



13 October 2018

**Submission to IPART NSW regarding IPART's review of prices for
Central Coast Council from 1 July 2019**

Our family have a small hobby farm on the Central Coast of New South Wales. Our property falls within the former Wyong LGA here. We currently do not pay for Wyong stormwater drainage. Under the Central Coast Council's proposed pricing framework this charge will increase to \$5,427.81. The Central Coast Council has never alerted us to these changes. We had no knowledge of this impending threat to our living costs. Our property offers us lifestyle, we make no money from our property, we are not a business. We only found out about this proposal by other members of the local community.

I have been made aware that a "low impact rate may be available by customer application to Council." I understand no criteria for this low impact rate, the process for applying for this low impact rate or how often we would have to apply for this concession. We cannot find any information about this, anywhere on the Central Coast Council's website.

If IPART's role is "to protect consumers of regulated services from unreasonable price hikes" then we don't see how it can agree with the Central Coast's proposal to increase stormwater drainage charges on our farmland from zero dollars to \$5,427.8 and they are proposing to reduce charges on residential properties in our area and elsewhere to \$110.77. We do not mind paying the proposed \$110.77.

We would also like to point out how little the Central Coast Council actually provides by way of infrastructure in our area. There is no curb and guttering, no footpaths, no stormwater pipes, just a few culverts. Our property borders on the Wyong Creek. All rainwater that falls on our buildings is captured and stored in tanks for our domestic and stock requirements. Any rain that falls onto our paddocks drains into the creek, as it has always done, well before human settlement of the area.

Yours faithfully,

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