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Submission: I wish to comment on Central Coast Council's proposal regarding the imposition of stormwater Drainage levies.

1

I was received a letter about the proposal on the 11th of October advising that I had until the 12th to comment. This is either an outrageous disregard for due process, a tactic to limit opposition, or both.

I appreciate that IPART extended the deadline to the 19th.

2

Apart from the iniquitous nature of the proposal (up to a 4,353.4% increase), without details of implementation, it is impossible to comment fully to Council or IPART.

3

While a "Low Impact" rate is mentioned, there are no clear criteria for determining which properties qualify, a transparent process for application or process for appeal etc. It is also outrageous for Council to be advising some individuals of how the changes will effect them, as it currently is doing, and voiding the legitimacy of the community input process.

4

There is no information concerning the currency of a Low Impact rate, questions of property inspection, assessment criteria and methodology.

5

It is probable that the new Storm Water regime would cost more to implement than the Council would reap from the increased levy to a few – assuming this is a revenue raising scheme. It is certainly not a scheme based on equity and fairness.

6

If local government does in fact have the power to levy these Storm Water charges on non-urban properties, which might not be the case, such rates should be no more than for other rate-payers in the Central Coast Council Drainage Area.