

31 July 2006

Shane Sody
Principal Policy Officer, Legislation
Office for State/Local Government Relations
Po Box 8021
STATION ARCADE SA 5000

13/19/8 020067593

Dear Shane

RE: Recommendations on Differential Rates

I refer to your letter dated 31 May 2006 enclosing a discussion paper that includes recommendations on Differential Rates and seeking Council's comment.

In response please note that Council as a small Council with limited resources is at this time unable to provide a fully detailed response to every issue raised. However, we are confident that the Local Government Association will adequately cover this important issue.

Overall Council has no real issue with the comments contained in the discussion paper but would like to raise an issue that does not appear to have been addressed; namely

"Amendments to the Act that will allow for potential variations of a fixed charge for each respective land use".

The principal advantage obtained by this suggestion is that greater flexibility will be provided to distribute the rate burden in a more equitable manner, especially in an environment that has large fluctuations in valuations between land uses.

Whilst many types of Council may not take up this option, in our case in particular the option has merit as we are a isolated but cohesive township with buildings of a similar age. Generally whilst valuation charges within a land use category are consistent (this year they will increase by some 30%) those across differing land uses are not.

Council trusts that this will be genuinely considered.

For further information please contact me to discuss.

Yours faithfully



Bill Boehm
Administrator