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IPART
SYDNEY
NSW

11 October 2018

Letter via email

To the responsible person reviewing and setting of Central Coast Council Stormwater Drainage charges:

I write to you to express my anger and total dissatisfaction at the part that IPART has had in determining charges that the Council can charge without doing their due diligence and researching these charges properly prior to giving the go ahead to Council to charge.

The research undertaken by IPART when reviewing these charges should have comprised of checking to see if all roads and properties had structures in place built by the Council to dispose the Stormwater and not determined that all properties were the same and therefore the same charge to apply.

My situation as is the situation of a lot of other properties on the Central Coast and particularly at Ettalong Beach where I reside where there is no structure in place anywhere on the property to dispose of stormwater. The water simply seeps into the soil as the soil is sandy and collects in the aquifer below ground. Our actual property has a natural valley where the water naturally runs off.

We have no curb and gutter in the street (other than what home owners have paid for themselves – every time it rains my next door neighbour has a very large duck pond at the foot of his driveway) or any other structure on the property as already mentioned to dispose of the stormwater. We at a cost of nearly \$20K had to pay for stormwater drains to be installed on our property and therefore I ask you why are we being charged a Stormwater Drainage charge when the council has provided us with NOTHING!!!! So am I to determine that this is a money grabbing charge allowed for and legitimized by IPART?

On top of this when I tried to discuss this matter with the previous Council, whom I believe was quite corrupt and money grabbing, I gleaned from my interactions regarding this matter, that they blamed IPART for the charge and said that IPART allowed them to charge the fee (there were no variations to this charge even though I was advised by IPART that there was – the spokesperson for the Council advised that they needed the money hence the charge!) so I ask who is the incompetent person that made this decision without the required research??

I will be at the meeting in November to very vocally voice my dissatisfaction with both IPART and the Council.

Something has to change!

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]