

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.	<p>The special rate proposal has created a lot of anger in Lismore.</p> <p>LCC's questionnaire was structured so they got the answers they wanted. The free comment section was restricted. The results are skewed in favour of the increase. Just because 52% of respondents somewhat agree with wanting better roads, that doesn't mean they support this council.</p> <p>This came shortly after LCC admitted to being significantly in debt, with poor financial management the cause.</p> <p>LCC are one of the highest rating councils - even higher than neighbouring Byron Bay and Ballina. If they cannot manage the current rate income, why should the ratepayers provide them with more to waste.</p> <p>Higher rates will only drive more families out of the town, as living here becomes unaffordable - whether it be higher rates or higher rentals. LCC's own report to IPART indicates the high proportion of low incomes in this area.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 1:	<p>Whilst the council has identified it needs more income to meet community needs, it did NOT mention the mismanagement of ratepayers money that resulted in this predicament. There have been a number of business opportunities that council could have engaged in that would have brought money and jobs to Lismore e.g. expansion of Lismore Shopping Square, sport facility for winter olympics training.</p> <p>In addition the council has set up odd partnership - business agreements an external agency - [REDACTED] currently lease the Lismore City Hall for drama productions. Does [REDACTED] pay for the lease? NO LCC actually pay them to occupy the hall.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 2:	<p>The community is more than aware of the poor roads in the area. They are old roads and work does need to be done.</p> <p>However what LCC did in their 'consultation' was to structure questions to get the answers they wanted. There were no options for ratepayers to select - council needs to employ proper financial stewardship of ratepayer money.</p> <p>The fact they had to do 2 consultations because the first process didn't provide the answers they wanted demonstrates their manipulation of the data they have presented to IPART.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 3:	<p>No ratepayer I have spoken to can understand where LCC created their dollar figure for the rate rise they have requested. Their so called 'average' of just over \$100 is ridiculous. Most homeowners in Lismore pay well above LCCs figures. My rates are currently \$2638 per year - the proposed increase will be an increase for our family of approximately \$630! This is not affordable.</p> <p>All people I have spoken with about the increase advise similar amounts to me.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 4:	<p>There was alot of publicity surrounding the rate increase. It was highly contentious in council, including a rescission motion by [REDACTED] that was defeated.</p> <p>The [REDACTED] refused to separate provide information to [REDACTED] about the consultation - as previously mentioned, there were 2 processes, but council only presented a single combined outcome.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 5:	<p>Given the LCC track record with mismanagement of funds, the people of Lismore have no confidence in their ability to manage the proposed SRV.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</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