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21 August 2008

The Chairman  
Review of the Revenue Framework for  
Local Government  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230  
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: [local\\_government@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:local_government@ipart.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

### **Review of the Revenue Framework For Local Government**

Council refers to the role of Local Government and agrees that expansion has certainly taken place in regards to services that were provided initially by local government as being property based. Expectations of local government has increased significantly in what facilities communities would like provided by their respective Councils which has seen these services not only being property based services but delving into human services such as community transport and family day care to name a few. The expansion of these services means that Councils are required to meet these ever growing needs with limited resources.

As Cabonne falls in the area of a rural council it has a large geographic area with a low population density meaning that Council has a large cost in regards to infrastructure with a small rating base to fund such infrastructure and maintenance. It would be ideal for Councils to be recognised individually regarding revenue framework as rural and metropolitan councils vary significantly with varying areas of need.

With increasing community expectations the need to raise revenue beyond rate pegging limits is becoming more apparent with many applications being sought to carry out necessary projects undertaken by Councils. The issue however is not about rate pegging but more that individual Councils have adequate revenue to carry out the extra demands placed on them to serve their community's needs.

Revenue Framework for Local Government needs to be addressed in order to ensure that Local Government is sustainable particularly as Councils have been expected to provide a large scope of services above and beyond their original purpose. Many responsibilities of State Government have been shifted onto Local Governments over time however adequate funding has not matched these extra responsibilities and with limited means to raise revenue it endangers Councils' ability to remain sustainable in providing these additional services.

Council thanks you for the invitation to provide a submission on the IPART Revenue Framework for Local Government and should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 02 6392 3222.

Yours faithfully,



SJ Harding

**Director of Finance & Corporate Services**