

# Domestic waste management charges - Discussion Paper

Submission date: 20 October 2020, 2:43PM

Receipt number: 99

Related form version: 5

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>Port Macquarie - Hastings Council (PMHC) sets its domestic waste management services charges on a "cost recovery" and "user pays" basis.</p> <p>PMHC's domestic waste management charges are in line with the average charges across NSW regional levy areas as presented in the Discussion Paper. Over the past four (4) years, PMHC's standard fortnightly general waste service fee has increased by approximately 2.6% per annum.</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>As above, there are no concerns with the level of domestic waste management services charges in the PMHC local government area. It is noted that each local government area has specific circumstances in terms of distance, scale, access to markets and availability of services. As such regulating charges would be difficult and potentially cause market distortions.</p> <p>A potential approach could be to publish charges across the various metropolitan, regional and other local government areas via a market bulletin or similar. This could serve as a valuable benchmarking reference for Councils and ratepayers.</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>As above a potential approach could be to publish charges across the various metropolitan, regional and other local government areas via a market bulletin or similar. This could serve as a valuable benchmarking reference for Councils and ratepayers, noting that different specific circumstances apply across each local government area.</p> <p>IPART's proposed key pricing principles for domestic waste management charges appear reasonable and generally in line with PMHC's current "user pays" and "cost recovery" approach.</p>
<p>4. Do you have any other comments on councils' domestic waste management charges?</p>	<p>Council domestic waste management charges are significantly influenced by the NSW State Government waste levy. It is noted that only a small percentage of the waste levy is currently reinvested by the State Government back into the waste industry, despite the significant challenges currently being faced by the industry.</p> <p>Regional communities would benefit from improved waste management solutions and resource recovery opportunities should a larger percentage of the waste levy be reinvested back into domestic waste management.</p> <p>The NSW State Government's proposed 20-Year Waste Strategy represents an opportunity for the State Government to increase funding from the waste levy to improve waste services across the industry and achieve the desired outcomes for our communities.</p>
<p>5. Which Council do your comments relate to?</p>	<p>Port Macquarie-Hastings Council</p>
<p>Your submission for this review:</p>	<p>As per responses above and letter attached.</p>
<p>If you have attachments you would like to include with your submission, please attach them below.</p>	<p><a href="#">PMHC response to IPART review of domestic waste management charges 2020 10 20.pdf</a></p>
<p>Your Details</p>	
<p>Are you an individual or organisation?</p>	<p>Organisation</p>
<p>If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.</p>	<p>Publish - my submission and name can be published (not contact details or email address) on the IPART website</p>
<p>First Name</p>	<p>Michael</p>
<p>Last Name</p>	<p>Magalhaes</p>
<p>Organisation Name</p>	<p>Port Macquarie-Hastings Council</p>
<p>Position</p>	<p>Waste Manager</p>

Email	
IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy

20 October 2020

Refers to: CRM 13928/2020

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop  
SYDNEY NSW 1240

*Lodged electronically via:*

[www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Consumer Information/Lodge a submission](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Consumer%20Information/Lodge%20a%20submission)

Dear Tribunal Members

### **IPART review of local council domestic waste management charges**

I refer to IPART's Discussion Paper and review of local council domestic waste management charges, and comment as follows on behalf of Port Macquarie - Hastings Council:

#### **1. Are there concerns with the prices councils charge for domestic waste management services? Why/why not?**

Port Macquarie - Hastings Council (PMHC) sets its domestic waste management services charges on a "cost recovery" and "user pays" basis.

PMHC's domestic waste management charges are in line with the average charges across NSW regional levy areas as presented in the Discussion Paper. Over the past four (4) years, PMHC's standard fortnightly general waste service fee has increased by approximately 2.6% per annum.

#### **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?**

As above, there are no concerns with the level of domestic waste management services charges in the PMHC local government area.

It is noted that each local government area has specific circumstances in terms of distance, scale, access to markets and availability of services. As such regulating charges would be difficult and potentially cause market distortions.

A potential approach could be to publish charges across the various metropolitan, regional and other local government areas via a market bulletin or similar. This could serve as a valuable benchmarking reference for Councils and ratepayers.

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- 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 (e.g., kerbside collection), and/or a set of principles to guide councils in pricing domestic waste charges, be helpful? Why/why not?**

As above a potential approach could be to publish charges across the various metropolitan, regional and other local government areas via a market bulletin or similar. This could serve as a valuable benchmarking reference for Councils and ratepayers, noting that different specific circumstances apply across each local government area.

IPART's proposed key pricing principles for domestic waste management charges appear reasonable and generally in line with PMHC's current "user pays" and "cost recovery" approach.

- 4. Do you have any other comments on councils' domestic waste management charges?**

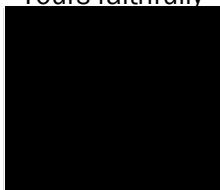
Council domestic waste management charges are significantly influenced by the NSW State Government waste levy. It is noted that only a small percentage of the waste levy is currently reinvested by the State Government back into the waste industry, despite the significant challenges currently being faced by the industry.

Regional communities would benefit from improved waste management solutions and resource recovery opportunities should a larger percentage of the waste levy be reinvested back into domestic waste management.

The NSW State Government's proposed 20-Year Waste Strategy represents an opportunity for the State Government to increase funding from the waste levy to improve waste services across the industry and achieve the desired outcomes for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on IPART's review of local council domestic waste management charges.

Yours faithfully



Jeffery Sharp  
Acting General Manager