

INDUSTRY

Water

REVIEW

Prices for Central Coast Council from 1 July 2019

DOCUMENT

Issues Paper - Review of Central Coast Council's prices for water sewerage and related services - June 2018

This submission is made on behalf of **Hidden Valley Owner's Co-operative Society Ltd**

Hidden Valley Owner's Co-operative Society Ltd is a member based organisation in Palm Grove providing Farm experience and horse riding to member Families.

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These titles are zoned as E3 and RU1 and therefore are under Environmental Management including Stormwater Drainage.

The total area of the 3 lots is 370 acres, of which approx. 65 acres are used, the rest being mostly virgin bushland.

Of the 65 acres used, approx. 60 acres are grazing paddocks while the remainder 5-6 acres of the property is used by the members, including play areas and parkland.

Under the proposed changes, it appears we will be paying \$54270.81 for stormwater drainage. As we are one of the furthest properties on Ourimbah creek road, surrounded by National and state forest park on 3 sides and Ourimbah creek road on the northern side the only 'stormwater' we deal with is water from roofs, which mostly is used as drinking water. The run-off of water is rainwater only. Any possible damage to Creek run-off, creek banks and creek access is already limited to preserve the natural flow.

There are no council facilities provided and all drainage, waterflow, sewage treatment are provided and maintained by Hidden Valley Co-operative. Untreated Water is pumped from the creek and is used for drinking water for animals and sanity usage for co-operative members. There is no industrial or large scale operational water usage resulting in any spillage and therefore does not contribute to any 'Stormwater'.

The main road has only recently been sealed and, apart from natural flow, no guttering or drainage has been provided. The low part of the Co-operative as well as the creek banks and road along the creek are flood prone and make use of the natural waterflow.

Sewage is treated on site and there is no run-off to the creek. Any 'stormwater' getting to the creek is natural run-off and as part of the water catchment provides for additional water in the Ourimbah Creek Water Catchment area.

It seems totally wrong and ill conceived to base the Stormwater charges based on total property area, especially in those areas where already restrictions are in place on usage of this land. We pride ourselves and work had on our property to retain the water falling on our place by maximising its infiltration into the soil. We will also outline our management actions (strategic retention of native vegetation, maintain riparian vegetative filter adjacent to

Ourimbah Creek, retention of a protective groundcover over the whole property) that are enhancing the quality of the water entering Ourimbah Creek that is subsequently harvested as potable water for the Central Coast. Hidden Valley already greatly contributes to the maintenance and upkeep of the local environment and is happy to continue to do so, however to be further penalised in this endeavour is not only wrong, it will induce loss of goodwill on part of all rural residents in participating with council activities in maintaining and further development of the environment. A number of active property owners along Ourimbah Creek road could have an increase in Stormwater Drainage from around \$200 to \$5,427.81 This is a ridiculous increase and which does not correspond with the reality of what happened at these rural properties.

All these properties should be considered 'Low Impact' in their classification as their drainage contributes rather than detracts from the local water tableland.