

COMMUNITY VIEWS SOUGHT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATES

7 October 2016

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) will be in Dubbo on Monday, 10 October to seek feedback on proposed changes to the way local rates are levied.

IPART is conducting a review of the local government rating system and will make recommendations to the NSW Government in December on ways to provide improved options for councils to levy rates while minimising the need for future rate rises.

A public forum will start at 9.30am at Dubbo RSL Club to enable local councils and members of the community to discuss the draft recommendations that were released for feedback in August.

IPART Chair Dr Peter Boxall said the forum is an opportunity for IPART to hear first-hand the views and concerns of the local community.

“Our objective is to identify ways to improve the efficiency and equity in the way rates are raised from different groups of ratepayers, rather than increase the dollar amount councils raise,” Dr Boxall said.

“Some of the key issues to be discussed on Monday include introducing new rating categories to better reflect land uses and access to council services, allowing councils’ rates income to increase as the communities they service grow, and to better target rate exemptions and pensioner assistance.”

Registration for the forum will be open from 9am, with those wishing to attend encouraged to register online in advance of the forum at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

The Dubbo hearing follows a similar public hearing in Sydney held last month. Further information is available at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media are welcome to attend the forum but priority will be given to stakeholders during the Q&A session. Additionally, Dr Boxall will be available for interviews in Dubbo before the forum starts at 9.30am on Monday 10 October. Media wishing to speak to IPART and/or attend the forum are asked to advise Julie Sheather on 0409 514 643 or at media@ipart.nsw.gov.au of their interest.