



BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
west wyalong

4 November, 2022

The Chair
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop, Sydney NSW 1240

Attn: Carmel Connelly PSM

Dear Madam

Re: 2022-23 Rate Peg Methodology Review

I refer to the rate peg methodology review currently being undertaken by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), and provide the following response on behalf of Bland Shire Council.

Bland Shire Council does not support the rate peg. Bland Shire (and collectively Local Government) are the grass roots level of government in Australia. It provides a variety of services to the community including the management and maintenance of the second largest road network (3,237km) in NSW and covers an area of 8,558 square kilometres.

Council delivers the majority of services to our local communities and combined with a declining population of 5,995 (ABS 2016) to 5,547 (ABS 2021), has limited ability (unlike larger centres and metropolitan areas) to generate own source revenue. It is imperative that Bland Shire (local government) not be continually constrained by such mechanisms as the rate peg.

I commend to you and support the submission made by the Riverina Joint Organisation (RIVJO) to which Bland Shire is a member. Bland Shire joined with other member Councils of RIVJO in the preparation of this submission.

Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission and most importantly that of the RIVJO, and looks forward to a determination that considers the diverse nature and variability of local government in NSW and also includes those reasons provided in the decision made to not impose a Domestic Waste Charge peg.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate in contacting me, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Grant Baker
GENERAL MANAGER