

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE BURDENS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

13 July 2015

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is calling for public submissions for its review into reporting and compliance burdens that the NSW Government imposes on local government.

Releasing the Issues Paper, *Reporting and compliance burdens on Local Government*, IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the review was established to identify any inefficient or unnecessary planning, reporting or compliance burdens councils faced as a result of NSW Government legislation and policies.

The Premier commissioned IPART to undertake the review in response to a recommendation by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

Dr Boxall said this was an opportunity for councils to raise concerns about obligations imposed by the State Government and to engage with IPART on options to remove or reduce any unnecessary or excessive burdens.

“Planning, reporting and compliance obligations on councils may be necessary to achieve state and local government economic, social and environmental objectives, but they must be efficiently imposed,” Dr Boxall said.

“This review will determine where there are opportunities to remove or reduce planning, reporting or compliance burdens on councils.

“To do so, we need information and examples from the local government sector, NSW Government agencies and the broader community to ensure that any recommendations for change do achieve the best possible outcomes.”

Dr Boxall said IPART was seeking submissions about:

- ▼ the planning, reporting or compliance obligations imposed specifically on councils by NSW Government agencies that are creating unnecessary or excessive burdens
- ▼ the impact on councils of these planning, reporting or compliance obligations, and
- ▼ how these planning, reporting or compliance burdens could be removed or reduced.

The release of the Issues Paper is the first stage of IPART’s public consultation program for the review. Public submissions close on 14 August 2015.

IPART has sent a questionnaire requesting more detailed information to each NSW council and responses are also due on 14 August 2015.

Additional opportunities to review and provide comment will occur with the release of IPART's Draft Report, due out in January 2016. A public hearing will be held in Sydney in early February 2016, during which interested parties may present their views in person.

IPART's Final Report will be provided to the NSW Government in April 2016.

The current Issues Paper, along with further information on IPART's review, is available at IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

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