Local Government Expert Advisory Panel

Meeting Communique 30 June 2026

The Local Government Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) met on 30 June 2026. Panel members joined the meeting online to discuss the presented papers on Financial Reporting Options, Performance Measures, Rating Reforms of Built to Rent and Renewable Energy.

Further consultation across the local government sector, including councils, joint organisations and peak bodies, will be conducted as the financial sustainability reform work progresses.

Financial Reporting Options

The EAP were provided an overview of the 3 options presented on the Special Purpose Financial Statements and the Income Statements. The panel members were supportive of Option 3 to remove the requirement for Special Purpose Financial Statements and retaining the existing format for the Income Statements given the AASB changes coming in 2028.

Performance Measures

The panel were given an overview of the proposed performance measure ratios. A discussion was held among the panel members on the specifications on each proposed ratio. Panel members raised concerns of performance ratios being used against the sector and requested clearer supporting evidence which has informed the proposed benchmarks. Overall, the panel were generally supportive of the proposed changes and the addition of the Contributions Expenditure Ratio. It was agreed that this topic be brought back to EAP in September after sector consultation has been completed.

Rating Reforms

The panel were provided a brief overview of the proposed changes to the rating of Build to Rent (BTR). A discussion was held among the panel members that this is a good start but is one step in a larger issue. The panel supported the proposed changes but recommended that this be approached as a first step towards broader legislative change to address the rating issues with multi-occupant dwellings. OLG will prepare advice to the Minister on the proposed regulatory change while communication the long-term plan of legislative change.

OLG staff spoke to the proposed implementation of industrial and non-industrial subcategories of rates. Discussions were held among the panel members supporting the proposal. It was recommended that the rating change occur upon the commencement of operation of the renewable energy plant.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EAP is scheduled to be held 30 July 2026.

SENSITIVE: NSW GOVERNMENT