

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
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>Council concerns with the DWM services prices regards to transparency and better information when negotiating with contractors and going through a tender. Also, more clarity around what constitutes reasonable costs and real environmental outcomes is needed. Possibility for a group of councils to jointly undertake a procurement process already based on previously collected and analysed data and benchmarking can assist councils into reducing costs and increasing services efficiency.</p> <p>It is important to keep in mind that a broader understanding of the greater picture and a deeper analysis of the life cycle costs of local government decisions is needed in order to effectively reduce pricing on the long term. In that sense, Local Councils need better understanding of State waste strategy and a deeper analysis of what are its key drivers. State government also need to support the provision of better waste infrastructure including facilities, transport and logistics.</p> <p>From ratepayers perspective we agree that the variety of waste services, their efficiency and costs to Councils as well as the environmental outcomes of those services could be more transparent and better communicated to ratepayers, so they better understand Council's investments and waste strategies.</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?	IPART has a role providing greater oversight of these charges, as well as guidelines, principles and online centralized database. But in order to develop regional-scale plan and state-wide solutions for the future of Domestic Waste Management Charges pricing and provision of better services by all Councils, Strathfield Council strongly suggests that a Taskforce is put together with relevant individuals from Local and State Government, IPART and Industry, as well as specialists and any relevant stakeholder capable to act on a proactive approach. This Taskforce should have access to stakeholder feedback on IPART document on DWM Charges, developing together the principles that will guide Councils in pricing DWM Charges, as well as working together for the development of the proposed online centralised database. This Taskforce should provide recommendations and meaningful consultation in the development of guidelines and possible regulations.
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, both database and principles can be helpful, but as already stated in the previous comment, we strongly suggest that a Taskforce is put together with relevant individuals from Local and State Government, IPART and Industry, as well as specialists and any relevant stakeholder capable to act on a proactive approach on developing principles and database.
4. Do you have any other comments on councils' domestic waste management charges?	Strathfield Council supports this initiative.
5. Which Council do your comments relate to?	Strathfield Municipal Council
Your submission for this review:	
If you have attachments you would like to include with your submission, please attach them below.	IPART Letter - Signed by GM.pdf
Your Details	
Are you an individual or organisation?	Organisation
If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.	Publish - my submission and name can be published (not contact details or email address) on the IPART website
First Name	Stephen
Last Name	Clements
Organisation Name	Strathfield Municipal Council

Position	Deputy CEO / General Manager Planning, Environment and Urban Services
Email	
IPART's Submission Policy	I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy

4th September 2020

Stephen Clements

LIZ QUINLAN

SENIOR POLICY OFFICER - WASTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

Dear Liz Quinlan,

RE: Domestic Waste Management Charges Comments and Local Councils' Taskforce

Strathfield Council congratulates Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and welcomes Domestic Waste Management (DWM) Charges Discussion initiative.

In regards to collaboratively develop regional-scale plan and state-wide solutions for the future of Domestic Waste Management Charges pricing and provision of better services by all Councils, Strathfield Council strongly suggests that a Taskforce is put together with relevant individuals from Local and State Government, IPART and Industry, as well as specialists and any relevant stakeholder capable to act on a proactive approach.

The Taskforce should have access to stakeholder feedback on IPART document on DWM Charges, developing together the principles that will guide Councils in pricing DWM Charges, as well as working together for the development of the proposed online centralised database.

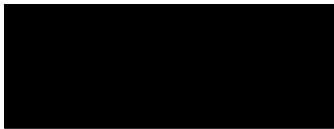
This Taskforce should provide recommendations and meaningful consultation in the development of guidelines and regulations.

The Taskforce should also participate on any relevant forum, association or initiative in regards to NSW DWM Charges pricing.

Strathfield Council acknowledges the growing imperative to address DWM Charges pricing and is willing to play an active role in participating in this debate, as well as organizing taskforce meeting and hosting them online or in our LGA, if and when it is COVID safe.

Should you have any queries in regards to this letter, please contact me on 02 9748 9999.

Yours sincerely,



STEPHEN CLEMENTS

Deputy CEO

General Manager Planning, Environment and Urban Services