

Summary of Draft Terms of Reference survey results

3 May 2024

1 Results of NSW Have Your Say survey on the Draft Terms of Reference

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the [Draft Terms of Reference](#) to investigate and report on the financial model for councils in NSW.

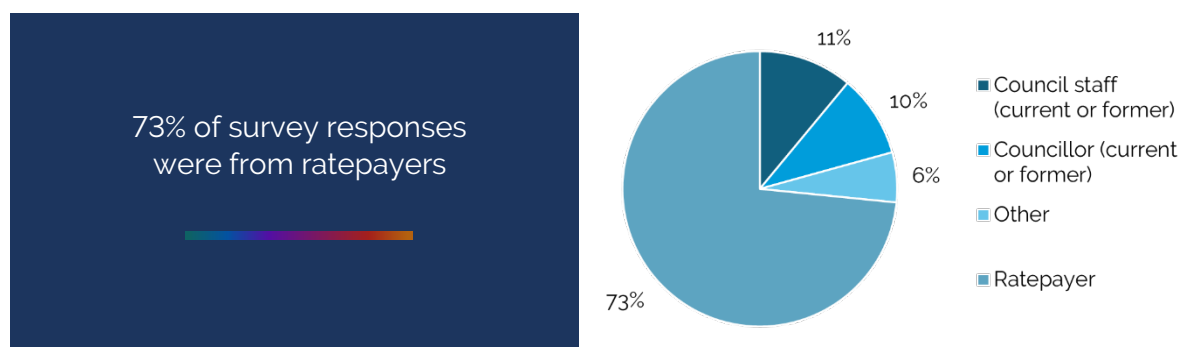
We note that on 19 March 2024, IPART received a [letter from the NSW Government](#) withdrawing the referral for the review of the financial model for councils to avoid unnecessary duplication, as the matter will now instead be considered via an [inquiry](#) by the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development.

IPART has considered all feedback received in response to the Draft Terms of Reference and provided a summary of issues raised by stakeholders to the NSW Government. We have published all [non-confidential submissions](#) in line with IPART's [submissions policy](#).

In total, we received 448 survey responses on the Draft Terms of Reference. The charts below summarise the main results of the survey.^a

We received feedback via the survey from ratepayers, council staff and councillors

While most survey responses were from ratepayers, 11% of survey responses were from council staff and 10% were from councillors.^b



^a This was a self-select survey and we cannot guarantee that each response was a unique user. These results may not be representative of the whole community's views.

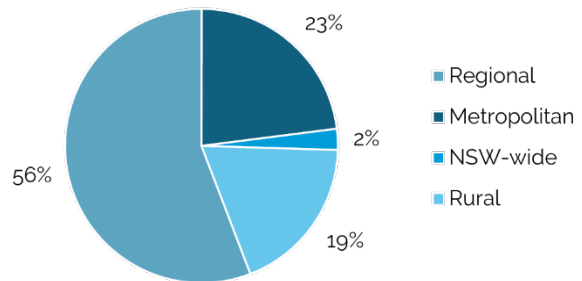
^b There were 444 responses to this question.

IPART acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We pay respect to Elders both past and present. We recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples.

Most survey responses were from stakeholders from regional or rural areas

23% of survey responses were from stakeholders representing or from a metropolitan local government area (LGA).^c

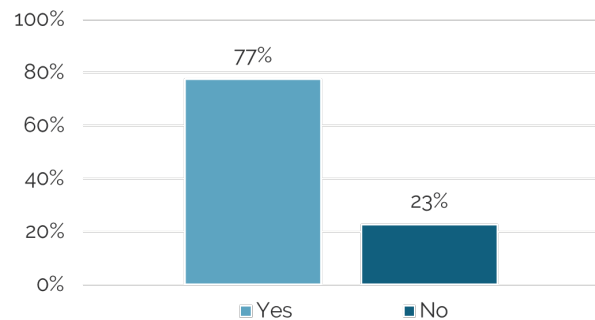
75% of survey responses were from stakeholders representing a regional (56%) or rural (19%) LGA



77% of survey responses considered the Draft Terms of Reference clear

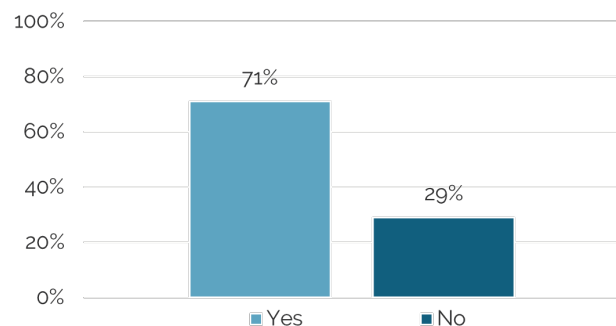
23% of survey responses considered that the Draft Terms of Reference are not clear and meaningful.^d

Are the Draft Terms of Reference clear and meaningful?



29% of survey responses did not suggest any matters be added to the Draft Terms of Reference

Should any other tasks or matters be included as part of the Draft Terms of Reference for the review?



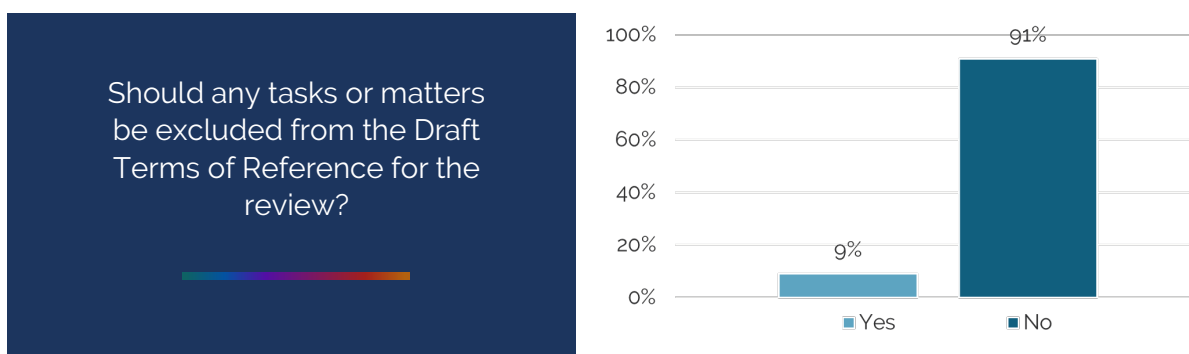
^c There were 444 responses to this question.

^d There were 439 responses to this question.

71% of survey responses suggested other tasks or matters should be included in the Draft Terms of Reference.^e Matters suggested to be included related to:

- organisational capacity, accountability and transparency
- alternative funding models
- special variations processes
- council amalgamations
- affordability for ratepayers
- cost-shifting from other levels of government to local government
- grants and contributions.

91% of survey responses did not consider any matters be excluded from the Draft Terms of Reference



9% of survey responses suggested that specific matters be excluded from the Draft Terms of Reference.^f Matters suggested to be excluded related to:

- council revenue beyond grants and rates
- plans/strategies not yet in effect
- expenditure review committees
- the governance model.

^e There were 427 responses to this question.

^f There were 396 responses to this question.