

LG Submission Form 2020-2021

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Question	Response
IPART Special Variation Submission Form	
Industry	Local Government
Review	(LG) Special Variations & Minimum Rates 2020-2021
Document Reference	
Select Council	Lismore City Council
If you have any general feedback regarding your council's proposed SV, please leave your comments in the comment box below.	I have been a resident of Lismore for all of my life. My family has been in this area for 3 generations and we have run farms and businesses in the area and I am currently a ratepayer. I am completely supportive of the proposed rate increase. It has been many, many years since any money was invested in this area and over time I have seen the council have to try to more with less. Our roads have been known to be a major issue for at least 2 council terms. I have no idea what councillors think they are there to do but I want them to be brave enough to tell the community that they are prepared to do what we want. We want our roads fixed and we want the economy to be kicked off. I watched Ballina struggle for years, their main street was empty, they had high crime and nobody wanted to invest there. They got a rate increase and their business life and economy has boomed. This is what we need.

Your comments on Criterion 1:	<p>The council staff had done a great job. I personally went to three tents that they had set up at the market and in the main street of Clunes. I listened to people whinge at them for hours. I could not understand why councillors were not there to hear the whingeing, that is meant to be their job not a poor young girl's. The council people were polite, they explained the case really well, they gave me lots of brochures and I agreed with them. They had this thing that showed how we as a community had been asking for roads to be repaired since 2011. It was pretty disappointing that it had not been done yet and that councillors just kept ignoring us. We talked about growing businesses in Lismore and Nimbin and their information helped me to understand just how important economic growth is to our area. I wasn't that interested at first as I am out of my working years but I am completely supportive of new jobs for young people and new businesses. This rate increase will make sure that we can kick things off and bring new jobs etc and keep our city from dying.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 2:	<p>I am completely aware of the need for the rate rise and so are all of my friends. I went to that Embassy thing in town near Centrelink and that was just crazy. I sent my rates notice to my son who is an accountant and he showed me what the total increase is. My rates over 4 yrs will be just a bit more than \$500 more at the end of the 4 yrs. This is affordable, even to me on an annuity and pension income. When I went to the shop in town that was talking about rates, they tried to tell me it would be \$500 per year. That was confusing for a while and then I realised that the shop in town had nothing to do with the council. I emailed the question line and they sent me the brochures again and my son double checked them. I know why they need this money and I understand the percentages and the actual amount in dollars. I have spoken to friends that still have businesses and they understood the need for the rise and how much it would be as well.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 3:	<p>I don't know about all the ratepayers in Lismore but my friends and I think this is reasonable. The first time council came and asked us about this the number did seem a bit high and we wrote to them and told them that we thought it would be too hard for young ones with kids. When they sent us the next lot of information it seemed a lot fairer for the young ones. We talked about this at our club and we all think that the rebate that we get because we are pensioners means that this rate increase is reasonable if it kicks things off and gets our roads back to being good. The current rate levels are still low when you think about all of the things that we get. I would hate to have to cart my own rubbish away.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 4:	<p>I dont know what IP&R documents are but I went to the website and the offices and there was the rate information, the long term plan, the plan for this year and lots of other information for us to make comments on. I went to the council meeting where it was voted on. Everything was in the big folder that we got a copy of and there was a lot of the same information there, they talked about 10 years of budgets, the Communities plan and financial reports. They also provided pages and pages of the comments from the community. I thought a lot of the comments were mean spirited and did not look at them for this reason.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 5:	<p>I go to a few council meetings and I know that they are working really hard to cut spending. 2-3 years ago each time you went to a meeting that [REDACTED] would have to present some other mistake with the accounts. This seems to have stopped since [REDACTED] came in and there is far more information now than there ever was. I have seen them sell properties, change the way things work and then they stopped doing work for other councils. There was that big debt problem that nobody knew about but this was fixed really quickly. When they presented this rate item to council there was a lot more detail about the savings they have made and we also saw that at the workshop we were invited to. I understood that everyone in council is being managed so that they reduce costs and get better at what they do. Having run businesses I know it will take a long time to turn things around but there are lots of things that have reduced how much money is spent. I spoke to one of the road workers while this rate issue was going on he explained that they have changed the way their rosters work to cut out overtime so if it has gone down to that level, I am confident that the plans they are implementing are working. One of the best things about how things are explained at the council meetings now is that all the information is provided in a really clear way.</p>
If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.	
Your Details	
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
First Name	
Last Name	
Organisation Name	
Position	
Email	[REDACTED]
IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy