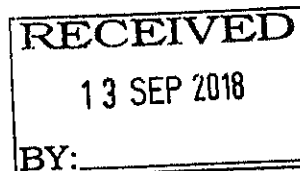


Our File Ref: R17/0031
Further contact: Jessica Wood, Legal Officer: 9242 4125

7 September 2018

General Manager
Mr Roger Bailey
Warrumbungle Shire Council
PO Box 191
COONABARABRAN NSW 2357



Dear Mr Bailey

Request for financial assistance for legal costs associated with the appeal of Land and Environment Court rating categorisation decision – City of Sydney Council, North Sydney Council and Bayside City Council

We are writing to request your assistance with legal costs incurred by the above councils in respect of an appeal of the Land and Environment Court's decision in *Karimbla Properties v Council of the City of Sydney; Bayside City Council and North Sydney Council* [2017] NSWLEC 75. The judgement can be viewed on the Land and Environment Court's website.

On 6 October 2017, the Board of LGNSW resolved to approve applications for legal assistance made by the City of Sydney Council and Bayside Council in accordance with the *LGNSW Legal Assistance Policy and Guidelines (November 2015)*, which is available at <https://www.lgnsw.org.au/files/imce-uploads/127/legal-assistance-policy-guidelines-november-2015.pdf>. On 9 February 2018, the Board approved an application for legal assistance made by North Sydney Council.

The LGNSW Board considered that this case is of importance to local government throughout NSW.

By way of background, the case concerns the interpretation of section 516 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, being the categorisation of ratable land as "residential". The Land and Environment Court held that land, on which development for the purposes of a residential development was being carried out in accordance with a development consent, is to be categorised as "residential", even though building construction was not complete and occupation certificates for use of buildings for residential accommodation had not been granted. The Court also found that Karimbla Properties are entitled to refunds of any rates paid for the land as a result the land being categorised by the councils as "business".

The three councils appealed the Land and Environment Court's decision. The Court of Appeal heard the matter in late July and has reserved its decision. Judgement is expected later in the year.