

The Council of The Shire of Bourke

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Please address all
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Our Ref: RE-KSH-13-L1.1-L8.24

18th December 2013

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

Dear Dr Boxall

Re: Local Land Services Board of Chairs Submission on funding framework for Local Land Services New South Wales

Bourke Shire Council would like to take the opportunity to provide comment on the above submission.

Bourke Shire Council has had the opportunity to review the submissions provided both Local Government New South Wales (LG NSW) and the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) and shares the concerns issues raised in both those submissions.

Bourke Shire Council would in particularly highlight the following:-

1. Council does not support the reduction of the threshold below the 2 hectares.
2. The assumption that Councils will levy and collect rates from landowners with areas of less than 2ha, which has been made with little, if any, consultation with individual Councils. There are a myriad of issues that would need to be detailed and clarified before serious consideration could even be given to that proposal. Many of these issues are detailed in the LG NSW submission.
3. The removal of exemption for public landowners begs the question, are all public lands included or will there be selective exemptions. Currently, areas as TSRs which will be under the control of LLS are exempt from Local Government rates, however, consistent with the theme of equality and equity perhaps this would also need to be reviewed.

Council is of the opinion that the issues raised by LG NSW and OROC in their submissions in relation to the response by the Local Land Service Board of Chairs need to taken into account in the determination of the funding framework for LLS NSW.

Yours faithfully

Ross Earl
General Manager