



Premier & Cabinet

Division of Local Government

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A363767

Mark Hely

Review of prices for land valuation services provided by the Valuer-General to Councils

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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Email: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in response to IPART's Issues Paper for the *Review of Prices for Land Valuation Services Provided by the Valuer-General to Councils*.

The only matter raised in the Issues Paper that the Division wishes to comment on relates to the timing of determinations (question 1).

The Division notes that IPART's terms of reference require it to make a five-year determination. Given that requirement, the Division believes IPART should continue to set one five-year determination rather than undertaking multiple periodic determinations over the five-year referral period. Setting one five-year determination will ensure councils continue to have ongoing certainty in terms of financial planning and budgeting.

In doing so, the Division acknowledges there may be a need during that five-year period to make a new determination if there is significant change in the current arrangements that results in a major change in costs. This could include the impact of implementation of recommendations from the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General – Inquiry into the Land Valuation System. The Division understands there is potential to make a new price determination in such circumstances, if deemed necessary.

Looking beyond the forthcoming determination period, the Division believes there is merit in moving to a four-year determination period to align with councils' strategic planning cycle. The Integrated Planning and Reporting frameworks requires councils to develop and implement a four-year Delivery Program, the alignment of the determination period to the four-year Delivery Program cycle would further enhance councils' financial planning.

I trust these comments assist IPART in addressing its terms of reference.

Yours sincerely

Ross Woodward
Chief Executive, Local Government
A Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet

