

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2020 12:09 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: ANONYMOUS - Submission re Lismore City Council Rate Rise

To Whom It May Concern

Being a rate payer of Lismore City Council for 44 years, I am writing this letter of objection to the 24% Special Rate Rise that the Council want to introduce over a 4 year period and to continue thereafter. This Council is not listening to the rate payers because the Council conducted a consultation process not once but twice and noting the figures have never been released, but at Council meeting it was said the majority of ratepayers voted "No" to the rise. At the meeting there were 3 Councilors missing to vote on this important decision for Lismore, so the Mayor used his casting vote to ensure that the 24% rate rise proposal would advance. This is a sign of ignorance to me. We are already one of the highest rated Council's in the State. With new valuations on properties coming out there will be even higher rates to pay. Pensioners for one and a lot of ratepayers are on low wages or are finding it hard to get jobs are struggling to pay the rates already without having to deal with another rise let alone having an increase of 24%. The reason for this rise is Council has a \$6,000,000 blackhole in its budget prior to that \$3,000,000 lost in the Global Financial Crisis. No-one has put their hand up for this crisis. This is mismanagement and incompetence of Council and I believe there should be an investigation into the management activities and competency of Lismore City Council. Particularly considering the Councilors having recently given themselves a pay rise fully knowing the monetary problems facing Council including the large salaries given to the enormous number of staff employed.

The CBD in Lismore is dying, 66 shops have either closed or moved their businesses to Ballina Shire, Casino, etc., due to high rates and rent. How do you expect Lismore to grow with this Council doing whatever it wants to do and not listening to the ratepayers. What investor would invest in the Lismore area with this Council causing nothing but problems and over charging to try and make up for their mistakes. That is one of the reasons why Ballina Shire population are well and truly overtaking Lismore City Council.

Council's priorities have been lost with no money left to fix roads. Have they looked at themselves as to where the money is being spent on trivial unnecessary items such as a rainbow crossing at a ridiculous cost, the iron boat which I am of the understanding cost close to \$100,000 all up and the upgrade of the museum, this is to name but a few. It is all very well to throw money at these things but they should not have been a priority when roads are falling apart and lack proper maintenance. I also find it extremely hard to believe that the average rate as claimed by Council is \$1,000.00.

I strongly believe that rate payers money has been and is being mismanaged and I have lost all faith in the running of this Council.

I sincerely hope that Ipart does not allow this special rate rise considering the above and the only Council in the area applying for it. Please favourably consider that rate payers should not be held responsible for Council's mismanagement

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]