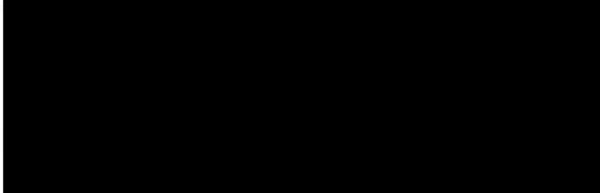


Our reference: ES:ATR

18 November 2024



Dear Sir,

RE: REVIEW OF PRICES FOR VALUER GENERAL'S SERVICES TO COUNCILS FROM 1 JULY 2025

Please find following Temora Shire Council's submission to the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal's review of prices for Valuer General's services to Councils from 1 July 2025.

Council strongly objects to the proposed substantial increase in the prices for Valuer General's services from 1 July 2025.

Temora Shire Council is a small rural Council with a population of 6,033. The 2025/26 rate peg for Temora Shire has recently been announced and set at 5% which is estimated to provide an additional \$237,000 in rates income. Small rural Councils have extremely limited opportunities to raise additional income and are under continual financial strain with the increasing cost of wages, materials, insurance etc. in addition to the ongoing burden of cost shifting from other levels of government.

As the Tribunal would be aware, several enquiries are underway in relation to the financial sustainability of local Councils. The pricing proposal suggests a 27% increase in the cost of valuation services for a "country" council such as Temora Shire. This represents a significant impost on Council's budget - taking Council one step closer to being financially unsustainable. Council asks that the Tribunal consider the impact of such an increase on the financial sustainability of rural Councils and request that the increase in the price of valuation services be limited to either the rate peg (as Council's income is) or CPI.

It is noted that the Valuer General's pricing model proposes different percentage increases depending on the pricing zone. Council requests that any increase in pricing is applied evenly across the state.

Further, while Council strongly objects to the significant price increase, if a price increase is deemed to be necessary, Council requests that the increase in costs be introduced gradually over several years, rather than in the first year as is currently proposed.

Council thanks the Tribunal for receiving its submission.

Yours faithfully

