

Methodology for Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
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Submission – Methodolgy for Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals

NOROC represents the Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Kyogle local government areas in northern NSW, a region known as the Northern Rivers covering an area of 10,254km² with a population of approximately 240,000 people.

On behalf of member councils NOROC makes the following submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal on the Methodology for Assessment of Council Fit for the the Future Proposals.

NOROC's submission particularly refers to a point on p.23 – *“For regional or rural areas....where possible create a regional centre with the necessary scale and capacity to anchor a Joint Organisation. “*

The NSW Government has described regional NSW as having the largest and most diverse regional economy in Australia. That diversity is represented in the six NOROC member councils with three regarded as major or emerging regional centres (Lismore, Tweed Heads and Ballina) whilst Byron shire, incorporating Byron Bay, is a premier domestic and international tourist destination that underpins the region's tourist economy. Richmond Valley Council is home to the Casino Regional Livestock Exchange, one of the largest cattle saleyards in NSW. Kyogle Council trades as a tourist and tree change destination, gateway to the region's world heritage listed rainforests.

Whilst Lismore has historically been regarded by State and Federal Governments and agencies as the centre of the Northern Rivers, some NOROC councils argue this is changing; that each local government area has its strengths and that in 2015 there is no dominating regional capital as may be the case in other parts of regional NSW.

NOROC is committed to the formation of a Joint Organisation however there will be considerable discussion and debate between councils as to the creation of a regional centre as suggested on p.23 of the report.

Yours faithfully

Ann Lewis
Executive Officer

NOROC

A regional voice for the Tweed, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Byron Councils
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