

Author name: Anonymous

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Your submission for this review:

I am writing this submission to voice my opinion regarding the increase of water rates requested by the Central Coast Council. My voice is one of many, there are those who are unaware and uninformed of the Council's recent submissions, who don't know how to make a submission to IPART and who feel disillusioned with the entire process after 2019. Please don't assume my submission speaks only for me. Firstly, Central Coast Council is suspended and we do not have a democratically elected council to represent us. It is unethical for this and past submissions to even be made. We have no date or promise of an upcoming election. I implore IPART to refuse any further action or consideration until the people of the Central Coast have been able to have their say at an election. You mention in your Issues Paper that Central Coast Council does not have an operating license, performance standards, compliance requirements or a customer contract. This is an unacceptable practice and ought to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The people of Central Coast are being taken advantage of without the appropriate licenses and agreements. This needs to be addressed and finalised before any discussion on price rises. The Issues Paper compares our water prices to other LGAs with no consideration for the recent significant price rise in rates allowed by IPART. A 34% increase is outrageous. Especially in the times of job losses and underemployment due to COVID-19 over the past two years. Central Coast residents are hurting and IPART's most recent rate hike still stings. We feel powerless against [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] (who are not elected officials) and feel as though IPART does not consider us. We are aware [REDACTED] has made a further submission to solidify the rate increase for ten years even though the ruling only recently was approved. Again, [REDACTED] is not a democratically elected member of council, he does not speak for the Central Coast or represent us in any capacity.