



# Young Shire Council

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Peter Vlatko

18<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

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

Dear Dr Boxall,

## REVIEW OF FUNDING FRAMEWORK OF LOCAL LAND SERVICES NSW

On behalf of Young Shire Council, I would like to thank the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for this opportunity to have input into the review process of Local Land Services NSW (LLS) and wish to respond to the proposed put forward as follows:-

1. The IPART draft report indicates that LLS Boards should be able to seek the services of Local government to collect rates. Young Shire Council does not oppose individual negotiated commercial agreements or contracts related to rates collections, however Council is eager to ensure the final report by IPART does not recommend mandatory rating and collection services be provided by councils to LLS Boards.

It is noted within the LLS Board of Chairs submission to IPART "that they propose the concept that for areas below 2 hectares Councils utilise their existing processes and databases to collect the rates." Young shire Council believes this implied mandatory rating concept is lacking detail for any proposed processes.

IPART needs to consider the resourcing and funding issues facing all NSW local government councils. In that context the proposed concept above may amount to further cost shifting from a NSW state agency to local government without adequate recompense for local councils. Young Shire Council believes if this recommendation is mandatory the administration costs for local councils may increase significantly without compensation. Also, the ability for the landholder to differentiate between council rates and the LLS state agency rates may be impaired by such a concept.

Young Shire Council opposes the above LLS Board of Chairs implied mandatory rating concept due to lack of detail for such a proposal, unknown implications on council rate base

and notional yield, and the lack of community consultation and consultation with local government.

2. Further clarification is necessary in relation to the potential imposed liability for councils to pay LLS rates and charges. There is potential financial and logistical issues related to both Council owned land and Crown lands controlled by councils. Council responsibly manages various public lands on behalf of the Crown with little income derived and the management provided is more as a public duty than as a business operation. Young Shire Council respectfully recommends the exemption of such lands owned by Council and Crown land controlled by Council from LLS rates and charges remain in place.
3. Further analysis should be collated with respect to the impact of reducing the LLS rate base threshold down to 2 hectares of land area.
4. Young Shire Council support Local Government NSW's submission that identifies the need for a strong partnership between the LLS Board and councils. The LLS Board strategic planning processes require consideration of the priorities and action plans from councils, other state agencies and local communities. All NSW Councils prepare Community Strategic Plans and Delivery Program which provide links to the NSW State Plan and addresses the State Government Regional Action Plans; i.e. Southern Highlands and Tablelands Regional Action Plan. Through the preparation and implementation of Council's Community Strategic Plans the issues of natural resource management, biodiversity, noxious weeds control and feral animal control are addressed and there is no need for duplication by other agencies.
5. Young Shire Council also support the SEROC submission on behalf of the Region.

The Young Shire Council holds the abovementioned views. In that regard Council appreciates the opportunity to address the IPART draft report "Review of Funding Framework for Local Land Services" and supports the intent of the review report. Council trusts that the issues raised within this submission will be considered further by IPART in their deliberations in relation to the review.

Yours faithfully,



Stuart Freudenstein  
**MAYOR**  
**YOUNG SHIRE COUNCIL**