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Submission:

Dear Sir/Madam,

The NSW Revenue Professionals Society Inc have reviewed the Draft Report and would like to strongly oppose Recommendation 8 which suggests that Local Land Services NSW (LLS) be able to seek the services of local government to collect some special purpose rates. LLS fees and charges should be the responsibility of a centralised billing system developed by LLS.

The NSW Revenue Professionals objects to the proposal that councils be required to collect rates in respect of land below 2 hectares. We feel that the services supplied by the LLS are diverse from that of Councils and that ratepayers would not differentiate between the collection agency (Council) and LLS when paying these fees creating an expectation of a service which Councils are unable to provide.

Objection is also made to the proposal by LLS that Councils own land holdings be subject to LLS rates as this would place an unreasonable financial and administrative burden on some regional councils, many of which are already financially unsustainable.

It is also noted that some of the proposals made in the Draft Report have not considered the constraints of the current Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), and would require amendments to both the Act and General Regulations (2005) in order to be compliant.