

# Blayney Shire Council



18 December 2013

Review of Funding Framework for  
Local Land Services NSW  
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

## **RE: REVIEW OF THE FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL LAND SERVICES NSW**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to IPART's Review of a funding framework for Local Land Services (LSS) NSW.

Blayney Shire Council supports the review into the funding of LSS and supports in principle the cost recovery framework proposed in it. However, Council strongly objects to a proposal by the LLS Board of Chairs that council land owners be required to collect or pay LLS rates in respect of land below 2 hectares. Council also objects to the proposal to make Council land holdings subject to LLS rates.

The grounds for Council's objections are as follows:

1. The proposal reducing the threshold area of land subject to LSS fees, to properties larger than 2 hectares will increase the local tax burden on ratepayers and impact on Council's land owner's capacity to pay. This may also include an unreasonable burden on pensioners with land areas exceeding the proposed threshold.
2. The proposal that Councils collect the rates/levies on behalf of LSS may impose an unreasonable administrative burden on rural councils especially with upfront costs regarding software amendments and ongoing costs associated with debt recovery including any relevant overheads.
3. Council takes pride in its care and control of public land by providing significant funding each year to maintain. The proposal to levy fees on Council owned land would place an unfair burden on Council already stretched resources. This would in turn have a detrimental effect on ratepayers within Blayney Shire.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6368 2104.

Yours Faithfully,



Chris Hodge

**MANAGER FINANCIAL SERVICES**

for General Manager