

Subject:

Review of Central Coast Council's prices for water sewerage and related services - submission from [REDACTED]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN - Submission preference is Anonymous – my submission can be published but my name should remain anonymous.

We are the owners of Cedarfarm, [REDACTED] which is a 50 acre (20 hectare) property. We rely on rainwater tanks for our water supply and have a council approved Septic tank system to handle our sewerage. We have a natural stream running through our property which feeds into Jiliby Jiliby Creek and it is not a man-made or council provided stormwater service. Jiliby Jiliby creek has its source in National Park and State Forestry areas and as well as carrying its main stormwater runoff from the above it also carries stormwater runoff from privately owned farmland upstream from where our natural stream adjoins. Jiliby Jiliby Creek is also an essential supply source for part of the Central Coast drinking water supply as well as providing a means for stormwater runoff in periods of high rainfall to reach the sea at The Entrance via the Tuggerah Lake. The proposal to raise a substantial levy for Water, Sewerage and Stormwater management based on the area of the land from ratepayers on acreage is outrageous when they only have rainwater tanks and no mains water supply, have their own septic tanks for treatment of sewerage and no mains sewage and have a natural creek as their only means of stormwater management and no Central Coast Council supplied infrastructure whatsoever for any of these services.

It is rumoured that the levy will more than double our current council rates and in return we do not utilise any of the services for which the levy is being raised and there is little chance that any of the infrastructure for these three services will be provided to owners and ratepayers on acreages in our area now or in the foreseeable future. It is completely immoral to collect a large portion of the levy from ratepayers who do not currently have these services and will not for some years to come. These services are provided to other rate payers in suburbs in and around Wyong and Gosford but not to us and other ratepayers who live on acreages. The levy should be based on "user pays" and Central Coast Council have records of properties with access to mains (town water) and those who have not and also those who have access to mains sewerage and records of those who have registered their Septic or "Envirocycle" sewerage systems and therefore process their own sewerage and can easily ascertain those with street frontage and stormwater drainage facilities. If those ratepayers are users of one, two or all three of those services they should be eligible to pay a part of the levy in proportion to what accessibility they have to any of the three services but those who have accessibility to none should not be required to pay any levy whatsoever.

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