

**Submission  
No 11**

## **INQUIRY INTO ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

**Organisation:** Eurobodalla Shire Council

**Date Received:** 24 April 2024

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## **Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services Submission from Eurobodalla Shire Council, Moruya NSW**

Whilst we welcome the review of the local government funding model, we are cognisant of the different capacities and resource constraints (both financial and access) that Councils in regional areas such as us experience compared to those of our larger and more populated counterparts.

Does the current funding model sustainably support the needs of the community?

This is of particular relevance to rural and regional councils who effectively support the needs of their communities by providing services for which the state and federal government are ultimately responsible and collecting revenue for (eg. Aged and disabled care, environmental protection and sustainability (including coastal management), state roads maintenance, emergency services, youth and children's services, FOGO etc.

We would like to see the inquiry comment/consider recommendations on:

- Cost shifting from State and Federal government through to local government on a number of items including recent changes in legislation regarding Childsafe Protections, Respect at Work and WHS. Provision of assistance, mandatory training rollouts and support in these areas
- Emergency Services cost shifting – placing incredible pressure on councils in disaster areas to provide resilience and LEMOs etc and community demands
- More stable funding streams – for example – annual funding streams being offered as a larger amount across a longer term to enable resourcing and consistency of funding
- Consideration of funding streams that address ongoing maintenance and whole of life costs rather than a focus on construction for new work, outside IPR documents
- Clear guidance on the RFS asset definition and inclusion in council financial statements
- Interpretation and additional guidance on IPR framework
- Role the Audit Office has to play in monitoring local government financial resilience – increased cost impost may not reflect service delivery and timelines of Financial Statements and Management Letters often means that key financial documents do not align with community engagement strategies (IPR framework) where information is delayed
- Recent legislation (FOGO) mandating an approach that may not consider what individual councils are already doing to remove organic materials from waste sites

Historically, rate peg has not kept up with inflation, leading to increased cost bases for Councils that are not covered within the rate peg environment.