

## IPART's Review of the Local Government Rating System

Council has only commented on items where it has some concerns or objections and not the full report. The majority of the report provides some constructive and warranted changes.

### 1. Allow Councils to use CIV as an alternative to UV in setting rates

Council does not have an objection in relation to a choice between the two values in setting rates but is worried about the cost of providing this data and how it may impact on Council.

It is noted that the recommendation to keep costs down is to implement the process gradually but what if that is not the case.

Council does not have any high rise apartments as it is a small rural shire and it is not likely Council will opt for the CIV for a number of reasons.

The recommendations that CIV still be used for the ESPL and for calculating growth outside the rate peg, would mean that Council would still be burden with the cost of the implementation of the CIV even if it was not going to use it.

### 20. Replace the pensioner concession with a rate deferral scheme

Council does not agree with replacing the current pensioner concession scheme with a rate deferral scheme.

Council do agree that any scheme should be totally funded by the State Government.

A rate deferral scheme would be an administrative nightmare and costly to implement. People are now living longer with life expectancy on average in the eighties. How much equity would be eroded in people's properties, and how long does Government wait to recoup this funding.

Properties in rural and remote areas have lower values. These areas also have diminishing populations which will impact on the values of property into the future.

Council is also worried that the administration and costs of a deferral scheme would be passed back to Local Government when it became unmanageable by the State; or that Local Government would be directed to implement the deferral scheme itself.

33. Emergency Services Property Levy and method for levying

Council's accounting software (rates) would have to be modified to enable the use of two valuation systems to enable the charging of the ESPL on a CIV basis.

Council was not happy with the level of consultation in relation to the ESPL and that the collection of the ESPL was virtually imposed on Council, despite any assurances that the costs of administration of the levy will be fully reimbursed by the State.

If the CIV data will be available State wide through Land and Property Information for example as the current UV is, and the Office of State Revenue is still in operation why can't the State collect the ESPL?

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