

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [IC Review](#)  
**Subject:** Review of Infrastructure Contributions in NSW  
**Date:** Thursday, 6 August 2020 4:07:17 PM

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To: The Productivity Commissioner

Dear Sir

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council thanks you for the opportunity of making a submission to the Review of Infrastructure Contributions in NSW.

This Council supports the concept of eliminating the rate-cap from the Local Government legislation and allowing Councils to make business decisions on behalf of our community's. It is unreasonable in any environment that Councils are so controlled by State Government legislation in financing the needs and expectations of communities. In other jurisdictions around the world local Councils can make rate increase decision separate from controls imposed by Governments. In a democracy the community either through the public consultation process, social media or the election cycle will certainly let Councils know if the rate increases are beyond community affordability.

The State Government is very quick to pass on cost shifting of new services – but is reluctant to allow Council to properly fund those additional services.

This means that Councils struggle to fund necessary infrastructure demands and requirements in our community. Other than grants, rates is Councils main source of income and the amount Councils are capable of raising through annually imposed IPART determinations is often eroded by State Government imposed additional and compulsory responsibilities – cost shifting.

Councils have the experience and the intellect to determine what is right and affordable for their community, and to understand the desire to meet those needs and expectations. If Councils wish to increase rates to meet the infrastructure demands of their community then that decision should be made at a local level and not by an organisation like IPART – which has no democratic or community accountability.

Thus leave local rate decisions local, and not the decision of a central unaccountable organisation. The recommendation of this Council is that the Review should support the removal of the rate capping in NSW.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

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