

Central Coast Council Submission to iPart Residential Stormwater Drainage Services

- Extremely Late Notice of Radical Pricing Changes for Non Residential (Farms)**

Notification of the changes provided in a letter dated 8 October, 2018 received 9 October. Although some were aware the week prior, this does not qualify for adequate community consultation, nor provide a reasonable time frame for submission writing. This especially applies to the farming sector when they are in full Spring production allied with battling drought impacts. For some of us with empty dams the anomaly of having any stormwater levy increase is really depressing.

- New Levy for ex Wyong Shire LGA West of M1**

The majority of impacted properties, deemed non residential, are farms and allied business resources west of the M1. Even for those already paying a stormwater levy in the previous Gosford LGA the increase goes beyond belief. For the others in the previous Wyong Shire being told that there needs to be parity across the whole Central Coast is not an issue; if the levy to be charged was comparative to the previous Gosford levy ie \$124.68. The proposed increase to \$5 427.81 is beyond reality. No explanation of any kind has been offered for the extent of that increase except that it will make it cheaper for the urban areas which actually are impacted by stormwater drainage issues.

- Rationale - *to enhance enjoyment of natural waterways and foreshores and This year we are undertaking a number of project that include upgrades to stormwater gross pollutant traps across the region***

The above aspirations were provided in a Mayoral message in the CCC information pages of the Express Advocate print media publication. The waterways west of the M1 are predominately dammed on farms, enter the Hawkesbury and Wyong Rivers or Ourimbah Creek. The latter two are essential to provided water to add to the Mangrove Creek Dam which supplies water to the Central Coast urban area east of the M1. The upgrades to stormwater gross pollutant traps would include many within the urban developmental areas east of the M1.

- Highly Discriminatory Increase to Every Agricultural Productive Property West of M1**

Aside from the less than transparent process for the proposed pricing changes submitted by Central Coast Council, the proposed increase is highly discriminatory against farmers who are battling extremely low margins already to continue to produce food for Australian consumers.

As well, the majority of affected properties west of the M1, deemed to be non residential, do not have the benefit of connection to water and sewerage lines, maintain their own property drains and dams and provide erosion mitigating land management practices.

We request iPART reject this submission on the grounds of discrimination against the rural, food producing community of the Central Coast.

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Lorraine Wilson, Chairman. October 11, 2018