

# LG Submission Form 2021-2022 - notifications

Submission date: **1 February 2021, 11:12AM**  
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Related form version: **3**

## IPART Special Variation Submission Form

Industry	Local Government
Review	(LG) Special Variations & Minimum Rates 2021-2022
Document Reference	
Council	Central Coast Council, Application Notification Letter

Please leave your comments in the comment box below.

**See attached letter as follows:**

**IPART Special Variation Application by Central Coast Council.**

The current financial disaster at Central Coast Council (CCC) has been several years in the making and follows the equally disastrous finances at Gosford Council a few years ago prior to amalgamation. There has to be a financial crunch for the whole workforce at CCC who, from our experiences of over 20 years with Gosford, Wyong and now CCC as a ratepayer and resident, have all been a party to the overly good times with high wages, overly generous conditions, easy work practices, poor skills and low productivity. The current “working from home” practice has lowered the already low productivity from what I have experienced in recent dealings with poor interaction between staff being very obvious.

This cannot just be papered over by hitting the ratepayers for more money and hope the problem

goes away after a few years. No pain no gain as they say. Those hits have to be taken by all the employees and Councillors. The latter have been sacked and some of the former have been terminated but only to reduce the staff levels down to what they should have been at amalgamation.

There has to be a wholesale reduction of pay and conditions for all but especially the senior echelons whose management skills have been found to be poor as the finances demonstrate and the number of senior managers has to be severely reduced.

Yes the current services provided will be affected but it is beyond time that the scope of all that is provided by CCC is critically reviewed.

Yes residents and ratepayers will be upset and take it out on staff. So be it. There has to be a lesson learnt from this immense mess and hearing it directly from those who paid for their unsustainable pay and conditions will do that.

What is needed is a complete change of culture.

Ratepayers, property owners and residents are not the peasants and council employees the masters. Rather the ratepayers are the people for whom the council works.

If what I am requiring leads to wholesale changes of staff then perhaps they were the wrong people in the first place or perhaps the wrong culture is so ingrained in their system they don't see any other way.

The letter we received from the acting CEO of CCC dated 13 January 2021 and received a week later, tells of an opportunity from 8 January to have our say about rate increases but that "say" stopped on 22 January? That "survey" only canvassed either a 10 % or a 15% increase. There was no allowance to say no increase. That has now been included in a second survey after massive pressure from ratepayers. That letter from CCC is double speak. For both the rate increases it specifies a "one-off" increase.

However one is permanent i.e. that 15% increase will stay in place for every following year. For the other 10% it would stay in place for 7 years. The attempt to down play such big increases is arrogant. And if either one or the other proposed increases proves in future to be inadequate what will stop council asking for further increases?

My response is NO. Learn to live within your current means including to pay down debt and show that CCC has changed its ways and culture to be financially responsible. Then they must come with a long term plan for the future within the current rate peg.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

If you have attachments you would like to include with your feedback, please attach them below.

[The current financial disaster at Central Coast Council.pdf](#)

## Your Details

Are you an individual or organisation?

Individual

If you would like your submission or your name to remain confidential please indicate below.

Anonymous - my submission can be published but my name should remain anonymous

First Name

Last Name

Organisation Name

Position

Email

[REDACTED]

IPART's Submission Policy

I have read & accept IPART's Submission Policy

1 February 2021

Independent Regulatory and Pricing Tribunal  
Level 15, 2-24 Rawson Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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