

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
1	Anonymous	Anonymous	A rate variation or rate increase will not provide any substantial long-term benefit to the community. This council has had a history of poor financial mismanagement practices dating back 10 years. CFO's in the past who couldn't read a balance sheet, let alone answer basic financial questions when asked, existed during this period. Instead of penalising the rate payers, council needs to have a look at cutting costs and eliminating any poorly run assets. It's time the rate payer got value for money for the services which they receive
2	Anonymous	Anonymous	The rate increase should not be allowed. We already have one of the highest rates in NSW, but the LPSC want to increase rates by 8% for three years in a row. That increases the rates of say \$2500 per year to over 3149.28 per year in just three years. This is horrific, this will price already struggling people and families out of the area and make living in the LPSC very difficult. The council can't keep our street free from pot holes, yet they want to have a massive increase to keep on doing this. There are many other options out there for them to choose, but as it affects them personally, they will not do the right thing.  There are no rental properties in Quirindi as they have already been rented out and are priced very high because of this. The proposed rate increase will mean that families and people will have to move out of the area.
3	Anonymous	Anonymous	I am astonished that LPSC are planning to increase rates. Particularly considering the high rates we pay in comparison to much more adequately facilitated council areas. And also in relation to inflation CPI etc, I can not see this as a reasonable plan by council.
4	Liam	Mccain	Confidential
5	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
6	Anonymous	Anonymous	I believe that a 24% rate rise over 3 years is way to much for a council with already high rates. It is making it hard for people to purchase home sin our shire as well as it will raise rent prices which can ruin small communities.
7	Anonymous	Anonymous	It seems that the council continue to apply every single year for a rate variance. Perhaps they need to review their grandiose projects for a more attainable budget, concentrating on base infrastructure.
8	Anonymous	Anonymous	The Liverpool plains community have been ravaged by years of drought many of us haven't received any pay rises in recent years at our jobs. The cost of housing and groceries have increased exponentially over the last 3 years as well as a large increase in job losses from covid 19. This is the last things our community needs.  we already pay far more for our rates than many other neighbouring districts and we receive very little in the way of services. Our parks, Main Street gardens, cemetery, sporting grounds are all maintained by volunteers. The only community asset that council maintain is the pool (which we pay for separately) and is only available for use a few hrs a day for a maximum of 3 months a year and is also managed by an external company. They charge for disposal of green waste whilst still not supplying a green waste bin.  If I thought for a second that the money would be spent wisely, competently and constructively I'd be willing to consider backing such an increase. However this council has proven time and time again that they are incapable of doing such a thing under their current management team and councillors. Our last hope of any transparency and consideration for their constituents was a councillor who was ██████ out of his role because he dared to speak up for the people of councils area
9	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
10	Anonymous	Anonymous	LPSC rates would already have to be one of the highest in the state, yet the services we receive are fewer than more LGA's and/or lacking completely. The roads are all in desperate need of repair, the local sporting organisations pay huge ground fees only to have to maintain the grounds themselves, apart the very small stretch of the main road that has paved council strips the remainder of the Main Street is neglected, the streets all lack sufficient lighting, and there are way too many indoor staff doing far too little while there is a desperate shortage of outdoor staff. The LPSC has mis-managed their funds for a significant period of time, resulting in audits and frequent rate increases.
11	Anonymous	Anonymous	How can a rate rice be justified in times when families are doing it tough i ,I do know of one land lord that is going to sell his rental property and buy in another area that has lower rates is this what the council wants people not buying in the area because the rates are to high
12	Leah	Cunningham	No to any form of rate rises at all. If the council cannot sustain on their own time to merge.
13	Anonymous	Anonymous	We pay more in rates than Tamworth home owners do. Tamworth residents have wonderful facilities what does Quirindi council offer? They don't even open the pool for a full day. We had a rate rise over 3 years here a few years back. This rate rise saw no improvement in the town. If I'm paying \$3k for rates I want good roads, parks, playgrounds, employment opportunities for my children. Quirindi is a town who's Main Street is full of empty shops and no real future
14	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
15	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential

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16	Anonymous	Anonymous	With employment opportunities being few and far between the impact of raising rates during covid 19 pandemic times seems harsh and uncaring. Those who own rental properties will pass on the increase. Shops already have enough trouble making ends meet. Increasing rates at this point in time will adversely affect the retail base within the local area. I say no to this money grab at a time when most of the country is barely hanging on because of the pandemic.
17	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
18	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Why should we, the residents of Werris creek pay more to Liverpool plain shire council??...</p> <p>The council has approved a well funded logging business set up almost upon our Main Street and on residents front lawn. The effect on the environment of our small town has had a negative impact.</p> <p>Our residents have had to live in a cloud of dust and now we have log trucks going through our Main Street. I believe NO log truck should enter ANY residential area (especially when there is another route!).</p> <p>Also the road I live on was washed away in the Jan/feb floods 2020, it took more than 6 months to address and it is still a disgrace!!</p> <p>We pay our fees to the landfill depot as we do not have a bin service and I believe given residents pay to use this facility it is a disgrace also. The recycle bins at the front are always full and never maintained.</p> <p>Our parks and cemetery are taken care of by generous locals who do a fantastic job!! Council may provide the fuel and mowers but never any man power. If they did it wouldn't be as exceptional as it is now.</p> <p>Our pool is run buy teenagers lucky to be 21. I couldn't purchase a bottle of water recently as there was one staff member on. It was unsafe for him as the life guard to leave the pool side. There should always be 2 staff members on. One person should not be expected to serve, save lives and maintain grounds.</p> <p>I feel my list could go on but at the end of the day I truly believe LPSC don't deserve the rise when we, Werris creek residents don't see any rewards in return.</p> <p>All we've seen in the last 18 months is local residents being shafted and having to live in a cloud of dust created by a logging company who should of been set up out of town (the other proposed site) and definitely should not have had the approval of log trucks to enter our Main Street.</p> <p>This absolutely disgusts me!!</p> <p>I feel the council have not had our best interest at heart for a very long time and this needs to be reviewed.</p>
19	Anonymous	Anonymous	Note- there was a log truck loose it's load a few months back just out of town. Logs everywhere!!! Imagine if that happen in town. ☹
20	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Rates are already too high. Council should reign in spending on unnecessary items and focus on their job!!</p> <p>We get very little for the exorbitant amount we pay in rates already, without the council being approved for any further rises.</p> <p>The LPSC cares nothing for its constituents, it's all about keeping big business happy. Our town of Werris Creek has been ruined by their poor planning decisions by approving a Methyl Bromide using wood yard and freight centre straight across from the main street and close to the children's playground.</p> <p>I have had to already pay over 40 thousand dollars to try and live in my own house with the excessive dust the venture causes. I have used my superannuation and am now retrenched so my future is very bleak. For this reason, I do not wish to have to pay these mob one additional cent. Our town is manned by volunteers so we should not have to pay what we do, let alone more.</p> <p>Please help us out by blocking this move. They need to manage their funds better.</p>
21	Anonymous	Anonymous	Absolutely no need to have a rate increase! The water is awful, the roads are awful! We pay more rates then anyone I know!

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
22	Simone	Wagner	<p>We are not getting our money's worth from this [REDACTED] council. The last thing they need to do, is gouge more money from ratepayers who are already suffering at their hands.</p> <p>Inadequate water filtration plant 20 years overdue for renovation; Roads inadequate, damaged, under-repaired and deadly; Methyl Bromide allowed to be sprayed.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains council is out dated. Staff are inept, to be polite. Councillors are [REDACTED] and allow anyone with the money, to do whatever they want here.</p> <p>The railway is constantly upgraded to suit big coal companies, while the road is a disgrace and a death trap and council do the bare minimum in bandaid repairs, when we need the whole road rebuilt!</p> <p>What is the money going to go on?  A railway underpass so residents of Werris Creek aren't held up by freight trains?  Or the road?  Or the water? They already have funding for that.</p> <p>I don't see how they can justify this, when our rates are already quite expensive, compared to other regional areas.</p> <p>This should be put to a community vote at least, with Council having to justify their request to the rate payers they want to charge!</p>
23	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Our rates keep going up but our pay doesn't. Our rates keep rising yet we don't get any benefits from it. Our street doesn't even have a footpath or gutters, only two working weak street lights in the whole street. Pool doesn't open till the afternoon unless school holidays. No green waste collection. The roads are full of pot holes. They don't enforce their rule about backyard burning, Community are asked to mow cemetery &amp; parks if they complain. What are council spending all of their money on that they continue to raise rates?! The water stinks &amp; tastes disgusting. Each time council does advertise what they spent money on there seems to be extra 0's after the figure for what it should have cost. I hope these rate increases aren't to pay for a walkway between Quirindi &amp; Werris creek. People can't afford the rates as they are, people have lost work &amp; those who haven't have not been getting pay rises. It's time for councils to learn to live within their means like the rest of us &amp; do the job they are employed to do!</p>
24	Max	Kettle	<p>We pay such hi rates now more than most areas of Sydney.  It will amount to a 24% increase in 3 years over \$600 in our case, no way my wages are stagnant it will be a financial nightmare.  Kind Regards  Max kettle</p>
25	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Liverpool Plains Shire Council's rates are already about 350% higher than comparative council's rates! I have been arguing this for years, to no avail. See attached comparison rates from 2013. My rates on a land value of \$41,600 are more than land valued at \$144,000 in Lake Macquarie and \$136,000 in Wyong Shire. How can this be justified?! I know these rates notices are old, but the rates have not decreased.</p> <p>Our wages have not increased, especially since Covid-19. Our council needs to learn to live within it's budget.</p>
26	Jess	Phillip	<p>Rates here have already increased by DOUBLE over the 8years we have lived here. Now currently paying \$2700/annum for 7acres. Our neighbours pay \$2200/annum.  I don't see how this is proactive. Maybe they need to look at their staff and own pay packets and adjust before hitting the public again</p>
27	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>An 8 percent rise per year for three years cannot be sustained by a community just getting over a very severe drought. More money needs to be spent on reconstructing and repairing roads than on grandiose cultural items or a walk track to Werris Creek. Council also needs to open up land for housing so more people can come and contribute to the local economy.</p>
28	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>The council already has one of the highest rate prices around. Considering the facilities we get for our money they need to stop wasting it on unimportant projects.</p>
29	Leigh	Webb	<p>Confidential</p>
30	Belinda	Back	<p>I have just read the imposed rate increases of 26% over the next 3 years. Would love to know what extra services the rate payer will receive. We don't have a garden waste bin to place lawn clippings etc in. We also have an immense problem with calcium in our water. We have only been here three years and yet we have replaced every tap and fitting twice due to the degradation of high amounts of calcium in the water. We have also just now been treating our dog who has a severe kidney infection - we suspect also from this problem. I would like to know when this problem is going to be fixed! If there is no added services to the rate payer then how can you justify increasing rates.</p>
31	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I consider the suggested rate rise to be unjust and certainly exorbitant considering the state of our council owned areas. Our waterways are devastatingly neglected as are many roads. Why can't our creek be cleaned up and the land used for a walkway too? It's manageable would just take some time, effort and money. We have pay disgusting fees to take green waste from our homes to the tip and there is absolute minimum spent on investing in our little community.</p>

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32	Anonymous	Anonymous	I don't mind a increase if we are getting better services but we are not getting any. Yes things are getting upgraded around the town but that does not Effect everyone. Even if a rate Payer wants to use our local tip it cost a fortune, the roads are crap, the footpaths in town are a disgrace, But yet so many council employees use council cars for personal use thus should be the first thing to stop snd that would add so much to your own budget without costing us a cent. We are a small rural town why do err have rates more expensive than those in some city areas.
33	Edward	Radcliffe	This is out the front of my house when it rains. Council have never done anything about it and I have been asking for 40 years to fix this big problem. Last week (Monday the 14th December 2020) the council came and supposedly fixed across the roads neighbours road (who works on the council) drained the water from his side but when it rained it came across the road to my bog hole. After 8 brain surgeries now having to use a wheelchair my husband cannot get out my gateway due to pot holes and when it rains cannot get out at all. My son as well as myself are visually impaired and have hurt ourselves on numerous occasions trying to navigate through our quagmire of a driveway. When my grandchildren come to stay it is positively dangerous as this is a drowning hazard. The school bus cannot pull over to the side of the road to let my Granddaughter off as there is no room and he has to pull up in the middle of the road causing a traffic hazard which is not only endangering my Granddaughter but a entire bus load of children's lives. The community Pre School is just across the road and the car park is directly next to me and this water continues down past the car park drive way causing a hazard for parents, children and staff. We have submitted photographic evidence to council in regards to this matter in the last 40 years to no avail in fact complete dismissal of the subject. Not to mention that our rates are among the highest in the state and we don't even have curb and guttering. WHERE ARE OUR RATES GOING.
34	Narelle	Caterer	I live in Allnutt Street and the council have not done any road maintenance since I have been here for 38 years. The grader has only been down our street 3 times in this 38 years. They have never fixed the water situation in this time . They just graded it and the water stays out the front of our house and it goes across the road to our neighbors front nature strip. It smells a couple of days after the sun comes out, and becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects. Many years ago, the council gave us all free tube stock of native trees to plant on our nature strips. We planted ours and much to our delight, ended up with a beautiful big iron bark gum tree. Over time though, the beautiful iron bark tree has begun to self lop. Where the tree drops the limbs is directly over our water metre, it is only a matter of time before it drops a limb on the water metre. Council have not seen the problem with this. It seems the only way anything gets done in the town is if you are a serving councillor needing work done to your property.
35	Anonymous	Anonymous	Not for the council asking community to pay more in rates What does the council do? There is no community events No council microchipping vaccine days as other communities have and the community itself has one grocery store Rates are cheaper in Sydney with access to brand new roads more health and shopping services quirindi is not a town that is thriving and should be grateful for those who have purchased and reside. The council does not manage the zone the community funds do. Up your rates and residence leave Quirindi will be a dead town.
36	Anonymous	Anonymous	Bad roads No council events held Asbestos piping exposed and not checked on drive ways due to flooding after drought Calcium in water ruining communities tap fixtures and appliances which cost money to fix Rates already set at a maximum for a small community There will be no quirindi if the council raises rates Elderly can not afford it and council does no maintenance Sydney central coast all have cheaper rates and large council events This is where tenants will sell and leave and create another dead town
37	Marg	Hogan	Confidential
38	Anonymous	Anonymous	For some residents who don't even get curb and guttering I think this is unnecessary The council want to charge rates and water and waste for land that doesn't even supply these features. They get enough money as is and don't look after the land we pay rates on
39	Anonymous	Anonymous	Please do not permitt this application by LPSC to increase rates above the set rate peg. Rates for this LGA are already too high with consideration to the very low land values. Any increase will be detrimental to home owners and in turn the local economy in an area where many are already struggling to make ends meet.

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40	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Whilst the people are suffering drastically with what has been the worst year ever &amp; looking like hard times are going to continue for some time to come ... this council is wanting to push us further up the creek without a paddle by increasing rates. Defies all reason doesn't?...I really don't think that there's anything else to say..I'm just gobsmacked 😞😞</p> <p>Regards  <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span></p> <p>PS Can someone tell me how Quirindi Council went from having quite a substantial amount of money in coffers (more then other councils) to acting as though we had zilch...come on guys, really!!</p>
41	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
42	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>There wanting another 8% rate increase every year for the next 3 years and it's an absolute joke. They do nothing. Home owners are responsible for their land. We mow it, if it was left up to them they wouldn't do anything. We have asked numerous amount of times for a block next to us to be cleaned up to be told there is nothing they can do about it. We pay for water that you can't drink. Roads are falling apart. We pay for rubbish pick up, but if the garbage man happens to break your bin we are responsible to pay for a new one. We pay all this money already for rates and yet you still can't put a container on your block unless you have council permission, but then that rule only seems to apply for some. We're in the middle of a pandemic and yet the public toilets look like they have never been cleaned. So no i don't support a rate increase. I could understand rates being that high if you lived in a city. But we live in a small town. It's not like there is much here</p>
43	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Werris Creek has one of the highest rates in NSW, the town has volunteers that keep our parks and cemetery beautiful. I believe that this Council use very creative accounting. Saying they have spent a grant on something and I believe have channeled a percentage of it to other things. We are still waiting for the 20 million to be spent on the Werris Creek filtration plant. Now the Council are saying the grant was to also be used for a pipeline from the dam to Quirindi. Cannot trust this Council st all.</p>
44	Glenn	Wilson	<p>This council only cares about one town and that's Quirindi where the councillors live. This council has spent millions of ratepayers money beautifying Quirindi only. The other towns are being neglected. In the last 20 years our town has had blue reflectors put on the road and new rubbish bins. We pay the highest rates in nsw in Weriss Creek</p>
45	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I strongly object to the special variation rate rise. We already have a considerably high rate cost, being one of the most expensive in the state. My rates for this year are already \$2317.65 p.a, based off my land value being \$37400. Our council need to learn how to spend their ratepayers money more effectively, not try and take more, especially in these uncertain, extremely hard times. It is absolutely not acceptable to allow this rate rise at this current time.</p>
46	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>This council is grossly mismanaged. They have the worst scenario of what's good for the community. There is no plausible reason for a rate increase at this point in time except to cover up their mismanagement and as always the community has to suffer! ☹️</p>
47	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Liverpool Plains Shire already has one of the highest levels of rates in NSW and has had large rate increases in rates only a few years ago. We are a small dying regional district, recently going through years of drought. Many people are doing it tough already and this will push them over the edge.</p> <p>What do we get for our rates? Services here are no better than elsewhere, for the huge amount in rates we pay compared to elsewhere. We have to pay for mulch for gardens unlike many other councils. Our local roads are awful, many of our rural roads aren't mowed on the side leading to accidents with wildlife and roads are generally in a poor patchworked state. They claim this is why they need more money, however they already get so much more than other councils maybe they need to manage their funds better?</p> <p>The farmers have to pay huge sums in rates and don't even have the services we have in town such as rubbish collection, so while the council claims it is such a huge council area which is why it needs so much funding the truth is they don't provide services to much of the shire district.</p> <p>There is a huge shortage of rental houses locally, this is due to it not worth investing in property locally due to the high rates. Why would an investor buy here when can buy elsewhere and not pay the rates? The result is many having to move elsewhere due to lack of housing. This issue will be compounded by additional rate rises and more people will be forced to leave the area where rentals are easier to come by and are more affordable.</p> <p>There are so many reasons to not raise our rates as the council is asking and no real reason why they should. Our family asks that you consider your decision carefully as this will impact just this generation but generations to come.</p>
48	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>We pay high rates now &amp; will make things so much harder for people living in this small town.</p>
49	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>We are a rural community that are already struggling after many years of drought and then rain at the wrong time that wiped out crops. I feel that these rate changes will be too much for the people of this area to cope with both emotionally and financially.</p> <p>We see very little happening in our community by our local council and I do not see how slogging us with ridiculous rates will improve anything. Before this is approved I feel very strongly that management of funds should be looked into... what will the Shire be receiving to warrant such high rates in comparison to other shires? We should not get slogged because we are rural...</p>
50	Glynis	Wheeler	<p>Considering the high aged/retired people in the area who already have problems at times to pay their rates - is this really fair?</p>
51	Kathy	Rowe	Confidential
52	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
53	Helen	Pritchett	Confidential

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54	Anonymous	Anonymous	It is not rate payers fault that council cannot keep it's spending in check. I disagree with the rise in rates to get the council out of debt. I did have intentions of buying other properties in the area but I will not be doing so if the rate increase is approved. I think council needs to look at ways to recoup their loses within house, e.g selling off unused machinery, abandoned or unused land and properties owned by council, reducing the work force and cutting back on new and/or unnecessary projects. We are not the never ending cash cows that keep getting bled dry to put them back in the black.
55	Phil	Wilson	This is ridiculous this council is overstaffed in the office department. When can they get jobs done when the office staff outnumber the outdoor staff? We are getting less and less services and the rates continue to rise. I totally reject any extra rate rise
56	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
57	Anonymous	Anonymous	I do not agree with the increase the Council is applying for, they increased rates last financial year and do not need to further increase them. Our Council already has some of the highest rate in the state.
58	Anonymous	Anonymous	The proposed increase of 8% per annum is 8 times the current CPI inflation rate.  The current rate peg of 2% is 2 x the current CPI.  LPSC needs to learn to live within its means like everyone else. 8 x increase for 3 years puts most people in severe disadvantage since salary increases and business revenue are <2% if any increase at all and unlikely to change in the next 2-3 years.  We object strongly to the proposed SV.
59	Anonymous	Anonymous	It would be nice to encourage people to buy or build in the area rather than drive them away with rate increases this one once was a flourishing town whats gone wrong ?
60	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
61	Paul	Butterworth	They already have the highest rates in Australia we get bugger all services office staff get flash cars to drive at there leisure with all expenses paid for buy the rate payers how are people supposed to afford these increases it's a joke we have a mayor that wants to build a footpath linking two towns that's going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars that no one will use the nsw government needs to stop these increases
62	Anonymous	Anonymous	Time to sell and leave this shire getting to dear to live here
63	Anonymous	Anonymous	The increases will only reward the mismanagement by staff inexperienced efforts who don't comprehend the old adage-'Save the cents-Count the Dollars. The focus has been lost on the value of people-the Ratepaying Community. I suspect the highest paid people in this shire for the least hours are employed by our Council. A great deal of roads and infrastructure funds would be better value in the hands of Experienced contractors and successful local businesses. The Council isn't a successful local business .The basic needs are ignored and aren't being achieved . Chasing and wanting big projects without understanding potential problems isn't up to rating increases to solve. It's greedy and stupid. Ask ratepayers for ideas and advice, most of them have lived in this Shire longer than most senior staff. Experience should overrule Qualified-a paper pusher
64	Belinda	Smith	With the inflation range target for the RBA at or around 2%, I feel that this excessive rate rise of 8% (4 times the target for inflation for 3 years ) is well beyond what is required for council to do their job - particularly as those of us who live out of town don't even have access to many of the council services! We have recently purchased a home in the area to move to a more affordable position, only to be slapped in the face with a mining exploration application and a proposed, excessive rate rise!
65	Lesley	Peden	I feel the 8% rise in Council Rates over a 3 year period is very excessive in the climate we are facing at present with regards to the drought, fires and the COVID-19 Pandemic where incomes have been greatly reduced. I personally receive nothing but a garbage collection once a week as I am self sufficient with water and sewage, I live on a dirt road the council is suppose to grade as maintenance but only do so once a year. I also have buffer land between myself and the railway line that is NEVER mowed as the council is suppose to notify the railways but never do even when I ring. As part of our council rates we also pay an extra \$93 as a Tip Facility Charge but was told by council it is for cleaning the Tip up and any use of the Tip by any residents must be paid for at the Tip. At present the Kamilaroi Hwy between Willow Tree and Quirindi are in a dreadful state and the council only fills in holes and as this is a highway and carries a 100kph speed limit and has many heavy vehicles on it I feel it has become very dangerous especially for smaller vehicles. Since i have lived in the area my council rates have gone up each year and we also had a rise this year as part of the Land Valuations. I truly can not see why the council would be asking for an 8% rise in rates over the 3 years as they do very little maintenance and repairs now and in my 3 years of living in this area I have seen NO new infrastructure at all, you never hear from the council apart from paying the council rates so again I can not see the justification on the council asking for this very high rate rise.

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
66	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I totally disagree with this SRV as the LPSC already has one of the highest Rate charges in NSW.</p> <p>We moved here 10 months ago and knew of the high costs but put it down to being a regional council. We did not expect that within 12months there would be a new Mayor who would want to increase the Rates by 26% over three years.</p> <p>LPSC is also the only Council I know of that charges the same Rates for a vacant, unused block of land. We bought a block inside the town boundary before moving here and were surprised to be charged for services we weren't going to use, such as sewerage, water, garbage collection at the same rate we pay in an established home.</p> <p>Regarding the cost of the Transport component of the Councils expenditure, we already pay a large amount of tax through the Fuel Excise which is supposedly for Roads and related infrastructure yet I couldn't find any mention of whether LPSC is accessing this in their Key Information.</p>
67	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>As one of the highest rate charges in NSW, I fail to see why LPSC needs to lift their rates.</p> <p>Little is done with the exorbitant charges as is, little to no road maintenance, tip usage fees when many residents don't use the tip and pay at the gate anyway, double dipping.</p> <p>Garbage collection fees is fair enough..</p> <p>Looks very much to the local residents like a money grabbing exercise for greedy councillors to line their own pockets, akin to certain councillors sealing sections of Callaghan's up to their entrance and leaving the rest of the road unsealed and unmaintained.</p> <p>Snouts in the trough.</p> <p>The council office in Quirindi cannot even reply to numerous emails.</p> <p>LPSC is a complete farce and needs an enquiry into how the current rates are spent.</p>
68	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I believe the proposed rate increase is ridiculous! My partner and I live on a double block at the lookout I am currently on non paid maternity leave and we are living living on a single income. Our rates are already \$760 a quarter. How can you expect us to afford all of our other expenses including child care if you are going to raise it anymore than that! The price of living is already at an all time high. My child should be put first, not most of our money going to rates when there is absolutely no changes happening in our town. Where is this money going? The places we would utilise as a family I.e the parks are always untidy. There is nothing being upgraded. Really unimpressed!</p>
69	Melanie	Mumberson	Confidential
70	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Rate increases scare away buyers and increase rental cost levels. With minimal employment opportunities within town 26% over 3 years is ridiculously out of a lot of peoples reach. Yes more train drivers have moved into town now due to Aurizon being in Quirindi do you want to drive the highest paid people and highest paying employer out of the shire.</p>
71	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
72	Brad	Barnett	What a joke
73	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
74	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Single parent How are we to afford this when you continue to increase every year by a substantial amount. We get very little back from our rates we already pay. We still have our hands in our pockets for other expenses eg. tip! Other surrounding shires are much lower then ya and get more. We are the highest paying shire</p> <p>We will have to end up selling our home as the rates will be too expensive.</p> <p>Why do we need to waste money on putting paths the link towns it's a waste of money. Think about where the money gets spent and we won't need to increase so much</p>
75	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>This is a joke ☹️</p> <p>How the hell are people supposed to survive with council wanting to put the rates up AGAIN the year has been hit pretty hard &amp; now they turn around &amp; hit us with this.</p> <p>How much more can we take, Quirindi is the most highest rate paying shire I have ever heard of.</p>
76	Jill	Tideman	Confidential

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
77	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Quirindi and Werris Creek are towns with a significant population of people with limited finances. A high percentage of homes in these towns are currently for sale. A rate rise will certainly exacerbate the move to leave town and force even more homes onto the market.</p> <p>Several years ago, when faced with amalgamation, Liverpool Plains Shire council attempted to prove that it was "fit for the future". Subsequently it has been proven to have failed in this endeavor. I will attempt to justify this statement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The roads in the western areas of the Shire are in worse condition now than fifty years ago, increased axle loads of trucks have destroyed bitumen surfaces, so many kilometers have reverted to gravel.</li> <li>2. The Shire's weeds inspection has been limited and the weed problem, (especially St John's wort) is now almost unfixable.</li> <li>3. Quirindi is blessed with a plentiful water supply, but the cost of water to ratepayers is exorbitant, meaning residents are unable to afford in dry times to water their gardens. In previous droughts, the council spent significant funds watering trees in the town to keep our beautiful trees alive. During the recent drought no attempt was made to water these trees. This resulted in the loss of many trees that will take decades to replace.</li> <li>4. This Council is desperate to attract new employment opportunities to the area, with little consideration to the health of the people or the environment. To great fanfare, a timber mill was attracted to be built in Quirindi, it lasted about 12 months before being closed, and now sits abandoned. A log export facility was then sought for Werris Creek, situated close to the main street and peoples homes. Many in the town objected to the noise, dust, and chemicals being used but were dismissed. Due to the current China bans on timber, this venture is now looking very shaky.</li> <li>5. At the moment there is a great deal of activity on infrastructure, all on government (other people's money) funding, but much is not needed. For example; The library asked for a little more room in the building for children's activities. The result is an almost complete rebuilt of our Library. A building that is only thirty years old. The netball groups asked for new courts, the result is the demolition of the tennis courts and them being transferred to a defunct tennis club where mega dollars will now be needed to get this site going.</li> <li>6. I have just read the glossy report produced for the Shire, (no doubt at great cost) justifying the reasons for the rate variation. Most of their projected costs are rubbish figures, and with no income being attributed to the aerodrome, but ongoing costs being astronomical. As there is no commercial airlines using this facility, maybe the aerodrome could be totally user pays, or sold. It is valued at 4 million.</li> </ol>
78	Anonymous	Anonymous	No, since we have the highest in the state, for a small rural community that's not fair at all. We live 10kms from town, don't get bins collected, have our own water, why shld we have to pay more rates, they can't even mow along the roadside so we get nothing out of it. I don't think our town of Quirindi or Werris Creek have anything special enough either to warrant another rate rise so close to the last one. We're still in a green drought, give the community a break, you're happy to expand mines and allow them in but you don't want to look after your current community. Are you really trying to drive people out of the community? With the rates so high you're definitely not encouraging the locals to stay or newcomers to arrive.
79	Melanie	Gray	Confidential
80	Annette	Speering	No way , we already pay more than enough for what services we get. A NO to increase .. Not happy
81	Emma	Bates	There's no way this can be justified, rent is already to high as it is. There's no way new parents and single parents or young adults would be able to pay rent if it goes up even more. I already pay 380 per week that is no where anything interesting or job availability.
82	Anonymous	Anonymous	Rates in Liverpool Plains Shire Council region are already grossly overpriced. We have no green waste disposal bins and prices vary atrociously when using the Waste Disposal Facility. This council should not raise the price of rates as they are not offering any further services to benefit the community. An example of this is their lax efforts in constructing the new basketball and netball court facilities. This facility was made possible by government grants applied for by hard working people who volunteer their time to the community and not of those who have paid employment within the council. The council took on this work and held it up by over 2 years when grants and funding was readily accessible. The services they offer or lack there of does not provide adequate reasoning to increase already overpriced rates. Their town planning approval rate is slower than that of other local councils and their requirements at times are unreasonable and unrealistic. Complaints are not taken seriously nor followed up regarding dilapidated abandoned houses that pose a high risk of fire and vermin to those rate paying houses that neighbour them. The pound is inadequate and offers no heating during winter months. Bearing in mind all of the above listed things why on earth would they think rising the rates would be a reasonable idea.
83	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
84	Jay	Gray	I disagree with any proposed rate increases. As i find the local council are unable to utilise the current funds appropriately. Why should they have more funds to misuse?
85	Jennie	Chapman	Our rates are already extremely high! This increase would be unaffordable for many people in this council area
86	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
87	Theodore	Maczi	Raising the rates in Liverpool Plains by 24% over 3 years is not sustainable especially with Liverpool plains already having very expensive rates when compared to land values etc.
88	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
89	Anonymous	Anonymous	I believe that the majority of people can not afford more rate rises at this time. I'm sure the council could look into other ways to save money (which it hasn't) as it is poorly managed. There has been money wasted, for example instead of just updating the sports complexes they have started from scratch. And there are people in the offices who do not need to be employed.



	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
90	Anonymous	Anonymous	I am against an increase in rate fees in Liverpool Plains Shire Council, already one of the most expensive in the state of NSW. Am not happy with consultation, am not seeing bang for buck, priorities of council are not communicated clearly, Main Street is a mess, disagree with ridiculous library upgrade - was perfectly fine for a small town- 1.9 million upgrade is ludicrous and not needed. Main st needs an upgrade - empty shops, lack of pride - old ripped flags, no Christmas tree, no centre square, shop fronts shabby - 1.9 million could have been spread so much further here. Main Street needs flags, lights, signage, a centre to meet. Empty petrol station an eye sore. Galbraith building embarrassing, empty Reilly shops a disgrace. Silo art a good idea, would love to see that supported by council in Quirindi. Pools adequate, gym good. Halls and basketball courts need fixing/completion - not library. Feel a personal agenda for someone on council. Management need to have local representation. Why are our rates so expensive compared to other areas? How are these zoned? Is it due to large properties? Never clear.
91	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
92	Anonymous	Anonymous	A rate increase within our shire of 8% is ridiculous. They have been mis-spending money and \$\$ have been missing and never found. Dodgy as. Why should we, the ratepayers need to be punished for a mis-managed unaccounted council?
93	Charlie	Simkin	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I write in objection to the proposed Special Rate Variation currently applied for by Liverpool Plains Shire Council. (LPSC)</p> <p>After reading a number of documents that make up part of the submission including the Asset Management Plan (AMP) I must object to the SRV. The AMP notes a many number of things however does not adequately identify opportunities for Council improve or manage any level of continuous improvement with regard to transport asset management, one of the key drivers for seeking the SRV. LPSC has a history of nearly non existent asset management practices which is evidenced and explicitly stated in some places within the AMP. A history of poor management practices combined with poor operational activities has resulted in the rate payers of LPSC being lugged with severely deteriorated transport assets.</p> <p>There has been a systematic and deplorable lack of process with regard to asset management at both a strategic and operational level within the organization. Council by its own admission has not made asset management a core focus for several years, one of the foremost responsibilities of any Local Government entity. Many asset rehabilitations of recent years are failing due to poor design and lack of process resulting in assets that should be sustainable with routine maintenace now requiring large scale and ultimately costly repairs, stripping money from other deteriorating assets.</p> <p>LPSC ratepayers are currently subjected to high rates compared to their urban counterparts which is concerning given the small number of services comparatively. Council has failed to inform the community of any investigations into alternate asset management techniques such as service delivery reviews, lessening service levels or identifying efficiencies within the business.</p> <p>LPSC were deemed unfit during the Fit for the Future Review and voted to remain a stand alone entity. Since then there has been no tangible outcomes for bettering asset management and the subsequent financial outcomes that would be generated by better asset management practices. It would appear that Council voted to stand alone, stood on their heels and are now scrounging the rate payers for further revenue to fix issues identified several years ago. I would also like it to be know that many of the councilors currently sitting on LPSC were also elected officials during the Fit for the Future Review.</p>
94	Jeremy	Caterer	I have 2 properties int The local area with zero facilities for my children and no upgrades on roads and facilities even seen. My own street doesn't get mowed and it's in a fire prone areas we have to maintain it also the roads I need to maintain this is stupid. The meeting has been called during holiday season many people are away on holidays and cannot make it including me I call for the vote to be postponed till feb 20th. I cannot prove attachments as I am away I have many photos of road neglect and mowing neglect in my street I can attach once returned home. I'm a local business owner and feel we need to all be heard.
95	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>As a ratepayer and Primary Producer charged at Rural Rates Levies, I think that the charges of Liverpool Plains Shire Council are already unrealistically high in relation to the service provided added to it's historical mismanagement of both assets and finances.</p> <p>I am currently on a payment plan due to drought affecting my ability to service the exorbitant rates we are currently charged.</p> <p>Today, on New Years Eve, I received in the mail an addressed letter stating the 8 percent variation over multiple years was being requested and when I contacted the Shire staff to discuss the matter learned the office was closed until into the new year...</p> <p>I pity the reception staff when they return to work and have to fend calls from fellow ratepayers like myself not impressed by management wanting a mile and not budging an inch!</p>

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
96	Anonymous	Anonymous	Our council already has extremely high rates. If they can not manage the already exorbitant amount of money they receive well they should not be in trusted with more. Furthermore it would be a huge burden on homeowners like myself who already find rates to be a big expense. I can not see how such a cost would be sustainable for many people. It is my belief that they overspend in too many areas, and that better management of funds is all that is required or an amalgamation with a bigger council so that costs are further cut.
97	Anonymous	Anonymous	I would like to complain about the timing of the community consultation period. Council notified residence just prior to the christmas 2020 break. The public consultation is to be undertaken between 2nd and 7th January 2021 during the holiday break when people are travelling when covid conditions allow. Residence are unable to register to attend the meetings until 4th January 2020 and questions must be in prior to the meeting. The Werris Creek meeting is to be held on the 5th January. Second largest populated area in the shire next to Quirindi. Venue is very restrictive to numbers due to covid requirements. Appears to have been done deliberately to avoid public input or discourse.
98	Anonymous	Anonymous	The council needs to prove they would do something worthwhile with the increase other than increase the wages of councillors.
99	janis	howard	Empty shops in main street left in disrepair. Owners should be held to account. Bad choice of trees in main street - lifting tar, pavements, leaves choking up gutters. Constant renewal of tarring to specific roads and not fixing the problem that causes the need for re-tarring to be done. Charging of sporting clubs run by volunteers / rate payers / parents to use ovals / sporting fields. Timber yard falling into dis-repair. B-double trucks allowed to use main street causing damage to roundabouts and roads. Minimal amenities available for children"s recreation. Charged for water usage when no water available to use. Paying twice for access to tip facilities, once on rates and then at the entrance to the tip.
100	Anonymous	Anonymous	I strongly oppose the LPSC proposal to increase the rates payable in the shire by way of a Special Rate Variation Application. The exorbitant cost of rates in the shire at present does not reflect in the services and infrastructure that we receive. This is the second consecutive SRV that the Council has applied for, the previous rate increase being granted by IPART for exactly the same reasons that they are using now. This can not continue, basically the rate payers are being charged continually to pay for the incompetence and bad management by the Senior Staff and Councillors. On the occasions that some councillors have raise points about this mismanagement they are sanctioned and ridiculed, which has lead to some resignations of Councillors. We are constantly told by LPSC Management and The Mayor that they are striving to meet the guidelines of Fit For The Future programme, however one only has to read the minutes of the previous council meetings to see just how much money is wasted on trivial things that do not make the Shire better in the short or long term, i.e. overseas trips to Ningbo China to facilitate trade relations, when quite clearly LPSC has nothing to trade and with absolutely no follow up to justify the costs involved. I could supply an endless list of examples if required. Put simply - if LPSC was compared to a company with the same amount of turnover and income it would have been put in the hands of the receivers several years ago. I as a rate payer am sick of this mismanagement of our money and think it is time that the LPSC should be amalgamated with another shire, because it is quite clear that they can not be Fit For The Future. They can not keep asking for Rate Increases to justify their incompetence in maintaining the Shire.
101	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
102	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
103	Chris	Hausfeld	The proposed 8% rise will have a detrimental effect on already struggling communities
104	Robert	Pynsent	I do not support the SRV application for a number of reasons. As a ratepayer I was notified on 31.12.2020 of this process and that community workshops take place between 4 January & 7 January for council to make a decision in early February 2021. This condensed consultation period is unfair during the Christmas/New Year holiday period. I feel this emphasises a lack of organisation by Liverpool Plains Shire Council. The overall financial sustainability of this council has not improved since the 'Fit for the Future' assessment. After the 2027/18 SRV of 19.1% over 3 years, the financial sustainability issues are critical. The council has growing deficits in their financial statements of the years 2018/19 and has struggled to achieve the OLG ratios in the Audit Office reports. I would recommend that council seeks discussions with neighbouring councils regarding amalgamation which would result in a far greater rate base. It would also enable adequate infrastructure renewal works as the Asset Management processes appear less than thorough. The SRV requested off 26% with such a small rate base will not create the income to solve the asset renewal shortfalls.
105	Christopher	Marr	This proposed increase could not have come at a worse time. Poor management is no excuse for a rate increase. The organisation is top heavy and the salaries paid to some individuals is exorbitant with little or no return for \$\$\$ spent. Councillors couldn't run a chook raffle let alone guide the LPSC ship. Any organisation that budgets for a deficit, survives on grant monies and spends like there's no tomorrow is not fit for the future.
106	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
107	Anonymous	Anonymous	The proposed rate increase is a slap in the face to all rate payers. The mismanagement by successive councils and staff of resources is incredible and the local rate payers shouldn't be slugged extra costs because of this. We already pay excessive rates in the area, much higher than majority of NSW. I strongly object to the increase and I would hope that the council starts to see sense and starts to consider its constituents well being, after years of drought and COVID. Stop the rate rises!

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
108	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I believe that the Liverpool Plains Shire Council (LPSC) request for a SRV of 8% each year over the next 3 years is not only ludicrous, misleading, and not in the best interests of the ratepayers but rather only serves the purpose of highlighting the negligence of the LPSC in carrying out their duty of care to the ratepayer.</p> <p>I believe that the information the LPSC has provided regarding the proposed increase is misleading because they have stated for example that the average Farmland rate for 2020/2021 is \$4,441.00. Is this per Deposited Plan? Is this per farm itself? The information is not provided and is therefore misleading and incorrect. It is always a slippery slope if you are quoting averages to justify your argument as it discounts the larger impacts at either end of the scale. It would be more helpful to know what impact recent land sales have had to the unimproved capital value of farmland in the LPSC given it is the base for the percentage rate to be charged on.</p> <p>As a rural landholder who on one property alone (we have 3 properties within the LPSC) pays yearly rates of \$17,000.00 alone, we are looking at an increase for just one property of over \$5,000.00 per annum by the 3rd year of the proposed SRV.</p> <p>Further, the LPSC is fundamentally punishing rural landholders who enjoy little to no benefit of any council services. We do not receive any rubbish pick-ups, instead we must attend a waste facility and pay over \$10.00 to drop our rubbish. In this particular regard, I have personally made complaints to council regarding how much we are to pay given that within my family alone we have twice (on separate occasions) been charged \$25 to try and tip our rubbish off and have been told "you rich farmers can afford it" (profanity excluded) and "that's the price for what you've got on". It is worth noting that this person continues to operate the facility we must attend. Then we have the worst kept roads, most of which are gravel and are only graded twice per year and we are lucky to see a roller at all. It is worth pointing out that these are primarily the ONLY local council services that a rural landholder will use regularly. Have the LPSC forgotten the drought that mostly crippled the primary production sector in our region for the past 3 years? They are stating Council losses to small business owners who have recorded some of the highest losses they have ever had and asking them to pay an unjustifiable amount more for their rates when we are only just being able to get back on our feet. Has the LPSC ever heard of living within their means? Their ratepayers have certainly had to do that for the duration of the drought given that we have had to live with little to no income for the past 2 years. The LPSC is asking ratepayers to cover their infrastructure maintenance requirements yet have not provided us with any confidence over the past years that they can maintain these assets effectively.</p> <p>I disagree that the LPSC has provided the community with the ability to attend the proposed "Community Information Sessions". The LPSC has organised these sessions from the 4-7 January 2021 at timeslots of 10am or 5pm, where I would assume most of the community would be working. I asked the Council if there were alternatives given the timeframes were not easily accessible for people with an 8am to 5pm job or those who are farmers and have received no response, nor has anyone that has asked a question regarding information for the SRV.</p> <p>Overall, this is a submission by the LPSC for an SRV should not be granted as there is no previous proof that Council will utilise the funds in the best interest of the ratepayer nor that they are able to manage their own "business" within their available means. We cannot simply ask a bank for more money if we have mismanaged our own business so Council cannot expect a handout from landholders for precisely the same foible. It is for the LPSC to clean up their own mess and not shamefully ask their community, who is just rebuilding, to bail them out.</p>
109	Brian	Patterson	Confidential
110	Kayla	Patterson	Confidential
111	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>As a ratepayer in Quirindi I believe that the information provided in a brochure released by the Liverpool Plains Shire Council to be inaccurate. In particular, the brochure talks about average residential rates and that they are \$772 for the current financial year.</p> <p>I would challenge that this figure is incorrect as many I have talked to all have their residential rates at around and over \$2000 in Quirindi.</p> <p>LPSC say they have lost \$3.89m in the last financial year. This is an alarming figure which equates to nearly \$490 per person for the approximate 8000 residents of our Local Government Area.</p> <p>The increase LPSC are applying for is an 8% increase every year for 3 years which will provide approx \$1.5m of additional cash flow. This still leaves a \$2.4m shortfall.</p> <p>There appears to be a mis management here that needs investigating prior to any Special Rate Variation being considered. For the loss that has been incurred by Council there needs to be an explanation. The proposal that has been put forward still doesn't cover the loss nor explain what has occurred to end up in the financial situation PLSC are currently in.</p> <p>The loss listed, essentially dictates that approximately 50% of our rates have been incurred in a loss.</p> <p>The numbers don't add up. Why increase rates when we don't know why/how we have a \$3.89m loss and why increase rates when the increase won't cover the loss. Understand what has caused the loss through an independent investigation.</p> <p>Thankyou for allowing me to have my say. It's greatly appreciated</p> <p>Kind regards</p>
112	Carly	Robinson	Confidential
113	Anonymous	Anonymous	I would like to appose the lpsc rate increase proposal as we are already one of the highest rate paying shires around and receive minimal bang for buck as it is. As an investor with 4 local properties in Werris creek this increase will force me to sell up and look elsewhere to invest. This proposal is rediculous!

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
114	Anonymous	Anonymous	I oppose the rate rise. Local homeowners shouldn't have to pay extra just because you choose incompetent engineers, office staff etc. maybe drop the pay of some of your higher paid staff members first and foremost. Ridiculous
115	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
116	Rachael	Patterson	Confidential
117	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
118	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
119	Ryan	Cornish	Absolutely completely disagree with the councils decision to increase our rates. They are more expensive then people that live in Sydney. Our water is not drinkable, our roads are awful! Shame on you LPSC
120	Anonymous	Anonymous	The amount is to excessive at this point in time.
121	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
122	Natalie	Guthrie	Confidential
123	Tegan	McInnes	What is the actual need for this rate rise. As a member of this community I have not seen any increase in productivity since the last rate rise. Why should we be paying more and receiving less.
124	Anonymous	Anonymous	We can not understand why our rates need to go up AGAIN!, We are already paying the highest in the state, council does nothing for us, nor do even try to help our locals out, when we had the worst drought in history council just sat back behind their little computers and done nothing to try and help our farmers! it was all done by volunteers who gave up their time and money to help those. This goes ahead then it will have a big effect on the small towns because people will not be able to afford to live here! it will also turn away potential buyers, our towns will slow die and become ghost towns! If Council needs more money then maybe they need to have a pay cut and get rid off some people out off the office. We have attended community information meetings in regards to this matter and concerns that was raised had not been answered and have just been palmed off and people were told " we will get back to you " personally I think council have no idea what they are doing as the purpose off these meetings are to address concern but they don't have the relevant information or the competency to answer them. If this goes ahead we maybe force too sell at lease one if not both off our rental houses which will leave the tenants in our houses homeless! as by the time this finishes we will be paying close to \$10,000
125	Jackie	Marquett	If this rate rise goes ahead we will be forced to move. We won't be able to afford to continue living here. We are planning to open a new business here that will create some jobs but will not be able to afford the extra expenses. We are a young family of 4. This will drive a lot more people out of the area. This area has struggled for so many years with the flow on effects of the drought and now is the time to encourage people to come to our area. I think the council needs to consider other options. When other businesses do budgets they also look at trimming the fat. I believe council needs to look at cutting its expenses wherever possible.
126	Jo	Trudgett	The rates in the the shire are already expensive, services are poorly executed, have to call the shire repeatedly to get council areas maintained for example mowing near the east side childcare centre, which is owned by the council, roads in the shire are all a disgrace, other areas supply tip vouchers, Liverpool plains don't supply or send out vouchers, pay for water rates then on top charged for water useage, no green waste bin supplied, have to pay to take to the tip, the park areas are poorly maintained. Perhaps the senior management should be taking a pay cut, they are the ones who have caused the mismanagement of funds, should not be up to homeowners to get them out of financial trouble, this rate rise will cause hardship for already struggling members of the community particularly aged pensioners It's an absolute disgrace Independent review is needed and the present councillors should be dismissed.
127	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
128	Anonymous	Anonymous	As ratepayers in the Liverpool Plains Shire Council & also in the adjoining shires of Gunnedah Shire & Tamworth regional council we have noted that Rates paid to Liverpool Plains are already the most expensive ones we have. If they cannot perform within budget I suggest that amalgamation with one of the adjoining shires perhaps should be considered.
129	Leah	Cunningham	I have attended the meeting for this rate rise. Council paid 97000 to a consultation firm to speak on their behalf yet council claim to have no money. They refused to disclose where the extra money would be spent other than in general terms eg roads. They refused to answer questions how council were looking at ways to save money. In general they have lost any trust or respect of any of the towns people. This cycle continues of them wanting money due to years of poor management. Amalgamation is the answer we won't be any worse off. Council are clearly out of their depth. As a single parent who works full time I simply can't afford to pay more in rates. I shudder to think about the pensioner they will be wondering if they can afford to eat. The community cannot afford this rise
130	Anonymous	Anonymous	As a pensioner and in this day of Covid I am not IMPRESSED that Liverpool council are asking for an increased rate, I am against the proposal of an increase in rates, It is going to become a lot harder for the older people in our uncertain future, Let alone to feather the backs of Council staff..
131	Ralph	Ireland	Confidential
132	Anonymous	Anonymous	The public consultation with community members was very disorganised and the presentation on the screen should have been tested before commencement of presentation. I could not here the questions and felt that the presenters could have held the microphone for the person asking the question in front of that person..we did not hear from the Mayor and/or Councillors present, two of the Councillors did not have the courtesy to attend the Quirindi meeting. I am not for the rate increase and believe the Councillors should be held accountable for mismanagement of finances over the last twelve months.

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
133	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Increase in rates proposed due to incompetent financial and business management from the current council is simply absurd. Financial statements for FY19-20 evidence that that council is not fit for purpose in its current state, recording a ~\$6M loss. If this was a private enterprise, the business would need to be shut down or significant management changes made stat to avoid disaster. Why should ratepayers foot the bill further for a council that has shown time and time again they are useless at managing money and infrastructure.</p> <p>I pay rates in another LGA in NSW (which is also somewhat dysfunctional and under the watchful eye of the Minister with improvement demanded) and the comparison in rates per \$\$ of Statutory Land Value is astonishing. Annually LPSC currently (FY20/21) charges me 8.67% the statutory land value of my property in rates, the other council charges 0.435% the statutory land value of my property in rates. That's a whopping 19.93x that LPSC already charges over the other council. Acknowledge that WSC has 6.5x the population and 1/2 the land area of said council, however I see little difference in services being provided to warrant paying 19.93x the amount of rates per \$\$ of property. More details on specific usage of increased rates requested required, and I would suggest that spending 1/15th of the proposed rate increase on consultants to roll out community consultation probably isn't the smartest business decision... but then again, it makes sense with this council.</p>
134	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I do not agree with LPSC increasing our rates by Special Variation or minimum rate. The Special Variation option will put a financial burden on our community. This community has been through drought, business closures, job losses and is an aging population. It will also deter potential businesses and people moving to LPSC.</p> <p>Wage growth in Australia have been very low so I cannot see increasing the rates by 8% can be justified.</p> <p>The LPSC was Fit for the Future what does this really mean if now a SV (8% over the next three years) is being applied for by LPSC? If the increase goes ahead what is the guarantee that it will be successfully managed.</p> <p>The MR increase also has problems for LPSC communities due to the decrease of services, maintenance etc of assets and infrastructure this will bring.</p>
135	CAROL	LALOR	<p>I am concerned that the council is pushing forward with their desire to remain a stand alone council when perhaps the best interests of the community would be better served by amalgamating with another council.</p> <p>I know the survey taken a few years ago asking residents to express their opinion on standing alone didn't give us the full story. Surely council would have known then that we couldn't afford to be fit for the future without extra rate increases yet there was no mention made of this. We are a large geographical area with a small population. I feel the council will always be chasing extra money.</p> <p>People often just don't want change and I think council capitalized on that with the original survey.</p>
136	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>The amount raised from this srv is like applying a bandaid to a haemorrhage. It will not stop the bleeding, we either amalgamate or go into administration. We will be going through this again in three years only we the ratepayers will be that much poorer. Please step in NOW and do something. We are delaying the inevitable. I beg you, save us from these inept councillors and a gm whose mantra is " we must deliver, we must deliver" and by that she means spend spend spend. She also has an unhealthy relationship with a local wealthy developer .</p>
137	Peter	Davis	<p>I feel that this rate rise is unwarranted due to the possible mismanagement by the Liverpool Plains Shire Council. Also, due to the current Covid 19 situation, it would impart an unnecessary financial burden on the residents of the LPSC. There is no guarantee that after the 3 year period that the LPSC will be in a position to continue as a stand alone council.</p>
138	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
139	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
140	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I am opposed to the SRV proposed by Liverpool Plains Shire Council. We have endured 3 years of drought and many farmers are trying to rebuild their businesses. This could take up to 3 years. The timing is wrong to inflict a financial burden on landholders and ratepayers. How did LPSC get themselves in a position of being 3.5 million dollars behind on road maintenance? Perhaps Council should be put into the hands of a competent administrator to oversee expenditure.</p>
141	Colin	Love	<p>While the number of rate payers or rate base has changed little over many years, there has been a major change in the number of indoor staff employed by council to service these needs.</p> <p>With this huge increase council needs to employ consultants to carry out much of its work so increasing operating costs dramatically. The same is not the case with our outdoor workforce with declining numbers.</p> <p>A preference has been shown by council to employ contractors to perform the work our outdoor staff has done for years.</p> <p>This means that rate and grant monies are not remaining in the shire. These would seem to be some of the reasons we now need rate increases.</p> <p>The real problem seems to be poor management over a number of years.</p>

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
142	Anonymous	Anonymous	The council have just sent letters to employees that redundancies will occur if the rate rise does not happen. Surely this is not right. They have not followed proper procedures for this, they have done this after realising the amount of public anger at the meetings re the rate rise. This town is still reeling from the drought topped off by covid. Also because they are dishonest I believe you will not receive accurate account from the council survey. At two meetings I went to they had a show of hands for the rise and not one person was for it. This is so wrong putting this pressure on the employees, it means “ you get you and your families to vote for this or you will be unemployed “
143	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
144	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
145	Kathy and bill	Wallace	\$97 thousand to tell us exactly what we expected to jear. The mayor and councillors could have saved that money by talking themselves. Ridiculous and always the sa mne outcome. The consultants talked alot of unnecesary jargon and it seems the they dragged it on so we, the attendees didnt get much opportunity to say much. There is so much unrest. That \$97 thousand, could have been better spent on something crucial eg provide werris creek with an employed gardener as the council and community is reliant on volunteers who are ageing. We seem to get very little here for the rates we pay. This is a town of low 8ncomes and pensioners and whats going to happen to them. Transparency is absolutely crucial as they claim to have spent the rates on certain things, when we as a community, know well that funding paid f o r thise things. Th eere seems to be alot of coverup and pushing th ee real needs under carpet. Our local representative doesnt seem to consult with us as a community at all and we,ve become very angry and frustated with the situation at hand.we,re tired of the dictating from this council and no consideration at all for us citizens. Myself and others dont really care if there is an amalgamation. We dont seemed to have gained much from this council.if anything, we are going downhill and the only industry here provides alot of dust and noisy dangerous trucks on the road. Nothing for youth, and some town beautification would be of some benefit and relief for the volunteers.
146	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
147	Anonymous	Anonymous	I attended a Meeting at Wallabadah held on behalf of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council. The whole thing was badly presented and rushed and most people could not hear what was been said as there was no microphone. Some people did not receive their letters re the meeting until that day, also none of the letters had a date on them. Also in the letter we were asked to fill in a survey and encouraged by the presenters to do so The address in the letter was <a href="http://www.oursay.org/LiverpoolPlains">www.oursay.org/LiverpoolPlains</a> . After trying to get onto the survey I contacted the Shire and was told I would not get thru if I put www in front of the address as I was instructed to do in the letter. There was no input from Shire staff or Councillors until the Mayor was as for a response from a ratepayer. The representatives just sat there and did not respond to any of the issues These are the people who have known about the debt for sometime and are trying to rush thru a rate rise in time of Drought and Covid 19. People are hurting enough and I am totally against a rate rise to a Shire who appears to be unable to manage the business of the Shire and the budget. We are told if no rate increase they will not be able to provide sustainability of services and the assets they maintain what about the rate payer we have to provide the extra money so they can get out of trouble, we have to find that money too. What of business who have suffered thru lock down, renters who will be paying extra rent this too will effect pensioners plus farmers who are still struggling. it is time this Shire got their act together stop trying to rush a rate increase as I see it the Liverpool Plains Shire and Councillors have known for sometime about the debt so are fully responsible for the mess they now find themselves in and should be held accountable instead of looking to ratepayers to bail them out of a mess of their own making. if there is a rate rise who says we will not be in the same position in 3 years I have completely lost faith in the Shire and Councillors to manage the Shire.
148	Philip	Wilson	This council is clearly [REDACTED] it has only implemented part of the conditions it set out to achieve in 2015 and gone further into deficit. Now they want another srv and I fear it will not stop there. In my view they are clearly incompetent and need an administrator installed to find out what has been done with the money. How can a council function properly when the indoor staff exceed the outdoor staff by nearly 70%. Plant and equipment is being turned over much too quickly
149	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
150	Anonymous	Anonymous	The increase in rates that the council had asked for is so unrealistic as people in the country just can not afford to pay any more then we do now , my rates are \$2300 a year and the combined income with my husband is \$920 a week the council souls learn to budget better
151	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
152	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I am 81 years of age and have been a rate payer since 1963. I grew up having respect for our Council representatives and staff. They could be approached with any problems you may have. They did their best to help solve these problems and treated you with respect. In recent years this has changed particularly in the last 5 to 6 years after the loss of an excellent General Manager who managed to keep the Shire running smoothly and budget on track. Things started to go downhill after this and all we got was how wonderful the Shire was in getting all these Commonwealth and State grants no word of budget deficient and anything about the cost of the upkeep of these grants just what a GREAT Shire we are.</p> <p>On reading the circular that came in the mail I could not believe the figures of the losses and the need for a 8% rate increase for the next 3 years. Why are we only just hearing about this now? All very rushed being told the submission had to be in by 6th February</p> <p>I attended the sessions at Wallabadah and Willow Tree. Wallabadah was a disaster. you could not hear the presenters, they were continually asked to speak up and had difficulty in answering questions unless it had something to do with their presentation on the screen which was hard to see if you were up the back even the Council Representatives and GM did not respond to questions from the floor must have been struck dumb by the response of so many unhappy ratepayers. A show of hands to gauge who was in favor of no rate rise about 95% said no to the rise. IN Willow Tree this time a microphone was used by the presenter but when an attendee asked a question you could not hear because there was no microphone for questions and as usual the Councillors and GM remained silent. when an attendee asked if they could have a show of hands for and against the rate rise they refused the gentleman who then left the room I feel at this time with drought and covid 19 it is not the time for a rate rise. Businesses and farmers are still hurting but are expected to find the funds to meet the rise. With a rate rise this too will affect pensioners who own their home and renters who will have to pay extra to cover rate rise. Why should we the ratepayer have to pay for the total mismanagement of council funds and our rates. It is time the Council take responsibility for the budget loss and get their house in order without depending on rate payers to pay for their mistakes. In the letter we received about the meetings it was not dated and the address for the survey was incorrect also there was no information for people who do not have internet access as to how they could access the survey. It appears the Shire is trying to rush this rate rise through and I certainly am not in favor of any increase in rates.</p>
153	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>LPSC was not considered fit for the future and actions that were meant to be taken have not resulted in a financially stable council, nor a particularly well run one. There has been no information provided by council on how they will make operational cost savings in how they operated and many of the smaller communities have to rely on volunteers to do many of the jobs that are the role of council.</p> <p>This sv is only a stop gap measure and council should be absorbed into Gunnedah Shire Council and not allowed to continue to run independently given the financial mismanagement shown by this council.</p>
154	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
155	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Hi IPART</p> <p>I am a resident of LPSC. I am writing to express my concern at the proposed SV.</p> <p>Firstly, I am concerned about affordability for residents. The area has a large proportion of low income households and this increase can potentially have an adverse effect on a number of those households.</p> <p>Secondly, in my view, Council and our public assets/amenities have been mismanaged by Council leading Council to be in the current position that it is. The community should not have to pay for this any more than it already is.</p> <p>Thirdly, many of the public services/facilities Council claim to provide/maintain are in fact provided by volunteer community members in the towns outside of Quirindi (and perhaps in Quirindi as well?).</p> <p>Lastly, this seems to be a money grab to maintain Council as it is at any expense. It seems options like amalgamation are being disregarded without proper consideration and other options have not been properly exhausted.</p> <p>I have zero confidence in this Council's ability to do its job and I am less than impressed at the thought of throwing any more of my hard earned money at them for it to be mismanaged and wasted. More money is not going to fix this problem.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
156	Darren	Tickle	I am not in favour of the rate increase over the next three years.
157	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
158	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>As a resident of Werris Creek and a ratepayer in Liverpool Plains Shire, i strongly object to the Special Rate Variation being granted.</p> <p>Council have mismanaged finances for many years - I should not have to pay for their mismanagement.</p> <p>Council has relied too heavily on Grants and money from Mines - Mine money would appear to have disappeared and Grants probably will not be as forthcoming.</p> <p>Council do not have a visible presence in Werris Creek - the majority of maintenance of Parks, gardens, cemetery and sporting facilities is done by volunteers. Even the Public toilets are cleaned by the local Lions Club members.</p> <p>My income has not increased by 8% or any amount for many years, how am i expected to pay the increase Council are saying we need? These rate increases will force a lot of people to suffer financially and put a further strain on local charities.</p> <p>Such a large increase in rates will not allow our aging population to sustain their current standard of living.</p> <p>Please consider this application carefully and ask Council to look within for cost cutting measures.</p>
159	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>How about an ICAC inquiry into the decisions made by LPSC on the ratepayers behalf and for our best interests using ratepayers money to further the interests of certain council members and employees (ie Crawford's development at Werris Creek, Quipolly Dam project). Projects that should have went through State Government Planning for approval, but mysteriously come under a trigger figure and get approved by a closed door council meeting and then after council approval go well over the stipulated figure that would have triggered a more robust planning approval. \$1.2 million went to well over \$10 million. Who benefits from that decision, when LPSC assets are damaged and the responsibility now lies with ratepayers to provide increased rating base, so these clowns can keep mismanaging ratepayers funds to provide an advantage to private enterprise that only benefits the entity itself, not the community.. LPSC needs to prove to the community / ratepayers that they can manage the council funds effectively and for the community that they have currently, before the get their hands on more rate revenue to backslap their</p>
160	Emily	Saul	Confidential
161	Tom	Archer	<p>I disagree with a SRV for this council, I do not believe funding is the problem but rather the lack of strategic financial forward planning and also not focusing on core objectives such as roads and infrastructure. By granting a SRV to this council will only prolong the jobs of an obviously incompetent management team and prolong the mistrust the community has for them.</p> <p>Please place administrators in LPSC quickly and restructure council to rebuild good relationships between them and ratepayers and small businesses in the shire.</p>
162	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>How many times can a council of incompetent staff and councillors continue to let down our community .</p> <p>This is not the first time they applied for SRV ... it's obvious they cannot sustain our community on the money we pay them and we have one of the largest rates in NSW .....</p> <p>This has been going on for years and far too long for our town to continue to pay for their inept attitude.</p> <p>This council needs an administration to come in and investigate where our money has gone and continues to go ...</p> <p>After all we pay them to keep our town alive.</p>
163	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>We cannot afford another SRV as we are a small community with an aging population.</p> <p>We have just been 4 year drought, Covid on top of everything else.</p> <p>I find council are not doing the job they are paid for by the community</p> <p>We have infrastructure that isn't needed when we haven't got the funds for these projects and most of the time the grants that are received need to be propped up by the rate payers</p> <p>They are incompetent and disregarding of the community and any grievances that we have.</p> <p>We need administrative investigation into LPSC as to where all the funds have gone and why they want more rate rises.</p>
164	Mike	Moses	Confidential
165	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>Council still have not completed their fit for the future 2014 2020 program. I like to see a administrator in this council.because they have a cumulative increase of 28.31% over 6 years &amp; 3 year have been drought. I feel we cannot keep this going this way. Have a look at amalgamation with Gunnedah shire</p>
166	Dave	Brown	Confidential



	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
167	Anonymous	Anonymous	The special rate variation being proposed by LPSC will not in my opinion as a Ratepayer- go any way towards rectifying the financial shortcomings that LPSC advertise to be due to inadequate rates being paid by local residents. Our local rates are already equal to highly maintained council areas however we gain poor management of infrastructure in return for already exorbitant rates. Council currently charge novel fees on activities such as building. On one of my blocks on which we do not receive any council services nor infrastructure I pay the exact same rates as my occupied block on the premise that "one day I might access those services". Local buildings, roads and water way management are ridiculously and embarrassingly under serviced to the point of danger. It appears that council staffing is disproportionately weighted towards administration staff rather than council area maintenance staff. Notifications of issues to council are rarely acted upon. Last year our village suffered a flash flood. It took 10 months for council to clean local paths and gutters from this flood debris so they were safe for pedestrians to use. This council uses grants and funding to its own liking with little to no community consultation and then mismanages the grant money by means of overspending. No matter how much funding this council has, it is my perception that it will always be mismanaged whilst ever this council is in office. This council should be considered for receivership where a financially astute administrator could be put in charge of attempting to rectify the gross financial mis management occurring
168	Anonymous	Anonymous	Let them have it but make them report where every extra cent is spent to residents.
169	Penny	Lomax	RE: LPSC plan to apply to IPART for a special variation to council rates of 24%-26% in the next 3 years, (depending on how you do the maths) but 8% in 2021-2022. My comments pertaining to this proposal by council follow: 1. If council plans to apply for the increase what efficiencies are they driving to meet the extra percentage increase; ie if there is pain to be had by the community - how is council looking a making operations more efficient. What areas is council looking at in their own back yard to save money; we need a list and costings. 2. If the rates weren't put up to the proposed rate, but were maintained at standard indexation what are the services that would be lost to the community. Has council informed rate-payers of proposed lost services so the community can make an informed decision as to go for the full proposed rate increase or go for the foregone services. Otherwise a fully informed decision can't be made 3. Where there are capital grants that have been spent, what was the planning/forecasting for recurrent funding for the the facilities council was building etc at the time the decision that allowed them to go ahead? This is in relation to ongoing costs and maintenance of said projects. As council would know recurrent spending can be greater than the original capital cost. Where has council done its due diligence by informing the community of its ability to cover the costs of recurrent spending in order to set a precedent for future capital works grants. A comparison of both capital grant and recurrent costs can be put to the community to see if they want to go ahead with the projects with all the information to hand. I look forward to LPSC's information on the above points at further meetings with rate-payers. Not to be directed to the website. With thanks and regards; LPSC ratepayer.
170	Lyle	Passfield	Confidential
171	Ian	Carter	I would like to make the following points in regard to Liverpool Plains Council's SRV application: - the late (or non) arrival of the information letter and the short notice of public information sessions together with the timing which, in many cases, did not allow working people to attend is not sufficient for ratepayer approval of the SRV. - there was no demonstration of any efficiencies or savings made or to be made within the council organisation only a mention of the consultants planning to undertake an "efficiency and function review". This should have been done well before they came to ratepayers asking for a SRV. This should now be done immediately and communicated to the ratepayers before an SRV is applied for or approved. - it was stated at the information session that council did not implement the "fit for the future" improvement plan. How can we be assured of the SRV being a long term fix now? We need a much more transparent and detailed plan before any SRV should be approved.
172	Anonymous	Anonymous	I am totally against a rate rise because we are already paying high rates for the services we receive which are very few. It is 12 months since our road was washed away to the point that I couldn't get my car out and my husband had to do temporary repairs. We have requested that it get repaired by council properly before some-one has an accident but to no avail. our water quality has gone down because they no longer maintain the equipment. Our parks, ovals, sporting grounds and cemetery are maintained by volunteers. The only industry they brought to our town is spreading toxic fumes and copious amounts of dust over the town 24hours 7 days a week. It is time for the council to be merged with another council.
173	Anonymous	Anonymous	I think that they need an outsider audit and for this to be published prior to a decision being made. The neglect to the town and villages is horrendous (it took 18 months to get a bridge fixed for children to get to school. Until fixed, the little kids were walking out on a very busy rural artery road with more trucks than cars. Horribly dangerous) I personally can't see how this rate rise is going to close to fixing the problem and they have not provided any further information regarding how they are going to cut costs internally to stop this problem coming back again. What they are proposing is purely a band aid, definitely not a cure. There's no communication or commitment from the council moving forward.
174	Anonymous	Anonymous	We were advised that our rates were to go up by * 8% every year for next 3 years making a total of 26% increase. As a pensioner I can ill afford the rates now let alone such a huge increase. The Council cannot manage its assets and this has been known for several years. The shire is too small for stand alone and should be amalgamated with Tamworth or Gunnedah. Rising rates is not going to fix the problems well into the future and it is for certain things are not going to get any better in terms of services etc at Liverpool Plains Shire Council. The amount of work that requires to be undertaken to fix the ageing assesses will not be fixed by a rate rise it will take a much bigger more profitable Council to assist the people of the Liverpool Plains Shire.
175	Anonymous	Anonymous	I believe that there should be a Independent Investigation into liverpool plains council about this special rate variation that they are applying for within our council area, we in the liverpool plains council are concerned where the monies that they have already received for our area, where has this money disappeared to. Thankyou [REDACTED]
176	Stephen	Beaman	Confidential

	First Name	Last Name	Please leave your comments in the comment box below.
177	Margaret	Robinson	Do not agree. Find it offensive to rate payers as costs are absurd now with no reflection of any maintenance, upkeep or general work to the shire. Council forgets that they work for the people of the shire, not the people of the shire working for them. I have raised issues with council, and been bounced around with no one taking responsibility, and 12 months later the issue still is not addressed. Council meetings are closed, so there is no transparency to the financial position nor do they take on community consultation regarding large capital works.
178	Anonymous	Anonymous	<p>I refer to Liverpool Plains Council's application to IPART for a special rate variation, namely an increase of 8% per year for the next 3 years. In total, this is an accumulative increase of 26%.</p> <p>Ratepayers were only advised of Council's intention to seek a special rate variation in late December/early January, with this notice being received only a few days before the community meetings (in some cases, the notices were not received until after the meetings had occurred). The overwhelming general consensus was that the ratepayers were against such an increase, especially without the Council showing ratepayers what steps they were taking to increase their efficiency and productivity and reduce waste. At this point it is worth noting that the Council has been operating at a deficit for many years. When a business is struggling, and losing money, the answer is not to increase prices but rather look at how they can better run the business.</p> <p>In 2013, Liverpool Plains Shire Council explored a merger with the Gunnedah Shire Council. However, after consulting with the community, they opted to remain a stand-alone, independent council. Instead of merging with Gunnedah Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council committed to pursuing efficiency improvements and seeking a SRV from 2017-18 of 19.1 per cent cumulative over three years.</p> <p>In 2020/2021, Council have not shown ratepayers any evidence that they have pursued said efficiency improvements promised in 2013 and now want an accumulative increase of 26% because they are still running at a deficit. At the community meetings, the consultants hired by the Council advised that Council is not considering a merger because in 2013 ratepayers were not in favour of a merger. Indeed, the tagline that has featured in the material regarding the current proposed SRV has been "Proudly Independent". Before seeking the SRV, Council should have undertaken new consultation with the community regarding the desirability of a merger, rather than relying on old data. Ratepayers may be more open to a merger now, given that Council have been unable to improve its position (ie. still running at a deficit) and the alternative is to increase our rates by 26%.</p> <p>It's worth noting at this point that the farmers in the Liverpool Plains (and consequently the community) have just suffered the worst drought in living memory. Words cannot express how difficult this period was for many farmers and the district. According to the data provided at the town meetings, farmland rates for this shire are already higher than state average. To increase rates further would push farmland rates towards the highest in state.</p> <p>If Liverpool Plains Shire Council is unable to operate efficiently (and I note the fact that the Council's financial sustainability does not seem to have significantly improved since it first committed to improve its efficiency back in 2013) then increasing the rates is not going to fix the problem.</p>
179	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
180	Pamela	Gattellari	Confidential
181	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential
182	Anonymous	Anonymous	Confidential