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Upper Lachlan Shire Council

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16 December 2013

Dr Peter J Boxall AO
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
P O Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Dr Boxall

RE SUBMISSION BY LLS BOARD OF CHAIRS

Upper Lachlan Shire Council is extremely concerned with respect to the Local Land Services Board of Chairs submission regarding the Review of Funding Framework for Local Land Services NSW.

Council sees the principle proposed by IPART that Local Land Services recover its costs by charging a fee for service arrangement as entirely appropriate. The Board of Chairs submission appears to reverse this principle suggesting a general taxation principle of a base rate and a rate for natural resource management – totally at odds with the principle espoused by IPART.


Council opposes lowering the land area threshold of 2 ha for Local Land Services rating purposes - urban areas would become subject to Local Land Services rating.

Council opposes the proposal that Council should collect the Local Land Services rates for land below 2 ha in size – a lack of accountability for Local Land Services Boards as ratepayers will perceive that the Local Land Services rate levy is actually a local government rate levy.

Council also objects to the proposal that exemptions for public land holders be removed. Council already is a major stakeholder in caring for public lands and natural resource management. Council already pays NSW Government charges and rents for Crown Land.

Trusting that these details are of assistance in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully


JK Bell
General Manager