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Your submission for this review:

ESC welcomes the review of the NSW council model; we are cognisant of the different capacities and resource constraints (both financial and access) that Councils in regional areas such as us experience compared to those of our larger and more populated counterparts. The review is of particular relevance to rural and regional councils who effectively support the needs of their communities by providing services for which the state and federal government are ultimately responsible and collecting revenue for (eg. Aged and disabled care, environmental protection and sustainability (including coastal management), state roads maintenance, emergency services, youth and childrens services, FOGO etc. We would like to see the following areas being considered within the terms of reference: - Cost shifting from State & Federal government through to local government including recent changes in legislation regarding Childsafe Protections, Respect at Work and WHS. - Emergency Services cost shifting placing incredible pressure on councils in disaster areas to provide resilience and LEMOs etc. - More stable funding streams e.g. larger annual funding streams across a longer term to enable resourcing and consistency of funding - Consideration of funding streams that address ongoing maintenance and whole of life costs - Clear guidance on the RFS asset definition and inclusion in council financial statements - Interpretation and additional guidance on IPR framework - Role the Audit Office has to play increased cost impost may not reflect service delivery and timelines of Financial Statements and Management Letters often means that key financial documents do not align with community engagement strategies (IPR framework) where information is delayed - Recent legislation (FOGO) mandating an approach that may not consider what individual councils are already doing to remove organic materials from waste sites