

Author name: C. Jaques

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Your submission for this review:

Based on the decisions & further IPART comments relating to the 23/24 SRV applications, especially for TSC, I suggest the whole IPART cost for local government rates is a whole of government waste and the STATE should remove this role from IPART & put into the legislation or mandatory directions (hoping that all councils will actually comply with them) that CPI is the upper limit for Rates and mandatory charges increases in any financial year. Most increases appear permanent and compounding so the real increase over time is significant. Why should Financially Responsible Ratepayers be the Golden Goose picking up the financial 'disasters' & 'aspiration/non-core' expenditure arising from every Deliberate Decision by Council Authorised Officers or Council Resolutions, as well as the 'unnecessary' direct & indirect costs of preparing the IP&R documents, IPART submissions, Arguments against the mandatory directions & existing contracts - especially for very small councils like Tenterfield (approx 5,000 Older Age Lower income Ratepayers) which is classed as a Large Rural Council (the ultimate aspiration?). Very few entities deliberately increase an existing large deficit by over \$1mill on more than 1 occasion in a year, accept grants they cannot fund via cashflow or without increasing future deficits & are ENABLED by the State to cost shift to a captive funding group (ie RATEPAYERS) especially without evidence of active, informed support for the 'activity' & 'additional Rates/Charges' by the majority of directly affected Ratepayers. Very disappointing waste of scarce public moneys on ADMINISTRIVIA & internal arguments, consultants/contractors etc. TSC OP Plan remuneration expense consumes Rates & Charges AND the FAG grant. 3 executives, 9 managers, plus senior advisor/s? Reasonable, I dont think so. The State needs to urgently review its unnecessary Cost Shifting & take back responsibility where councils have little authority & multiply admin costs layers.