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To Whom it May Concern

Cabonne Council thanks you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the methodology for rate peg increases. Council supports the submission of Central NSW Joint Organisation however would add the following.

In April 2012, the NSW Government appointed the Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP) to formulate options for governance models, structures and boundary changes in local government in order to improve the strength and effectiveness of local government and to help drive key strategic directions in sever state plans.

The final report entitled "Revitalising Local Government" was published on 25 October 2013 and has been said to be a catalyst for the 2016 local government amalgamations. The report made it clear that the recommendations comprised an integrated package of measures with the key recommendations being inter-dependent. The report cautioned that if individual recommendations were "cherry-picked" then the benefits of reform might only partially be realised or not at all.

The principal recommendations of the report were:

Fiscal responsibility

- Establish an integrated Fiscal Responsibility Program, coordinated by DLG and also involving TCorp, IPART and LGNSW... (5.1 and 5.3)
- Introduce more rigorous guidelines for Delivery Programs... (5.2)
- Place local government audits under the aegis of the Auditor General (5.4)

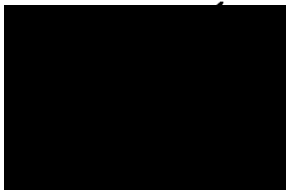
Strengthening the Revenue Base

- **Commission IPART to undertake a further review of the rating system focused on: options to reduce or remove excessive exemptions and concessions...** (6.2); more equitable rating of apartments and other multi-unit dwellings... (6.3)
- **Either replace rate-pegging with a new system of 'rate benchmarking' or streamline current arrangements to remove unwarranted complexity, costs, and constraints to sound financial management** (6.5).
- Subject to any legal constraints, seek to redistribute federal Financial Assistance Grants and some State grants in order to channel additional support to councils and communities with the greatest needs (6.6).
- Establish a State-wide borrowing facility to enable local government to make increased use of debt where appropriate (6.7).

Cabonne Council would strongly encourage the current review to consider these findings in particular attention to the recommendation 6.5 regarding rate pegging.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this issue.

Yours faithfully



Clr Kevin Beatty
MAYOR