

CF (F2008/00113)  
(Contact Officer: Caroline Foley - 9399.0861)

11 September 2009

Review of Revenue Framework of Local Government – Draft Report  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB POST OFFICE NSW 1230

Dear Dr Keating

**Randwick City Council Submission  
IPART Draft Report  
Review of Revenue Framework for Local Government**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission concerning IPART's Draft Report on the Revenue Framework for Local Government.

Randwick City Council congratulates IPART on the draft report. The recommendations, if implemented, will improve the way Local Government operates in NSW through greater transparency and the capacity to match funding with community expectations and needs.

The following comments and suggestions are offered for your consideration:

**(1) 16.4.5 Community Engagement Under Option B**

**Survey Option**

Under the survey option detailed on page 178 of the report the suggested guidelines to demonstrate community support through a survey propose:

*"at least 25 per cent to 30 per cent of ratepayers would be required to participate in the survey"*

The target for this survey should be the community rather than rate payers. This is especially important in an area such as Randwick City where a large proportion of residents and businesses do not own the properties they occupy.

Furthermore, the suggested target sample size of 25 per cent to 30 per cent of ratepayers would be very difficult to achieve. At the last census

Randwick City's population was 122,173, so a response rate of between 30,550 to 36,650 people would be required under the survey option. This is not a feasible option.

**Voting Option (Elections)**

It may be difficult to express the program of works to the community during an election when many other issues and platforms are being debated by candidates.

Rather than the above options it is suggested the Community Engagement Strategy include a combination of approaches to gauge community support. In Randwick City this strategy would include:

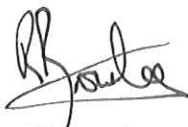
- Extensive community engagement through discussions with precinct committees, media releases, advertising and road shows.
- Discussions with a representative panel of community members to gauge support for the program of works.
- A survey of a representative sample of the community.
- Community submissions.

**(2) 17.6.1 Medium Term Revenue Path and 17.7.1 Eligibility Requirements for Option B**

The maximum period a Council may apply for a Medium Term Revenue Path or for autonomy under Option B is four years in line with the election term of a Council. However, Councils need to plan for much longer terms than four years and will be required to make decisions which impact the financial requirements of a Council beyond the current elected Council. For example, if a Council chooses to utilise a 10 year loan to fund a new capital project it will require funding to meet the servicing costs over the term of the loan. It is recommended the maximum period be extended beyond the elected Council's term.

Should IPART have any questions regarding this submission please contact Council's Manager Corporate and Financial Planning, Caroline Foley, on 9399-0861.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Brownlee  
General Manager