

11 July 2018

Dr Kathy Alexander  
Chair  
Local Government Rating System Review  
Ministerial Panel  
Level 35, 2 Lonsdale St  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Email: [rating.review@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:rating.review@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Dear Dr Alexander

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM REVIEW – KEY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

I write on behalf of the members of FinPro, the peak body servicing local government finance professionals in Victoria. FinPro is an Incorporated Association with over 550 members and represents all Victorian Councils as well as 5 regional library corporations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the consultation framework for the Review. One of the key objectives of FinPro is to provide advocacy for local government practitioners on issues, which affect the industry as a whole, and to act as the focal point of reference by regulatory bodies on financial issues affecting the sector.

We have previously made a request to you (via Graeme Emonson) to speak at our next FinPro Conference (16-18 October). We are expecting over 250 finance professionals at the conference, many of whom have direct responsibility for providing guidance on financial matters to council's and also managing Property and Rating functions. Graeme has already committed to speak at the conference on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October with an update on a wide range of local government matters and we believe that this will be a great opportunity for you to also present on the role and vision of the Panel.

With regards to the consultation feedback we would like to offer the following suggestions and support;

1. The proposed schedule of public meetings and the summary of proposed communication and engagement tools and methods;
  - Agree with proposal;
  - Also, suggest provide information on the likely transition of rating provisions when the new Act is legislated; and

- We (e.g. peak bodies) request an option to comment on the findings prior to Public release of the Panel Report (February 2020).
2. Ways to maximise the reach of the consultation to all ratepayers including disadvantaged, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, and those living in rural and regional Victoria;
- Agree with proposal;
  - Suggest under promotion;
    - Regular Media releases;
    - LG Website updates; and
    - FinPro will also commit to having links on FinPro website to the review docs.
3. Ways FinPro can promote awareness of and encourage participation in the review consultation;
- FinPro will forward any Rate Review information to members (with coverage across every council);
  - Seek comments from all FinPro members to form our submission; and
  - FinPro will commit to attend 'face to face' meetings with the Panel as required to speak to submissions.

Our membership base is keen to be engaged in this process and has been an active submitter during the 4 stages of the new Local Government Bill consultation. I welcome the opportunity for further engagement with our membership. To that end please feel free to contact either myself or our Executive Officer, Gabrielle Gordon. Both our details are listed below.

Yours sincerely



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