



Department of Local Government  
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541  
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541



OUR REFERENCE  
YOUR REFERENCE  
CONTACT

A69023

Jenna Wilson  
02 4428 4182

Ms Lil Cullen  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
of NSW  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

31 AUG 2006

Dear Ms Cullen

I am writing in regard to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's draft report on the Investigation into the Burden of Regulation in NSW and Improving Regulatory Efficiency.

The department has reviewed the document and wishes to make specific comment on Recommendation 67 of the report. This recommendation calls for the establishment of a standing working group to promote greater coordination of regulatory effort, streamline regulatory processes and identify and remove unnecessary reporting requirements relating to water utilities. While the intent of the recommendation is commendable, I note that the department has not been included in the recommended membership of the working group.

As the majority of the State's water utilities are local councils that operate under the *Local Government Act 1993*, which is administered by the department, I consider it to be a key stakeholder in this matter. For example, the department is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of reporting requirements for local government and I believe this project will be directly relevant to the activities of the proposed working group.

I would therefore ask that Recommendation 67 be amended in the final report on the Investigation to include the Department of Local Government as a suggested member of the water utilities standing working group.

Yours sincerely

**Garry Payne**  
Director General