



GLOUCESTER SHIRE COUNCIL

18 September, 2009

Review of Regulatory Framework of Local Government Draft Report
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
P O Box Q290
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

Review of Regulatory Framework of Local Government Draft Report

Gloucester Shire Council has reviewed the Draft Report and has resolved to make a submission putting forward its views on matters discussed in the draft document.

Council notes that IPART was not given a clear mandate, or chose not to thoroughly investigate the total removal of rate pegging to allow Councils to set their own rating regime. This is disappointing.

Therefore, Council acknowledges that the move towards implementing Option A and Option B along with the development of a Local Government Cost Index is a step in the right direction and at least gives some opportunity for councils to gain some progress out of the rate pegging dilemma.

Council at the Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2009 resolved;-

“That Gloucester Shire Council make a submission to IPART on its draft findings and recommendations on the following points:

- *That rate pegging should have been completely removed and councils permitted to raise rates in the same manner as in other Australian states. Council strongly urges IPART to review this matter;*
- *If IPART will not reconsider the removal of rate pegging altogether, then council acknowledges that the introduction of Option A and Option B is a better proposal than the system that currently exists; and*
- *That the Local Government Cost Index not be a “one size fits all” index but has built in flexibility to take into account the varying diversities, characteristics and operating capacities of local authorities in NSW. Such an index should at least take into account the classifications for NSW local government councils as set out in table 2.1 (p21) of the draft report, namely, Sydney City, Metropolitan developed, Regional town/city, Fringe, and Rural.”*

Council requests that you give serious consideration to the suggestions put forward in this correspondence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on and make a submission regarding this draft report.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Young', written in a cursive style.

Allan Young
GENERAL MANAGER