

# LG Submission Form 2020-2021

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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>The proposed SRV incorporates into the SRV projected rate pegging increases of 2.5% annually over four years so that 10% of the proposed total 24% is the actual allowable rate pegging.</p> <p>LCC's presentation to the public was 3 realities. A successful SRV allowing services to be maintained, and the road backlog addressed. No SRV with services maintained but no improvement in the roads backlog. No SRV with a cut to services allowing the roads backlog to be addressed.</p> <p>It raised my eyebrow learning LCC plans to incorporate four years of rate pegging into the SRV proposal. SRV monies must be dedicated and kept for the purpose they were approved for.</p> <p>Therefore council is planning no increases in all budgets excluding roads to the tune of circa 10% effectively cutting the very services they say they don't want to cut OR council will have to cut the very roads budget the SRV is designed for in order to maintain the current level of services. Its idiotic!</p>

Your comments on Criterion 1:	<p>LCC had an approved SRV of 6.4% in 1998 to address the roads backlog. After two years this SRV was subsumed into general revenue. IF council had left that SRV to purpose there would be no need today for this proposal. Council should cut services to recover these SRV monies before asking for another</p> <p>Council said without the SRV if road network was to improve in quality, the monies could only come from reduction in other services. LCC did not allow an objective understanding of this option as council did not detail which services would be cut. For example would the new art gallery that LCC was told would haemorrhage money be mothballed so that \$800,000 annual loss be shifted to roads? Which staff would be cut? Would the \$\$\$\$ losing airport be closed? The Goonelabah pool closed? Would the site of Lismore's closed free pool and surrounds be sold? There was no way to make an informed decision</p>
Your comments on Criterion 2:	<p>LCC downplayed the costs citing a very low VG and average rate that many said did not reflect their reality. They selectively compared Lismore to other regional towns of similar size but conveniently left out others that made the proposal look bad e.g. Ballina. They made excuses for why Ballina was left out but didn't mention Ballina bitumen road maintenance km. for km. is 70% the cost to Lismore. I assiduously tried and struggled throughout the 1990's to get council to understand the bitumen roads were not being built properly e.g. in the worst cases rutting was showing within months of council approving a developer's road. I gave up as banging my head against the wall gave me a headache not worth having</p>
Your comments on Criterion 3:	<p>My rural rates in 1978 were \$235. Today they are \$2526. This is an annual increase of roughly 5.5% significantly more than the average rate pegging over that time.</p> <p>The net increase on my rates of approximately 14% (24% -10% rate pegging) is significant for an aged pensioner with no other source of income.</p>
Your comments on Criterion 4:	

Your comments on Criterion 5:	One million of this SRV is for LCC to stimulate the Lismore economy. This is an absurdity. If LCC were capable of positively affecting the currently moribund local economy they wouldn't be working for council but big corporations paying them 10 million dollar annual bonuses. How they are going to do this was vacuous airy fairy pie in the sky nonsense. For [REDACTED] the federal reserve has been incapable of stimulating the national economy but this SRV and LCC's superb financial management (that's an oxymoron) with one million extra in hand are going to turn around the local economy? Balderdash!
If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.	
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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	Paul
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