

# LG Submission Form 2021-2022 - Applications

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## IPART Special Variation Submission Form - Applications

Industry	Local Government
Review	(LG) Special Variations & Minimum Rates 2021-2022
Document Reference	
Council	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Special Variation Application

If you have any general feedback regarding your council's proposed SV, please leave your comments in the comment box below.

I and others are totally opposed to the proposed 53% increase in rates over 4 years. However the SRV agenda is pushed by a small noisy clique. They imply that these financial problems are the NSW governments fault with forced amalgamation and are demanding de-merging of the Council. To me the CGRC suffers from [REDACTED] and over staffing with 38.73% of their budget on staff. Or maybe this [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The Council should be allowed to go into insolvency and an administrator appointed with an independent forensic audit carried out on all Council business including recent project contracts.

Your comments on Criterion 1:

The Council Fact Sheet does not detail any options to the SRV. There is efficiency savings of \$2 million and \$500,000 reduction in staff costs stated. This is peanuts in the total expenditure of Council . Most ratepayers just want garbage collection, water/sewerage services and reasonable road repairs when needed. No ratepayer I know is demanding higher service levels/projects from the Council. I suspect this SRV is just to maintain over staffing levels.

Your comments on Criterion 2:

The community has been informed by Fact Sheet, information sessions and the Council's spin doctor [REDACTED] to justify the SRV. However the Fact Sheet contains lies and statistical lies. To me it implies CGRC residential ratepayers are paying only \$675.00/year, where as similar Councils pay median rates of \$897.75, the average being \$981.64. As a residential ratepayer, average block of land worth \$50,000 to \$70,000, I already pay \$1122.70/year in 4 instalments, \$1110.30/year in 4 instalments for water/sewerage services. So the rates, not to mention water/sewerage rates, are already well above similar Council rates. To me they are telling lies to support their case and trying to get community acceptance.

Your comments on Criterion 3:

The SRV is completely unreasonable. Retires/pensioners/low income earners would be badly impacted. As my example shows CGRC ratepayers already pay above comparable Councils unless I am getting [REDACTED] personally by this Council. There is no specific purpose/project outlined for this SRV, it just seems to be to maintain employee levels and lifestyles. They spent \$4 million for the main street of Gundagai for the benefit of businesses, \$1 million for a playground to attract tourists to stay in Gundagai but no project like a heated pool for the ordinary ratepayer. Yet they want more money from the people they ignore.

Your comments on Criterion 4:

I have read Council's Fact Sheet but don't accept their arguments or statistics. Unfortunately, CGRC is run by a small group with no dissenting views and little community consultation about decisions. The SRV will be adopted and most ratepayers don't want to rock the boat as they have relatives/friends on the Council payroll.

Your comments on Criterion 5:

This Council has no concrete productivity improvements or strategies to reign in expenditures. There are vague cost savings as mentioned earlier, but the Council needs a [REDACTED] cutting exercise by an efficiency expert. With an expenditure of 38.73% on staff it needs urgent review. CGRC needs to live within its revenue means, just like every household and not expect the ratepayer to subsidize its excesses or its pseudo Centrelink policies. It already receives 41.72% of its \$41,196,000 revenue (2019-20) from rates/charges. It should receive minimal rate increases from IPART.

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