

Michael and Lynette Campbell

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We, along with many rural landholders of the Central Coast, object to the way that CC Council has communicated a new charge for stormwater drainage.

1. There has been no consultation, until a quickly called information bureau set up on Saturday 29th September of the long weekend informing people of the new charges.
2. Council has known about this new intended charge since about last April. They had the opportunity to enclose in their rate notice this intention. They have also had the opportunity to disclose these matters in any of their monthly columns during that time appearing in the Rural Grapevine, or Mangrove Mountain Community News, which are the only print communication in the rural region. They could easily have emailed those most affected over that time.
3. These areas are most definitely “rural” and not residential, although the fact that Council rate notices claim these properties as “residential”. The “Rural Valleys” of the Central Coast are featured in most Council literature and there has never been any communication to landholders that their position has been any different.
4. There are no town water supplies, no subdivisions, no curb and gutter, no town sewerage, and no subdivisions allowed below 100 acres generally. These are historic rural valleys that preceded the establishment of both Wyong and Gosford townships.
5. Drainage of stormwater has always found its natural path through properties, gullies to roadside drainage lines. Property owners have always maintained these drainage paths and removed any blockages when necessary, including roadside drainage. This system has worked, at no expense to Councils, for well beyond a hundred years.
6. Council have simply failed to meet enmasse with the rural population on this issue, and in doing so, have stirred a mass revolt. This is not modern day governance but a bungled grab for revenue.
7. We ask that IPART totally reject this application to charge rural property owners and, as a first step, instruct CC Council to call meetings together with the rural community.

Thank you in anticipation

Yours faithfully

Michael A. Campbell OAM

Lynette Campbell