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Submission: From: David Newell [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 26 February 2016 10:35 AM  
To: Local Government Mailbox  
Subject: Support Lismore Council special rate variation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm a long term resident and rate payer of the Lismore LGA & I support Lismore City Council's application for a special rate variation of 1.8% to raise \$500,000 p.a. for the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS). The rate variation is justified because the BMS reflects the community's desire to protect our environment, as indicated by the recent "Imagine Lismore" community consultation project.

The Lismore City Council area is part of the northeastern NSW biodiversity hotspot, indeed a hotspot of global significance, one that supports many threatened species. The Biodiversity Management Strategy is needed, with resources to implement, to protect these species from further risk. As a practicing ecologist, I have seen first hand the scope of the problem faced by the regions unique biodiversity. Without adequate funding to implement works, there is little hope for maintaining our natural assets.

I urge you to please approve the special rate variation request.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Newell

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