

**Natural Allies** Environmental advocates and consultants

**IPART: Revenue Framework for Local Government: Other Industries – Draft report, July 2009 – Supplementary submission.**

The draft report laid considerable emphasis on the accountability of local government, with the implication that better communication with ratepayers, and the community generally, might enable a different approach to rate pegging in the future.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 15 September 2009 carried a report *Email disclosure: councillor to apologise*, at page 29, of a difficulty arising from the disclosure by a councillor of her voting on a specific issue.

We have not seen the report of the probity auditor, and therefore cannot comment on the detail of the matter. However, taking the newspaper report at face value, we think it raises a serious query as to whether disclosure of a councillor's vote is a fundamental element of accountability. We think it ought to be.

We commend the matter to your attention.

Hylde Rolfe, Principal  
17 September 2009