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Submission: Walgett Shire Council wishes to make the following observations, notwithstanding the fact that as Council in far western NSW lodgement of a FFTF submission is optional:

\*The tight timeframe for IPART to properly consider any issues raised in council submissions and still update the methodology in a timely manner during the week commencing 1 June to allow councils to have adequate time to take any changes into account before the closing date for FFTF applications on 30 June.

\* That FAGs and RMS grants received by rural councils be consider to be part of own source revenue.

\*forecast population figures for Walgett Shire take into account the high number of both indigenous and middle European residents who fail to register for the periodic census process - this number could be as high as 2500/3000 dependent upon the time of year and seasonal conditions.

\* at the Dubbo workshop councils were advised that alternative submissions needed to be "broadly consistent" with ILGRP recommendations rather than "superior to."

\*That the various flaws with regards the criteria and achievability of benchmarks identified during the public consultation process be adequately addressed.

\*IPART note that the rural template referred to in the present methodology is not the updated one negotiated with the OLG but rather the one referred to in the ILGRP recommendations.

Council would be only too willing to amplify any of the above points if afforded to opportunity to do so.