

Richard Sheridan

Subject: FW: IPART Local Government Reports - Consultation 2019

From: NSW Gov No Reply [<mailto:noreply@minister.nsw.gov.au>]

Sent: 21 June 2019 11:57 AM

To: Records Department <council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: IPART Local Government Reports - Consultation 2019



The Honourable Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Dear Mr McNulty

I am writing to invite your feedback on a series of reviews of the local government system, which were undertaken by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

The NSW Government has been considering these reports for some time and a number of the issues raised have now been addressed. However, the full suite of recommendations, if implemented, could substantially change our local government system and impact directly upon communities.

I believe it is important that councils, community members and organisations representing the interests of local government should have the opportunity to fully consider these issues before the Government proceeds with a final response to the reports.

I would value your feedback on these reports and their final recommendations. Your views, together with the feedback of other councils, communities and others, will be taken into account in finalising the Government's response to the reviews.

The reviews were commissioned to support the NSW Government's long term commitment to ensuring a fair and equitable rating system, cutting red tape and reducing costs and delays for business and the community. They address a number of complex issues, including the current structure of the local government rating system, arrangements around rating exemptions and pensioner concessions, and a broad range of matters relating to local government regulation and compliance.

In all, IPART's final reports total approximately 1,000 pages and contain 135 recommendations. The closing dates for submissions have been staggered to allow sufficient time to consider each report individually. They are as follows:

- Local Government Rating System – 13 September 2019;
- Reporting and Compliance Burdens on Local Government – 25 October 2019;
- Local Government Compliance and Enforcement – 15 November 2019.

To help guide consultation, the Office of Local Government has placed a copy of each IPART final report, together with a short Consultation Guide for each report on its website at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/strengthening-local-government/ipart-local-government-reports-consultation-2019>. This page also features an online feedback form for each review report.

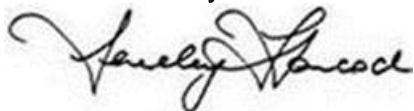
A number of recommendations in the IPART reports have already been implemented through other reform programs, or are currently the subject of separate consultation.

There are also a number of recommendations that the Government has ruled out, because they may have adverse impacts on vulnerable members of the community, affect regional jobs and economies, or substantially increase costs for taxpayers and the broader community. Further consultation is not being undertaken on these recommendations, as indicated in the online feedback form.

Questions on the consultation process or other submissions about IPART's recommendations for each report may be directed to the relevant report email address listed on the website or referred to OLG's Policy Team on 02 4428 4100.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to strengthen local government across NSW.

Yours sincerely

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

Shelley Hancock MP

Minister for Local Government