

# LG Submission Form 2020-2021

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Related form version: 10

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>Please deny Lismore City Council 's application to increase the rates on its ratepayers.</p> <p>Council has not fully nor properly consulted with its citizens nor has it been fully open and honest about its financial situation. LCC has not demonstrated to its ratepayers why such a significant is needed. Council has done a thorough review of its income and expenditure nor properly engaged the ratepayers in any discussion of its financial position.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 1:	<p>Council has not demonstrated the need nor the purpose for the special rate variation. It claims it has financial difficulties but this is not sufficient justifications. Council has not provided evidence of any substantial expenditure review or assured the ratepayers that it will live within its means. It is seeking the lazy option of exploiting the ratepayers as a cash cow and increasing the rates rather than making some hard choices about the current operational activities and expenditures.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 2:	<p>Council's information has been very limited and has been rather perfunctory in its approach . It has made some announcements published some data, circulated some material but never truly provided any evidence based rationale for its financial predicament or the need to vary the rate above the cpi adjustments.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 3:	<p>The variations that the LCC seeks is unreasonable. LCC already has one of the highest rates and charges in this state. Its current rating base is weighted against the urban ratepayers and favours the rural and the CBD rating categories where most expenditure takes place .</p> <p>Lismore is in one of the poorest federal electorates in Australia where the population can least afford such an increase.</p> <p>The population of Lismore is in decline .</p> <p>Potential new residents are opting for neighbouring council areas where the rates are considerably cheaper. The high cost of rates are a distinct disincentive for investors or potential new ratepayer residents to choose to invest or reside in Lismore.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 4:	<p>The LCC no doubt have exhibited the documents as legally required but this is a legalistic approach and not a meaningful of truly honest method of engaging with the ratepayers when expecting ratepayers to support such a substantial increase.</p> <p>A proper document or letter sent to all ratepayers and making each ratepayer specifically aware of the implications of the rate increase on their property or properties would be a much more realistic and meaningful method of engaging the ratepayer to this proposal.</p> <p>Misleading averages across some rating categories do not provide all ratepayers a fully informed vies the painful implications of such as substantial increase in this proposal.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 5:	<p>I saw no evidence of productivity improvements nor cost containments that council had implemented in the past few years. Some budget cuts in the latest budget of LCC are just that- cuts. They are not evidence of structural reform that is badly needed in LCC. There was no over arching strategic plan that could reassure the ratepayers that LCC are onto the problem. No evidence of the history of Council's predicament has been forthcoming What we have noted is that an [REDACTED] had taken the reins of LCC found the LCC is financially challenged and rather than meeting those challenges the [REDACTED] chose to megaphone the problem. The easiest solution was to hike the rates rather than grapple with the structural reform that was needed. The [REDACTED] then steered a "minority" of Councillors to hike the rates.</p> <p>.</p>
If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.	
<b>Your Details</b>	
Are you an individual or organisation?	Individual
If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.	Publish - my submission and name can be published (not contact details or email address) on the IPART website
First Name	Frank
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