

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 March 2020 6:12 PM

**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>

**Subject:** ANONYMOUS - Lismore City Council Special Rate Variation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to express my opinion in regards to the Lismore City Council's application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a Special Rate Variation.

In my opinion the matter was handled in most complicated and deceiving manner.

It is my understanding in council's original survey the majority of ratepayers said no to the proposed Special Rate Variation and that should have been the end to the matter, however the council then decided to proceed to a round two survey. In my opinion the second survey was extremely difficult for ratepayers to express their true opinions and was presented in a very biased manner so council could use to their advantage to gain success with this Special Rate Variation. An example of this was when I decided to participate in the online survey I had to answer a number of questions relating to what was important to me as a ratepayer if council were to proceed with the application for a Special Rate Variation before I could in fact get access to the survey. There was no simple question for example do I want a rate increase to be answered yes or no. When I did gain access to the survey I believe the survey was designed for the councils benefit.

I also had telephone canvassers contact me on my mobile phone asking me to participate in a phone survey and the questions that I was asked did not allow me to express my true opinion. When I stated my true thoughts being I did not support the increase the telephone canvasser stated to me that she could not include those thoughts in the survey as there was no provision in the survey to do that.

The majority of people in the Lismore Shire are already financially struggling and cannot afford this proposed increase. It will have a dramatic effect on not only property owners but also tenants as landlords will increase rents. Business owners will also be affected as people will have less disposable income.

The rates in the Lismore Shire are already considerably higher than our neighbouring shires and I firmly believe that if the current rates were prudently managed there would be no need for council to apply for a Special Rate Variation.

I ask that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal please consider and follow through on my submission and thoroughly investigate the manner in which this round two survey was presented to the ratepayers in order to make an informed decision regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]