfacing of unsealed roads cost estimates from Page 170 of Councils November Ordinary Minutes: "current estimate of \$600,000 per kilometre" Suggests Councillors Unanimous December Endorsement of using \$176,000 from Councillors application for a 26% SRV Rates Rise Yields a Total of 290 metres of road!!! I cant imagine that there is any 290 metres of road that is that bad a condition that is would need this amount of money spent on it when the council is saying it is broke and needs to increase rates.

Councillor's Unanimous Decision to Include the SRV Motion at Decembers Ordinary Meeting with Councillors Block Motions further weakens any claims by Council that this is a genuine need.

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2018 2:04 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: ANY SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR AND THAT COUNCIL **DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND MY SUBMISSION.**

I AM OPPOSED TO:-

1. ANY SPECIAL RATES VARIATION (SRV). AND COUNCIL NOT INCLUDE IT IN THEIR LATEST SUBMISSION TO IPART.
2. SOME OF THE PROPOSED SERVICE CUTS, COUNCIL OVERLOOKS OTHER SAVINGS:-
 - a. Council travel Expenses, will at a conservative figure will be around \$30000 .00 next financial year, Council reimburses Councillors for the use of their private vehicles at a rate of up to \$0.78 per klm (no of cc) this is above the ATO rate of \$0.55 per klm, Council has a pool of cars that could be utilised for business travel by Councillors, like any other business. Please Note that Councillors Clancy (\$2453.00) and Novak(\$ 4692.00) have only 9 months in Council at the time of this report. Page 7 Councils financial statements for 2016/2017. Council Expenses were granted a increase in block vote, in 2017.
 - b. Councils advertising budget, we have two local free press papers that service the valley, why does council continue to support DEX in this, DEX is part of an American conglomerate, so money spent is sent out of the area, DEX has a history of misinformation reporting regarding Council matters:- DEX 27 December 2017," Council denies privacy laws breach" the fact that 2 Councillors previously worked for DEX also Mr Bancroft was editor, is not transparent.
 - c. Council follow their own Council Policy on conferences and Seminars, IE Councillor Clancy application for approval to attend at least 3 conferences in 2017 and 3 in 2018 including an interstate Conference in Victoria. Per Policy "Councillor attendance at conferences", point 3, Document Version V4.0 adopted 21 July 2015.
 - d. Employment:- Council has currently advertised a number of positions, Councils most recent claim that there was 16 vacant positions a further 5 FTE from the Super depot, they initially claimed 10 FTE, now we see advertisement of 8 positions. Council employ 600 Staff some 250 more than any other Council our size in the state.
 - e. SRV on Tourism \$197000 was levied on business owners and was to be kept in a separate account and spent on tourism advertisement, Council in its wisdom transferred this amount to general funds and then closed all Tourist Information Centres in the Valley, Moving Grafton's to the Council Building and selling off the land the current one is on, and just closing the Ferry Park Maclean one altogether.
 - f. Council has lifted its borrowing limit by \$13M to allow us to get into more debt. Which we do not have the capacity to pay, given our already large debt. Council has raided the sewerage account to top up the general fund to appear "Fit for the Future", which we are clearly not,
 - g. ALSO COUNCIL MAKE KNOWN TO IPART THAT THEY HAVE BORROWED FROM OUR SEWERAGE AND WATER FUND TO TOP UP OUR GENERAL ACCOUNT, ALSO THE FACT THAT THE PREVIOUS SRV FOR TOURISM IS NOW IN THE GENERAL ACCOUNT AND THAT TOURIST ENTITIES HAVE BEEN CLOSED. IN OTHER WORDS BE HONEST AND TRANSPARENT.

Council has the lowest socio economic coverage area in NSW, with the mean average wage of \$477.00 per week (Current ABS) well below the average of approximately \$1100.00 per week. Our aged pensioners make up 9600 of our population of 51367 (current 2016 census), almost 19%, these people cannot afford to stretch their pensions any further, this does not include people that are on income support from the Government. In June 2017 that was 8.97% of our population, 4600 of our citizens are unemployed. Therefore struggling on a limited static budget. So in effect 28% of our population is either aged or unemployed. This does not include the number of children in the Valley also, does not include the number of people that are on income support as they are on low income.

Councils estimate of \$600,000 per KLM of urgent roadway maintenance is ludicrous, and their statement that there is 290 mtrs of roadway that is urgent, at their cost of \$176000, is an attempt to justify putting forward a SRV. You already have that in the SRV you have stashed away from the TIC, that is now in general funds.

You have not adopted the cost saving measures that you stated you would do to make us fit for the future, you continue to increase service costs and decrease these services, you have closed local swimming pools and push forward a plan for a Grafton Aquatic Centre, you continue to push a boulevard/boardwalk to attract tourists to Maclean despite local objections from locals, tourists come to Maclean to see the rustic village it is, not the Gold Coast on a mini level then close the Tourist Information Centre so tourists will not know where it is. You fail to understand or interpret the ABS figures for our economic community and the wage level we are at.

You as Council voted to increase you expenses claims at a time when you expect the lowest socio economic area be further taxed to cover your failure to understand the financial crisis we as a council are in. What message is this sending to locals, you are not prepared to make hard decisions that effect yourselves but expect us to decide between essentials and paying our rates.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Lesley McBay

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2018 1:48 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: FW: Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2018 9:52 AM
To:
Subject: Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents

I do not support the 26% SRV permanent rate rise.

I do not support the 2.5% rate peg.

I do not support expenditure of \$176,000.00 on road surfacing.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2018 2:02 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: Councils SRV 26%

I prefer that the \$176,000 mentioned as the difference between a 2.3% and 2.5% Rate Peg maximum at Councils December Ordinary Meeting, not be included as part of Councils 26% Rate Rise Application to IPART.

[REDACTED]

Lesley McBay

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January 2018 5:14 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: Opposition to SRV increase.

Subject: Opposition to massive SRV rate increase

I wish to lodge my complete opposition to the proposal to increase the council rates by using the SRV.

I am of the opinion that this proposal is manifestly excessive and should not be considered.

I believe the CVC has not managed the financial affairs in the best possible manner. There needs to be a complete review of the financial status of the Council.

It is obvious that a lot of people like pensioners and those on low incomes just cannot afford this massive rate rise. I have heard that numerous people are considering selling their homes, because of this proposal.

I would like this submission included in correspondence to lpart when the application for the SRV is made.-



Lesley McBay

Subject: FW: SRV Submission

From:

Sent: Thursday, 25 January 2018 8:03 AM

To: Council Email

Subject: SRV

council@clarence.nsw.gov.au

Submission

..... 26 Jan 2018

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

If I understand this issue correctly, Council is striving valiantly to ensure it is Fit For The Future as the parameters decree. That is good. 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. We cannot agree or disagree on this because we are not told much about it. But I read of wastage and mismanagement to a large degree and it is very alarming.

I have worked since I was 17, have been careful with my money, and yet I have become dependent solely on the Gov Pension. I had no control over the events that took all my savings away. It gives me no joy to say this, but that is now water under the bridge and I need to get on with life as it is, and not as I feel it should have been.

The age-pension is meant to keep the wolf from the door but with no savings, life is hard. I own a very modest house with a postage stamp for a backyard and no views, 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 I will have yet another difficult decision to make. I doubt that I will actually go hungry; however, it will bring me to a point where I cannot do maintenance on the house, or run an old car or visit a doctor or a specialist because money does not stretch that well; and to a 78 year old, doctors and specialists are as important as bread and butter, and cost a lot more! So, no relief for pain, and I cannot go out at all, that often leads to depression and who would blame me if I think life like this is just not worth living. These days most of my circles of 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 residents.

So please, please, DO NOT put the rates up any higher. Many came to this beautiful place for a contented retirement, not for this frustrated living on the edge.

If you truly cannot find ways to manage the budget, then maybe someone else that can. Do the right thing by the residents and allow that to happen, OR, work assiduously to lift the game.

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.

Regards & Thanks,



Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 January 2018 12:53 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: proposed srv

I do not support cvc's proposed SRV.

regards

[REDACTED]

Lesley McBay

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 January 2018 2:29 PM
To: Council Email
Subject: SRV submission for 26% rate increase

Dear Council

I wish to register my disgust at the proposal of yet another rate rise above and beyond what is normally allowed.

In the welfare sector which I work, I see so many families financially strapped to the limit and cannot stand any further increases in taxes. Your proposal to further extend Council spending at the expense of the less fortunate is unconscionable which will cause undue hardship. This situation reflects on not only the residents of the Valley, but also business, who in turn pass on the added expense to their consumers.

If Council cannot stay within its own budgetary limitations (as do many thousands of others on budgets), then they should restrict their spending or step aside and let someone else who is better able to manage the finances.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]