

File note – meeting between Felicity Wilson MP and Carmel Donnelly

Meeting held 7 March 2025 via teams

Attendees:

Felicity Wilson MP

Meg Taylor

Carmel Donnelly

Sheridan Rapmund

In terms of her reason for requesting the meeting, Felicity indicated in she would like to be clear that she is coming from a level of ignorance; she is aware of IPART but is not familiar with the SV process and would like to understand it better.

Carmel began the meeting with an acknowledgement of Country. She advised that the meeting would be added to the public register of meetings and that Sheridan would be taking notes. Carmel would also inform the Tribunal of the meeting. Carmel cautioned that if the meetings turns into a verbale submission it may be treated that way.

Carmel gave an overview of IPART's local government functions including the rate peg and special variations. Carmel noted it was the council's decision to apply for a special variation and that applications are looked at on a case by case basis.

Carmel informed Felicity of the OLG criteria in the SV guidelines. She indicated that the Tribunal places conditions on the SV approvals including requirements for the council to publish information in annual reports.

Carmel noted aside from addressing the criteria, community members are welcome to put forward other relevant matters for consideration. If any corruptions allegations are made, this may be reported to ICAC as appropriate.

Felicity noted North Sydney had a previous SV approved in 2019-20 and asked if they had applied this rates increase. Carmel said this is something we will look at.

Felicity said she noted the submission due date had been extended and thanked Carmel. Carmel noted there was also a survey which provided a structure that may assist some community members and stressed that the Tribunal would have access to all feedback provided.

Felicity said she understand the Tribunal is considering an online public hearing.

Carmel responded this is not something that is typically done for SVs. It is something that is done for extensive pricing reviews and where it is mandated.

Felicity thanked Carmel and said she would provide a submission.

[Meeting ended]