







Engaging with IPART on 2023-24 special variation applications





8 November 2022

IPART is responsible for the assessment of applications for special variations proposed by councils. In our assessment, we ask for submissions from the community to help us determine whether the proposal is necessary and reasonable for the community.

What IPART assesses in a special variation application

 <p>Community engagement</p> <p>IPART assesses how the council engaged with the community</p>	 <p>Impact on ratepayers</p> <p>IPART assesses the ratepayer impact of the special variation</p>	 <p>Productivity</p> <p>IPART will assess the council's improvements in productivity</p>	 <p>Need</p> <p>IPART will assess the council's financial need for the rate change</p>
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What IPART does not assess in a special variation application

 <p>Energy rates</p> <p>The assessment does not have responsibility for setting energy prices</p>	 <p>Water rates</p> <p>The assessment does not have responsibility over setting water rates</p>	 <p>Road repairs</p> <p>The assessment does not cover the maintenance of road and transport links</p>	 <p>Funding priorities</p> <p>Evaluation of council funding priorities is not part of the assessment</p>
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How can I voice my concerns about a proposed special variation?

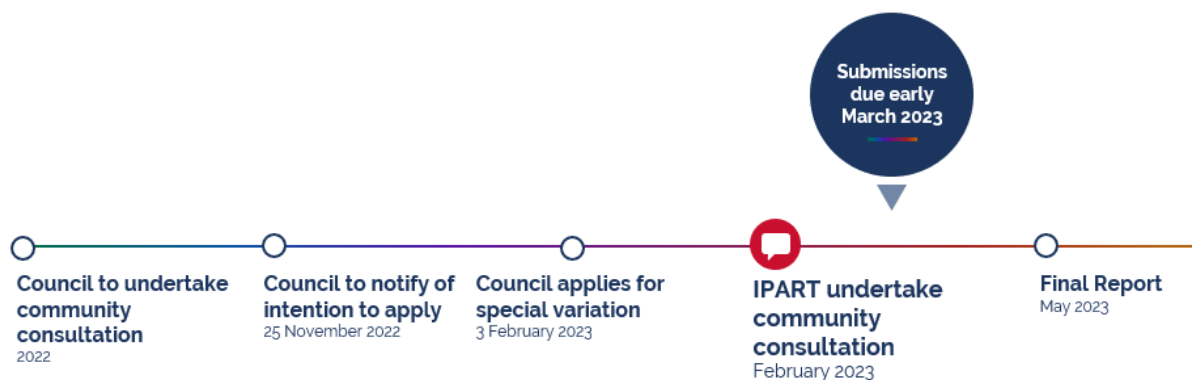
IPART's role is to assess special variation applications from councils against the guidelines set by the Office of Local Government. More information on our process is available in our [information paper](#) and in the [assessment guidelines](#). We welcome feedback from the community. However, we are not able to act on your concerns about a proposed special variation until we receive an application from the council. We will publish all applications we receive on our website in early February 2023, and you will be able to make a submission commenting on the proposed special variation then.

Councils that apply for a special variation must also consult with their community prior to applying. Community members who are interested in providing submissions about a proposed special variation before the council applies to IPART can directly contact the council.

How can I make a submission?

IPART will undertake our consultation on special variation applications during **February and March of 2023**. Until then you can [subscribe to updates](#) from IPART to ensure that you are kept informed on consultation opportunities.

Timetable of special variation assessments



Who can I contact for non-special variation concerns?

Ratepayers who have concerns with their council that are not related to a council's special variation application can contact their council or the [Office of Local Government](#). For other inquiries please contact Edward Jenkins at Edward_jenkins@ipart.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 9113 7774.