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To Whom It May Concern

**Submission – Release of Rate Peg in September rather than November in future years**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to release the rate peg in early September in future years, rather than late November.

Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW agrees that this proposed change would provide councils with more timely information to prepare annual budgets and consult with communities on special variations, however it may only have limited benefit.

It is important that the rate peg for the next financial year adequately reflects the inflationary pressures faced by the local government sector, as there is a lag between the data the rate peg is based upon and the inflation experienced by councils in the year the rate peg is applied.

Additionally, we would also like to raise the requirement to lodge an application within four months of an election and alignment with the delivery program. While councils are likely to have considered the pulse of the community's appetite for a Special Rate Variation increase before the election, full engagement is not possible until the new councillors are briefed, and their views canvassed, and a draft Community Strategic Plan prepared. Unfortunately, that usually forces councils to undertake consultation over the summer holiday period to meet the February cut-off date for a Special Rate Variation application.

In conclusion, there are benefits in knowing the rate peg earlier and in providing a later submission date for Special Rate Variations after a council election to allow greater opportunity to consult with both councillors and the community to improve community confidence in the overall process.

If IPART would like to discuss any of the points raised in this submission please contact Bill Lofthouse, Chair of the Finance Professionals Member Network Executive of LG Professionals Australia, NSW on 9777 7511.

Yours sincerely



Barry Smith  
President  
Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW

## **Finance Professionals Member Network Executive**

Bill Lofthouse (Chair)	Willoughby City Council
Lyndy Philpot (Deputy Chair)	Greater Hume Shire Council
Sam Ratley (Secretary)	Narrabri Shire Council
KG Bascaran	Lane Cove Council
Justin Finlayson	Albury City Council
Robert Maginnity	Cessnock City Council
Katie-Anne Many	Gunnedah Shire Council
Juliann Merrick	Gunnedah Shire Council
Vanessa Phelan	Shoalhaven City Council
Rick Sanderson	Tamworth Regional Council
Carla von Brockhusen	Berrigan Shire Council

## **Integrated Planning and Reporting Professionals Member Network Executive**

Brad Byrnes (Chair)	Parkes Shire Council
Ross Kingsley	Blacktown City Council
Kathryn Parker	Northern Beaches Council
Geoff Burton	City of Sydney Council
Karen Hawkett	Randwick City Council
Helen Tola	Woollahra Municipal Council