

Author name: Name suppressed

Date of submission: Friday, 23 June 2023

Your submission for this review:

I would like to see a change in the rate peg methodology. The current system doesn't give ratepayers a voice nor does it hold Councils accountable. Financial hardship equals ASV and SRV submissions/applications which are over and above the rate peg. If you are going to use rate pegs then that should be it. More importantly I would like to see an independent audit (yearly) of each and every council both financially and results based. As well as a compulsory survey with each rates notice to show IPART how Councils are performing and whether or not they are financially responsible.

IPART Submission
Review of the Rate Peg methodology
Draft Report - Review of the rate peg methodology - June 2023

To the IPART tribunal,

I believe that the current format in which local councils use rate pegs isn't working and is unfair to the rate payer.

I agree that it would be timely for the NSW Government to initiate an independent investigation into the financial model for councils in NSW, including the broader issues highlighted in IPART's draft report on the rate peg methodology. They should also examine why some councils have decided that the only way to address financial sustainability is through seeking substantial increases to rates income, and could also review the current special variation guidelines, criteria and process.

Whilst ratepayer's wages have stood still Council incomes have grown by much greater than the CPI. In this current economic climate it is unfair to have such large rate increases that don't keep in mind the ratepayer and don't hold Councils accountable. I'm also concerned about how fairly rates are split across types of ratepayers and there is a widely held view that councils don't use rates income effectively, and therefore ratepayers generally pay more than they need to.

There is a severe lack of transparency and accountability as ratepayers have only a general sense of what councils use rates income for, and this is strongly influenced by the services and facilities they can see and personally use.

More importantly I would like to see an independent audit (yearly) of each and every council both financially and results based. As well as a compulsory survey with each rates notice to show IPART how Councils are performing and whether or not they are financially responsible.

I would also like to see criteria provided so that ratepayer's can have a formal say against Councils via submissions to IPART. Therefore giving IPART something to review other than the submission by Councils.

Regards,

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