

LG Submission Form 2021-2022 - notifications

Submission date: **13 February 2021, 1:13AM**
Receipt number: **4208**
Related form version: **3**

IPART Special Variation Submission Form

Industry	Local Government
Review	(LG) Special Variations & Minimum Rates 2021-2022
Document Reference	
Council	Armidale Regional Council, Application Notification Letter

Please leave your comments in the comment box below.

Our Council has misrepresented our community very badly for many years and the financial implications of an SRV on ratepayers following drought, bushfires and now COVID will be the last nail in our coffin.

Our ratepayers have also had imposed on them, outrageous costs from a [REDACTED] court case, where effectively our Council took our Council to Court, which was never going to end well. These costs should not be imposed on ratepayers but should be as the Court stated, covered by those primarily involved in bringing about the ridiculous Court action.

The negative financial impact of the forced merger of Armidale and Guyra Councils is an added cost to ratepayers that we must bear as well. The negative financial fallout of these forced mergers has been well documented in recent national media.

Times are very tough in the bush and we will lose existing ratepayers if an SRV is applied, and potential ratepayers will not move to our area as an increased SRV, with accompanying poor publicity, will deter them. We are already losing people from our region because of the recent, exorbitant increases in Council charges. As a result of the Council's gross mismanagement of our pristine, plentiful water supply, resulting in severe water shortages that were never envisioned to ever become a possibility in the Armidale region, ratepayers are now being slugged with unwelcomed and unwarranted increases in water rates to compensate Council for their loss in revenue and poor decision making. This is a very poor, disappointing and disheartening response to the region's stellar efforts to conserve water last year.

The culture of our Council needs to change so that their focus is on representing the community, rather than representing their [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. We have much work to be done, and your support in changing this culture would be welcomed, but not as another expense to ratepayers.

Please help make our Council work for us - the ratepayers - and not apply the requested SRV. They, like all of our society, must learn to live within their means and accept the responsibility of making intelligent budgetary decisions. We, as a community must support them and guide them in doing this, and iPART needs to support us in doing this too, by not applying an SRV.

We believe that in light of Armidale Regional Council's reckless mismanagement of our finances, Council's responsibilities should be trimmed back to the most basic core activities. This will reduce risk. Provided Council improves and handles these responsibilities

well, we can rebuild our Council into a properly functioning body.

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.

Publish - my submission and name can be published (not contact details or email address) on the IPART website

First Name

Louise

Last Name

Forsythe

Organisation Name

Position

Email

[REDACTED]

IPART's Submission Policy

I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy