

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>Dear IPART,</p> <p>I am writing to you on behalf of my family as a collective.</p> <p>We, like the vast majority of our fellow community members DO NOT support the SRV proposed by Lismore City Council. Yes I said Lismore, you may have heard about Lismore on the News. In 2016 our shire was devastated by flood as a result of Cyclone Debbie and in November 2019 we were being smothered in Bush Fires. Our community is Struggling. Struggling to deal with the incompetence of our council.</p> <p>Either Side of my family there is currently the 3rd & 4th generations working the land in this shire. To put it into context both my parents work full time and work our family farm outside "Business Hours" to try to make ends meet. I myself, as does my partner and my brother work full time, and also work on the family farm outside "Business Hours". I have my own small business that I work on in addition to working full time and farm work. ALL TO MAKE ENDS MEET.</p> <p>Our council continually ignore the wants and needs of our community. We continually request that council goes back to its core and build from there. They are more concerned with beatifying the town through sculptures</p>

and art galleries instead of fixing dilapidated and dangerous roads and infrastructure. They claim the art and sculptures will bring tourists, to be brutally honest the roads amongst other things are keeping tourists away. I believe the councils obsession with Art, sculptures and this god forsaken water park idea (yes they want to put a waterpark in flood plains, because you know we can afford that and afford to fix it after the next flood ruins it) will be detrimental to the longevity of this town.

Our rates are excessive, I myself pay almost \$3,000 per year for ¼ Acre in town. My parents pay nearly \$1,000 on our family farm and receive no services (no waste or water services). I like many others in the community CANNOT afford yet another increase by this [REDACTED] council for them to [REDACTED] a wall on art and sculptures. The SRV that this council is seeking imposes unsustainable financial burden on shire residents, many of which are struggling to make ends meet and pay bills as it is. The rates in our town are higher than that in the Byron Shire. Now I'm not sure how the council has come to the conclusion that our properties are worth more for rates than that in Byron Bay, but to be honest I've lost hope in understanding their logic. I certainly don't live in a massive Hemsworth like compound.

The Lismore CBD is becoming more and more vacant, shops are closing and remaining vacant for years. The level of council rates in this LGA is causing so much financial stress on individuals and businesses. Businesses are closing and moving outside the town/LGA or moving online. Residents are flocking to the Gold Coast and surrounds to do their shopping or purchasing online, as the retailers are no longer willing to invest in our town. The once busy and vibrant CBD is now a derelict graveyard of empty shops and services.

As I type I believe the council has submitted the application to IPART, submitting New property value tables – none of which have been put on public display for the community. This is the kind of [REDACTED] that we have had to deal with.

	<p>In summary Lismore City Council is fiscally irresponsible, derelict in duty, ignorant to community needs, and much more. The community is counting down until the next election to boot these [REDACTED] from the position of ruining our town that they have sweet talked their way into. I can only hope that IPART will use their common sense and see that this council will not fix the issues they are claiming the SRV will go towards. We do not need the further financial burden of this council's reckless decisions, decisions which will hurt struggling families.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Your comments on Criterion 1:	this council skew their collected data to suit their agenda. they calculate and scheme to collect info from the demographic that suits their purpose
Your comments on Criterion 2:	the community has time and time again requested the Council return to their core and shed the excessive spending on unimportant things.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	to be frank, my household like many others is already struggling to afford the rates in this LGA. sure we receive "services" but these services are sub par.
Your comments on Criterion 4:	this council only puts on display things that make them look good.
Your comments on Criterion 5:	this council is fiscally irresponsible and continually ignore the community. they are only pushing the agenda of [REDACTED]
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	
IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy