



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE**INQUIRY INTO THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO
FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****18 March 2024**

An Upper House inquiry has been established to inquire into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services.

The Hon Emily Suvaal MLC, Chair of the Standing Committee on State Development, said: 'Councils are experiencing significant financial challenges which are threatening the long-term sustainability of the sector. As the level of government closest to the people of this state, we owe it to councils to ensure they can continue to deliver the important services communities expect and deserve.'

'This inquiry will examine the level of income councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities, and give consideration to the current levels of service delivery and financial sustainability in local government.'

The Chair continued: 'The committee will also assess the social and economic impacts of the rate peg in New South Wales and compare the rate peg, as it currently exists, with other jurisdictions and alternative approaches with regards to the outcomes for ratepayers, councils and council staff.'

'In addition, the committee will also review the operation of the special rate variation process and its effectiveness in providing the level of income councils require to adequately meet the needs of their communities.'

The committee welcomes submissions from interested individuals and stakeholders, including local governments and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is Friday 26 April 2024, with committee activity to follow later in the year.

For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Emily Suvaal MLC, on (02) 9230 2731.