



two ways :: one outcome

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# Rating Review Consultation Plan

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## Release Notice

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## 1 Background

From the inception of the Shires in 2008 until the 2011/12 financial year, the Shire has been guided in its rating practices by the guidelines established by the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) in 2008/2009. From 2011/12 the limitations imposed on the Shire Councils as a result of Gazette No. S8 dated 25 February 2009, expire. This will allow the Council to review their rating policy and modify, if required, the rates applied to rateable land within the Shire.

According to the Ministerial guidelines, a Council is required to advise the Minister of its rating proposal in relation to conditionally rateable land no later than February.

Should the Council request to change the way conditionally rateable land is rated, the Council is required to provide a range of information to the Minister including:

- A list of services available to constituents of prescribed properties; and
- A report of consultations with owners and lessees of prescribed properties.

As rating is a core local government function that impacts greatly on the lives of all ratepayers in the Shire, consultation has been broadened to include all stakeholder groups in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

## 2 Purpose of consultation

The purpose of the consultation in relation to the rating review is to:

- Provide a background to the Council's current rating practices;
- Assist the community to develop an understanding of rating and its connection to the Council's overall financial sustainability;
- Provide alternative rating options for consideration by the community and the Council; and
- Provide opportunities to make comment and provide feedback to further inform future rating proposals by the Council.

## 3 Identification of Stakeholders

All stakeholders, as identified in the Community Engagement Strategy will be considered in relation to this consultation. It should be noted that owners and lessees of conditionally rateable properties are a specific subset of stakeholders to which specific consultation is required under the Ministerial Guidelines.

## 4 Legislative Context

The rating activities of the Council are guided by the *NT Local Government Act 2008* Chapter 11 and the *Ministerial Guideline 6: Conditionally Rateable Land* which became effective on 23 February 2009.

The Council's own Community Engagement Strategy and Policy is also relevant.

## 5 Consultation Plan

Stakeholder Group	Level of Participation	Communication Tools	Timing and Frequency
<b>Residents</b>			
Residents and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> <li>• Consult</li> <li>• Involve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Publicity through "News" section of website</li> <li>• Direct mail out with feedback form (do we need reply paid envelopes?)</li> <li>• Information on website – special section on "Rating Review"</li> <li>• Feedback form on website</li> </ul>	<p>Media Release developed upon approval by Council of consultation plan – OCTOBER with additional media releases in DECEMBER to coincide with briefing to Industry Groups</p> <p>Direct mail out – OCTOBER</p> <p>Website information – OCTOBER</p>
Aboriginal communities, outstations and organisations			
Royalty Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> <li>• Consult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise of rating review and invite submission through website.</li> </ul>	Letters written – NOVEMBER
Department of Local Government, Housing and Regional Services			
<b>Governments/Service Providers and Funders</b>			
Australian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise of rating review and invite submission through website.</li> </ul>	Letters written - NOVEMBER
NT Government			
Other Local Government Organisations			
<b>Industry</b>			
Business groups, e.g. Cattlemen's Association, Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> <li>• Consult</li> <li>• Involve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media release</li> <li>• Publicity through "News" section of website</li> <li>• Targeted letter with invitation to briefing</li> <li>• Information on website – special section on "Rating Review"</li> <li>• Feedback form on website</li> </ul>	<p>Letter written – NOVEMBER</p> <p>Briefing – DECEMBER (coincide with December Council Meeting?)</p>
Horticulture Businesses			
Mining Businesses			
Pastoralists			
Tourism NT, Training and Employment Agencies, Shire suppliers, Chamber of Commerce	No additional consultation needed		
<b>Internal Stakeholders</b>			
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> <li>• Consult</li> <li>• Involve</li> <li>• Collaborate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing session at Council with walk through of rating review process</li> <li>• Regular updates on consultation process</li> <li>• Information on feedback received</li> <li>• Collaborate on final rating decision</li> </ul>	<p>Briefing – OCTOBER</p> <p>Briefing with industry groups – DECEMBER</p> <p>Discussion of feedback – FEBRUARY</p> <p>Review of rating strategy – FEBRUARY or APRIL</p>
Local Board members and Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform</li> <li>• Consult</li> <li>• Involve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing session at local boards</li> <li>• Interactive workshop with</li> </ul>	Briefing in OCTOBER and NOVEMBER (as per LB timetable)

Stakeholder Group	Level of Participation	Communication Tools	Timing and Frequency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>feedback</li> <li>Feedback forms</li> </ul>	Community workshops (if required)
Staff	No additional consultation needed		
<b>General Public</b>			
Children (0-11 years old)	Consultation managed as per the "Residents" section.		
Youth (12-24 years old)			
Older people			
People with a disability			
People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform</li> <li>Consult</li> <li>Involve</li> </ul>	As per the consultation tools developed for Residents – emphasis on the development materials that meet ESL requirements.	