

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
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1. Are there concerns with the prices councils charge for domestic waste management services? Why/why not?	Yes, however there seems to be need for a broader scope for your review. Assuming the overall objective of this review is to uncover opportunities for reducing costs to ratepayers, I believe that there is more significant opportunity for councils to collaborate in the provision of Domestic Waste Services, and for that matter all ALL common council services. I am certain that we could all benefit from a single provider of services like DWM across many, if not all Councils in Metropolitan areas of NSW. As a humble ratepayer, I have observed that DWM is almost common to all councils in Sydney with little variation. It should be possible to negotiate a fairer and hopefully cheaper deal if the service was provided by a single provider to all councils. As a resident of Glenorie I observe the ridiculous reality of the current duplicated services with one side of Old Northern Road being serviced by Hills and the other by Hornsby Council with different systems, on different days. This section of the Road stretches over 40km south from Wisemans Ferry.

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?	IPART needs to take a broader view of Council Services, particularly in light of the abandoned Council Amalgamations and the impact this has had on council rates. There are many, many services that individual Councils provide that are not unique, are not competitive in a commercial sense and would benefit significantly through sharing of resources.
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?	Yes, I am sure that if ratepayers were better informed about the comparative costs of services and importantly the charges through rates and other fees, then there would be more pressure from the community on State and Local governments to force changes that result in increased efficiency and lower costs and rates. This information should be benchmarked against best practice from local and overseas examples.
4. Do you have any other comments on councils' domestic waste management charges?	
Your submission for this review:	Broaden the scope of the review to include options and recommendations for more cooperation and collaboration between councils for sharing services like Waste Management.
If you have attachments you would like to include with your submission, please attach them below.	
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