

Local Government Mailbox

From: Lotta Jackson [ljackson@gisc.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2008 6:06 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Submission - Revenue Framework for Local Government - Discussion Paper

Please find the submission, to the above discussion paper, from Glen Innes Severn Council below.

The Glen Innes Council considered the *Revenue Framework for Local Government Discussion Paper* at its ordinary meeting on 28 August 2008. In light of limited time frame to discuss the document in its entirety, Council responded with the following comments as their submission to the document:

- With all due respect, Council finds the options of the alternative regulatory frameworks for revenue in Local Government (section 7.4, pp63-64) too restrictive.
- Council believes that a lot of good work went into the Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government and are in agreement with the majority of the Recommendations within this report.
- Glen Innes Severn Council is of the opinion that Rate Pegging should be abolished.
- An alternative revenue module, that would not adversely affect the local community, is suggested to include access by Local Government to a fixed % of a growth tax such as the GST. Together with a review and investigation of a simpler form of property/land tax, this would be more advantageous and in line with the indicators of affordability and availability of Local Services and Facilities. Further this system could be administrated with efficiency and effectiveness by clear guidelines and relevant software. Financial accountability would be assessed against the Financial Statements and Management Plan activities and possible through template returns of figures downloaded from the relevant accounting package.

In conclusion, Council does not favour a system where rate pegging remains and finds the options within the discussion paper too restrictive. A fairer system that would enable NSW Councils to work towards financial sustainability should include a fair share of a growth tax such as the GST together with an investigation into property and land tax.

Kind regards

Lotta Jackson
Director of Corporate and Community Services
Glen Innes Severn Council

E-mail: ljackson@gisc.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 02-6730 2317
Mobile: 0429 779 755
Fax: 02-6732 3764

The information contained in this message and or attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. If you received this message in error, please contact the sender and permanently delete the message and its attachments.

The opinions expressed in this message are the personal views of the sender and do not necessarily represent the corporate opinions or policies of Glen Innes Severn Council, unless expressly stated.

29/08/2008