

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

<p>If you have any general feedback regarding your council's proposed SV, please leave your comments in the comment box below.</p>	<p>I have been a rate payer in the Lismore City Council area for the past 20 years. They have one of the existing highest rates in this Northern Rivers area and more than \$1000 higher per year than my previous places of abode. Lismore residents are currently not in a financial position to be able to afford any rate increase , let alone that requested by the current council. A walk around the CBD area shows the number of empty shops because of the existing ridiculous amount of rates. Our nearby Ballina CBD, on the other hand is booming, and I know first hand that their rates are about 1/9th that of Lismore. On their initial consultation with rate payers it was overwhelmingly obvious by the number of people who completed the survey that the rate payers did not agree. The proposed expenditure which was outlined in their original submission was extravagant to say the least. In these current financial times we all have to learn to tighten our belt and unfortunately the council do not appear to realise this. I believe they have a huge deficit in their books however they will not disclose how this came about except to say "it was a book keeping error". I believe that if I overspent my budget they would not come to my aid so I fail to see why we should be asked to dig deeper into our already overstretched pockets to support their overspending! We need to encourage new business owners into the city to help our economy grow and unfortunately, this huge rate increase is going to do the exact opposite. Therefore they will end up with less ratepayers paying more, and even more unable to pay the increase pay nothing at all.</p>
<p>Your comments on Criterion 1:</p>	<p>I am sure they have provided you with the relevant information that they feel is required to get them over the line. However as the huge majority of Lismore ratepayers have previously filled out two surveys they still feel that they have the right to request us to support their overspending. I know that it was a very tight vote within the council to take the decision to this next step. Obviously some of the councillors have a conscience and some don't.</p>

Your comments on Criterion 2:	The council have outlined why they require the extra funds however the need for the work that they feel is so necessary at this current time is a lot less than the amount they are requesting when we already have sufficient parks, gardens, playing fields etc of high standard. There should be no need to spend further money building, just regular maintenance until the current economic situation improves.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	We already pay more than all the coastal council areas etc and they provide more facilities etc with their annual rates without the need for big increases such as Lismore are asking. Floods in our region are covered by special grants however we witnessed firsthand the waste of this money in a healthy river festival that was poorly organised and achieved nothing
Your comments on Criterion 4:	They were exhibited and met with total disbelief from the majority of Lismore residents and ratepayers with several members of public setting up a shop from in one of the many empty shops in the CBD to outline the absolute waste that the proposed spending was.
Your comments on Criterion 5:	They assured us we would only be driving on gravel roads if their demands were not met. They, as far as I saw or am aware did not outline and cost containment strategies. Their lack of ability to achieve this is why we are in the current situation we are in.
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	Wendy
Last Name	Ninness
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IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy