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18 September 2009

The Chairman  
Review of Revenue Framework for Local Government  
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Email: [ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

### **Review of Revenue Framework for Local Government**

Council refers to its earlier submission dated 21 August 2008 and to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's hearings in Dubbo on 11 September 2009.

While Council welcomes Option A with a Local Government Cost Index (adjusted for productivity) it is felt that a single index across the state would not address the needs of smaller rural council. It is felt that should such an index be introduced it should be put in place on the basis of grouping of councils.

In relation to Option B it is felt that the requirement for a community mandate is unrealistic in that it would be extremely difficult for a council to stand on a platform of rate increases over a four year period and still be re-elected. It is felt that where a responsible council has identified the need for additional rate increases in the best interest of the community that to allow the possibility of a small factional lobby group standing on a platform of lower rates would be irresponsible to prevent such a proposal from ever being implemented.

Councils are the elected representatives of the community and are often required to make difficult and unpalatable decisions for the long term benefit of that community. The requirement to put a revenue framework in conjunction with an election places an unfair burden on the elected representatives.



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Once again Council would like to thank the Tribunal for its deliberations and welcomes the introduction of a Local Government Cost Index and urges the Tribunal to create a number of indices to cover various council structures and to remove the requirement from Option B for Councils proposed revenue requirements having to be put as part of the four yearly local government election cycle.

Should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me on 63923222.

Yours faithfully,

S J Harding  
**Acting General Manager**