

Our reference: D23/1398

Your reference:

Contact Fiona Towers

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1 February 2023

Brett Whitworth
Group Deputy Secretary
Planning Delivery and Local Government
4 Parramatta Square, Parramatta NSW 2150

via email

Dear Brett

Review of the rate peg methodology – request for extension

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is currently reviewing the local government rate peg methodology. The Minister for Local Government asked IPART to conduct a review under section 9(2) of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992*. IPART is to provide a report within 9 months of receiving the Terms of Reference, which is 18th May 2023.

To date we have released an Issues Paper, considered 96 submissions, and conducted 7 public workshops (with over 250 participants) on the rate peg methodology. IPART has carefully reviewed stakeholder feedback, including proposals to change the rate peg methodology. We consider that the scope of issues raised warrant further stakeholder consultation.

We will hold additional workshops with metropolitan, regional and rural council representatives to discuss options to improve the rate peg to enable councils to continue delivering services to their communities. We also will hold ratepayer and community focus groups to discuss these options. This additional stakeholder engagement is necessary to ensure we address the important issues raised in submissions prior to releasing our draft report.

We welcome OLG participation in our workshops. We would be pleased to provide OLG an overview of submissions and completed workshops, noting that all non-confidential submissions and a summary of the workshop outcomes are on our website accessible [here](#).

To allow sufficient time for this additional round of consultation, we are seeking an extension of time to provide the final report by **31 August 2023**.

IPART's contact officer for this matter is Fiona Towers, Executive Director, contactable on (02) 9290 8420 or 0402 339 147.

Yours sincerely

1/02/2023

X



Signed by: Carmel Donnelly

Carmel Donnelly PSM
Chair