

FIT FOR THE FUTURE PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS CONSIDERATION

Tuesday, 4 August 2015

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has begun consideration of the public submissions received during July as part of its assessment of council proposals under the NSW Fit for the Future reforms. Around 1560 submissions were received.

IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the volume of submissions received by the 31 July deadline was in line with expectations, and that issues raised in relation to each council's proposal would be considered as part of the assessment.

"We welcome the high level of interest in the Fit for the Future process, and value the hundreds of submissions which have addressed issues relevant to specific council areas," Dr Boxall said.

"All submissions are being reviewed in light of the criteria set down by the NSW Government in making our assessment of whether a council is 'fit' or 'not fit'."

Under the assessment criteria, council proposals need to demonstrate that 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, and
- ▼ are efficient

Many submissions received supported their council's position to remain as a stand-alone council, due to satisfaction with their council's current performance and concerns about reduced representation, cost, and loss of local identity. Some others were dissatisfied with the position taken by their council and were concerned an opportunity had been missed.

Council proposals were required to consider the ILGRP recommendations as their first option, but any alternatives put forward are also being assessed as to whether they will deliver benefits to the community that are at least as good as the ILGRP recommendations.

Dr Boxall said IPART is on track to deliver an assessment of each council's proposal to government within the required timeframe.

"We will deliver our technical assessment of each council's proposal to the Minister for Local Government by 16 October," Dr Boxall said.

Copies of the submissions received for each council will be added to the IPART website www.ipart.nsw.gov.au. Those submissions where the author has requested confidentiality will not be posted.

The proposals received from councils and details of the assessment methodology and timetable are also available on the IPART website.

A full list of the number of submissions received by council area is below.

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Table 1 Submissions received by council area

Armidale Dumaresq	2	Gwydir Shire	8	Randwick City/Waverley	18
Ashfield	4	Hawkesbury City	1	Richmond Valley	3
Auburn	120	Holroyd City	6	Rockdale City	4
City/Burwood/City of		Hornsby Shire	3	Shellharbour City	1
Canada Bay		Hunters Hill	23	Snowy River Shire	1
Bankstown City	91	Kogarah City	3	Strathfield Municipal	203
Bellingen Shire	1	Ku-ring-gai	4	Sutherland Shire	1
Blacktown City	3	Kyogle	1	Tamworth Regional	1
Bland Shire	1	Lake Macquarie City	31	Tenterfield Shire	1
Bombala	5	Leichhardt Municipal	189	The Hills Shire	1
Cabonne	15	Lismore City	1	Tumbarumba	2
Canterbury City	14	Lithgow City	1	Tumut Shire	2
City of Botany Bay	3	Manly	4	Tweed Shire	1
City of Ryde	5	Marrickville	40	Upper Hunter Shire	2
City of Sydney	522	Mosman Municipal	8	Upper Lachlan Shire	1
Clarence Valley	12	Murray Shire	4	Uralla Shire	1
Conargo Shire	2	Nambucca Shire	1	Walcha	18
Coolamon Shire	1	Narrabri Shire	4	Warrindah	9
Dubbo City	1	Narrandera Shire	1	Willoughby City	4
Dungog Shire	4	Newcastle City	2	Wingecarribee Shire	2
Eurobodalla Shire	4	North Sydney	1	Wollondilly Shire	1
Fairfield City	12	Oberon	7	Woollahra Municipal	26
Glen Innes Severn	2	Palerang	7	Wyong Shire	11
Gosford City	4	Parramatta City	4	Yass Valley	8
Great Lakes	5	Pittwater	47		
Greater Taree City	1	Queanbeyan City	2		
Gundagai Shire	1				

Note: Only those council proposals that received submissions are included in the above table. IPART did not receive any submissions for those councils not listed. IPART also received 5 general submissions in addition to those listed in Table 1.