

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW  
iPart Chair Dr Paul Paterson  
Via online portal

Dear sir / Madam,

**RE: Strathfield Municipal Council's Submission To iPart's Issues Paper - Review of Costs of Local Government Elections – April 2019.**

In response to your iPart's communication inviting submissions for the Issues Paper – Review of Costs of Local Government Elections – April 2019.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 7 May 201, Council considered Mayoral Minute No. 06/19 which called for Council to make a submission to iPart's Issue Paper – Review of Costs of Local Government Elections – April 2019 (resolution 70/19).

Attached is a copy of Council resolution no. 70/19 for Mayoral Minute No. 06/19 – The Review of the Cost of Conducting Local Government Elections by IPART which supports Council's submission outlined below.

**Submission:**

That the Pre-Poll period be shortened from two weeks to one week to reduce the costs of holding local government elections.

**Rationale:**

As identified in your report, one of the largest single cost for holding local government elections is the cost of premises for offices and Polling Places. Your report identified that rent for office accommodation and polling place collectively accounted for 8% of the total charged to council in the last Local Government Elections. Given that the elector turnout is the mainly in the second week of the two weeks Pre-Poll period, a reduction in the Pre-Poll period by one week would directly reduce the costs to councils whilst still enabling voters time to attend Pre-Polling. Further, this reduction would also allow candidates to staff the Pre-Poll location(s) suitably.

If you require any further information, please contact Council's Director Corporate & Financial Services, Ms Melinda Aitkenhead on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
HENRY T WONG  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

10/5/2019