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Submission: With regard to other matters for consideration Nambucca Shire Council would like to suggest the extension of the countback system, to be introduced from the 2020 elections, to two years rather than 18 months. In addition, if the last 18 months of an election term, where a by election does not have to be held (subject to Ministerial approval), was extended to two years the need for by-elections could be eliminated and save affected Councils tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars. As it currently stands it would seem that out of the new proposed four year term of the Council the necessity for a by-election is only relevant for that middle 12 month period. It would seem practical to just eliminate that 12 month period as suggested above and not have any costly by-elections.

There may be some Councils which for whatever reason would prefer a by election in the final two years of the term and this option should remain available.

Whatever costing methodology IPART determines it is preferable that it be the least costly alternative for NSW Councils given rate pegging and the need to keep costs within that limit.