

**Our reference:** 20/566-4

**Contact** Sheridan Rapmund

**T** (02) 9290 8430

**E** [Sheridan\\_Rapmund@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Sheridan_Rapmund@ipart.nsw.gov.au)

21 December 2020

Mr Rik Hart  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Central Coast Council  
PO Box 21  
Gosford NSW 2250

Dear Rik

### **Proposed timing of Central Coast Council's special variation application**

As confirmed at the meeting between IPART and the Central Coast Council (the Council) on 15 December 2020, we have agreed to a phased application process for the Council's 2021-22 special variation (SV). We will accept the application from the Council in three phases, based on when the Council indicated it would have information available to it:

- ▼ Phase 1 (due to IPART by 8 February 2021): SV application due, with the exception of the outcomes of community consultation and harmonised rates
- ▼ Phase 2 (due to IPART by 1 March 2021): Community consultation documentation due, along with any adjustments to the SV proposal resulting from consideration of community feedback
- ▼ Phase 3 (due to IPART by 5 April 2021): Finalised harmonised rates based on the final SV proposal due.

Community consultation is an important part of the SV process. Effective community consultation enables members of the public to have adequate opportunities to consider the proposed SV, provide feedback to the Council, and for the Council to then consider this feedback. IPART will assess the Council's community consultation as part of our assessment of the Council's application against the criteria set out in the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for the preparation of an application for a special variation to general income*.

IPART will also accept and consider comments from ratepayers and interested parties as part of the SV assessment process.

If you have questions relating to the SV process, our staff are available to provide guidance. IPART's contact officer for this matter is Sheridan Rapmund, Director, contactable on (02) 9290 8430.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Liz Livingstone.

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Liz Livingstone  
Chief Executive Officer  
Signed by: Liz Livingstone