

Domestic waste management charges - Discussion Paper

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Question	Response
Feedback and Submission Form	
Industry	Local Government
Review	Review of domestic waste management service charges
Document Reference	c1e253a1-4210-41d3-97de-3be8f315fce7
1. Are there concerns with the prices councils charge for domestic waste management services? Why/why not?	<p>Yes, in LISMORE CITY COUNCIL on my annual rate notice for 31st July 2020 we are charged \$316.20 for "Integrated Waste" and then a further \$62.70 (each notice) for "Waste Minimisation" this charge was introduced over a decade ago and was implemented to provide rate payers 3 x 100kg tip vouchers to take our own rubbish to our tip. fast forward to 2020/2021 rates and we are still charged this charge but council staff have reduced the 3 x 100kg vouchers to 1 voucher only for 5000 rate payers out of our 19,071 rates notices issued. Eventhough 19,071 rate payers actually PAY for this charge, only 5000 may be lucky enough to win "dump lotto" and actually be allowed to use this facility. The "Waste Minimisation" charge over the years has had its expenditure added, one such addition was an "education Officer" which currently has no one in that role as the facility that required this officer burned down (the MRF facility at Lismore Tip) and there are other vaguely described facilities that this charge allocates funds to, but staff are either unwilling or unable to fully disclose what portion of our \$62.70 is spent on those and what the definitions of these catergories are to warrant almost \$1,2 million of our rates in total to be spent on.</p>

<p>2. If there are concerns, how should IPART respond? For example, if IPART was to regulate or provide greater oversight of these charges, what approach would be the most appropriate? Why?</p>	<p>If the "Waste Minimisation" charge is to continue then it needs to be reverted back to its original design - provide rate payers inside their annual rates notice 3 x 100kg tip vouchers to be used in that financial year. This is to be provided to each and every rate payer inside their posted rates notice, or as a link on our e-notices to be printed out and used within the financial year at the Lismore City Council tip, each and every year. If you can not regulate that process then it is not fair to steal money from our rate payers. If we are not provided the service to which this charge is applicable to EVERY rate payer then they can not charge us for it. Either we ALL get what we pay for, or they do not charge us for it.</p>
<p>3. Would an online centralised database of all NSW councils' domestic waste charges allowing councils and ratepayers to compare charges across comparable councils for equivalent services (eg, kerbside collection), and/or a set of principles to guide councils in pricing domestic waste charges, be helpful? Why/why not?</p>	<p>Absolutely YES. Lismore City Council staff and Mayor are continually spruiking that they have the lowest charges for everything but the highest network of assets to maintain. I would much prefer to be able to make that judgment myself and be able to gauge that as truthful or not through independent research and findings.</p>
<p>4. Do you have any other comments on councils' domestic waste management charges?</p>	
<p>Your submission for this review:</p>	
<p>If you have attachments you would like to include with your submission, please attach them below.</p>	<p>Lismore City Council Rates excerpt 2020 2021 financial year.docx</p>
<p>Your Details</p>	
<p>Are you an individual or organisation?</p>	<p>Individual</p>
<p>If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.</p>	<p>Anonymous - my submission can be published but my name should remain anonymous</p>
<p>First Name</p>	
<p>Last Name</p>	
<p>Organisation Name</p>	
<p>Position</p>	
<p>Email</p>	<div></div>
<p>IPART's Submission Policy</p>	<p>I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy</p>

Lismore City Council Rates – excerpt 2020 – 2021 financial year.

Residential Urban	154000	0.00529400	\$815.28
Base Amount - Res Urban	1	415.00	\$415.00
Integrated Waste	1	316.20	\$316.20
Lismore Sewer Con	1	960.00	\$960.00
Stormwater Res-Urban Wilsons River	1	25.00	\$25.00
Waste Minimisation Inc GST	1	62.70	\$62.70
Pensioner Rebate			\$0.00