

Media Release

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IPART seeks feedback on local council household waste charges

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on its Discussion Paper released today on domestic waste management charges levied by local councils.

“There is a wide variation in charges, and in some cases they may not be delivering good value for ratepayers. There may also be challenges for local councils in purchasing and pricing waste management services,” said IPART Chair Dr Paul Paterson.

He explained that previously IPART had decided not to regulate waste charges, but now needs to consider whether this is the right approach going forward.

“We intend to approach the issue with caution, recognising that prescriptive regulation may not be appropriate. There may be other ways to help councils and ratepayers get quality services at reasonable prices, such as improving transparency of costs and sharing best practice guidance” Dr Paterson said.

The Discussion Paper asks for feedback on whether stakeholders consider that there are any issues with the prices charged for waste management services, and, if so, how IPART should respond.

“We are particularly interested in whether charges reflect the reasonable and efficient costs of providing waste services while meeting environmental and legislative requirements. We are also keen to hear what opportunities there may be for greater transparency for customers and councils” said Dr Paterson.

Dr Paterson encouraged ratepayers, councils and other stakeholders to make a submission to the review. IPART will consider all comments made on its website and in submissions. Submissions to IPART are due by 6 October 2020.

IPART’s Discussion Paper on local council waste charges, and opportunities to have your say are available on IPART’s [website](#).

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