

Fact Sheet - Fit for the Future

1 July 2015



WHAT

IPART has been appointed by the NSW Government to assess if local councils are Fit for the Future. All 144 councils requested to submit Fit for the Future proposals with IPART have done so, and we will now begin the assessment process.¹ As part of our assessment, we invite ratepayers and other stakeholders to share their views with us.



WHY

The NSW Government has indicated that councils that are Fit for the Future will have access to:

- ▼ a streamlined rate variation process and a State Government borrowing facility
- ▼ priority for other government funding and grants, and
- ▼ eligibility for additional devolved planning powers.

The NSW Government appointed IPART to assess council proposals because we have the skills and capacity to undertake the task and have extensive experience in the local government sector, including:

- ▼ setting the rate peg or allowable annual increase in rates income for councils each year
- ▼ reviewing council applications for any increases in rates income above the rate peg (special variations)
- ▼ reviewing certain development contribution plans from councils for infrastructure needs, and
- ▼ undertaking special reviews upon request from the Government.

¹ This excludes the eight Far West councils not required to submit proposals.



WHO

All councils in NSW, except some Far West councils and county councils, are being assessed as part of this process.

This important review will affect ratepayers, businesses and citizens who use council services.



HOW

After consultation and in line with our published [final methodology](#), we will assess council proposals against the criteria set by the NSW Government, including:

- ▼ scale and capacity
- ▼ financial sustainability
- ▼ effective infrastructure and service management, and
- ▼ efficiency.



WHEN

We will provide our recommendations to the NSW Government in October 2015.



WHAT NEXT

You can have your say on the council proposals until 31 July 2015. We prefer receiving comments [online](#), or alternatively via [email](#) or post.

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