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17 December 2013

Dr Peter J Boxall AO  
Chairman  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Dear Mr Boxall

### **LLS Board of Chairs Submission on Funding Framework for LLS NSW**

Cabonne Council wishes to make a submission in response to the Local Land Services Board of Chairs response to the IPART draft report "Review of Funding Framework for Local Land Services (LLS)".

Council has previously considered reports regarding the establishment of LLS and resolved:

THAT Council:

- 1. Propose/promote Cabonne Shire form part of the Central Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) area.*
- 2. Oppose the funding of the LLS via rates notices to be issued by local government.*

Cabonne Council strongly opposes the proposal of councils collecting any rates, fees or levies on behalf of the LLS on the grounds that it would make local government a tax collection agency for the state. The following points reflect some of Council's areas of concern:

- Any new levy collected by Council would be perceived as an increased in rates levied by Council.



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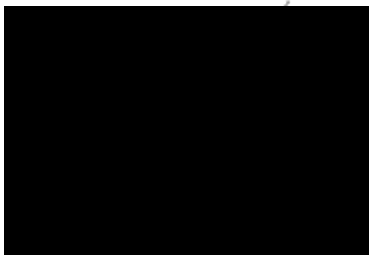
- The introduction of the levy collection would pose an administrative burden on the council with staff likely to deal with ongoing complaints regarding a levy for which council would merely be the tax collector.
- Questions arise as to whether council or the state would be responsible for any shortfall in collections where people do not pay the levy or their rates.
- The proposal of local government collecting the levy is another example of cost shifting by the State Government.

Council also opposes the recommendation of lowering any land area threshold below 2 hectares that could be subject to an LLS rate for the proposed base rate and the rate for natural resource management. We agree that all land over 2 hectares should be rated by LLS.

All council owned land should be exempt from LLS. rates unless there is provision for Councils to rate Crown land. It should also be noted that the majority of council land is Crown reserve and as such the owner is the State Government and not Council.

I hope that Cabonne Council's comments are of assistance.

Yours faithfully



Andrew L Hopkins  
**GENERAL MANAGER**