

Author name: A. Mott

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Your submission for this review:

The identified focus areas of IPART's council financial modelling review will have minimal impact on financial sustainability as the review is only focused on council outputs, such as visibility, processes, budget, capacity and systems, when the burden on council is largely around inputs such as one-off capital grants, without ongoing operational grant support to the maintenance and depreciation of those infrastructure assets. Further burden is placed on councils through cost shifting, emergency levies, Red fleet and other unforeseen expenses such as inflation and natural disasters. One of the main limitations of the proposed review is that it does not consider how local governments' financial interactions with the state and federal governments affect the provision of both infrastructure and services. The Government needs to carefully consider how Councils can maintain financial stability when they face increasing community expectations, with rising service provision costs that are increasing at a rate greater than available revenue. This is essential to deal with long-term fiscal challenges and successfully meet the needs and priorities of the community. It is a responsibility of council to remain transparent to the community. There is little benefit in requiring councillors to have a specified level of financial literacy, as this is why qualified professional staff are employed to undertake the operational financial requirement. Questioning the ability of council (both councillors and staff) has the detrimental impact of tarnishing the reputation of councils, subsequently misinforming the community about the capacity and capability to deliver community services and infrastructure.