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Submission: From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2016 8:36 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: Support for Lismore City Council's application for a special rate variation of 1.8% to raise \$500,000 p.a. for the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm a resident of the Lismore LGA & I support Lismore City Council's application for a special rate variation of 1.8% to raise \$500,000 p.a. for the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Strategy (BMS). The rate variation is justified because the BMS reflects the community's desire to protect our environment, as indicated by the recent "Imagine Lismore" community consultation project. I was present at several of these consultations and know first hand that the environment and Council showing leadership in managing our environment was the top priority.

The Lismore City Council area is part of the northeastern NSW biodiversity hotspot, indeed a hotspot of global significance, one that supports many threatened species. The Biodiversity Management Strategy is needed, and requires resources to implement, to protect these species from further risk.

I belong to a several landcare group who have been restoring the riverbanks in Lismore for over 20 years largely at our own expense, and we know of many others in the Landcare movement in the Lismore LGA with the skills and capacity to protect conserve and restore our unique biodiversity - we simply lack, as does local council, the resources, specifically recurring budgets, to do so effectively at the landscape scale. This rate variation is small but it will make a big difference to current and future generations as well as to our unique local biodiversity of global significance. Council's current investment in the natural environment is very small, as roads and an ageing sewer system and other infrastructure account for most of the annual budget. We urge you to please approve the special rate variation request.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Tallon

Member of various Landcare Groups

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