

14 April 2014

Benchmarking of local infrastructure  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

Email: [nicole\\_haddock@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nicole_haddock@ipart.nsw.gov.au)

**Attention:** Nicole Haddock

Dear Ms Haddock,

### **Benchmarking of local infrastructure plan preparation, management and administration costs**

The Urban Taskforce remains supportive of the benchmarking exercises being undertaken by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. We believe that it is essential that clear cost benchmarks be established for local infrastructure plan preparation and administration. However, as previously stated in our recent submission on benchmarking local infrastructure costs, benchmarking exercises must not be seen as the end point of an investigation into infrastructure funding. The benchmarks established must be tested in the real world and regularly reviewed.

With respect to this benchmarking exercise, the Urban Taskforce is of the view that the cost of local infrastructure plan preparation, management and administration should not be passed on to the development industry as an additional cost in the plan. Plan preparation and general administration of a local infrastructure plan should be considered part of councils' core responsibilities.

Notwithstanding any of the above, there has always been a concern from the development industry that local councils seek to pass on all costs associated with land development to the development industry. Councils seem to forget that they exist to provide services to the entire community and that the entire community benefits from development. Therefore the entire community must meet a reasonable proportion of the cost of providing new infrastructure.

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you wish to discuss the content of the attached in any further detail.

Yours sincerely

**Urban Taskforce Australia**



Chris Johnson AM  
Chief Executive Officer