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Your submission for this review:

There should be ratepayer representation on the reference group. Once again Councils and their supporters are being granted inside track access to influence the pricing regulator, whereas ratepayers have to make do with surveys that are always ignored. Rates across NSW already rose double the rate of CPI inflation between 2010/11 and 2020/21, and the new rate peg methodology will make things worse. Every time IPART conducts a review, whether rate peg methodology or special variation, the result is even higher rates. Yet, Councils will never be satisfied and will keep coming back for more. IPART has made it easier for them to do so rather than incentivising improvements in management performance, efficiency, productivity, culture or prioritisation. Without ratepayer representation, the reference group will just be another opportunity for Councils to continue their relentless lobbying.