

**From:** Peter Wilson [mailto:PWilson@bellingen.nsw.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 September 2009 3:10 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Submission IPART Report - Revenue Framework for Local Government

Mr James Cox CEO

I refer to the above Report and thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 26 August 2009 resolved that Council's primary position is that rate pegging should be abandoned.

However if this is not to be the case then the following comments are provided in response to the Report:

That Council generally supports the revised framework for regulating local government rate increases as proposed by IPART with the following riders:

- (1) The proposal that at least 25-30% of the community would have to participate in the survey under Option B is not supported on the basis that a sample survey of the resident population carried out by independent research will be sufficient to provide a statistically valid indication of community sentiment and at a much lower cost; and
- (2) Council believes that Option B would be unlikely to be taken up by many councils as it will often be difficult to demonstrate widespread public support for increased rates because most people don't want to pay more taxes. This option could tend to turn the forward planning process into an undesirable popularity contest at election time without due regard to the value of the proposed programs.

**Peter Wilson**  
**Director of Corporate Services**  
**Bellingen Shire Council**

**T (02) 66557300 | F (02) 66552310 | M 0417 779639**  
**E [pwilson@bellingen.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pwilson@bellingen.nsw.gov.au)**  
**W [www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au)**



**Think of the environment, please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.**