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	**Federation 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.	**Over the 25 years that Council has been planning to replace the Corowa swimming pool they have only managed to put aside approximately $1.9 million to contribute to the cost of a new pool. How could they have possibly thought that they could afford to build an Aquatic Centre that would cost almost $1.2 million per year to run? This is a community facility aimed as much towards tourism as the community's interest and not core infrastructure requiring a higher priority in the interests of the rate paying community. The 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey conducted by Council showed that the majority of the community is not in favour of a SRV to fund the running of this facility.** **Council received 145 online submissions and 7 written submissions in regards to their intention to apply for this SRV. The 145 people who completed the online submission were not given the opportunity to say no to the SRV in the online format and were under the**

impression that their submissions would be forwarded to IPART with Council's application for the SRV. Only the 7 written submissions were forwarded to IPART with the application and exhibited on IPART's website.

Council appears to have focused their attention on tourism related facilities at the expense of core infrastructure which is in dire need of attention. Tourists do not contribute to the cost of this core infrastructure but place increased loads on it necessitating extra funding to run, update and maintain this core infrastructure. Rural roads have long been flagged by rate payers as the number one priority for improvement yet Council has continually taken money from rural road funds to pay for over spending on less important projects. In the 2011 Strategic Land Use Plan the Corowa Sewerage Treatment Works was earmarked for replacement within 6-8 years. Now, ten years later, Council is saying it will be replaced in the next 10 years. Failure of this core infrastructure will lead to major environmental damage. Surely this should have been given priority over a community facility that over half of all rate payers have stated they will never use and are not in favour of an SRV to fund the running costs of.

To award this SRV could only be seen as rewarding economic mismanagement and would in no way encourage a Council, that has lost its way in managing it's rate payers' interests, get back on track.

Your comments on Criterion 1:

Council is only requesting this SRV due to economic mismanagement and poor choices when prioritising expenditure.

Your comments on Criterion 2:	**Council has referred to a survey in 2016 where they claim rate payers were in favour of a SRV to fund a new pool. I was not aware of any such survey and have not spoken to any member of the public that was. Indeed, no one at the public meeting held by Council, on Wednesday 24 February 2021 to discuss their SRV application, was aware of this survey either. I also cannot find the survey results in the information forwarded to IPART with Council's application.**
Your comments on Criterion 3:	**The impact of this proposed SRV is unfair on rural rate payers who already receive very little service for the high rates they are paying. Residential rates and business rates may be relatively low compared to the State average, but farm land rates are not. If this SRV is passed, many farmers who have multiple land parcels will pay the proposed rate increase many times over to fund a facility they may never use.**
Your comments on Criterion 4:	
Your comments on Criterion 5:	**IPART, in the past, approved SRVs of 7% over 5 years from 2013/14 to 2017/18 to this Shire. Council claimed in this previous application that the purpose of the SRV was to:** **- enhance financial sustainability** **- infrastructure maintenance/renewal** **- reduce infrastructure backlogs.** **In the long term financial plan at the time it was assumed that the rate pegging limit would apply between the 2018/19 and 2022/23 financial years. Clearly, none of these aims have been achieved and I have no faith in Council achieving their stated aims over the proposed SRV period.**
If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, plese 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**