



**Camden Council**  
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18 March 2013

Mr James Cox  
Chief Executive Officer  
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal of NSW  
Level 8, 1 Market Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cox

**Re: Application for a Special Variation to General Income**

Camden Council continues to be one of the most efficient local government authorities in New South Wales in the face of the most significant population growth projections in the country.

A projected five-fold increase in population over the next 20 years will present substantial challenges to our organisation over a great many facets of its operation. Though this rate of growth is daunting, Camden is no stranger to rapid growth having already doubled its population over the past 20 years. Staff numbers and organisational scale have grown at less than half of the proportional growth in our population over that time and it is anticipated that our continued growth will see an extension of that lean and efficient operation.

What have grown in similar proportion to our population however, are the range, number, value and complexity of the asset base needed to service that population.

As Camden stands on the verge of its next population explosion, there is clear evidence of the necessity to bring the existing asset base up to a satisfactory standard before we add the multitude of new community assets to our inventory.

Therefore Council submits for IPART's consideration its application under Section 508 (2) for a Special Variation to General Income of 1.1% in addition to the allowable rate increase for 2013/2014 of 3.4%, to part-fund the continuation of its existing Community Infrastructure Renewal Program.

Our asset management plans outline this need; our financial modelling justifies this need; and our community is telling us clearly that it sees this asset renewal to be its highest priority. All of this justification is set out clearly in the attached application.

Should you require any further explanation or clarification of any of the issues highlighted in this application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Nicole Magurren**  
**ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**