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Your submission for this review:

Our submission centers on the unrealistic inclusions / exclusions of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) . Particularly the fact that all Councils in Australia receive in the region of 40% revenue from Grants. This model then excludes Capital Grants in the bottom line of Council LTFP - in assessing if a Council is Sustainability! The significant number of SRV applications being lodged is testament to the shortcomings. Another area to address is the use of Current value depreciation in the model . This involves all Council assets being revalued to current replacement value (not historical cost) and Depreciated from that elevated value. This is skewing expenditure significantly . It is especially problematic if the Council has a lot of community assets (such as many Km of roads , bridges & footpaths) This is affecting the bottom line of the Regional Councils at a disproportionate level - compared to the city based Councils . We wish to also raise the very real issue that Councils are concerned that failing their LTFP sustainability , MAY see them pushed into Forced Amalgamations , or worse still- into Administration . Most Councils across NSW have played the game as directed by the Dept of Local Govt Model - with the outcome of cost shifting MASSIVE Rate Increases to many communities - via the SRV process We are also very concerned about many Councillors general lack of understanding of Financial Statement's, and poor Council financial training for Councillors . The lack of real community and Councillor involvement in the budget process will need to be addressed . In many cases -Council presents a prepared Budget and hope the Councillors sign off without asking too many questions ! With lack of Councillor knowledge and training - and often transparency issues within Council - NO significant opportunity arises for the Councillors (& the Community) to influence Council budgets and Financial decisions in any major way