



Cootamundra Shire Council



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Ken Trethewey
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Ms Alison Milne
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
PO Box Q290 QVB Post Office

Sydney NSW 1230

Dear Ms Milne

RE: IPART Draft Report on Funding Framework For Local Land Services

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 October 2013.

Council considered the Draft Report at its 14 October 2013 meeting and resolved the following.

That Council make a submission to IPART opposing Recommendation 8 and suggesting that all LLS fees and charges should be the responsibility of an efficient, centralised billing system developed by LLS.

During the initial LLS proposal stage Council resolved that it would be opposed to councils collecting LLS rates or charges on the basis that it would create the illusion that LLS had a financial relationship with local government and would draw local government into the inevitable arguments about the level of tax/rate levied by and level of service provided by LLS.

Whilst IPART are not recommending that Council be required to collect LLS special purpose rates IPART is suggesting that LLS Boards could come to a fee for service arrangement with councils if the councils agreed.

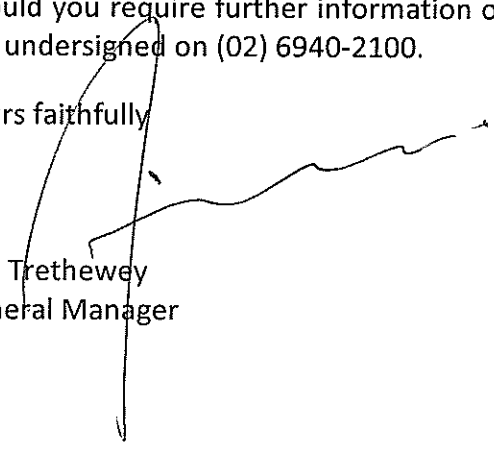
On the surface this would seem to be a reasonable opportunity for a commercial arrangement. However, experience with other 'collection' for State Agencies such as the Builders Long Service Levy (LSL) and Plan First Levy (PFL) indicates that the payer does not differentiate between the collection agency (Council) and the ultimate beneficiary (the State) when paying these fees.

This creates an animosity towards Council for charging the fee and an expectation of some type of service from Council which cannot be provided.

A secondary consideration for Council was the propensity for 'voluntary' arrangements with State Agencies to become a permanent council responsibility when the State Agency ceases to offer or undertake the service.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss the matter please contact the undersigned on (02) 6940-2100.

Yours faithfully



Ken Trethewey
General Manager

16 October 2013