



Media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local government elections in 2020

CLARENCE Valley Council will wait until an independent review of prices is complete before making a decision on who will conduct local government elections in the Clarence in September next year.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is reviewing the cost charged by the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) to run local government elections, and council has decided it will wait until that review is complete before deciding who will conduct local elections in the Clarence in 2020. IPART's report is due to be handed down by August 30 this year.

However, council's decision to postpone that determination means it will be in technical breach of section 296AA of the Local Government Act, which requires a decision on who is to conduct the election to be made at least 18 months before the election or, in this case, by March 11, 2019.

Many councils who have similarly decided to wait until the completion of the IPART review will also be in technical breach of the act, but that breach is likely to be short-lived.

Legislation is proposed to be introduced in the first NSW parliamentary sitting period of 2019 following the NSW State Election to amend the Local Government Act to extend the deadline for councils to make a decision on the administration of their elections under sections 296AA and 296. This deadline will be extended to January 1, 2020.

Release ends.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.