

IPART TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN QUEANBEYAN FOR ITS REVIEW OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

For immediate release

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal is conducting a series of regional workshops as part of its review of the revenue framework for local government, with a workshop being held in Queanbeyan on 14 October 2008

Tribunal Chairman Dr Michael Keating, said "IPART has been asked by the government to review the approach to setting council rates and charges in NSW. Currently the government limits the amount by which councils may increase rates each year."

Dr Keating said "IPART has released an issues paper in July and we have received in excess of 60 submissions."

"IPART is now going to local communities to seek input by conducting public workshops in regional centres."

The workshops will be in the form of a roundtable discussion. Participants on the roundtable will have the opportunity to address a number of discussion points that IPART has identified in response to submissions on the issues paper.

Members of the public are most welcome to attend the workshop and may sit in the public gallery. The Queanbeyan workshop will be held at the Airport International Hotel from 9am to 1pm.

The terms of reference for the review require IPART to investigate an approach to setting rates and charges that facilitates the effective and efficient provision of local government services. IPART is also to consider whether it should be involved in setting rates and charges in future years. IPART is not looking at individual rates nor issues relating to property valuation.

"IPART is to have regard to a range of matters," Dr Keating said. "These include the role and the financial position of local government, the revenue sources available to local government, the scope for efficiencies, social-economic impacts of rates and charges, and the differences between councils across the state."

The details of each workshop, including a copy of the agenda and discussion notes, and the submissions are available on IPART's website <<http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au>>.

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