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19 July 2019

Local Government Election Cost Review
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

IPART Review of Local Government Election Costs

Council makes the below submission on the matter of the 'Review of local government election costs issues paper' and supports the approach of the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) submission dated May 2019.

In particular:

Q5 Barriers to competition

- The NSWEC unbundle its local government election services to enable councils to engage the NSWEC for particular services only. *Reason: Council's would be able to pick and choose the elements of the election services and the individual costs of each of the elements in their particular area.*
- The NSW Government consider delaying the date by which a council must have resolved to engage the NSWEC to administer its election. *Reason: The current 18 month requirement is appears excessively long and providers may leave the market and the Council would need to find another provider.*
- Subsection 298(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 should be amended to require the NSWEC to provide residential electoral rolls to general managers of councils within a clearly legislated and reasonably prompt timeframe. *Reason: Potential providers don't have access to up to date rolls generally available to the NSWEC because of running more recent State or Federal Elections.*

Q6 Changes in the costs incurred by NSWEC

- The pre-poll period be shortened to the period including the Saturday to Friday of the week before Election Day. *Reason: The cost of running an election is passed on to Councils, in the case of NSWEC running the local government election on Council's behalf, would be reduced.*

Q7 Base level of service provision and different level of service

- The NSWEC provide councils with itemised cost estimates well in advance of an election and details on options for different service levels from a base level. *Reason: To better enable councils to make informed decisions on engaging the NSWEC*

Q11 Allocation of NSWEC Indirect Costs

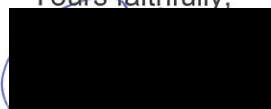
- The NSWEC's indirect costs should not be allocated using the impactor pays principle, as allocation on marginal cost basis would appear to be more appropriate.

Q13 Allocation of indirect costs between Councils

- IPART review the costs of providing electoral services for differing council electoral arrangements.
- Certain indirect NSWEC costs such as awareness campaigns should be allocated to the State Government.
- The NSWEC's costs of administering non-voting services and the extent to which significant fine revenue collected by the NSW Government could be used to offset the costs of local government elections.

Council requests that the Government work with local governments to ensure the Local Government Election Process is fairer for councils and communities.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Roger Bailey.

ROGER BAILEY
GENERAL MANAGER