

LG Submission Form 2021-2022 - Applications

Submission date: **3 March 2021, 9:53AM**
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IPART Special Variation Submission Form - Applications

Industry	Local Government
Review	(LG) Special Variations & Minimum Rates 2021-2022
Document Reference	
Council	Central Coast 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.	Pleas see the attached submission from the Springfield Residents Association. The Association objectives to the proposal by Council, suggesting that increased increased income is not the answer to Council's mismanagement of public funds.
Your comments on Criterion 1:	The community is not behind the level of service provided by Council to date and thus questions the need to expend funds in an unwise fashion.
Your comments on Criterion 2:	The community has not been given adequate information about the likely alternatives, other than to say that a rate increase is the only option.
Your comments on Criterion 3:	The Central Coast LGA is one of the highest rated Councils in the state with a history of poor performance of service levels. the ration of administrative costs to community deliverables is too high to be considered reasonable
Your comments on Criterion 4:	Noted

Your comments on Criterion 5:

Noted but disagree

If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.

[SRA Letter Submission - IPART - Rate Rise - March 2021.pdf](#)

Your Details

Are you an individual or organisation?

Organisation

If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.

Anonymous - my submission can be published but my name should remain anonymous

First Name

Last Name

Organisation Name

Position

Email

[REDACTED]

IPART's Submission Policy

I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy

SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Inc.



3 March 2021

To Whom it May Concern

RE: Submission for Proposed Rate Rise – Central Coast Council

This submission is made on behalf of the Residents association of Springfield, primarily a residential suburb located between Gosford and Erina on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

After speaking with many long-term rate paying residents who have called Springfield home for decades, it is asked how it can be expected for the ratepayers to now pay for what is obviously the financial difficulties Central Coast Council has now found itself in. Collectively we think the situation a disgrace and because of poor financial management are expected to foot the bill.

As President of Springfield Residents Association for 20 years, it saddens me to have to point out the reality of the lack of service Council provides in Springfield: -

- Other than Springfield Road (see below) most of the roads remain in the same state as they have always been, pothole infested, undrained, poorly sealed, with no footpaths.
- The long-awaited upgrade of Springfield Road only happened due to a political promise by state politicians, not from decades of begging the council to fix it.
- Maitland Road was a quiet secondary road servicing the local residents. It is now a second main road through Springfield. Council has done nothing to update its disgraceful condition and unsafe open drains.

The road becomes a one-way street when cars are parked on the side of this road, due to the giant open drains. Commuters, who drive home via the Freeway, then use this road as it is the only access to Springfield from the Central Coast Highway and tend to speed up this notwithstanding it's hazardous condition. It is scary to witness.

- The water supply, for those who have it, and many do not, constantly requires the mains to be flushed-out, as the water is brown and smells.
- The play equipment at Terry Oval was removed due to its age and safety concerns, which is understandable, but was it not replaced with any up to date equipment. Many children utilize this oval and sporting groups that pay to hire it, should have access to play equipment in a park this size. When asbestos was discovered in the public amenities block, the facility was closed and left for years before it was demolished, and a new block built.
- Bushlands Reserve was only developed due to Springfield Residents Association and Chertseydale Community Cottage obtaining grants and getting Work for the Dole participants to build it. Although there were multiple requests, almost begging to Gosford Council, the reality was that the community did most of the work not Gosford Council. We are only Springfield so we don't matter!!

SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION Inc.



- The million-dollar Boardwalk that was built in Willow Rd was a result of Springfield Residents Assoc campaigning for 20 years, so the children of Chertsey School had a decent pathway to school. This project only came to fruition when we involved a local Politian.
- For years one lone resident has had to battle for the clearing up of “The Springfield Wetlands Pond” which is in a protected area. It has become overrun by a variety of noxious weeds and is in desperate need of funding to fix and maintain this Council and privately owned pond.
- Council TRIED to put an Asbestos and Concrete Recycling Facility in residential Springfield, on land that was purchased for the Coastal Open Sac System (COSS). This outraged the community and we fought a long hard battle to stop this. How dare they even considered this site and put us all through the stress and worry of what it would do to our families, pets and homes. Thankfully we, the members of Springfield Residents Association and our wonderful rate paying community were able to stop this from happening. Also, this atrocity would have been paid for by the ratepayers, what is just a further insult.

The above a just a few examples of the long standing suffering this small residential suburb has endured, firstly by Gosford City Council and now forcefully imposed Central Coast Council. I am sure that there are many other examples throughout the Local Government Area of Council’s incapacity to deliver basis services to its constituents.

So, it now expected (actually it looks more like demanded) that ratepayers continue to pay for services we don’t get. We are expected to “bail out” the Council for their mistakes and financial woes and mismanagement. Our rates were already some of the highest in the state, yet Central Coast Council is one of the largest and should be benefitting from economies of scale. Clearly it is not.

By increasing the rates, all that will happen is an organization that cannot manage the already large income it receives each year from its ratepayers will continue to do so. It is an outrageous and preposterous suggestion. There is no social contract here that says the debt will be effectively managed and there is a clear change of heart and management at Council.

It is felt like we are living in the days of Robin Hood where they take from the poor to pay for the rich, and this instance the rich are an overspending Council bureaucracy.

I speak on behalf of the people of Springfield that we don’t want to give you any-more of our hard-earned money of which you have no right.

Rather than increase income via a rate increase why not cut costs, slash the executive salaries, rationalise assets (sell property on leaseback terms) and sweat the existing asset base. I am sure there are many other ways to reduce costs rather than the proposal to increase income.

Although we can make a submission to IPART we feel our hands are tied, and sadly we have a small voice and thus no say.

Yours sincerely



President Springfield Residents Association