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**Articles** 

# Implementing IFRS in Local Government: Institutional Isomorphism as NPM Goes Mad?

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#### Abstract

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have us believe. The thrust to implement IFRS may have finally pushed local government into a world they struggle to cope with. For example, findings indicate that there is now, more than ever, a perception in the community that the bottom line is an important indicator of a council's performance. Results reported here determined that the implementation process was time-consuming and costly with, in general, very little perceived benefit. Councils are conforming to the coercive pressure from legislative bodies, but they are not converging as part of the 'transaction-neutral' reporting regime.

Q Key Words: IFRS local government transaction-neutral NPM institutional theory

### Notes

Reference can be made here to Alchian's 'survival of the fittest'.

This paper reports on the interview stage that provided the most in-depth analysis of perceptions of the implementation of IFRS.

AASB 1031 (2009), Para 15. 'Quantitative thresholds used as guidance for determining the materiality of the amount of an item or an aggregate of items shall, of necessity, be drawn at arbitrary levels. Materiality is a matter of professional judgement influenced by the characteristics of the entity and the perceptions as to who are, or are likely to be, the users of the financial statements, and their information needs. Materiality judgeme X context, the following ne material n paragraph 13 of thi (a) an e base cing amo argume

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se amount g argument, A FiscalStar rating is a publicly available, independent assessment of the financial sustainability of a council's existing policy settings, indicated by reference to a number of categories and the assigning of up to five stars.

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