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Submission: A review of the Clarence Valley Local Government Regional Statistics produced & available on the ABS Site provides ample evidence of the inability of our regions rate payers to pay ANY increase in rates, let alone the proposed massive increases that CVC has application for to IPART.

Not only is our regional average income almost half that of the national income, we have almost double the national average of vehicles over 10 years old owned by the residents. We can't afford to upgrade our cars let alone pay increased rates, the existing rates levied are already excessive in comparison to actual service delivery to the residents. Having sampled across other local government areas I can categorically state that the CVC is an extremely high rating low service delivery Council.

Additionally the proposed 'Super Depot' CVC has planned \$17m is expenditure that the community cannot afford. The geographical size of our local government area does NOT lend itself to a cost effective 'one location' council depot. The argument that it will save money by having all Council Depot's amalgamate is superficial, the long term cost to the community of the additional travel expenses & labour costs to the community that will result from Council Staff having to travel up to an hour to a work site before even commencing duties, plus the vehicle/fuel travel expenses of moving plant & equipment to a work site will be astronomical.

CVC's proposal to place this Super Depot directly next door to a major Clarence Valley High School is nothing short of ignorant & will subject the students to both noise pollution from the operation & maintenance of CVC plant & equipment & a massive increase in vehicular traffic on a road used by pedestrian school children in very large numbers. This CVC Proposal is ludicrous in both the community's ability to pay for the project & in the complete disregard for the safety & well being of our young people & their teaching staff.

The Super Depot plan also resumes ownership of the South Grafton High School Agricultural Studies Plot, to do this to students in a rural area where Agricultural Studies are not only an option, but vital to those students who support their families farming/agricultural businesses is a slap in the face to the very foundation of our region.

Unlike major capital cities and major regional centers, our Local Government area has one major employer & that is the Clarence Valley Council. The Clarence Valley has suffered a massive economic downturn over the past 10 years, yet the Clarence Valley Council has not shed any staff or shown an indication, until now, of cutting expenditure & focusing on the basics of service delivery to our region. Instead the CVC has forced itself into competition with existing service delivery within the private & not-for-profit sector, adding to the struggle that these organisations & businesses have surviving in a very tough economic environment.

It's a massive no from me for any rate increases at all.