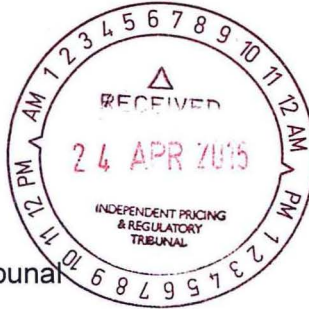




Premier of New South Wales
Minister for Western Sydney
Minister for Infrastructure



Reference: A1097975

22 APR 2015

Dr Peter Boxall AO
 Chairman
 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
 PO Box K35
 HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240

IPART

Doc No

File No

Peter


Dear Dr. Boxall

Pursuant to section 9 of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992*, I am referring the following matter to the Tribunal for investigation and report: Review of regulatory reporting and compliance burdens on local government.

As part of the NSW Government's response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel, the government has agreed to commission a review identifying opportunities to streamline the regulatory, compliance and reporting requirements on councils to improve outcomes for communities.

The Tribunal is requested to submit a formal review report to the Minister for Local Government within 12 months of signing of the Terms of Reference.

Yours sincerely


MIKE BAIRD MP
 Premier

Encl.

cc Minister for Local Government

General

IPART is to undertake a review to identify burdens placed on Local Government in the form of planning, reporting and compliance obligations to the State Government as imposed by policy and legislation, and to make recommendations for how identified unnecessary or excessive burdens can be reduced. These recommendations should aim to improve the efficiency of local government in NSW and enhance the ability of councils to focus on delivering services to their communities.

In investigating and making recommendations on this topic, the review is to:

- a) identify any inefficient or unnecessary planning, reporting, compliance or regulatory burdens placed upon local government by NSW State Government legislation, policy or through other means;
- b) develop options to improve the efficiency of local government by reducing or streamlining planning, reporting and compliance burdens, including:
 - identifying and making recommendations to reduce any duplications in reporting requirements across State Government, including the estimated saving from making these changes; and
 - reviewing the necessity of reporting obligations on councils as an essential requirement of implementing State Government policies.

In undertaking the review consistent with the above terms, the following are to be taken account of:

- the rationale for State Government planning, reporting and compliance requirements;
- developments in other jurisdictions including relevant reviews;
- best practice regulatory principles, including those developed by other highly regarded bodies undertaking relevant reviews and inquiries;
- support that could be provided by the State Government to help manage planning, reporting and compliance requirements upon local government; and
- any identified risks to the NSW Government and the NSW community from reducing the regulatory and reporting requirements on local government.

It is the intention of this review to focus on the compliance and reporting burden placed on local government by State Government legislation and function. Matters considered by IPART in its 2014 Report of *Local Government Compliance and Enforcement* are related to burdens placed on businesses and the community and are outside the scope of this review.

Evidence

The review will collect evidence to establish the impacts on councils related to reporting and compliance burdens on councils, and to substantiate recommendations for reform.

Consultation

The review should consult with relevant stakeholders and NSW Government agencies by releasing an Issues Paper for the review. It may also hold public hearings. Consultation should also occur with the Fit for the Future Ministerial Advisory Group.

Governance

Briefing on progress should be provided at regular intervals, or as requested, to the Chief Executive, Office of Local Government.

The final report should be provided formally to the Minister for Local Government who shall decide on the timing of release.

Timeframe

A final review report should be formally submitted within 12 months of signing of the Terms of Reference.

Background

The Independent Local Government Review Panel (Panel) made a number of recommendations regarding general reform of the local government system in NSW.

As part of its response to the Panel, the NSW Government has agreed to commission IPART to conduct a review identifying opportunities to streamline the regulatory, compliance, and reporting requirements on councils to improve outcomes for communities.

The Government also committed to introduce a new Local Government Act from 2016/17.