

# 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 am a rate payer in Lismore council and I strongly object to any special rate rises. My family has lived and held businesses in the Lismore LGA since 1986 and we can attest to the financial incompetence of the council since this time. Numerous p[oor financial decisions have been made contrary to business and public opinion, resulting in the building and upkeep of infrastructure which is in direct competition with private businesses (for example the Goonellabah Sports and Recreational Center, Lismore Council Sign Shop). Further, council managers are being rewarded for incompetence (Case: Lismore Business Development Manager and his failure to manage the budget, Lismore Airport/Waste Recycling/Cemetery Manager failure to manage the budget and shifting money between business units during auditing), rather than disciplined and terminated.</p> <p>As far as I and my family is concerned, an independent commission should investigate council dealings for the last two decades, prior to agreeing to ANY rate rises and publicly report all findings.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 1:	Please investigate the councils past performance on grants received. A good place to start would be the Lismore Airport fencing and the use of special rates for businesses in the CBD. Further it should be investigated how often the council 'consults' the public and then completely ignores the findings.
Your comments on Criterion 2:	Communications by the council have been carefully designed to prevent an accurate assessment of what is proposed by the average person. For example in their newsletter, they called the resurfacing of the Lismore Airport runway an 'Upgrade'. This is factually incorrect as it was a repair. Further, to understand the documentation published for the current flood mitigation works requires a degree in Civil Engineering with knowledge of flood management. When specifically quizzed on the content, no answers were forthcoming.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	One councilor suggested on Facebook that there would be an additional \$4million p.a. over 10 years in rates collected by the council. This area is already struggling from high unemployment and a high cost of living. This special rate rise would be catastrophic to the finances of local businesses who already struggle to meet KPI's (there are freehold shops available in the Lismore CBD for \$1, if you are willing to pay the outstanding rates). There is also a large number of pensioners in the LGA, who can not afford any additional burden on their finances. I fear that this will have a cascading effect where people will simply sell up and move to another area, thereby collapsing the real estate market and further increasing the revenue collecting burden on the remaining residence/businesses.
Your comments on Criterion 4:	Please look at the video of the meeting ratifying the application. You will observe that there was no chance of the public intervene. It is obvious that it was a premeditated cause of action.

Your comments on Criterion 5:	<p>The public at large does not trust anything Lismore City Council publishes. We have seen too many incidences where the truth was conveniently not mentioned. As far as my family, business colleges and myself are concerned, the council is financially incompetent and suffers from an exceptional high degree of nepotism. As a result, no strategy proposed by the council will be trusted unless independently audited by a federal government agency.</p> <p>Confidential: My family has been persecuted by a previous mayor due to a difference of opinion. I do not wish to have my name published for this reason and I also have to consider my future professional career and an engineer in the area.</p>
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
First Name	
Last Name	
Organisation Name	
Position	
Email	[REDACTED]
IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy