

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 March 2019 12:45 PM  
**To:** Local Government Mailbox <localgovernment@ipart.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Dungog Shire Council, Special Variation Application, SRV

INDUSTRY  
Local Government  
Application

TO: IPART

RE: Dungog Shire Council, Special Variation Application, SRV

To whom it may concern,

Had issues with the online submission hence an email approach here.

My wife and I just purchased a property late last year just outside Clarence Town as our new home. My conveyancer did not inform me of any council financial issues at the time or any SVR matters.

The biggest issues I have are

1. I don't feel that new residents should be paying for previous or historical financial mismanagement of Dungog Council despite a "new push now" to make it financially sustainable. Any new resident up to say 12months should be exempt from SRV and only endure a MAX 2.5% rate cap/yr ( ideally 2.2% a year closer to my expectations or to government body increases seen elsewhere)
2. The recent article in December 2018 issue of Newcastle Weekly stating the journalist Ben Murphy interviewing Mayor Tracy Norman extract – " Dungog has a small population with a large road network of more 750Kms, yet Dungog is the only local government area in NSW without STATE ROADS" - Have copy of magazine article on request.

So, the issue is really to include Dungog in State Roads and by so doing eliminate the need for any SRV in this case.

3. The case for SRV to pay for roads/Bridges?? – No need for SRV, if State Roads is to be responsible for roads and minor bridges. For major historical wooden bridges ....why not place a small bridge toll that goes towards a more modern structure to be build nearby. Some toll exemptions can be made for residence but bulk of tolls applied to heavy vehicles.

4. For many long term residents..... am fully sympathetic to any introduced SRV but in other parts of the state amalgamation of small councils may reduce small council overheads and be more efficient... so perhaps an SRV will not be required in the unlikely case state roads cannot include Dungog on their map.

BR  
Steve

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