



In preparing your Submission to IPART, please address the following items in particular (these are included in the assessment process):

- **NBC did not demonstrate the need for the additional income**
 - Has the NBC demonstrated to you that they have a need for additional income, bearing in mind the NBC has been in budget surplus since amalgamation and has \$200M invested.
 - Do you believe NBC needs more money or does it need to better manage the money it receives?
 - Do you believe the NBC has exercised all opportunities to reduce expenditure on unnecessary items with a view to improving fiscal performance?
- **NBC did not provide evidence that the community was aware of the need for and extent of the proposed rate rise**
 - Have you received adequate evidence from NBC on the need for and impact of a special rate increase?
 - Do you consider NBC has canvassed all alternative options to a rate hike, like reducing non-core services and reducing the number of senior management positions?
 - Do you believe Council has looked at ways to make itself more efficient and cost effective, rather than jacking up rates?
 - Did the Council conduct a thorough consultation process, informing all community members of the proposed rate hike and was it conducted at the appropriate time?
 - Did the NBC take proper account of community concerns through their consultation process?
- **NBC did not establish that the impact on affected ratepayers was reasonable**
 - Do you believe NBC has considered your capacity to absorb an additional \$673 per year for a household and \$1,611 per year for business in the current cost of living crisis?
 - Do you believe NBC has taken your individual circumstance into account?
 - You may be asset rich but cash poor, that is you may own your home but be on a pension or annuity that limits your capacity to absorb additional living costs. You might also be a new homebuyer with a high mortgage and stretched to pay more in rates, or a renter and not be able to afford additional rental payments caused by an increase in rates passed on by the landlord! Or you might be a young person wanting to move out of home but can't afford to buy and property and can't afford already high rents.

- **NBC did not exhibit, approved and adopted relevant planning documents to the best of your knowledge and understanding**
 - Has NBC made you aware of relevant planning documents in relation to the proposed Special Variation rate hike? If so, what are your comments in relation to these documents,
 - Do you believe they adequately address the need for a Special Variation rate hike?
- **NBC did not explain and quantify the Council's productivity improvements and cost containment strategies**
 - Has NBC explained to you its productivity improvements?
 - Do you believe NBC has done enough to improve its productivity?
 - Has NBC illustrated that it has been able to contain costs and applied appropriate measures to prevent "cost blow outs". For example, the NBC does not have a register of projects that have had cost blow-outs nor employed strategies to ensure future cost blow-outs do not occur?

Please be mindful in your submission that IPART **will not consider** any of the following, so **please don't include** in your submission:

- **Council Budget Allocations & Spending Priorities**
IPART does not decide *how a council should allocate its funds*. It only evaluates whether the application meets regulatory requirements.
- **The Overall Fairness of Local Government Rating**
IPART *does not assess whether the rating system itself is fair* or whether certain property owners should pay more, or less.
- **The Council's Past Financial Management**
IPART *does not investigate or audit past financial decisions* beyond the requirements set out in the Office of Local Government (OLG) guidelines