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Submission: RAINWATER DRAINAGE LEVY - CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

As retirees on a 12.7 hectare rural property in the Yarramalong Valley on the Central Coast, (that we have owned & lived on for over 20 years), we are very concerned with the possibility of having to pay a drainage levy, certainly of the magnitude indicated.

As husband & wife that have moved from Sydney into a rural area on retirement, we are prepared to accept not having town water & sewerage for which we have installed & maintain collection, pumping & distribution systems.

However in respect to rainwater drainage, we would find a levy highly contentious. In our situation as in many others, while we are prepared to cope with the natural annual flooding of the valley (that by the way supplies drinking water to the whole of the Central Coast) we believe no authority has or would ever attempt to deal with the enormous volume of water during heavy rain. During these periods of flooding the only access road can be blocked for days with electricity & ADSL facilities cut off. In our own small way we do in fact stem the flow of water coming down gullies on our property with 4 substantial dams which provides water for vegetation & also a copious source in case of bush fire.

We feel so strongly about this matter that if a levy was imposed a group action by rate payers in a similar position would be entertained.

To avoid this sort of aggravation & expense, we would ask that IPART in their consideration recommend to Central Coast Council that domestic rural ratepayers, that already have expenses over & above suburban ratepayers, be excluded from this levy.