

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 14 February 2020 7:43 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: ANONYMOUS - HAVE YOUR SAY - IPART Special Variation Submission Form re: LISMORE CITY COUNCIL

Good morning,

I had some difficulty sending my submission on-line. Hope this will suffice as this is an extremely important issue.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**HAVE YOUR SAY
IPART Special Variation Submission Form re: LISMORE CITY
COUNCIL**

General feedback on Lismore City Council's proposed SV

Like many longtime rate-payers in the Lismore City Council shire I am absolutely disgusted that they have the hide to ask us pay for their economic ineptitude and lack of vision for what could be a vibrant, thriving regional centre.

As [REDACTED] who is a local business person, commented with words to the effect, "if my business is losing money I look internally as to why and how I can fix it". Sadly not the view of the majority of present Councillors (NB: the process of LCC passing the SV request is highly questionable and a little disturbing given the absence of some councillors for this important meeting)

Additionally, Council's own rate-payer survey indicated an overwhelming opposition to any rate-increase. They have chosen not to pay any heed to this. So much for the notion of being "public servants".

On an even more serious note, I further suggest that this current Council and the previous one be fully investigated by the relevant Government bodies in relation to their business practices with particular attention being paid to questionable 'investments', staffing models and general governance. There is also a strong perception that LCC pays more attention to influential, but minor interest-groups in this community, with the aim of increasing their own personal status, rather than

listening to the majority of rate-payers who have concerns for the overall state, well-being and advancement of our community.

In summation, it is almost criminal that current rate-payers bear the financial responsibility for the financial negligence of this current Council and the previous one.

Their proposal for a special variation is an affront to all honest, fair-minded, contributing rate-payers in this community.

(NB: I'm also concerned at the growing influence of established State and Federal political parties within Local Governments generally)

Criterion 1:

Whilst LCC may be able to formally justify any special variation, the point is we the rate-payers are being asked to pay more for basic services that haven't been previously provided due to their amateurish mismanagement ie. higher rates aren't going to get us any improvements, simply restore us to previous, acceptable basic services and ammenities!

Can't LCC management investigate co-opting private-enterprise into partnership funding for developments that would help Lismore grow economically, culturally and socially? Their business-model appears to lack any vision or enthusiasm to see our community move forward for the betterment of all.

Criterion 2:

Obviously costs increase in almost all facets of life annually. I'm confident most rate-payers would accept a 'CPI rate-rise' but not the exorbitant SV requested by LCC.

Again, whilst they can formally justify such requests, it doesn't alter the basic truth that this Council and the previous one, "took their eye off the ball" financially speaking and now they're asking us to dig them out of this hole they've created just so we can have basic services and ammenities!

It is questionable that the majority of rate-payers see the need to increase rates apart from bailing-out LCC from its financial blackhole.

Criterion 3:

We have a significant number of 'economically disadvantaged' rate-payers and those trying to establish or maintain new businesses, who would have difficulty affording or sustaining any significant increases. In principle, the SV may get LCC out of a financial blackhole but why should we have to pay for it?

We need to be encouraging investment and businesses to our shire, not discouraging it through unfair, restraining rate-rises!

Criterion 4:

Again, LCC is following the procedures required for a special variation but it doesn't take any responsibility for the mess they have created and expect the rate-payers to clean it up!!!!

Criterion 5:

Laughable, given the lack of vision, attempts to streamline their business practices and general inept governance. This Council and its immediate predecessor, will have great difficulty in explaining productivity improvements and cost containment strategies to its constituents.

Are you an individual or organisation?

- Individual

If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.

- Anonymous-my submission can be published but my name should remain anonymous

Email

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