

Author name: Simon Rule

Date of submission: Thursday, 20 January 2022

Your submission for this review:

Question 1 The idea of the benchmark waste peg is good in theory and in the absence of any else it may be of assistance to Council when setting their DWM Charges. However to request those Councils whose charges have varied compared to the benchmark to report to IPART is problematic especially for smaller remote Councils who due to the size of their rate base, the availability of contractors, the availability of collaborative arrangements with other Councils etc can leave those Councils with limited options available as to how they contract out the collection of DWM collections and disposal which can leave those Councils beholden to the whim of those contractors. Question 2 The idea of pricing principles to assist Councils to set DWM Charges is a good starting point. This will allow Council to either adopt these principles, add to them as their circumstances warrant or at least be able to benchmark their pricing principles so that they can explain to their community how they have developed their pricing principles. Question 3 Further guidance is definitely required and needs to be included in the Rating and Revenue Raising Manual. For example: A lot of rural Councils run a number of small landfills/transfer stations for the community to dispose of rubbish. The fees generated from these sites go nowhere near to covering the cost of providing these services. In some circumstances Councils include this cost as part of the DWM charge, however this is unfair to those ratepayers who are charged the DMW Charge as the sites are utilised by the whole community. Some guidance on how to deal with a situation like this would be beneficial.