
About this Consultation Guide

This Consultation Guide provides information about the *Review of Reporting and Compliance Burdens on Local Government IPART Final Report* (the Final Report). The Guide supports councils, industry and the community to consider and provide feedback on the recommendations made by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in the Final Report.

Each of IPART's reviews were commissioned to identify how best to deliver the Government's commitment to ensure a fair and equitable rating system, cut red tape and reduce costs and delays for business and the community. These issues are critical to the future of local government and local communities across NSW. See how to provide feedback to this review on page 3.

About Reporting and Compliance Burdens on Local Government

Regulations typically impose costs on the entity that needs to comply with the regulation. If the benefits of the obligations exceed these costs, the regulations may be justified. However, regulations that are poorly designed or implemented can impose unnecessary and excessive costs. These excessive costs or burdens – often referred to as 'red tape' – were the focus of this review.

In NSW, councils obtain all of their powers and responsibilities under NSW legislation, including the *Local Government Act 1993*. The NSW Government also devolves many functions to councils under other laws such as the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Roads Act 1993*, *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, *Water Management Act 2000*, *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Government guidelines and directions also regulate councils.

About the IPART Review

The NSW Government asked IPART to undertake several independent reviews. The purpose of these reviews was to identify ways to strengthen councils by improving their ability to serve the needs of their communities into the future. One of these reviews was this *Review of Reporting and Compliance Burdens on Local Government*.

The purpose of this review was to identify burdens placed on local government in the form of planning, reporting and compliance obligations to the State Government imposed by policy and legislation, and to make recommendations for how any unnecessary or excessive burdens may be reduced.

The review [Terms of Reference](#) asked IPART to provide a draft report to Government recommending how identified unnecessary or excessive burdens can be reduced. This report was to recommend how to improve the efficiency of local government in NSW and enhance the ability of councils to focus on delivering services to their communities.

IPART's [Review of Reporting and Compliance Burdens on Local Government](#) included a public hearing, as well as the release of an issues paper and draft report for public consultation. IPART received over 130 submissions in relation to this review.

FIND OUT MORE:

- The Terms of Reference for the Review and an overview of the Review process (including the prior consultation undertaken) are [here](#).
- The Final Report and recommendations can be downloaded [here](#).

IPART's Final Report and recommendations

The Final Report on the Review of Reporting and Compliance Burdens on Local Government includes 51 recommendations. These propose significant changes to local government reporting and compliance in NSW, which if implemented, would require amendments to a number of Acts and impact several Government agencies. The recommendations if enacted would also have an impact upon the broader community.

Key issues raised in the Report recommendations include:

- administration, governance and planning burdens
- taking a whole-of-government approach to minimising excessive and unnecessary burdens where the state works as a partner with local government, and
- taking a risk-based regulatory approach to local government in future.

Responding to this review

The NSW Government is committed to strengthening the system of local government and reducing costs and delays for business and the community. With that in mind, the Government commissioned IPART to undertake this review.

IPART has put forward a range of proposals that cover some of the most significant issues impacting local government in NSW. Achieving the net benefits to councils within the Report would impose significant costs on the community and the NSW Government.

IPART's Final Report on this review has now been released for widespread consultation with residents, council staff, councillors, peak bodies and other key stakeholders.

The Government welcomes community views on the majority of IPART's recommendations prior to finalising its response to the Final Report of this review. For further information about recommendations not open to further feedback, see "ISSUES TO CONSIDER WHEN PROVIDING FEEDBACK" on page 3 of this guide.

How to provide feedback

- Feedback should be provided in the [online feedback form](#). For ease of reference, the feedback form is also in the Appendix to this Guide.
- Alternatively, feedback can be provided to the Office of Local Government (OLG) by email at LGregburdens@olg.nsw.gov.au
- The closing date for feedback is **25 October 2019**.
- For further information contact OLG at LGregburdens@olg.nsw.gov.au.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER WHEN PROVIDING FEEDBACK

- As indicated in the [online feedback form](#), 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.
 - These matters are marked “Not for consultation” on the feedback form.
- As some recommendations are inter-related, answering “don’t support” to specific recommendations will mean that you do not need to provide feedback to others.

Providing feedback on other IPART Reports

In June 2019 the NSW Government commenced consultation on the Final Reports of three separate IPART reviews, including this Review of reporting and compliance burdens on Local Government. Further information about the other reviews and how to provide feedback on them is set out below.

FEEDBACK ON THE OTHER IPART REPORTS

- **Local Government Compliance and Enforcement IPART Review**
 - The Terms of Reference for the review are [here](#). The Final Report and recommendations are [here](#). The consultation closing date is **15 November 2019**.
- **Local Government Rating System IPART Review**
 - The Terms of Reference for the review are [here](#). The Final Report and recommendations are [here](#). The consultation closing date is **13 September 2019**.

Feedback form