

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.	Recently the LCC was in deficit, and miraculously turned it around through improved management practices. This begs the question, why the Council did not implement these management practices in the first instance, in the interest of their ratepayers. The Lismore district has endured floods, drought & fires, yet the Council spends ratepayer funds on frivolous projects (not endorsed by the majority of taxpayers) and fail to represent taxpayers without bias. The SRV would cripple the local community, leading to an increase in the number of homeless and drive away any small businesses that have managed to survive the devastating flood in 2017. The incomes of ratepayers have not kept pace with CPI and believe this SRV will be the `straw that breaks the camel's back'.

Your comments on Criterion 1:	Yes the Community expects to have a reasonable service level from the Council and, in particular, the roads maintained (particularly after the impact of floods) to a standard, to ensure potholes do not cause undue damage to vehicles and/or cause motor vehicle accidents. The priorities in the management of ratepayer funds, should be to deliver efficient and effective services on behalf of the ratepayers - instead, the LCC seems to have lost its way, becoming self-serving and lacking impartiality. The LCC have recently proven, with better management practices (in the face of being put on notice over a large deficit), that savings can be made for the betterment of the community.
Your comments on Criterion 2:	At this stage, the Council has not demonstrated nor have a proven track record that even with the SRV, ratepayer funds will be effectively managed to deliver the desired services. This SRV is in excess of the rate of increase in wages/salaries/social benefits for quite sometime, and would disadvantage the wider community and prove detrimental to the revitalisation of the local businesses.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	The impact on ratepayers is not reasonable, given the community is only just recovering from the impact of the 2017 '1 in 100 year' flood, followed by drought. Ratepayers' incomes have not risen with CPI increases, which places them 'behind the eight ball' with increased costs (at a rate equal to or greater than CPI rates) of living, and believe the SRV would adversely impact any future prospects of development in the community.
Your comments on Criterion 4:	The IP&R documents have been made available to ratepayers however the due process at Council Meetings has not been in the interests of ratepayers, with Councilor's representing taxpayers being bullied and intimidated, to favour the Council's position.

Your comments on Criterion 5:	Based upon the Council's past performance, with a \$6 million deficit negated in such a short turnaround, does not embed confidence in the Council's management practices nor their ability to manage ratepayer funding. The Council has not been transparent in how they have achieved these savings, and how these savings can be sustained into the future. This does not give the community the confidence to trust this Council, to effectively and efficiently manage this SRV.
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
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