

# 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>As long term ratepayers to the Lismore City Council we most strongly object to the rates being increased by almost 24% over 3/4 years as proposed by the council. Council claims it needs more money for roadworks etc. Council has constantly ignored the requests of the ratepayers to spend more money on roads, instead building an Art Gallery, spending huge sums of money on Lismore City Hall, where Norpa controls what is performed there. Large donations given to Norpa. Various art works around town (a concrete &amp; copper pipe boat) At the same time the huge bank of solar panels at the local baths remain covered &amp; unusable because the inverter, that was damaged in the 2017 flood is yet to be repaired, despite Council receiving a large grant. Mains power is being used to heat the smaller pool.</p> <p>This council just has problems managing money, maintenance of any kind is a low priority, preference being given to the projects that attract the councillors. Rate payers have twice told council in opinion polls they are against this rate hike but council is going ahead with it anyway</p>

Your comments on Criterion 1:	Council constantly dips into it's General Fund to provide funding to match grants for projects that attract council's attention, maintenance around Lismore CBD is minimal, maintenance beyond that is almost non-existent. The communities ongoing request is for decent roads, this request is ongoing as it is ignored. Roadwork done by council is sub standard and needs repairing within a short time. This council has a wish list of projects that does not reflect the community's needs.
Your comments on Criterion 2:	The community does not agree with the need for the massive increase Council are asking for. The combined increase would be 24% of this year's rates over a 3 year period. Should land values increase during this period the increase will be even more. In our case we are paying almost 30% more in rates to live on a flood plain in South Lismore, than someone living in Ballina. We have never been told the total increase in dollar terms on our rates.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	The impact of this rate increase will be massive on ratepayers, Lismore is a city recovering from a major flood in 2017. Many businesses never recovered and left the area. The main street is littered with empty shops, there is a full arcade without a tenanted shop. There is no newsagent in Lismore CBD. This rate increase, if granted will see more businesses close up and move to areas like Ballina, that does not have the flood threat and has a pro-active council and lower rates. Many homeowners affected by the flood weren't insured, they're still recovering, their homes have lost value.
Your comments on Criterion 4:	I have never sighted the above documents, I have no idea what they are.
Your comments on Criterion 5:	Again, I have never seen these documents, but with a wages bill that council carries there is room for improvement, such as trimming indoor staff to bring the ratio into line with similar councils. Council has constantly applied for special variations in rates, it cannot keep to it's own budget, it has constant blowouts and the recent situation of missing over 6 million dollars proves it can't manage money.

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