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Submission: -----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Sunday, 13 March 2016 4:54 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox

Cc:

Subject: Lismore City Council Special Rate Variation

Lismore City Council
Special Rate Variation
Biodiversity Management Strategy
Dear Sir/Madame

The Lismore City Council has applied for a special rate variation, purportedly for the purpose of funding a Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS).

I, and it would appear that the majority of other rate payers in this council area, are **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this. My reasons are as follows:

1. Not for the BMS.

I contend that this increase is not for the BMS at all - it is just a money grab by the council.

The BMS is already in operation, with staff employed and field days being held, being fully funded by State Government funds.

2. Unpopular.

This proposal by the council is not very popular and not supported by any section of the community.

Even in the council meeting it was only passed by the casting vote of the Mayor. I thought the normal procedure in a case such as this the Mayor would vote on the side of caution. She has not, but voted for it to bulldoze the rate increase through.

The only entries in the media that have supported the increase have been an obvious media campaign, probably from the ALP media machine. All other individual comments have been dead against the increase.

Even the survey, that we believe was orchestrated by the council, has been negated by the thousands who attended the embassy set up in the Lismore CBD.

Everyone who came to the embassy were against the increase.

It should be remembered that this is a discussion for rate payers and not just residents. I wonder how many who commented for the increase were actually rate payers.

3. Is BMS needed?

I, and most of my neighbours, are already very active in:

- Controlling weeds such as camphor laurel, broad leaf privet, giant Parramatta grass, soda apple, and lantana.

We not only do this on our properties but also on adjacent gullies and the road verge.

- Control animals such as foxes, wild dogs and vermin.

- We plant thousands of native trees and shrubs along roadways, boundaries, waterways and unstable area.

By our example we try to set a good example for others in the community to follow ? and not sit around waiting for the council to do something.

Please excuse me for being cynical about the council's ability to carry out its works. Currently at my front gate, to enter the roadway I have to negotiate a dozen extreme potholes. The potholes are so bad the other road users drive through my private driveway to get around them.

Many thanks

Neil McQuilty