



**The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP**  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Heritage

Hawkesbury City Council

23 AUG 2017

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Doc ID: A533116

Clr Mary Lyons-Buckett and Mr Peter Conroy  
Mayor and General Manager  
Hawkesbury City Council  
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Dear Clr Lyons-Buckett and Mr Conroy

I would like to thank Hawkesbury City Council for submitting its reassessment proposal in the November 2016 *Fit for the Future* reassessment program.

The Government remains committed to programs that will strengthen the system of local government across the State. The *Fit for the Future* (FFTF) program is a key reform initiative aimed at ensuring that councils are able to deliver the quality services and infrastructure that NSW communities deserve.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has assessed Council's proposal against the financial sustainability criteria and associated benchmarks, and has found Hawkesbury City Council to be 'Fit'.

The assessment has been made based on Council's FFTF reassessment proposal, Council's Long Term Financial Plan and other available data.

The OLG FFTF Reassessment Report – Round 2, including council summaries will be published on the NSW Government's FFTF website.

Key results from the reassessment of Hawkesbury City Council are as follows:

**Fit for the Future Reassessment – Fit**

- Council satisfied the financial criteria overall as the Council meets the sustainability, infrastructure and service management and efficiency criteria.
- Council states they have reviewed the 20 original strategies submitted to IPART to identify additional cost savings to achieve a reduced SRV.
- Council met the criteria for infrastructure and service management and efficiency in the original IPART assessment and was not required to be reassessed against those benchmarks.



**SCANNED**

### **Sustainability – Satisfied**

- Council's OPR was -9.4% in 2015-16 and forecast to be 0.6% in 2020-21, which meets the benchmark.
- Council meets the OPR due to the proposed SRV and special rate. Should Council not proceed on this path, as Council states it is subject to Council endorsement, community consultation and IPART approval, it may not meet the OPR by 2020-21.
- Council met the OSR in the original IPART assessment and it is forecast to be 84% in 2020-21 which continues to meet the benchmark.
- Council met the BIRR in the original IPART assessment. Council's BIRR was 80% in 2015-16 and is forecast to be 115% by 2020-21 which meets the benchmark.

### **Infrastructure and service management – Satisfied**

- Council satisfied the infrastructure and service management criteria overall in the original IPART assessment.

### **Efficiency – Satisfied**

- Council satisfied the efficiency criterion in the original IPART assessment.

The 'Fit' categorisation allows Council to access Treasury Corporation's (TCorp) competitive rate loan facilities, subject to TCorp's credit criteria.

OLG will continue to monitor and assess the performance of the councils to ensure you continue to meet performance benchmarks, deliver the improvements committed to within the FFTF process and continue to strengthen their financial position overall.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight that, as Council undertakes its current cycle of Integrated Planning and Reporting, it ensures the strategies and actions identified in its FFTF Improvement Plan are reflected in Council's new Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy.

It is the development of these documents and the associated consultation processes that enables Council and the community to continue to work together in determining the main priorities and aspirations of the community and ensures Council delivers the services and infrastructure its community requires into the future.

At my request, Mrs Sonja Hammond from the Office of Local Government is available on (02) 4428 4100 or [sonja.hammond@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sonja.hammond@olg.nsw.gov.au) should you have any further enquiries.

Yours sincerely



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