

LG Submission Form 2020-2021

Submission date: 27 February 2020, 3:24PM

Receipt number: 102

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.	I believe that the need for this rate variation has been completely and dishonestly presented to iPART.
Your comments on Criterion 1:	Lismore Council has NO excuse for its continued neglect of our roads. this has purely been done to fund other non-council projects that its members find more appealing.
Your comments on Criterion 2:	The only evidence for a need for this rate rise is that entirely manufactured by Lismore Council itself. They seem incapable of keeping track of or managing their existing funds. Lismore has a wealth of "global warming" projects but a complete absence of roads and waste water management.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	The effect will be anything BUT "reasonable" Lismore is a poor town, largely existing on welfare. Businesses are closing in the CBD at an alarming rate and all cite the already crippling rates as a major factor This Council seems totally unaware of the state of its ratepayers and is hell bent on destroying the town to cover its own profligacy.
Your comments on Criterion 4:	The Council completely ignored the results of all its consultancy processes and pressed ahead with its own agenda, purely on the Mayor's casting vote. ONE single vote!

Your comments on Criterion 5:	<p>Lismore Council has made a lot of fancy "promises" to do "better" if the rate rise is allowed but in view of their past record this is hard to believe.</p> <p>Nor have they ever explained that the rise will in fact be greater than they claim, due to all properties having just been re-valued. This is basically dishonest and against the terms set by iPart.</p>
If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
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	Rosemary
Last Name	Bashford
Organisation Name	
Position	
Email	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 1.2em;"></div>
IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy

SUBMISSION to iPART re. LISMORE COUNCIL APPLICATION to INCREASE RATES

My name is Patricia Rosemary Bashford I am 88 years of age. I've been a rate payer in Lismore for the best part of 40 years.

I'm a widow to a war veteran who passed away in 1997, leaving me and my children to survive on a war widows pension since his death.

In that time I've only just managed to survive, not without some difficulty on this limited income. However I have managed to always pay my bills, rates and more importantly, my mortgage repayments, some times having to forfeit eating to do so. Thankfully I have recently discharged the loan, and am now the proud owner of my own modest home in [REDACTED].

However it seems this may not be for long if Lismore City Council gets their wishes and imposes an unaffordable rate rise through the Ipart Special Variation scheme, cynically aligning it to arrive just after a large increase in our property valuation by the State Government.

As for the increase to our rates, I want you to consider that we already pay one of the highest rates compared to other small country towns in NSW. Why should we have to shoulder this large increase, when other councils seem to survive well on lesser rates. You need only to walk around the main Lismore shopping district, and you'll find it looks and feels like a ghost town. Every second store is empty or in the process of closing down where once there was a thriving centre. All cite the rates as being too exorbitant. This alone is proof Lismore councils rates are already too great for this town to survive.

If only this council's priority was to managed and maintained the essential services this community requires first! Facilities such as water supply, waste removal and recycling, road maintenance, parks gardens and footpaths, there would not be a need to increase rates, but because so many on the Council apparently find these duties onerous, they prefer to concentrate on warm fuzzy issues like rainbow crossings for the diverse minorities, enforcing the climate change doctrine, encouraging expensive biodiversity projects they endorse, also showcasing gender specific events such as International Women's Day (but not the men's), and encouraging strange things like covering the sewage pond in floating solar panels and countless other futile efforts, all funded at rate payer costs. This would of course be all well and good if they had completed all the necessities within the available budget, but clearly they have not. Instead they have willingly ignored the essential core requirements which are difficult and boring, only to follow up personal agendas and barrow pushing on fringe issues they find more interesting.

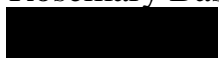
If you need evidence of this, you need only to drive around the Lismore district roads and you'll soon be aware of how this council has allowed them to fall into deep disrepair while following its green-friendly, feel good social constructs and airy fairy climate change nonsense agenda.

As for my personal concerns with this council, for the past 10 years I have unsuccessfully tried to convince them to address the lack of storm water drainage in my street, not to mention most of the others in South Lismore, where outdated

shallow open gutters have become overgrown and blocked due to total lack of maintenance. This prevents rain water getting away and results in the flooding of local houses. I've lodged multiple reports to the council through their online system link. I've supported this with photo evidence and explanations how they could easily correct it, and all I've ever received is an automated email that says the problem has been lodged. Eventually you give up and this 88 year old woman has on many occasions had to take a shovel out in the pouring rain to try and stop the storm water from overflowing the non-functional open gutter and running back into my property, filling up the area underneath my home where I have my laundry and storage. This has caused considerable damage to my property, not to mention that of my neighbours. Surely this is proof that this self serving, yet profligate council has no concern for its rate payers. The members of the Council have clearly been told on many so-called "consultations" that the community does not want this increase at all, nor can it afford such a large figure as is on their application. The Council has blatantly ignored us every time, just going against our wishes, granting themselves a pay rise, and even increasing their already extravagant staffing in order to satisfy their self serving demands. And all of this because Lismore City Council simply cannot manage the non unsubstantial funds they already receive. Meanwhile this city rapidly falls apart.

Signed:

Rosemary Bashford

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