

# Media Release

16 December 2021

## Concerns about Central Coast water prices

IPART has received a strong community reaction to a proposal by Central Coast Council to substantially increase its water charges.

We are reviewing the maximum prices that the council can charge for its water, wastewater, stormwater and other water-related services.

We received 175 submissions, and over 1,300 survey responses in total. This is a strong community response and we thank everyone for their feedback.

"Most people opposed the council's proposed price increases. Many raised concerns about the council's performance, accountability and transparency, as well as affordability," said Chair Carmel Donnelly.

Today we have published the submissions and survey results on our [website](#). The feedback was in response to the [council's pricing proposal](#), our recent [Issues Paper](#) and our [Information Paper on stormwater drainage](#).

"Community feedback is very valuable to us. We have read all the submissions and survey responses, and have listened to what the community has said at our recent public hearing. We will consider all feedback as a key input in making our decisions," Ms Donnelly said.

IPART's proposal for stormwater services to be paid for by local government rates rather than via Water Supply Authority charges was broadly supported.

"We are reviewing the council's costs, for which we have engaged expert advice. We will do further investigation and analysis, including on the issues raised by the community, before releasing our draft report in March 2022," said Ms Donnelly.

IPART will seek feedback and comments on its draft report and will hold a second public hearing in April 2022 for the community to present their views.

We will consider all views when making final decisions for the Central Coast Council's water prices to apply from 1 July 2022.

Media Contact: Adrian Flood

 0427 105 865

 [media@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@ipart.nsw.gov.au)