

23.08.15

Ararat Rural City Ratepayers Association Inc.

P.O.Box 624,

ARARAT, Vic. 3377



Essential Services Commission,

Level 37,

2 Lonsdale St

MELBOURNE Vic. 3000

Re: Local Govt. Rates Capping & Variation Framework Review

Dear Sirs/Madams Essential Services Commission,

As long suffering ratepayers of a regional municipality where over the period 2009/2010 - 2015/2016 town ratepayers have suffered a compounded increase in rates of slightly above 5.0%, we fully support the implementation of rate capping as generally proposed by the Essential Services Commission in its report - A Blueprint For Change - Local Govt. Rates Capping & Variation Framework Review.

A significant portion of the 5.0% compounded increase in town rates over this period has arisen from low transparency adjustment of Differential Rates and Municipal Charge. These are subjective adjustments by Councillors unqualified in the necessary fields, and are of a particular bias. Councillors have potentially 4 years to make a mockery of a subjective taxation on property. These problems also need addressing.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D Hopkirk".

David Hopkirk, Ararat Rural City Ratepayers Association Inc. (President)