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Your submission for this review:

Whilst the mechanisms for reporting on performance are well structured they are complicated enough to confuse councillors. The use of the QBRS as a method of reporting is flawed in that changes to allocations and unders and overs need not be reported to council for 4-5 months. 2. Engaging communities is difficult as most ratepayers, while acknowledging the complicated structure of council want immediate outcomes and see the fallback to IP&R as an excuse for inaction. They just want that pot hole fixed. 2. Current funding model is ad-hoc. Rates are pegged, and often rates raised do not even cover increased wages of employees. Some grants are a known quantity but other grants are of varying value and availability making it hard to plan infrastructure in the long term. Cost shifting by State Government has massive impacts on councils as they are constant and cumulative. 4. The audit process has been an excellent addition to clarity and transparency. 5. Increased funding over the past 8 years has allowed councils to catch up on asset renewal. All councils want to maintain their assets to a high level but both financial and staffing restraints make this difficult. It becomes a balancing act between long term maintenance of assets and short term fixes. 6 There was no harmonisation of rates when Rate Pegging was introduced. Councils who had constantly raised rates were in a far better position as their peg was on a higher base value. Councils who had lower base rates found that they could never catch up. This has eroded some councils rate income for decades. The Terms of Reference appear to delve more into public engagement, councillor performance and budgeting transparency as major issues. This coupled with the ever increasing need to provide vital services that are not part of core business makes the role more challenging. The constantly raised cost shifting by other tiers of government needs to be addressed. Eric Noakes Mayor Walcha