

Author name: R. Gurney

Date of submission: Monday, 10 December 2018

Submission: I would like IPART to take into consideration the impact on Councils of increased prices for land valuation services.

In Lithgow City Council's case, the Valuer General's submission to IPART includes an option for differential pricing which models an increase in valuation fees for Lithgow City Council of \$65,079 over six years.

Councils' ability to afford price increases is constrained by the rate peg. For the 2019/20 year, the rate peg has been set by IPART at 2.7%. The suggested increase in valuation fees far exceeds the likely rate peg for future years. Councils such as Lithgow would have no alternative but to reduce services to its community to afford any increase in valuation fees above the rate peg. I trust that IPART will take into account the impact of price increases on the services provided by Councils in its review of prices for land valuation services.