

# 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>I believe this proposed massive increase in annual rates for Lismore will crush/smash Small Business in the town/area. We have a high number of vacant shop premises, partly due to the devastation caused by the 2017 flood. Also affected will be the substantial number of retirees and pensioners locally struggling to keep up with current rates. I believe this increase is in the order of 24% over 4 years, which will then remain.</p> <p>Ratepayers are i believe also subject in July, 2020, to the 4 yearly review by The Valuer Generals Department of local land values, that is the Unimproved Capital Value of our individual blocks of land, which will undoubtedly increase.</p> <p>Regional NSW is really struggling now with the added pressures of fires and drought. With this proposed additional increase our community stands to lose more small businesses, more loss of local jobs and loss of long-time local ratepayers.</p> <p>I believe this application by Lismore City Council for a Special Rate Variation was passed with the casting vote of our Mayor whilst a dissenting Councillor was helping his family to escape a bushfire emergency!</p> <p>I am receiving the old age pension and continuing to operate a small business, without which i could not afford to upkeep my home and pay for rates and essential services.</p>

I suggest this proposed increase would have disasterous effects on many businesses, families and individuals and therefore, the fabric of our community.

Your comments on Criterion 1:

Lismore City Council will always have additional needs for road maintenance and repair because of our Northern Rivers location. Our community will inevitably ask for more and better services. My question is how much of the need for this massive overall/longterm increase in rates is due to considerable mismanagement of Lismore City Council, as was indicated by recent past several million dollars in the red?

Your comments on Criterion 2:	Lismore City Council appears to have made efforts to explain the need for such special increase. I suggest the community's somewhat understandable apathy towards and distrust of political management and motivation at all levels of government means many individuals are not aware of the immediate and long-term ramifications.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	The impact on ratepayers will be substantial and unreasonable. The cumulative effect of the 2.6% increase for 2020-21 and the subsequent general rate increase as The Valuer General's revision of land value [ UV value] happens this calendar year will be substantial. A further approx., 24% permanent increase over 4 years will be horrific. Will the proposed purpose of the variation applied for mean any of us will get a payrise or indeed still have a job?
Your comments on Criterion 4:	No comment.
Your comments on Criterion 5:	Has Lismore City Council satisfied IPART that productivity improvements and cost containment strategies have indeed been realised in past years and provided future outcomes/plans to justify this possible massive and permanent increase in annual rates? Can you imagine Australians considering a sea-change move and comparing annual rates between Lismore and neighbouring Shires?
If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.	
<b>Your Details</b>	
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