



In reply please quote

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
Dr Peter J Boxall AO, Chair
PO Box Q290
QVB Post Office NSW 1230



Dear Dr Boxall,

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY - SUBMISSION TO THE IPART REVIEW OF RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNICATION TOWERS ON CROWN LAND

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report IPART Review of Rental Arrangements for Communication Towers on Crown Land dated April 2013.

The Bureau welcomes the report particularly the consideration taken to recognise the issues that face the Bureau and other government agencies that operate in the public interest.

In particular we welcome the efforts to provide a subsidised rent for users that support local communities and provide a valuable service to the people of New South Wales with little or no means to recoup these costs.

The following are some suggested changes to the draft report.

Page 42 of the report implies that the Bureau is a NSW Government agency. It should be noted that the Bureau is a federal government agency.

Page 41 states that Minister may grant rebates for certain user groups. The Bureau suggests for administrative reasons that the Minister grant rebates on an agency basis rather than a site by site basis.

The Bureau has some sites that are low value to the Bureau but have been installed to provide services to the local community or land agency (such as fire weather Automatic Weather Stations and flood warning antennae). The Bureau suggests that the Minister should reserve the right to waive all charges in such circumstances.

If you have any queries please contact Michael Whitehead Manager Corporate Real Estate (m.whitehead@bom.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Middleton
Deputy Director Corporate

16 May 2013.