

LG Submission Form 2021-2022 - Applications

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Related form version: **2**

IPART Special Variation Submission Form - Applications

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

If you have any general feedback regarding your council's proposed SV, please leave your comments in the comment box below.

I formally object to any increases to land or utility rates proposed by the Armidale Regional Council.

Ratepayers and residents should NOT be liable for the failed efficiency of the ARC for the following reasons:

- 1. Continuous council mismanagement**
- 2. Amalgamation of local council**
- 3. Senior staff wage increases**
- 4. Rising risks of water insecurity due to agribusiness/industry use and any planned expansion or projects.**
- 5. Increasing financial hardship due to**
 - a) the impacts of drought, bushfire and covid.**
 - b) the close of many business outlets in the area, resulting in increasing travel expenses and unavailability of services.**

The residents of this region are suffering and paying enough for the incompetence of council and higher management.

Your comments on Criterion 1:

The need for, and purpose of, a different revenue path should not be incurred by local residents through rate increases.

People should not be liable for exorbitant council financial mismanagement and blatant inefficient policy and outcomes.

Covid19 restrictions have clearly been a financial loss for everyone in regional areas. Tourism, events and attractions subsequently cancelled.

Prior to covid19, revenue building pathways and events in the region were severely mismanaged and not adequately supported by council.

The continued incompetency and disregard by council to engage in, adopt and support community projects, ideas and incentives, is a major contributing factor for decreasing community interest and overall investment, consequently limiting council resourcing alternatives.

The consistent ignorance of community and regional wellbeing by council and higher management, is negligent, offensive, shameful and expensive.

The cost of carelessness is not the residents duty of care to bare or repair.

The council and management of ARC should be reducing expenditure and certainly not proposing salary increases.

Your comments on Criterion 2:

The evidence of public awareness and the lack of community consultation will be clearly apparent by the response and details within IPART submissions.

The evidence of awareness and access to engage in the IPART process by stakeholders, is additionally reflected by the limited online presence and an ageing population within the region.

Your comments on Criterion 3:

There is no justified reason, at this time, to increase any land or utility rates and burden council expenses upon ratepayers, rent-paying businesses, students or residents.

The cost of the poor performance and breaches of integrity requirements by the council and higher management is not the responsibility of the people!

I hope that IPART will consider recent drought, bushfire and ongoing covid19 and the decision will justifiably reflect upon the financial hardships impacting everyone in this electorate.

Your comments on Criterion 4:

With drought, fires and covid19, ratepayers and in particular rural stakeholders, have been unsatisfactorily able to consider the IP&R. Under these circumstances, the expectation that people have been adequately informed is totally unrealistic. Any changes or SRV at this time, would be negligent to all residents and undermine all duty of care.

Your comments on Criterion 5:

The level of community engagement and consultation has frankly been negligible.

There is no trust from stakeholders towards the Armidale Regional Council or higher management.

Any rate rise at this time, will do nothing to amend the situation, encourage new stakeholders, improve the current public relations or build confidence in council and least of all, address the requirements and expectations of residents!

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

Vanessa

Last Name

Peterson

Organisation Name

Position

Email

[REDACTED]

IPART's Submission Policy

I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy