

News story

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Greater transparency for ratepayers on councils' waste charges

In its Draft Report released today the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has found that the domestic waste charges levied by councils vary considerably between councils and on average have risen by 4.5% per year, which is more than inflation over recent years.

IPART has proposed pricing principles to guide councils in calculating the level of waste charges. IPART also proposes to publish an annual benchmark waste peg which will provide a guide to councils and ratepayers on the level that waste charges should change each year.

"This increased transparency will encourage councils to find efficiencies and help ratepayers to more readily engage with councils on the level of service they want and the price they are prepared to pay," said IPART Chair Carmel Donnelly.

The benchmark waste peg is proposed to be 1.1% for the 22/23 financial year.

IPART also intends to publish an annual domestic waste charges report which will identify each councils' performance against the waste peg. Most Sydney metropolitan councils contract out most of their DWM services to external providers, while many regional and rural councils provide most DWM services in-house. The number and type of DWM services provided across councils varies widely – some councils provide regular kerbside collection of general waste, recycling and organics, while in other areas residents deliver their waste directly to a waste facility.

There are multiple external factors likely to be putting pressure on DWM costs, such as the change in the market for recyclables, increases in the waste levy and shortages in landfills. And these all impact costs.

Ms Donnelly encouraged ratepayers, councils and other stakeholders to make a submission to the review. IPART will consider all comments made on its website and in submissions.

Submissions to IPART are due by 25 March 2022. IPART's Draft Report on local council waste charges and opportunities to have your say are available on IPART's website, www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

IPART intends to hold a public hearing once it has received submissions and will notify stakeholders via its website.