

ALL REQUESTED NSW COUNCILS LODGE FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSALS

10am, Wednesday, 1 July 2015

All the state's councils requested to submit proposals with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for assessment under the NSW Government's *Fit for the Future* reforms have done so.

The process requires councils across NSW to demonstrate how they can become stronger and more effective, delivering services to the community in the most sustainable and efficient way into the future.

IPART has received proposals from 144 councils. The eight Far West councils were not required to submit proposals.

All proposals will be uploaded to IPART's website. The Tribunal invites comments from ratepayers and other stakeholders for the next four weeks, until Friday, 31 July.

IPART will deliver its assessment of each proposal to the Minister for Local Government by 16 October, 2015.

Councils are Fit for the Future if they:

- ▼ have the scale and capacity to engage effectively across community, industry and government
- ▼ are financially sustainable
- ▼ effectively manage infrastructure and deliver services for communities
- ▼ are efficient.

IPART Chairman, Dr Peter Boxall, said the Tribunal would consider any relevant issues raised during the public submission period when making its decisions about each council's status as 'fit' or 'not fit' according to the review criteria.

For this review the Tribunal comprises Dr Boxall as Chair, together with IPART's part time Tribunal members, Catherine Jones and Ed Willett, and a temporary Tribunal member, Mr John Comrie, who has extensive experience in local government.

Dr Boxall said IPART had also ensured that sufficient, experienced officers are available to support the panel to complete its review within the required timeframe.

"IPART's assessment methodology is publicly available and is the result of extensive consultation with local government and the community and our own expertise in this field," he said.

