



SOUTHERN MALLEE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: R3-02 (7071)

31st July 2006

1/8/2006



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

Dear Shane

Recommendations on Differential Rates

I refer to your letter of 3rd May 2006, inviting submissions on the proposal to amend the Local Government Act 1999 relating to the application of differential rates.

I wish to advise that Council has considered your correspondence and resolved that it wishes to ensure that any future legislative changes will enable Council to continue its current practice in adopting differential rates for rural and town properties. Council advocates that in the application of fairness, different rates ought to apply to those properties in these categories as Council provides a different level of service and this is included in Council's adopted rating policy.

Council has adopted a minimum rate each year, and in adopting the rate also resolves to apply a rebate in respect to the rate which has the effect of:

- Reducing the rate for unused land either in the towns or the rural areas
- Reduce minimum rate applying to those smaller towns within the district that are not serviced by the level of community infrastructure as the larger towns
- Caps the maximum rate that applies a residential dwelling in the township boundaries.

Council considers it adopts a fair and equitable approach in its rating structure and wishes to have the ability under the Local Government Act to continue to adopt differential rates between town and rural assessments that best reflects the services delivered to ratepayers and residents.

Council cannot support a position that has the effect of reducing the options available to local government to consider differential rating that best serves the need of the community.

Council supports the position advocated by the Local Government Association of South Australia that local government have the flexibility in legislation to consider rating options best suited to the individual council's needs.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony A. McCabe
MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
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